

# Data Ethics In-Class Activity (May 18)

Today we will discuss two of the Ethics subtopics, Data Ownership and Fairness. Refer to the corresponding articles listed in [the previous activity document](#). There is no need to submit any written report about the topics or about the discussion. Just be ready to participate fully in the class discussion.

## Data Ownership

Your job is to discuss the Data Ownership topic first within your breakout group (for approximately 30 minutes) and then join the main room for a full class discussion of the topic.

Within your group:

1. Who read any of the articles about Data Ownership? **Answer:** Jared Goldsmith, Mina Vu
2. Which article(s) did you read? **Answer:** Jared read “Nothing personal: the importance of creating data ownership frameworks”. Mina read “Who Owns Your Fingerprint? You Don’t”
3. Each person who read any of the articles should take a few minutes to give an overview of the article, specifically:
  - a. Who wrote the article, what is their role or point of view?
  - b. What are the main points of the article?
  - c. What are the strong points of the article?
  - d. What are the weak points (if any)?
  - e. What did you learn from it or take away from it?
  - f. Do you recommend that your teammates read this article?
4. All others in the group then should discuss and ask questions about the article.
5. Discuss the following questions:
  - a. For each person on the team, have you ever encountered instances where your personal data was being used in a surprising way?
  - b. Who do you think should “own” data about you?
  - c. Can you propose an ethical yet profitable solution to the data ownership issue?
  - d. List all of the general categories of data about a person that might be collected automatically by computer systems. Rank them by how comfortable you are with somebody else owning that data (and using it for whatever legal purpose they choose).

## Fairness

Your job is to discuss the Fairness topic first within your breakout group (for approximately 30 minutes) and then join the main room for a full class discussion of the topic.

Within your group:

6. Who read any of the articles about Fairness? **Answer:** Mina and Ethan
7. Which article(s) did you read? **Answer:** Ethan read “Widely-used healthcare algorithm racially biased” and Mina read “Is Pokémon Go racist? How the app may be redlining communities of color.”
8. For each article read by at least one person in the group:
  - a. Who wrote the article, what is their role or point of view?
  - b. What are the main points of the article?
  - c. What are the strong points of the article?
  - d. What are the weak points (if any)?
  - e. What did you learn from it or take away from it?
  - f. Do you recommend that your teammates read this article?
9. All others in the group then should discuss and ask questions about the article.
10. Discuss the following questions:
  - a. Are you aware of any other issues/reports of unfairness related to data analysis? Bias? Other types of incorrect conclusions?
  - b. What can a Data Engineer do to prevent or lessen the impact of unfairness?
  - c. How would you actually find/seek fairness issues earlier?
  - d. When is appropriate/inappropriate to use “surrogates” in data analysis?
  - e. Was Pokeman Go racist?
  - f. How would you notice/find the type of bias found in Pokeman Go? How could they have noticed this before it turned into a news article?
  - g. Can a Data Engineer produce/provide bias-free data?
  - h. Should a Data-related team include Social Scientists?