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Data can be a significant object in developing analytical and statistical information from different societies, however, it can also be manipulative and provide wrong analysis. Therefore, while law enforcement has focused on using big data to develop conclusions that will help improve policing, they have not to dig deeper into understanding how data can be manipulative. Ruha Benjamin emphasized that “We don’t find data we produce it”. Based on the statement, she referred to data as something that is generated from society. Therefore, it will be based on how individuals decide to interpret it. Considering that people involved are the ones to create the stories, recount them and utilize the contexts, the perception will arrive at every individual differently. Benjamin said that “Imagination and data production go hand-in-hand” which meant that individuals have varying opinions on methods of interpreting data. Imagination is something that someone creates in their mind, and thus different individuals have different imaginations the same as their ideas and facts. Also, she added that “Just Data Toolkit” inspires us to produce better data because it makes individuals considerate of details that everybody never thinks about. For example, societal literacy, technological humility and effectual insight.

Considering that social norms, values and structures all existed before any technology development; therefore, algorithms and metadata are designed by the social world which creates and utilizes them. Nevertheless, algorithms can be very helpful when it is used in other scenarios such as in marketing when predicting the number of customers using a certain product in an area. However, when used in social control, the algorithm provides biased laws and past patterns and bequests and inequalities. Therefore, metadata and algorithms present problems through reprocessing data collected in the past and thus showing the wrong analysis. Brayne (2020), argued that police have outdated data on the neighborhoods which had a previous history of drug

activity, instead of updating the data, they will monitor the neighborhood closely when the police pass over, and they have connected it with drugs. Therefore, extrapolative algorithms are not objective because they grasp a reflection of the previous issues that predict future problems. Furthermore, if the past partialities and police practices notify people who and where the law enforcement officers surveil would mirror where and to whom the officers gather crime data to be used in algorithms. This develops inequality as officers select the data to be gathered and analyzed which leads to biases that influence their decisions. Also, according to Benjamin (2020), an example of Ahmed Mohamed who made a clock and was arrested because of race, however, if it was a white kid, they would get a reward.

An example that I thought of technology being shaped or shaping social biases and inequality is from the news. On October 1, 2017, the Vegas shooting left at least fifty-eight people killed and five hundred injured (The New York Times, 2017). The story of the event was reported using the title “White men” in many news, however, if it would be a Muslim who had done the killings, then they would report with headlines of the terrorist attack. Therefore, Benjamin’s and Brayne’s argument speak about example since it represents individuals who are using an already existing outdated data to classify what counts as a terrorist attack to a simple white person who is ill.

Both Benjamin and Brayne has concentrated on how technology increases social inequality, however, my project has not focused on racism but how technology advancement increased economic biases in society. For example, as technology advances more productive individuals continues to be productive hence increasing the gap between them. Also, only skillful people will improve their relative position. Similarly, more films are created to present how the poor struggles to get their daily meals while the rich have a happy life.

References

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