participant 18

Wed, 06/12 02:52PM 14:23

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

data, traffic tickets, algorithm, crime, area, police, city, important, specific, neighborhood, question, happening, robberies, implemented, assume, helps, location, tickets, understand, scenario

00:01

So I'm here with participant 18. And this interview is just to get some richness of context, understand what was going through your head and why you may have gotten made choices that you did, and just sort of to understand your views on something. So talking, as much as you want is encouraged, there's no such thing as too much. So feel free to ramble and not worry about it. I'm

00:31

so connected to my name at all just connected to my number, I know

00:34

your your name is only being recorded, where you sign the informed consent, and when you sign that you got the money, and that will not be connected to your number in any way. So this can't be this won't be tracked, tracked back to you. We take privacy, very importantly here. So our first question is, how have you felt that crime analysis algorithms have directly impacted you? If at all?

01:03

Well, I think we just see it in our day to day lives, just where we see police and what times is all kind of, you know, that's, that's a top down mentality. So whoever's making those decisions at the top is directly affecting who you see on the streets on a day to day basis.

01:23

Okay. So you think it's, like a pervasive sort of thing?

01:30

When I say top down, you mean, yeah, I think there's a group of people sitting down in the meeting saying we need to patrol this area more because of, you know, this x y data, you know,

01:44

okay. And would you?

01:46

Would you think that it's important to understand the

01:55

algorithms that they use for this?

01:59

As long as they understand them? Okay, I'm okay with that. I don't necessarily need to understand them. But as long as the people that are actually making the decisions, know, what data and how that data was generated, okay, then I'm okay. With

02:14

that being used? Would there be any information you would want to know about these types of algorithms?

02:21

Mostly how the data is being collected. So not necessarily the algorithm itself. But what kind of data and how that data was generated is more important.

02:31

So you you feel the data is more important than the model? Or then the math behind it, per se? Right?

02:39

Yeah, definitely. Awesome. the integrity of the data is the most important thing.

02:45

So imagine a scenario where you know that a specific process, but yet an algorithm or software was being implemented in an area where you live or work at such that it would directly impact you? Would you want to have some level of understanding about how it works? Like, how much would you want to understand it? And what would you think would be important about it? In this scenario?

03:17

I think that the only thing that would concern me is the end decision and how and how they implemented or how they communicate that. So if just say, the police district decided that on my street, they needed to double the beat cops in in my specific neighborhood or something Sure, like, as long as, like they say something like, because they couldn't say nothing at all. Like, they could just use all that data and be like, We're going this way and not say anything to the public at all. So I would think that, yeah, they should come out and say, This is what we're doing. This is how we got there. Be you know, and I get gets to the algorithm question. This algorithm says that we need to patrol this area more. And we're looking to try it, then. Yeah, I think that that amount of communication is,

04:24

so the transparency about just like the process that's happening, right would be important. Okay, yeah. So I'm sort of a next step in this situation. Assume that someone with expertise and crime analyses or, like, algorithms like this vouched for the efficacy and the fairness of a given private analysis process, right. In that scenario? What would be important for you to know, and I would need to know who they're actually working

05:05

for, like, say, are they actually working for the police department? Are they working at the city, but not for the police department? Are they working for a third party that is just coming in? Out of nowhere? Like who's paying them? I think the most important, it shows what their true inside of this. Okay.

05:27

Assuming if you could assume, or if you for this situation, if you could assume that their motive was accurate. Would

05:39

having, as in there's no conflicts of interest? Yes.

05:42

Okay. And they're

05:47

an expert in all

05:48

kinds of the word. Yeah. And their their approval? You could trust it, would you still want to know, what would you still want to know, in that scenario about how this algorithm works? or anything like that?

06:04

I think it would ultimately go to how or if this has been implemented somewhere else. And, you know, like past instances of this exact occurrence happening, and

06:19

Okay, what they did, so,

06:22

so you'd like to see like a past case study or

06:26

right, or just be like, okay, Cleveland had the same problem in this area. And this is what they did. And it worked. Okay. So like, I think that would greatly enhance their expert. opinion. Very interesting.

06:42

No one that I've had was like, Oh, I want to see it happen in another city? Which, I mean, that's a very logical step right to have, like, someone have already gone through like a trial of it. Right, right. Especially if it's an algorithm, like,

07:01

you can

07:02

have this algorithm, look at any data set,

07:05

yo, you know, show how that whatever that rhythm spits out for another city and the exact same, you know, it's a crime or similar area? You know, we're not just comparing, I guess.

07:20

Do you believe that whether data was sourced ethically, legally and fairly impacts the quality of the data itself? and How so?

07:29

Absolutely.

07:32

Greatly?

07:34

Whether that's, you know, just like the reporting how it gets reported, or, you know, maybe there's bias in the reporting. There's just, it opens up Pandora's box of questions. Yeah. could have went wrong with the data being collected? And, and how well, does that data truly reflect what's going on?

07:59

Okay. So you think that having

08:02

like, even if a great algorithm is created, it doesn't mean anything if the data is bad? Okay.

08:11

And you would say that,

08:14

if there's really, if there's any questionable part of the data collection, then you would have more questions about the data itself? It would,

08:28

it would beg the question of

08:33

like, what's their foul play and collecting data in order

08:37

to have this police action? Like, later to push an agenda? Okay.

08:45

Yeah.

08:46

All right. If asked to voluntarily give personal information, such as location and demographics, to law enforcement for the exclusive purpose of more training data for crime analysis algorithms, what would be your response and the reasoning behind your response?

09:07

That's an interesting question. That's a good one. Um,

09:13

thanks. I wrote it.

09:16

It's, I mean, that's such a tough. I don't

09:22

know. I mean, it says on a case by case basis, like, yeah.

09:30

I mean,

09:31

if we're looking at a neighborhood that's 90%, African American, what's the point of telling them that 100% of the robbery in that neighborhood was done by African American if, you know, it's not going to help them at all. So like, it's only applicable if it's crossing some sort of segregated line that has that is reality in our in our current Midwestern cities, especially. So it's only important if say, you know, that most crimes being done in this area is not the makeup of the community itself. Okay. That's, that's it, I feel like that's would be the only applicable thing. But to even know, that would be difficult and then

10:29

see, you're saying you don't feel like there's enough, like, of a reason? Or there's there's enough proof that it would be effective.

10:41

Okay, or look at like, look at the there's there's lives in the city that are clearly segregated lines?

10:48

Yeah. No, walkie like most segregate? Yeah, like,

10:50

I want to talk about specific like river West and rob a, like Holton Street. Is that why? So if you know, if the police somehow know that, like, 100% of the robberies, which is absurd, that 100% of the robberies in river West, a more white area of the city is being done by African Americans in the neighboring neighborhood that might help law enforcement in that specific, yeah, neighborhood, trying to deter that specific crime. But

11:24

how often is that? Like, fact? Okay. And and it?

11:30

Does that really help them? I would say, probably not.

11:35

So you think it would only be useful in like, very specific case? Yeah.

11:40

So you like you have a small group of teenagers that are robbing cars on the east side? Okay. So

11:50

you only like?

11:53

Sure, that's, that's a description of this group of people that they might be African American or whatnot.

11:58

But that only helps for that specific little

12:02

group of crime. So what's the point of like, telling a group of police officers any of this information? That Yeah, it's just, it's so it changes for each circumstance, and it quickly crosses into racial profiling? If you go any farther than what I think I just went. So yeah. I just don't think it helps. And I it's, it would be hard to see something useful come out of that.

12:38

That's a great answer.

12:40

And we have one last question. How would you feel if data from traffic tickets was used to allocate police on highways? Like,

12:51

say more traffic tickets in one area means that they have a greater?

12:55

Yeah, you know, if, if they have like, five more traffic tickets at Mile Marker 12. Then at Mile Marker 13, they'll move? They'll have they'll keep an extra top at that place, right.

13:12

It's kind of a positive feedback loop. Yes. Yeah. You took it more people at one location and you doubt put more cops there. You're going to get more tickets there. And now you're going to put more cops there. And just, it's the same thing over and over. And are you really helping? I mean, I question whether speeding tickets are helping the community at all? Well, so

13:37

I don't think so. I think that's a really bad idea.

13:40

Okay. Because just you can't look at the tickets as the only crime occurring. Yeah. If the like, since you have cops there, then they're going to write more tickets. Yeah, no matter what.

13:58

And you can't assume that less people are speeding somewhere where there's not. Right, right. Yeah.

14:06

I mean, granted, there are spots that people are going to speak more, but you shouldn't be getting that data from the traffic tickets from the amount of traffic tickets in that location. Okay.

14:18

Awesome. Thank you so much for coming in. That's going to end our interview.