

COMP2400/6400: Intelligent Machines, Ethics and Law
SGTA Task
Week 3: Algorithmic Bias

Points of Reference

- Lecture in W2 on “Algorithmic Bias” held on 3 March 2025.
- Required Reading 1: Johnson, G. M. (2021). Algorithmic bias: On the implicit biases of social technology. *Synthese*, 198(10), 9941–9961. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-020-02696-y>
- Required Reading 2: Fazelpour, S., & Danks, D. (2021). Algorithmic bias: Senses, sources, solutions. *Philosophy Compass*, 16(8), e12760. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12760>

Please reply to the following questions in your own words by critically and argumentatively reflecting on the content of the required readings:

1. Johnson (2021) develops and discusses the ‘proxy problem’ in their account of algorithmic bias. Please characterise the problem and give an example of its occurrence.*
2. What exactly is the ‘value neutrality thesis’ as discussed by Fazelpour and Danks (2021)? Does it accurately capture the relationship between algorithmic decision-making and the reality of our socially and politically shaped lifeworld?*
3. According to Fazelpour and Danks (2021), *fairness through unawareness* has remained a largely unsuccessful strategy to mitigate algorithmic bias. Which reasons do they provide in support of their view? Do you agree with their assessment? If yes, why? If not, why not?

***Replies to asterisked questions are mandatory.**

Suggested word count: 150 words per question.

Restriction: You are **not allowed to use any AI based tools** (such as ChatGPT) to reply to these questions. This includes directly copying and paraphrasing artificially generated text. It also includes the integration of chatbot-generated revisions of text that you have drafted yourself. Presenting work created by AI technologies as your own is academically dishonest and any submission doing so will be referred to the Macquarie University Academic Integrity Disciplinary Committee. The submitted text must be your own academic work.