

Reflections on “Biased and wrong? Facial recognition tech in the dock”,

by Matthew Wall (BBC, 2019)

BBC news piece from 2019 – interesting, but already likely outdated (GPT3 for example came out in 2021)

Already 130 million US citizens in face recognition databases – shocking number; likely most without consent (or consent collected without understanding, i.e. non-informed)

Issues with data collected – mostly white and male, therefore error margins for women and people of non-White background are huge

Facial recognition already banned in some US cities due to these errors – important step, but important to acknowledge that technology keeps improving; would be interesting to know if this is still the case nowadays

Racial biases inherent in society – disproportionate number of African Americans detained vs composition of society; inappropriate use of facial recognition could make this worse

Poor legal framework to justify the collection of facial footage without consent; concerns from citizens and regulatory bodies should be addressed before and if these systems are implemented

AI development should not be left to the private sector without oversight or regulations, and should perhaps be treated with similar legal frameworks as genetic editing, cloning, and weapons development – otherwise the public will have no control on the possible impacts on society

Reminds me of the dystopic Minority Report film, where future crime could be reliably predicted and future perpetrators arrested before it occurred (with surveillance including facial recognition); however, the system was not perfect, and subject to manipulation by those managing it according to their own interests