



Agenda

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- MoJ Ontology Interrogation
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- References





Recidivism is when someone who has been convicted of a crime reoffends.

Machine learning is used to predict recidivism, but with examples of racial bias such as Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) in America.

A thorough literature review found complex relationships between recidivism prediction models and sources of bias, including the data, feature selection and the chosen performance metrics.

Ontology is proven to be an effective mitigation to biases by storing metaknowledge about the correlation of features to protected characteristics so data scientists can select features with greater correlation to recidivism and lower correlation to race (transparency of input) and ensuring that results conform to expected distributions (transparency of output).

Research Question

"Can ontology mitigate bias when using machine learning to predict recidivism?"

Aim:

Machine learning is used to predict recidivism, but previous studies have indicated ethical issues such as racial bias. This study will show if biases can be identified and mitigated with the use of ontology by creating an ontology of criminal justice in England and Wales. Features will be identified for safely predicting recidivism and features to be used with caution. Furthermore, the protected characteristic profiles can be compared with predicted profiles to check for parity.

Objectives:

- Identify features that predict recidivism.
- Identify features that potentially introduce biases when predicting recidivism.
- Assess if recidivism varies between characteristics such as ethnicity, gender and age.
- Create an ontology of criminal justice using available metadata and illustrate how the ontology can manage the features to reduce biases, as well as highlight potential biases in the output to further mitigate bias risks.

Professional and Ethical Considerations

	Code of conduct. You shall:	Compliance statement for this project
Public Interest	have due regard for public health, privacy, security and wellbeing of others and the environment.	N/A. No opportunity
	have due regard for the legitimate rights of Third Parties.	Compliant. No direct third-party interaction, but
		rights always considered
	conduct your professional activities without discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, colour, race, ethnic origin, religion, age or disability, or of any other condition or requirement.	discrimination
igi	promote equal access to the benefits of IT and seek to promote the inclusion of all sectors in society wherever opportunities arise.	N/A. The project does not discuss who would
<u>-</u>	promote equal access to the perions of 11 and seek to promote the inclusion of all sectors in society wherever opportunities arise.	use the solution
ofessional Competence	only undertake to do work or provide a service that is within your professional competence.	Compliant. The project is an extension of
		learning undertaken on the MSc
	NOT claim any level of competence that you do not possess.	Compliant
	develop your professional knowledge, skills and competence on a continuing basis, maintaining awareness of technological developments, procedures, and standards that are relevant to your field.	Compliant. The project, including this report, are examples
	ensure that you have the knowledge and understanding of Legislation and that you comply with such Legislation, in carrying out your	Compliant. Legislation has been considered and
	professional responsibilities.	discussed
	respect and value alternative viewpoints and, seek, accept and offer honest criticisms of work.	Compliant. Input from supervisors has shaped the scope
	avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious or negligent action or inaction.	Compliant
<u>a</u> <u>a</u>	reject and will not make any offer of bribery or unethical inducement.	Compliant
	carry out your professional responsibilities with due care and diligence in accordance with the Relevant Authority's requirements	Compliant
	whilst exercising your professional judgement at all times.	
	seek to avoid any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest between you and your Relevant Authority.	Compliant
vant	accept professional responsibility for your work and for the work of colleagues who are defined in a given context as working under your supervision.	Compliant
Sele V	NOT disclose or authorise to be disclosed, or use for personal gain, or to benefit a third party, confidential information except with the	
to I	permission of your Relevant Authority, or as required by Legislation.	All data was public domain.
at h	NOT misrepresent or withhold information on the performance of products, systems or services (unless lawfully bound by a duty of confidentiality not to disclose such information), or take advantage of the lack of relevant knowledge or inexperience of others.	Compliant
P D	confidentiality not to disclose such information), or take advantage of the fack of relevant knowledge of inexperience of others.	
Duty to the Profession	accept your personal duty to uphold the reputation of the profession and not take any action which could bring the profession into	Compliant. All project activities were professional
	disrepute. seek to improve professional standards through participation in their development, use and enforcement.	N/A. No opportunity
	uphold the reputation and good standing of BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT.	Compliant. The project addresses bias which is
		reputationally positive
	act with integrity and respect in your professional relationships with all members of BCS and with members of other professions with	Compliant. All research and supervisor
	whom you work in a professional capacity.	discussions were respectful and professional
الشكار ا	encourage and support fellow members in their professional development.	N/A. No opportunity

Literature Review



Recidivism prediction

- America: for parole decisions using age, intelligence, nationality and criminal history since 1920s (Borden, 1928)
- America: Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) widely used (Equivant, 2019) but shows bias against black people (Angwin et al., 2016)
- Canada: Statistical Information on Recidivism Revised (SIR-R1) using 15 features (Nafekh & Motiuk, 2002)
- England & Wales: Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) actuarial tool (HM Prison & Probation Service, 2023)
- Various machine learning solutions tested (Curtis, 2018; Kovalchuk et al., 2023; Lin et al., 2020; Tollenaar & van der Heijden, 2013; Wang et al., 2010; Zeng et al., 2017)
- Dynamic factors predict recidivism (Andrews & Bonda, 2024; Farrington & West, 1995; Farrington et al., 2017; Osborn, 1980) but are rarely used

Sources of bias

- Performance metrics chosen (Caton & Haas, 2020)
- Feature selection (Angwin et al., 2016)
- Data (Biddle, 2022)

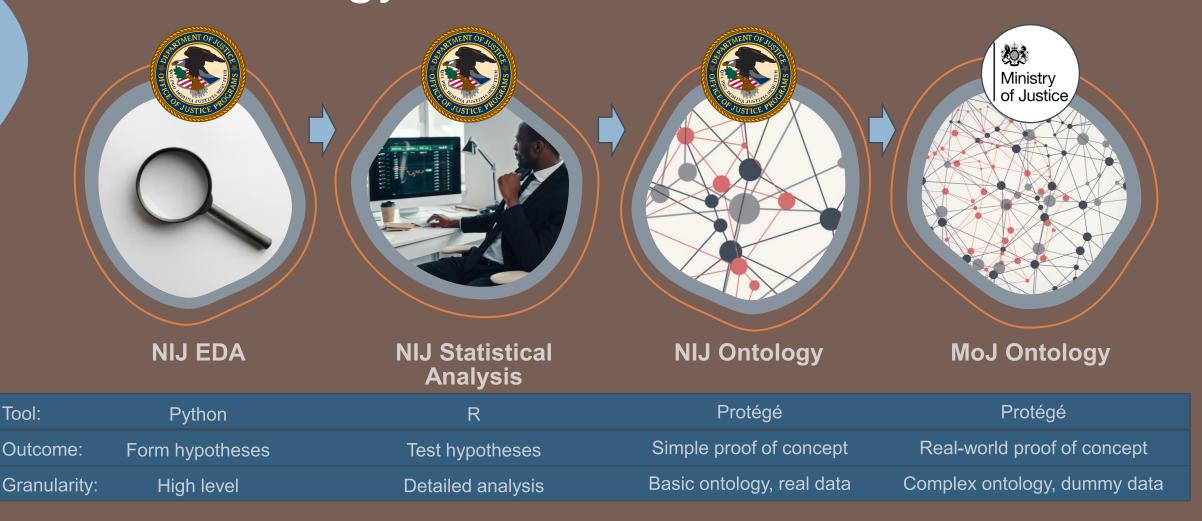
Explainability

- Transparency is important for ethical machine learning models (Walmsley, 2021)
- Better to use an explainable model that try to explain a black-box model (Rudin, 2019)

Challenges

- Correcting ethical imbalances decreases accuracy as ethical compliance increases (Squadrone et al., 2022)
- It is rarely possible to calibrate within groups, balance the positive class, and balance the negative class simultaneously (Kleinberg et al., 2016)
- Age is a good predictor (Bushway & Piehl, 2007; Kleiman et al., 2007; Stevenson & Slobogin, 2018), but it is static and cannot be influenced
- Men and women have different recidivism rates so differentiating increases accuracy and fairness (Skeem & Lowenkamp, 2020), but gender is a protected static characteristic

Methodology







NIJ Statistical Analysis

Hypotheses:

- 1. There is a difference in recidivism by race, α =0.01
- 2. There is a difference in recidivism by gender, α =0.01
- 3. There is a difference in recidivism by age, α =0.01
- 4. There is a difference in offender age by race, α =0.01

Null hypothesis rejected
Null hypothesis rejected

Null hypothesis rejected

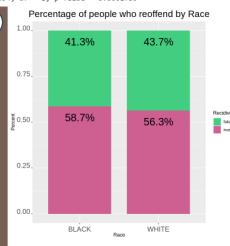
Null hypothesis rejected





BLACK WHITE false 6134 4797 true 8713 6191 Pearson's Chi-squared test with Yates' continuity correction

data: table(NIJ_orig\$Recidivism_Within_3years, NIJ_orig\$Race)
X-squared = 14.094, df = 1, p-value = 0.0001739

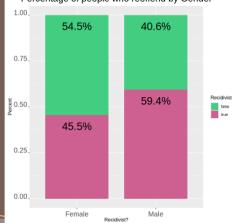


```
Male Female
false 9206 1725
true 13462 1442
Pearson's Chi-squared test with Yates' continuity correction

data: table(NIJ_orig$Recidivism_Within_3years, NIJ_orig$Gender)
X-squared = 217.99, df = 1, p-value < 2.2e-16

Percentage of people who reoffend by Gender
1.00.

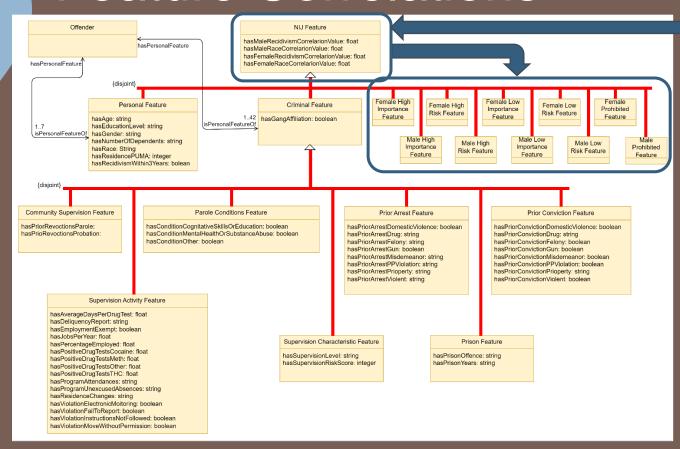
54.5%
40.6%
```



Every features was tested for correlation with recidivism and race by gender, Spearman's Rho, α=0.01 (Kim & Choi, 2021)

Age correlates with recidivism (Bushway & Piehl, 2007; Kleiman et al., 2007; Stevenson & Slobogin, 2018) and had r_s -0.177 with recidivism with p 2.2e-16 so r_s 0.1; weak correlation (Xiao et al., 2016) was selected as the cut-off for high/low risk/importance

NIJ Ontology Design with Feature Correlations



- Designed around NIJ dataset (National Institute of Justice, N.D.)
- Recidivism and race correlations added by gender for every feature
- Defined classes created to infer high/low risk/importance features by gender
- NIJ data imported with Cellfie scripts

	Correlation with:					
	Everyone	Ma	ale	Fem	Female	
Feature	Recidivism	Recidivism	Race	Recidivism	Race	
Age_at_Release	0.176	0.177	0.121	0.133	0.072	
Residence_PUMA	0.025	0.026	0.139	0	0.187	
Gang_Affiliated	0.185	0.185	0.086	N/A	N/A	
Supervision_Risk_Score_First	0.180	0.185	0.053	0.146	0.046	
Supervision_Level_First	0.061	0.053	0	0.069	0	
Education_Level	0.088	0.088	0.057	0	0	
Dependents	0.031	0.031	0.096	0	0.064	
Prison_Offense	0.018	0.024	0.033	0	0.260	
Prison_Years	0.130	0.134	0.066	0.186	0.109	
Prior Arrest Episodes Felony	0.199	0.187	0.025	0.262	0	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_Misd	0.178	0.161	0.094	0.279	0	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_Violent	0.065	0.055	0.111	0	0.213	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_Property	0.182	0.181	0.103	0.233	0	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_Drug	0.081	0.071	0	0.107	0.279	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_PPViolationCharges	0.229	0.218	0.063	0.303	0.067	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_DVCharges	0.066	0.062	0.052	0.052	0	
Prior_Arrest_Episodes_GunCharges	0.044	0.036	0.104	0	0	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_Felony	0.105	0.094	0.032	0.169	0.047	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_Misd	0.175	0.160	0.070	0.247	0	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_Viol	0.047	0.043	0.088	0	0.161	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_Prop	0.161	0.157	0.104	0.232	0.073	
Prior Conviction Episodes Drug	0.065	0.059	0	0.077	0.235	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_PPViolationCharges	0.096	0.088	0.050	0.137	0	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_DomesticViolenceCharges	0.059	0.057	0.017	0.107	0	
Prior_Conviction_Episodes_GunCharges	0.031	0.024	0.058	0	0	
Prior Revocations Parole	0.058	0.051	0.037	0.060	0	
Prior Revocations Probation	0.039	0.036	0.065	0.000	0.059	
Condition MH SA	0.033	0.121	0.003	0.149	0.259	
Condition_Cog_Ed	0.038	0.050	0.039	0.143	0.233	
Condition_Other	0.030	0.050	0.000	0	0.065	
Violations ElectronicMonitoring	0.004	0	0.069	0	0.005	
Violations Instruction	0.064	0.058	0.046	0.087	0.073	
Violations_FailToReport	0.030	0.038	0.046	0.067	0	
Violations MoveWithoutPermission	0.030	0.024	0	0.057	0	
Delinquency_Reports	0.032	0.029	0	0.037	0.068	
Program_Attendances	0.041	0.028	0.072	0.102	0.066	
Program UnexcusedAbsences	0.060	0.050	0.072	0.108	0.190	
Residence Changes	0.054	0.050	0.043	0.108	0	
Avg_Days_per_DrugTest	0.054	0.052	0.047	0.079	0.135	
DrugTests_THC_Positive	0.011	0.078	0.078	0	0.135	
DrugTests_Cocaine_Positive	0.082		0.161	0	0.089	
	0.011	0 055				
DrugTests_Meth_Positive DrugTests Other Positive		0.055 0	0.279	0.091	0.227	
	0.004		0.121	0.053	0.126	
Percent_Days_Employed	0.217	0.217	0.126	0.227	0.059	
Jobs_Per_Year	0.074	0.074	0.120	0.088	0.060	
Employment_Exempt	0.050	0.048	0.021	0	0	
	Legend					
	Recidivism correlation ≥ 0.1					
		Race correla				
	No statitically significant correlation at α=0.01					

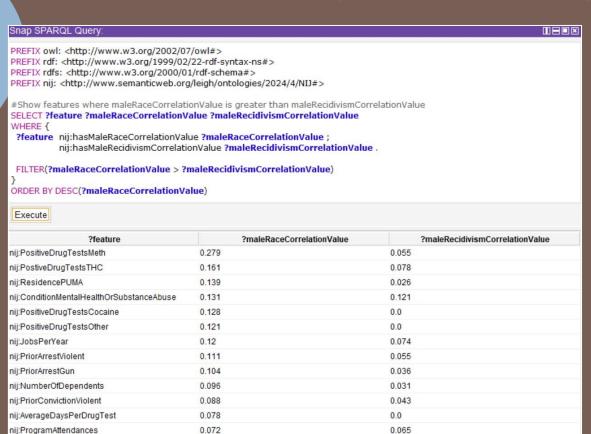
NIJ Ontology Interrogation

0.0

0.036

0.024

0.024



Features where correlation with race is higher than correlation with recidivism Avoid these features!

0.069

0.065

0.058

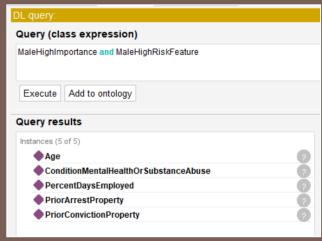
0.033

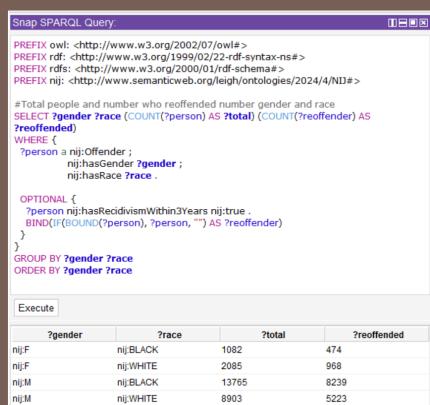
nij:ViolationElectronicMonitoring nij:PriorRevocationsProbation

nij:PriorConvictionGun

nii:PrisonOffence

7 results



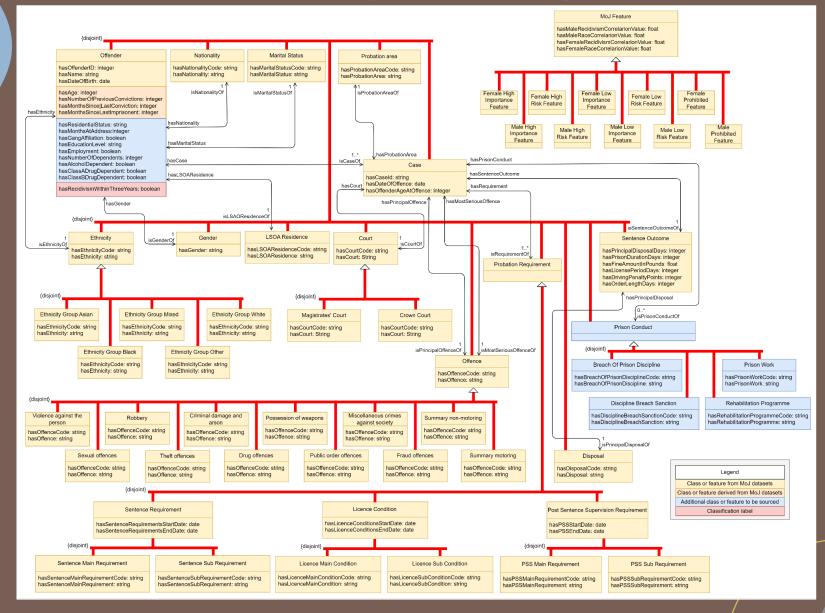


Features with high importance and high risk Use with caution!

Recidivism by race and gender

Machine learning predictions to be validated against actual ratios

MoJ Ontology Design



- Core design based upon metadata from Ministry of Justice (2020)
- Some features need to be calculated outside the ontology e.g. age from DoB
- Additional features added from literature review and NIJ design
- Cellfie scripts from MoJ metadata to import object and data instances
- SWRL rules (Horn clauses) to infer descriptions from codes
- Dummy data created for offenders and cases
- The class holding the correlation properties was separated from the rest of the ontology for significant performance gain (2.5 hours vs. 3 seconds to run reasoner). However, this further separated the ontology knowledge from the correlation metaknowledge

UML notation for ontologies (Bārzdiņš et al., 2010) adapted to include object properties

MoJ Ontology Interrogation

onap of Artae adery.								
PREFIX owi: <nttp: 2<br="" www.w3.org="">PREFIX rdf: <http: 19<br="" www.w3.org="">PREFIX rdfs: <http: 19<="" th="" www.w3.org=""><th>999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> 000/01/rdf-schema#></th><th></th></http:></http:></nttp:>	999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> 000/01/rdf-schema#>							
PREFIX moj: http://www.semanticweb.org/leigh/ontologies/2024/4/MOJ#>								
SELECT ?feature ?maleRecidivismo WHERE { ?feature moj:hasMaleRecidivismo	ismCorrelationValue is greater than malef CorrelationValue ?maleRaceCorrelationV correlationValue ?maleRecidivismCorrelat ationValue ?maleRaceCorrelationValue .	'alue						
FILTER(?maleRecidivismCorrelati } ORDER BY DESC(?maleRecidivismC	onValue > ?maleRaceCorrelationValue)							
Execute								
?feature	?maleRecidivismCorrelationValue	?maleRaceCorrelationValue						
moj:MonthsSinceLastImprisonment	0.281	0.142						
moj:MonthsSinceLastConviction	0.242	0.132						
moj:Employment	0.217	0.126						
moj:MonthsAtAddress	0.213	0.095						
moj:GangAffiliation	0.185	0.086						
moj:Age	0.177	0.121						
moj:NumberOfPreviousConvictions	0.164	0.079						
moj:OffenderAgeAtOffence	0.162	0.102						
moj:PrisonDurationDays	0.162	0.092						
moj:RehabilitationProgrammeCode	0.162	0.053						
moj:PrincipalOffenceCode	0.161	0.092						
moj:MaritalStatusCode	0.153	0.032						
moj:PSSSubRequirementCode	0.152	0.056						
moj:AlcoholDependent	0.132	0.098						
moj:PrisonWorkCode	0.123	0.078						
moj:OrderLengthDays	0.112	0.101						
moj:LicenceSubConditionCode	0.099	0.045						
moj:PSSMainRequirementCode	0.096	0.023						
moj:LicenceMainConditionCode	0.092	0.076						
moj:PrincipalDisposalDays moj:EducationLevel	0.092	0.021						
moj:PrincipalDisposalCode	0.075	0.057						
moj:DrivingPenaltyPoints	0.052	0.021						
moj:FineAmountPounds	0.052	0.012						
moj:ProbationAreaCode	0.02	0.012						
	0.02	0.01						
25 results								

Snap SPARQL Query:

Features where correlation with recidivism is higher than correlation with race Consider using these features!

Export of selected data

```
PREFIX owl: <a href="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#">PREFIX owl: <a href="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#">http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#</a>
PREFIX rdf: <a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#</a>
PREFIX rdfs: <a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
                   (?employmentValue), STR(moi;), "") AS ?employment)
      REPLACE(STR(?ageValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?age)
      REPLACE(STR(?previousConvictionsValue), STR(moi:), "") AS ?previousConvictions)
      REPLACE(STR(?maritalStatusValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?maritalStatus)
        PLACE(STR(?alcoholDependentValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?alcoholDepende
      REPLACE(STR(?rehabilitationProgrammeValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?rehabilitationProgramme
      REPLACE(STR(?principalOffenceValue), STR(moi:), "") AS ?principalOffence)
      REPLACE(STR(?PSSSubRequirementValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?PSSSubRequire
       EPLACE(STR(?prisonWorkValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?prisonWork)
    (REPLACE(STR(?prisonDurationValue), STR(moj:), "") AS ?prisonDuration)
           FILTER(REGEX(STR(?offender), CONCAT("^", STR(moj:), "O")))
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moj:hasMonthsSinceLastImprisonment ?monthsSinceImprisonmentValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moj:hasMonthsSinceLastConviction ?monthsSinceConvictionValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moi:hasEmployment ?employmentValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moj:hasMonthsAtAddress ?monthsAtAddressValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moj:hasGangAffiliation ?gangAffiliationValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moj:hasAge ?ageValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moj:hasNumberOfPreviousConvictions ?previousConvictionsValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moi:hasMaritalStatus ?maritalStatusValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?offender moi:hasAlcoholDependent ?alcoholDependentValue. }
 ?offender moi:hasCase ?case
           OPTIONAL { ?case moj:hasPrisonDurationDays ?prisonDurationValue.
           OPTIONAL { ?case moj:hasPrisonDurationDays ?prisonDurationValue.
           OPTIONAL { ?case moj:hasRehabilitationProgramme ?rehabilitationProgrammeValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?case moj:hasPrincipalOffence ?principalOffenceValue. }
           OPTIONAL { ?case moj:hasPSSSubRequirement ?PSSSubRequirementValue. ]
           OPTIONAL { ?case moj:hasPrisonWork ?prisonWorkValue. }
ORDER BY Poffender
Execute
                  ?m... ?m... ?emp... ?m... ?gan... ?age ?p... ?maritalStatus ?alco... ?case
                                                                                                                           ?principalOffence
                      11 false 13 false 63 4 Divorced or dissolv. true moi:C647325366
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moi:0112299926
                                       false 63 4 Divorced or dissolv... true moj:C214350956
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moi:0112299926
                                       false 63 4 Divorced or dissolv... true moi:C745987478
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                                                                                                                      8.01 Assault occasioning actu
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                                                                                                                      92E.01 Possession of a contr
                                       false 46 3 Married or in civil p... true moi: C905424044 The Bridge Progr... 4.6 Causing Death by Careles.
                                                                                                                      92D 01 Possession of a contr.
                                                                                                                      92D.01 Possession of a contr...
                                                                                                                     8.01 Assault occasioning actu.
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
 noi:O511985165 299 10 false 36 false 61 5 Single-not married/...true moi:C618323430 Living as New Me 34 Robbery
                                                                                                                                                  Restorative Ju... Workshop 365
                                                    5 Single-not married/... true moj:C535754077
                                                                                                                      45 Theft from Vehicle
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                                                                                                                      34 Robbery
                                       false 23 4 Single-not married/... false moi:C375098237
                                                                                                                      92D 01 Possession of a contr
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                                                                                                                      92D.01 Possession of a contr.
                                                                                                                    53D Fraud by false representa-
                                                                                                                                                                  Servery
                                                                                                                    53D Fraud by false representa
moi:O613456052 3
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moj:0646955585
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moi:0815709338
                                                       Single-not married/_false _moi:C755833865
moj:0815709338
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moi:0815709338
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moi:0815709338
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
moi:0815709338
                                                                                                                      46 Theft from Shops
                     1 false 37 false 29 4 Single-not married/... true moj:C782821873
                                                                                                                     8 07 Racially or religiously ag
                                                                                                                      8.07 Racially or religiously ag.
```

Evaluation

Results

EDA and statistical analysis reflected old but valid best practices (Tukey, 1977)

 Statistical analysis provided metaknowledge used in the ontologies

Task-based evaluation (Obrst et al., 2007) to check accuracy and explainability of ontologies. Accurate data extraction using DL queries and SPARQL

- MoJ class structure unambiguous and explainable
- Transparency of input and output improved

Limitations

- The MoJ ontology was populated with dummy data because real were unavailable.
- Correlation features are separate from object and data properties storing criminal justice data

Conclusions

Bias can be introduced through:

- Feature selection
- Performance metrics
- Data

Transparency is key to ethics and fairness

Ontology is a credible solution to mitigate bias with:

- Transparency of input
- Transparency of output

Recommendations

MoJ ontology to be industrialised by:

- Review design with subject matter expert
- Extend domain beyond recidivism to cover entirely of criminal justice in England and Wales
- Populate with real data to validate potential biases with existing tools (OGRS3)

Include dynamic features in the next iteration of OGRS

Review semantic web with W3C to store metaknowledge as knowledge

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Thank You

Artefacts available at:

https://github.com/feaviolp/msc-project/