Embedded Ethics Lecture

Representational vs. Allocative harm

Harms
- many types
- economic, political, physical, sexual, emotional, relationship, etc.

Representational Harm
- reinforce subordination of groups + affect how groups/individuals are understood socially

    ↓

contributes to harmful attitudes/cultural beliefs in the LR

- heuristic
    1. reinforces stereotype/misconceptions
    2. lack of representation reinforces stereotype/misconceptions

Stereotypes
- widely held belief about x that is overgeneralized/excessively simplistic
- Pertains to
    - individuals
    - groups
    - objects/places
- features of target that are taken to be universally true

- harmful consequences:
    - denial of goods/resources
    - discrimination
    - stereotype threat: reminded of being a part of a "lesser" group -> do well, self-fulfilling prophecy
- Positive stereotype can be problematic

Harm from Emojis
- lack of representation
    - only two-parent families
    - all yellow skin tone
- color association of girls w/ pink and boys w/ blue
- introduction of race emojis may draw note to race

Harms and Intent
- harm doesn't require intent
- Intent affects blame/responsibility

Allocative Harm
- unfair distribution of a resource
    - ex: money, jobs, opportunities, education, etc.
- Heuristic: causes/contributes to unequal, unfair, or discriminatory distribution of something valuable to individuals or groups

- or it unfairly distributes burden

Unicode / Character Representation
- Coding system : human language in something other than speech