



JOHNS HOPKINS

WHITING SCHOOL  
of ENGINEERING

# AI Ethics and Social Impact

601.770

Anjalie Field

Krithika Ramesh

# Class Time

---

- 9-9:15am: Reflection on **Data Privacy**
  - Readings:
    - Lundberg, Ian, et al. "Privacy, ethics, and data access: A case study of the Fragile Families Challenge." Socius 5 (2019)
    - Miresghallah, Niloofar and Tianshi Li "Position: Privacy Is Not Just Memorization!", 2025
  - In your journal, write a short paragraph responding to the readings. Some things you might include (you do not need to address every question):
    - What is something you learned?
    - What is something you found noteworthy or surprising?
    - What new questions did the readings raise?
    - What thoughts do you have on how to move forward? How can AI companies do better? How can we do better? How could the papers you read be improved?
- 9:15-10am: Discussion on Data Privacy

# Discussion Groups

---

- Make sure that each person in your group is talking. If someone is talking less, find a way to draw them in. This is one of the most important parts of your role as facilitator: do your best to have everyone talk (very roughly) the same amount.
- Try not to respond to every comment that everyone makes at your table; instead if no one is talking ask the table what they think about what has just been said. If it feels like the right time to summarize responses, maybe do so without taking a stand one way or another.
- Don't be scared of silence. It's ok to give people a moment to think, particularly right after asking a question
- You don't need to stick to your discussion guide – it is meant to help you, not to limit you
- If you need an icebreaker, you might ask a question for which there is no single correct answer and go around the table with it. (Example: "On a scale of 1 to 10, how successful do you think the paper is at solving the problem they pose" or "If you were going to do a project following up on this paper, which part of the paper might be most rewarding to look into?")
- Try to be careful about giving credit for ideas

# Class Time

---

- 9-9:15am: Reflection on Data Privacy
- 9:15-9:55am: Discussion on Data Privacy
- 9:55-10:05: Discussion recap
- 10:05-10:25: Break / Reflection on Data workers
- 10:25-11:05: Discussion on Data Workers
- 11:05-11:15: Discussion recap
- 11:15-11:30: Introduction to next units

# Next Class

---

- Topic 1: Energy Consumption of AI
  - Luccioni, Sasha, Yacine Jernite, and Emma Strubell. "Power hungry processing: Watts driving the cost of AI deployment?." *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM conference on fairness, accountability, and transparency*. 2024.
  - Andy Masley. "Using ChatGPT is not bad for the environment - a cheat sheet", Blog post, 2025
- Topic 2: Data Centers
  - Han, Y., et al. "The unpaid toll: quantifying the public health impact of AI, arXiv." arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.06288 (2024).
  - Bria Overs and Clara Longo de Freitas. "Johns Hopkins gets \$9M for new data center as Baltimore debates a pause" The Baltimore Banner, 2026.

# Next Class

---

- Topic 1: Energy Consumption of AI
  - Should we worry about energy costs of AI? In what circumstances does AI energy usage become a problem?
  - Consider risks/benefits (beneficence) analysis
- Topic 2: Data Centers
  - How are data centers impacting local communities?
  - Would you support or oppose a data center moratorium in Baltimore or Maryland?
  - What steps should JHU be taking to manage community impact as they build more compute?
  - Consider discussing “Justice” if people who assume risks are the same people receiving benefits
- We will use some class time to introduce class projects
  - Literature review due Friday October 9

# Next Classes

- Next class (9/21):
  - AI Energy Consumption
  - Data Centers
- 9/28:
  - Fairness and Bias: Metrics and Classification (no discussion)
  - Fairness and Bias: Generative AI
- 10/5:
  - Human-in-the-loop (and fairness implications)
  - Political Bias in Generative AI

Decide on discussion leaders for the next few class and write it on the spreadsheet (linked in Canvas announcements): [DiscussionGroups.xlsx](#)

**Leave your notebooks and nametags here!**