Microsoft Facial Database Notes

# How it relates to EAD 3 Pillars:

**Universal Human Values:**

There doesn’t appear to have been any attempt to safeguard universal human values. This is due to the fact that the database was publicly available and was able to be accessed by firms such as military researchers and Chinese development companies. We do not know whether these companies had good intentions in mind when using this dataset and there does not appear to have been any attempts to safeguard those whose images appear within the dataset. There is evidence that the Chinese suppliers Sensetime and Megvii are linked to officials in Xinjiang, where the internment camps for Uighur Muslims are based. This is a definite breach of Universal Human Values as the data may have been used to assist in human rights violations that are being perpetrated in that area.

**Political Self-determination and Data Agency:**

The dataset was named ‘Celebs’ as it was supposedly made up of images of public figures. However, a large number of people included in the dataset would not be considered public figures and instead were “merely people who work online and have a digital identity.” This ironically includes Julie Brill, the former FTC commissioner responsible for protecting consumer privacy.

We do not know whether how many participants granted Microsoft the right to use their image and information, but there were definitely members who were not consulted and had not ceded their right to privacy. This is a violation of data agency due to the fact that this information was used without the subjects’ knowledge and was ‘scraped’ from the internet.

It may also be a violation of Article 9 of EU GDPR: “Processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.” They were using this information to identify a natural person which is prohibited.