February 11th

Important Readings Due Today: The Morality of Happiness, Rawls Explained
Reading Response:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vy_gyoafWXGUsl5RZHqsOpvhC0nqqJ0EROCX9NeAIlc/edit

Pre-Class Information

Ethical Reflection: How much time do *I* spend reflecting on my ethical behavior. Does my behavior reflect how I want to be ethically? How much time do we spend debating these preferences as compared to those around us. Not only debating, but listening to what they have to say and using that as part of our reflection?

FB Paying users to breach their data w/o knowledge: FB has always been of the mentality "Move fast and break things". This includes freedoms, trust, democracy, and individual rights. Thus by both contractualism and virtue theory, FB is acting immorally.

Group Work

Warner Memo and WMD:
- Kronos: Workforce Ready HR, that promised to eliminate "the guesswork" in hiring, according to its web page: "We can help you screen, hire, and onboard candidates most likely to be productive—the best-fit employees who will perform better and stay on the job longer."
  - Is it immoral to screen candidates in this way? What is a job interview if not this?
- Med School: Systems would filter out many candidates for med school, leaving only the top most qualified. It ended up injecting racial and gender bias, giving a huge boost to white men and natives instead of immigrants.
- Creating an algorithm that can't see data like race and gender is still affected by those factors, because other data is. For example, a POC may be more likely to have been incarcerated due to a biased system, and so looking at incarceration data but not race may still allow for the algorithm to bias racially. A potential solution to this *is* giving the AI race and gender data so that it can adjust for societal factors, but that could easily backfire because now the AI has a ton of data to base bias on.

Other Groups:
1. It seems like nobody cares about taking a proactive approach to ethics within data science. "News feeds" like a Facebook feed, where an AI finds you information that is curated to you - often without the user being aware that the information is curated to them. This can create an echo chamber where people dig into their opinions because that is the only information they are given.
2. The primary challenged identified were the initial metrics used for the college rankings. Also the users did not know these metrics or how they were scored. Also this information was target to middle class Americans who could potentially afford college but not a councilor or more accurate information about them. | Schools use data to figure out which students are likely to attend their schools, so that students who are using them as a safety school can be denied in order to lower the admission rate and thus increase their ranking. *How do you quantify capability?*
3. Are companies like Google responsible for the bias and assumptions made using that data? Is Google to blame for predatory ads targeting the lower class put forth by for profit colleges? Yes. Should companies be allowed to filter as specifically as they can today (aka by race, gender, income, etc.)? Where do we draw the lines in terms of targeted ads? Who owns the data now, google or the people who buy the data?
4. Us (See Above)

5. Data Science oath is a good idea, even if it doesn't make everyone act ethically, but it will at least force them to consider it. | Institutions should not be allowed to use personality tests to determine who to hire/ accept. Culture fit questions, however, are an exception. (Prof contested this by arguing that bias can often show up in these sorts of "culture fit" questions. These can often end up as "are they like me/ do I like them")

Virtue Theory and Broader Ethical Theories

Virtue Theory:
- Theory of being/ becoming vs. theory of doing (What shall I become vs. What shall I do?)
- This is not an ethics of boundaries, not about curtailing human freedom. It is about maximizing human happiness
- So why can't we just have rules?
  - Everybody can adopt rules, but it systemic forces ruin the ethical nature of those rules
  - If we don't understand the reasons behind these rules then they fail at their ethical purpose
  - If we just obey rules blindly then we are subject to control (tyranny)
  - We don't give rules away, however. They still have a place if used carefully
- Individuals have empathy that allows for moral behavior and justice, yet societally we are entirely incapable of this (our emergent behavior is not empathetic)

Broader Ethical Theories:
- *Telos* (end or goal)as the final good*, skopos* (target) is misleading . This is because *telos* is about obtaining and remaining with the values that you see as the *skopos*. Virtue theory is never over - we have never reached the goal.
- Moral Identity: People are centers of agency rather than sources of experience or preference (aka we are stable agents)
- We are moral rebels as teens in order to better understand our virtue or morals. We want to defend our own moral beliefs and values
- Social Value Orientation: What kinds of values do you think society should adopt. Aka create safety nets for those who are less off, or should we support the draft for the military

Contractualism
- A reasonable hope for distributed political and distributed justice in free democratic societies.
- How?: By devising rules that are based in imaginative identifications that assumes all of this to be true
- We need to have a shared nature
- Contractors and readers agree
- Contractors circumstances are possible for us
- The contractors think as we would
- Contractors agreements are normative; their content offers a justification
- Genuine agreements are motivating