Science, Technology and Ethics

on knowledge and power



George Matthews, Plymouth State University $2020 \label{eq:2020}$



"Knowledge itself is power."

- Power to predict and control natural forces to ones own and humanity's advantage?
- $\circ~$ Power over those who lack knowledge that we have access to?
- How can we use the power that knowledge offers wisely and ethically?

Example 1: Surveillance



Should I be concerned with being tracked and recorded if I am not doing anything wrong?

Example 2: Facial Recognition Technology



Do I have a right to obscurity in public places where I do not know anyone personally?

Example 3: Clickbait



What are the social and political consequences of automated "content curation"?

Example 4: Military Drones (UAV's)



Is it acceptable to deploy drones over countries with whom we are not officially at war and to use them to carry out lethal attacks?