# On the Digital Threat to Democracy

I believe the largest obstacle to American democracy is the unprecedented scale of the digital world in the context of social justice. Never has communication been easier in the history of civilization. However, such an achievement has been at the expense of our control over the digital platforms we create, epitomized by the explosion of misinformation on Facebook.

In a way, digital threats to democracy originate from the sheer limitlessness regarding the possible applications of computers. From cyber attacks to online QAnon communities, nobody two decades ago could have guessed such occurrences. Thus, social justice is profoundly impacted by the technology boom. No sphere of modern life is untouched by computer systems. Now, algorithms decide who gets charged higher premiums or what content is fed to social media users, bringing up questions on distributive and recognition-based justice.

In this data-driven world, the need for education on political theories in the digital context is urgent. For instance, computer programs have been widely implemented in criminal courts. Data shows that algorithms wrongly label black defendants as future criminals at twice the rate of their white counterparts. This flaw is due to poor, inattentive design, for predictive metrics like education level and job status are often rooted in deep structural, racial inequalities.

The implementation of ethics workshops would generate alertness on the far-reaching consequences of poorly-scrutinized technology, such as the racial bias in risk assessments. Overall, computer programs created by imperfect programmers are neither impartial or objective. For a more stable union, software developers and companies must become more socially aware of their product's impact.