Notes from 2020 Fairness Accountability Transparency and Ethics in Computer Vision:

* “Faception is first to-technology and first-to-market with proprietary computer vision and machine learning technology for profiling people and revealing their personality based only on their facial image.”
  + You look at someone’s face, do they have a “high IQ”, are they a “white-collar offender”, or are they a “terrorist.”
* “Hire Vue video intelligence.”
  + Automated interview. You are detected by emotions – verbal and non-verbal cues about how you did in the interview.
* Baltimore police using extensive face recognition.
  + Using face recognition to surveil people at protests and rallies – activities protected by the First Amendment – discourages political participation.
  + Baltimore Country used face recognition on social media photos to identify people at the Freddie Gray protests and target them for unnecessary or unrelated arrests.
* Facial recognition – looked at lighter vs. darker skinned people.
  + Higher error rates for darker-skinned people
  + Also, an issue of diversity in the data sets that people use.
    - A lot of info comes from a western setting.
  + A lot of experiments use men.
    - Like clinical trials – not tested on women.
    - Dummy vehicles use male dummies instead of women – so these things disproportionality harm women.
  + Also, a lot of harm for transgender individuals, especially in gender recognition. Misgendering or also assumes that gender is binary.
* Facial recognition used by law enforcement, but mostly surveilling black and brown communities.
  + People using facial recognition for negative and harmful uses.
* Also, these tools are sometimes used in the court of law, meaning that people trust these tools. But these tools are heavily biased and do not work all the time.
  + Can send the wrong person to jail.
* China is using AI to profile a minority.
* Amazon pushes facial recognition to police.
* Black in AI – a place for sharing ideas, fostering collaboration, and discussing initiatives to increase the presence of Black people in the field of AI.
  + Need structural and real representation.
* Fairness is not just about data sets or about math. It is about life and societal issues.
* People are combatting facial recognition.
  + Interesting makeup that fools facial recognition.
  + Fashion that people wear to fool facial recognition.
  + Systems of refusal in engaging with this technology.
* Our technology is mostly being used to target people who are most vulnerable.

In-class 4/24/2023

* Tech industries are getting away from accountability and fairness.
  + Theft is normalized in the industry. People often steal each other’s works. And it’s normalized in ML.
  + Worker expectation. It’s the gig economy. You don’t provide a stable workplace so that people have a stable life.
  + Rise of those things and fast proliferation without existing regulation
    - Lack of enforcement even if there is existing regulation.
* Private/independent org – can better address/tackle unfairness than working at a large org like Google.
  + At google, you are held back by the CO and their vision.
  + Google acts like they care about fairness, but they don’t really.
  + People at google are scared to speak up. That’s different than at an independent organization.
  + Her work isn’t incentivized by some team at google that tries to maximize share holder’s profit. But she still has to fundraise for her institute.
    - Now, if she takes a stand on something, they could be dropped by a foundation.
    - Also, who do we not take money from?
* New resistance or improvement in fairness?
  + There have not been any improvements in fairness that she has seen.
  + 2017 – a lot of sexual harassment and verbal harassments. Every change that she makes is very contentious.
  + In terms of resistance. A lot of people are doing great stuff.
    - UChicago – a tool called Glaze that help artists and protect artists without their consent.
* Mitigating bias. Ways we can use AI to actively fight against discriminatory practices.
  + Forensic lab at NYU – surveilling the surveillers.
  + Conservation work – plant identification
  + 99% of computer vision is backed by the military/ for military uses.
  + The foundation needs to change.
* Imposter syndrome
  + There are a lot of unqualified men out there.
  + Imposter syndrome – not the right term
    - It is sexism. It is discrimination.
  + Men are often valued, supported more than men.
  + It’s more about what the system makes you feel about yourself.

Hillcrest Lecture

* Many people are not getting rich from AI.
  + Many exploited workers that fuel this system.
  + Millions of people that are supplying data that are not getting compensated.
  + “Kenyan workers on less that $2 per hour to make ChatGPT.”
  + AI is only good for the top and the powerful
* AGI:
  + “Highly autonomous systems that outperform humans at most economically valuable work”.
  + It sounds like an algorithm that can do anything (God?). But it is not a fully well-defined system.
* It is rooted in the 20th century Anglo-African (American?) tradition. When most people think of eugenics, they don’t think of “progressive” movements among scientists.
  + Eugenics are not the Nazis, and it did not end after WWII.
* Eugenics:
  + 1st wave:
    - Improve the human stock through positive and negative eugenics.
    - Negative eugenics: getting rid of the undesirable traits because it improves the human race overall.
      * Discriminates against the under-represented.
  + 2nd wave:
    - Improve the human stock through not only negative eugenics, but also positive eugenics.
      * Give people the ability to “design their children”.
      * Tell people who have desirable traits to reproduce more.
    - Transhumanism, singularity, cosmism, rationalism, effective altruism, etc.
    - Transcend humanity all together.
    - Genetic editing, artificial intelligence.
    - Not being forced to change yourself, but radically change yourself – make you “transcend humanism”.
    - Intelligence explosion
    - Cosmism: humans will merge with technology.
  + TESCREAL Bundle:
    - Historical roots and contemporary communities:
      * Common lineage going back to first-wave eugenics. Ultimately connected to transhumanism.
    - Utopia – common in first and second wave eugenics.
    - Apocalyptic. Same technology necessary to create unlimited wealth but can also produce doom.
    - If you do it right – Utopia. But if the wrong people, do it – Apocalypse
    - Discriminatory views: eugenics are built on discrimination.
    - Influence:
      * Lots of billionaires in the movement or sympathetic to it funding it
      * Crucial motivating source behind goal of creating AGI, and moving resources and focus to it.
* AGI Utopia:
  + AGI will be so intelligent that it will figure out what to do in any scenario – world peace?
  + “Morally superior” AGI enhanced transhuman mind benefitting “the cosmos” experiencing growth and joy “beyond what humans are capable of”.
  + AGI race has started a race to the bottom to go-to-market faster.
    - Every company feels like they have to create this one model that can do anything.
  + A lot of centralization of power.
    - Open AI sits in Silicon Valley, and they get all of the credit for everything. They get all the money, despite other people supplying the data.
  + Makes difficult for small organizations to get funding for projects/products.
  + Larger companies do subpar work. It detracts money away from smaller companies that do great work.
  + They say that there is Utopia – but not the case at all.
* AGI Apocalypse
  + It distracts us from the current issue by focusing on this sci-fi future.
  + Need to be vigilant about that.
  + Should not let people evade accountability.
    - Detracts accountability from the corporations that are building the machines and puts the blame on the machines.