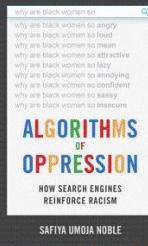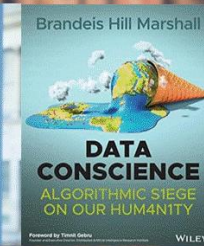AI ETHICS BOOK FESTIVAL
Friday, March 28, 2025
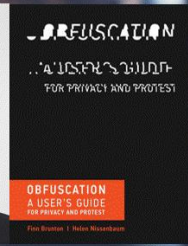Hosted by Women in AI Ethics™

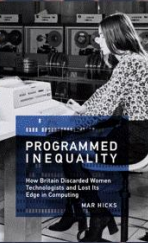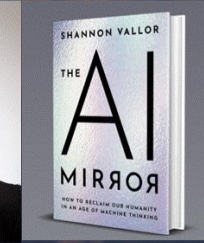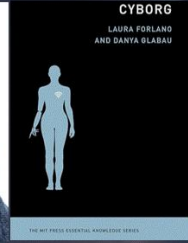ALGORITHMS OF OPPRESSION, SAFIYA UMOJA NOBLE — DATA CONSCIENCE, BRANDEIS HILL MARSHALL — OBFUSCATION, HELEN NISSENBAUM

PROGRAMMED INEQUALITY, MAR HICKS — THE AI MIRROR, SHANNON VALLOR — CYBORG, LAURA FORLANO

#AIEthicsBookFest2025 #WAIEBookFest2025   womeninaiethics.org

AI ETHICS BOOK FESTIVAL - 2025

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

8AM – 2PM PT/11AM – 5PM ET

🎙 **Women in AI Ethics™ (WAIE)** is delighted to announce our first virtual AI Ethics book festival. This event reflects our core mission and key role as a catalyst in the global movement towards inclusive and ethical AI. While AI presents many benefits, there is an urgent need to elevate historically underrepresented voices to ensure that harms to society are minimized and benefits from AI are distributed equitably.

Join us to hear from pioneers and scholars whose work reflects a deep commitment to diverse and vibrant technological futures that include all of us.

We look forward to sharing this day of insights and inspiration with you!

Registration link | Book Festival website

#WAIEBookFest2025 #AIEthicsBookFest2025

PROGRAM AGENDA

11:00AM - 11:05AM	**EVENT OPEN**
11:05AM - 11:15AM	**Mia Shah-Dand, Founder - WAIE and CEO - Lighthouse3**
	Introduction to Women in AI Ethics™ (WAIE)
11:15AM - 12:00PM	**Author: Prof. Shannon Vallor**
	The AI Mirror: How to Reclaim Our Humanity in an Age of Machine Thinking
12:00PM – 12.10PM	**AI Ethics Timeline**
12:10PM - 12:55PM	**Author: Helen Nissenbaum**
	Obfuscation: A User's Guide for Privacy and Protest
12:55PM – 01:00PM	**WAIE Volunteer sign up**
01:00PM - 01:45PM	**Author: Dr. Safiya Noble**
	Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism
01:45PM – 02:00PM	**What next for WAIE?**
02:00PM - 02:45PM	**Author: Prof. Mar Hicks**
	Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing
02:45PM - 03:00PM	**Yoga with cats**
03:00PM - 03:45PM	**Author: Dr. Brandeis Marshall**
	Data Conscience: Algorithmic Siege on our Humanity
03:45PM - 04:00PM	**WAIE Monthly Reading Circles**
04:00PM - 04:45PM	**Author: Laura Forlano**
	Cyborg
04:45PM - 05:00PM	**Event Wrap up**
05:00PM - 05:55PM	**Audience Virtual Social Hour & Discussion** (optional)
05:55PM - 06:00PM	**EVENT CLOSE**

WELCOME TO WOMEN IN AI ETHICS™ (WAIE)

11:00AM - 11:05AM   **EVENT OPEN**

- AI Ethics Book Festival page with program agenda
- WAIE code of conduct

11:05AM - 11:15AM   **INTRODUCTION TO WAIE**

- WAIE website
- 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics™ List
- 20 AI Ethics Rising Stars
- LinkedIn | Bluesky | YouTube

12:00PM - 12.10PM   **A BRIEF HISTORY OF AI ETHICS**

- AI Ethics timeline | AI Ethics Profiles & Career Journeys

12:55PM - 01:00PM   **WAIE VOLUNTEERS**

- WAIE Volunteer sign up

01:45PM - 02:00PM   **WHAT'S NEXT FOR WAIE?**

- Introduction to WAIE+

03:45PM - 04:00PM   **JOIN WAIE FOR MONTHLY WEBINARS & READING CIRCLES**

- AI Experts Webinars on last Thursdays
- AI Ethics Reading Circles on last Fridays

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK!

- Sign up for a paid subscription to WAIE newsletter
- Buy us coffee or tea
- Sponsor an event or fellowship
- Support us and independent bookstores by buying books through our affiliate shop
- Sign up to be a media, research, or teaching fellow (coming soon!)
- Sign up to host a session, speak at our events, or teach a class (coming soon!)

AUDIENCE FAQS

- **How do you decide on the books and authors to invite?**

  Our volunteer team collectively decides which authors, speakers, and books to feature.

- **Are these sessions recorded?**

  Yes. All sessions are recorded and posted on our [YouTube channel](#) and [Substack](#).

- **How do I get involved with WAIE?**

  Please fill out the [volunteer form](#) and we will be in touch soon.

- **I have already signed up for the volunteer program but haven't heard back.**

  Thank you for your interest. We will get back to everyone who has applied shortly.

- **How do I get more information about WAIE+?**

  All information will be posted on [our website](#) and shared with our [newsletter subscribers](#).

- **How can I contribute to the AI Ethics timeline?**

  Use the link in [this report](#) to submit notable contributions by women and non-binary people.

- **How do I ask the authors questions?**

  Follow the authors on LinkedIn or their author website to engage with them directly.

- **When's your next event?**

  We host [AI Experts monthly seminars](#) on last Thursdays at 11a ET and you can also join our [reading circles](#) for informal discussions of books and other research materials on last Fridays.

- **Why does WAIE focus on women and non-binary people?**

  Since 2018, WAIE has elevated the voices of historically underrepresented and lesser-heard voices in AI Ethics. Women, non-binary people, and other experts from marginalized communities have been at the forefront of this critical space long before it was a formalized field. Our mission is to ensure their contributions are not minimized or erased.

- **Are men welcome at your events?**

  WAIE has always been inclusive of people from all genders, races, ethnicities, faiths, abilities, and sexual orientations who provide a unique perspective on AI and its impact on communities around the globe.

WAIE VOLUNTEER TEAM

AI Ethics Book Festival Co-Chairs

Elena Krumova is an Assistant Director at Columbia University in the City of New York. She is a sociologist with extensive experience in teaching, research, and program development.

Ioanna Gallo is passionate about using data and technology to promote equity in digital inclusion and AI ethics. She has worked with organizations like the IDB and UNFPA, supporting digital transformation initiatives and analyzing gender data to inform policy decisions.

Volunteer Team Leads

Catherine McWhorter is an Assessment Development Assistant at Enrollment Management Association and Member of Board of Directors at Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida.

Jeanette Schofield is a Senior Software Developer for Intelligence at PakEnergy and Instructional Associate for CS 7650, Natural Language Processing course at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Anjana Sriram is a Data Scientist working on the Content, Product, Personalization, and Experimentation team at Disney Streaming. Graduate of the UC San Diego Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute.

Reading Circles

Leigh Goulbourne is an operations strategist and program lead at the intersection of tech, social impact, and equitable team development. She blends a passion for tech innovation with a deep commitment to social impact.

Danita Delce is an award-winning UX designer and product strategist with over a decade of experience crafting human-centered designs for SaaS platforms, emerging tech, and civic tech.

Webinars

Gwen Alston has spent the past 15 years running an agency with her sister and business partner Angela Alston and colleague Lisa Smithline, to support and elevate the work of independent filmmakers and other content creators.

Pranati Modumudi is currently a Data Scientist working at Disney Media and Entertainment Distribution. She recently graduated from UC Berkeley, studying Data Science and Economics, and was a recipient of the Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship at Cal
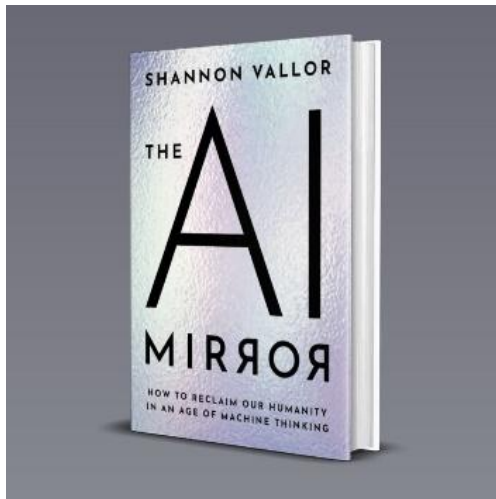
FEATURED BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK TITLE: The AI Mirror: How to Reclaim Our Humanity in an Age of Machine Thinking

AUTHOR: Prof. Shannon Vallor

TIMING: 11:15AM - 12:00PM ET

BOOK OVERVIEW: (Source: Bookshop.org)

For many, technology offers hope for the future—that promise of shared human flourishing and liberation that always seems to elude our species. Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies spark this hope in a particular way. They promise a future in which human limits and frailties are finally overcome—not by us, but by our machines.

Yet rather than open new futures, today's powerful AI technologies reproduce the past. Forged from oceans of our data into immensely powerful but flawed mirrors, they reflect the same errors, biases, and failures of wisdom that we strive to escape. Our new digital mirrors point backward. They show only where the data say that we have already been, never where we might venture together for the first time.

To meet today's grave challenges to our species and our planet, we will need something new from AI, and from ourselves.

Shannon Vallor makes a wide-ranging, prophetic, and philosophical case for what AI could be: a way to reclaim our human potential for moral and intellectual growth, rather than lose ourselves in mirrors of the past. Rejecting prophecies of doom, she encourages us to pursue technology that helps us recover our sense of the possible, and with it the confidence and courage to repair a broken world. Prof. Vallor calls us to rethink what AI is and can be, and what we want to be with it.

AUTHOR BIO:

Prof. Shannon Vallor is the Baillie Gifford Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence at the Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI) at the University of Edinburgh, where she is also appointed in Philosophy. She directs EFI's Centre for Technomoral Futures and is co-Director of the UKRI's BRAID (Bridging Responsible AI Divides) programme. Professor Vallor's research explores how AI, robotics, and data science reshape human character, habits, and practices. Her work includes advising policymakers and industry on the ethical design and use of AI, and she is a former AI Ethicist at Google. She is the author of **Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting** (Oxford University Press, 2016) and **The AI Mirror: How to Reclaim Our Humanity in an Age of Machine Thinking** (Oxford University Press, 2024). The book is a **Finalist for the 2025 PROSE Awards** and was shortlisted for the **Al-Rodhan Book Prize** of the Royal Institute of Philosophy.

RELATED LINKS:

- LinkedIn

- Book website

- How philosopher Shannon Vallor delivered the year's best critique of AI (Fast Company)

- Shannon Vallor says AI does present an existential risk — but not the one you think (Vox)

- In the Age of A.I., What Makes People Unique? (New Yorker)

- How to be human in an age of AI (The New Statesman)

- A Faustian fable (TLS)

- The AI Mirror — how technology blocks human potential (Financial Times)
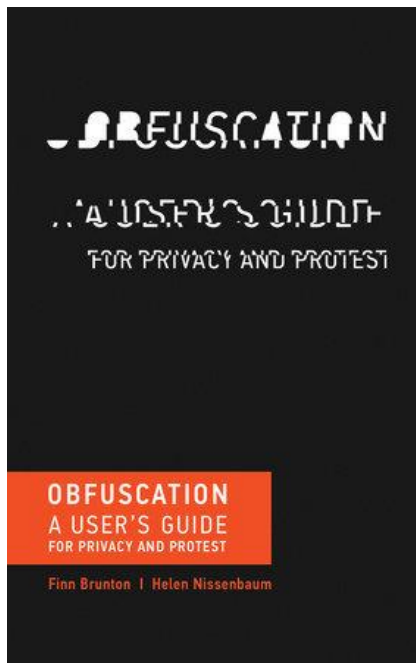
- AI Is the Black Mirror (Nautilus)

BOOK TITLE: Obfuscation: A User's Guide for Privacy and Protest

AUTHOR: Prof. Helen Nissenbaum

TIMING: 12:10PM - 12:55PM ET

DESCRIPTION: (Source: Bookshop.org)

With *Obfuscation*, Finn Brunton and Helen Nissenbaum mean to start a revolution. They are calling us not to the barricades but to our computers, offering us ways to fight today's pervasive digital surveillance—the collection of our data by governments, corporations, advertisers, and hackers. To the toolkit of privacy protecting techniques and projects, they propose adding obfuscation: the deliberate use of ambiguous, confusing, or misleading information to interfere with surveillance and data collection projects.

Brunton and Nissenbaum provide tools and a rationale for evasion, noncompliance, refusal, even sabotage—especially for average users, those of us not in a position to opt out or exert control over data about ourselves. *Obfuscation* will teach users to push back, software developers to keep their user data safe, and policy makers to gather data without misusing it.

Brunton and Nissenbaum present a guide to the forms and formats that obfuscation has taken and explain how to craft its implementation to suit the goal and the adversary. They describe a series of historical and contemporary examples, including radar chaff deployed by World War II pilots, Twitter bots that hobbled the social media strategy of popular protest movements, and software that can camouflage users' search queries and stymie online advertising. They go on to consider obfuscation in more general terms, discussing why obfuscation is necessary, whether it is justified, how it works, and how it can be integrated with other privacy practices and technologies.

AUTHOR BIO

Helen Nissenbaum is the Andrew H. and Ann R. Tisch Professor at Cornell Tech and in the Information Science Department at Cornell University. She is also Director of the Digital Life Initiative, which was launched in 2017 at Cornell Tech to explore societal perspectives surrounding the development and application of digital technology, focusing on ethics, policy, politics, and quality of life. Her own research takes an ethical perspective on policy, law, science, and engineering relating to information technology, computing, digital media and data science. Topics have included privacy, trust, accountability, security, and values in technology design.

Her books include Obfuscation: A User's Guide for Privacy and Protest, with Finn Brunton (MIT Press, 2015) and Privacy in Context: Technology, Policy, and the Integrity of Social Life (Stanford, 2010).

RELATED LINKS:

- Author website
- Why Data Privacy Based on Consent Is Impossible
- Privacy in Context | Stanford University Press
- Privacy as Contextual Integrity
- Obfuscation: A User's Guide for Privacy and Protest | MIT Press eBooks | IEEE Xplore
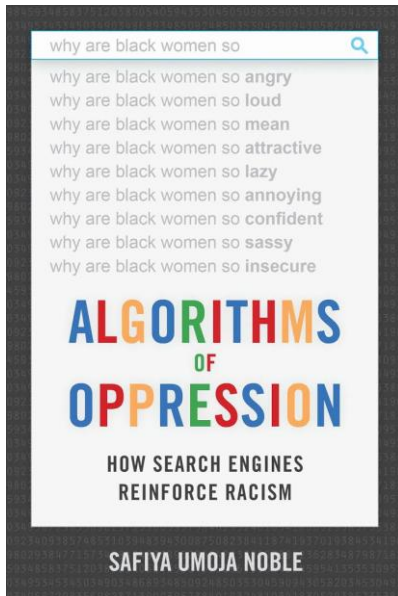- Finn Brunton and Helen Nissenbaum: Obfuscation: a user's guide for privacy and protest

BOOK TITLE: Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism

AUTHOR: Dr. Safiya Umoja Noble

TIMING: 01:00PM - 01:45PM ET

DESCRIPTION: (Source: Bookshop.org)

Run a Google search for "Black girls"--what will you find? "Big Booty" and other sexually explicit terms are likely to come up as top search terms. But, if you type in "white girls," the results are radically different. The suggested porn sites and un-moderated discussions about "why Black women are so sassy" or "why Black women are so angry" presents a disturbing portrait of Black womanhood in modern society.

In Algorithms of Oppression, Safiya Umoja Noble challenges the idea that search engines like Google offer an equal playing field for all forms of ideas, identities, and activities. Data discrimination is a real social problem; Noble argues that the combination of private interests in promoting certain sites, along with the monopoly status of a relatively small number of Internet search engines, leads to a biased set of search algorithms that privilege whiteness and discriminate against people of color, specifically women of color.

Through an analysis of textual and media searches as well as extensive research on paid online advertising, Noble exposes a culture of racism and sexism in the way discoverability is created online. As search engines and their related companies grow in importance--operating as a source for email, a major vehicle for primary and secondary school learning, and beyond--understanding and reversing these disquieting trends and discriminatory practices is of utmost importance.

AUTHOR BIO

Photo credit: Stella Kallnina

Dr. Safiya U. Noble is the David O. Sears Presidential Endowed Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Gender Studies, African American Studies, and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is the Director of the Center on Resilience & Digital Justice and Co-Director of the Minderoo Initiative on Tech & Power at the UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry (C2i2). She currently serves as a Director of the UCLA DataX Initiative, leading work in critical data studies for the campus. Professor Noble is the author of the best-selling book on racist and sexist algorithmic harm in commercial search engines, entitled Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (NYU Press), which has been widely reviewed in scholarly and popular publications. In 2021, she was recognized as a MacArthur Foundation Fellow for her ground-breaking work on algorithmic discrimination.

RELATED LINKS:

- LinkedIn
- Author website
- Buy the book "Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (NYU Press)"
- Imagining a Future Free from Algorithms of Oppression
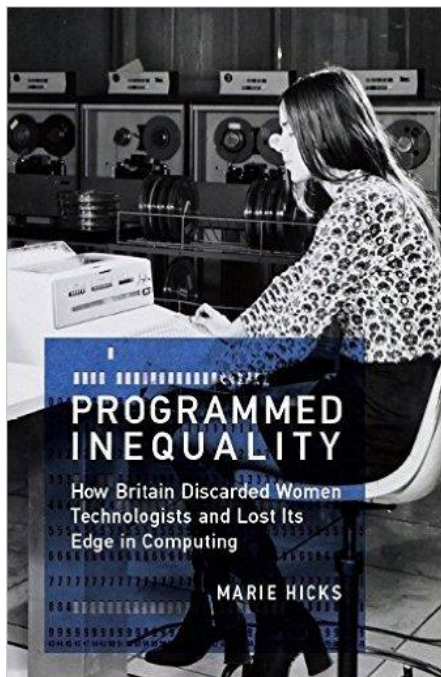- Time 100 Talks
- TEDx talk
- USC Annenberg talks Data X

BOOK TITLE: Programmed Inequality: how Britain discarded women technologists and lost its edge in computing

AUTHOR: Prof. Mar Hicks

TIMING: 02:00PM - 02:45PM ET

DESCRIPTION: (Source: Bookshop.org)

In 1944, Britain led the world in electronic computing. By 1974, the British computer industry was all but extinct. What happened in the intervening thirty years holds lessons for all postindustrial superpowers. As Britain struggled to use technology to retain its global power, the nation's inability to manage its technical labor force hobbled its transition into the information age.

In Programmed Inequality, Mar Hicks explores the story of labor feminization and gendered technocracy that undercut British efforts to computerize. That failure sprang from the government's systematic neglect of its largest trained technical workforce simply because they were women. Women were a hidden engine of growth in high technology from World War II to the 1960s. As computing experienced a gender flip, becoming male-identified in the 1960s and 1970s, labor problems grew into structural ones and gender discrimination caused the nation's largest computer user--the civil service and sprawling public sector--to make decisions that were disastrous for the British computer industry and the nation as a whole.

Drawing on recently opened government files, personal interviews, and the archives of major British computer companies, Programmed Inequality takes aim at the fiction of technological meritocracy. Hicks explains why, even today, possessing technical skill is not enough to ensure that women will rise to the top in science and technology fields. Programmed Inequality shows how the disappearance of women from the field had grave macroeconomic consequences for Britain, and why the United States risks repeating those errors in the twenty-first century.

AUTHOR BIO:

Mar Hicks is a historian of technology who investigates how gender and sexuality change what we think we know about technological progress and the global "computer revolution."

They are currently an Associate Professor at The University of Virginia's School of Data Science, in Charlottesville, where they do research and teach courses on the history of technology, computing and society, and the larger implications of powerful and widespread digital infrastructures.

Their award-winning book, Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing, investigates why the proportion of women declined as electronic computing matured, and how this labor situation had grave effects on the technological aspirations of that waning superpower. It shows what lessons this holds for other nations, especially the United States, and how history can help us make sense of the present and the future by focusing not just on technological success stories, but also stories of technological failure.

Margot Shetterly, author of Hidden Figures, has called it an "important lesson for scholars and policymakers seeking ways to improve inclusion in STEM fields." Maria Klawe, President of Harvey Mudd College and an expert on diversity in STEM, has described the book as "one of the best researched and most compelling examples of the negative impact of gender and class discrimination on a country's economy."

RELATED LINKS:

- LinkedIn
- Author website
- Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing
- Your Computer is on Fire (MIT Press)
- Research Affiliate, Centre for Democracy and Technology, University of Cambridge
- Member, Scholars' Council, Center for Critical Internet Inquiry, UCLA
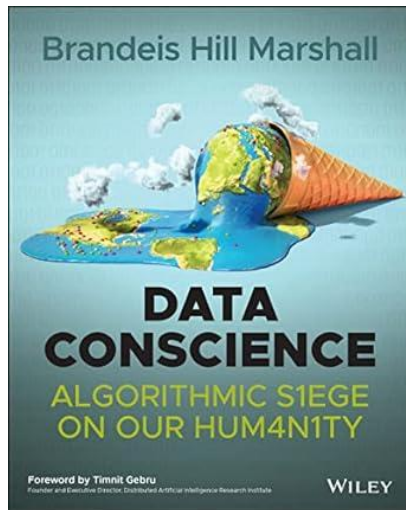- Associate Editor, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing

BOOK TITLE: Data Conscience: Algorithmic Siege on our Humanity

AUTHOR: Dr. Brandeis Marshall

TIMING: 03:00PM - 03:45PM ET

DESCRIPTION: (Source: Bookshop.org)

Data has enjoyed 'bystander' status as we've attempted to digitize responsibility and morality in tech. In fact, data's importance should earn it a spot at the center of our thinking and strategy around building a better, more ethical world. It's use—and misuse—lies at the heart of many of the racist, gendered, classist, and otherwise oppressive practices of modern tech.

In *Data Conscience: Algorithmic Siege on our Humanity*, computer science and data inclusivity thought leader Dr. Brandeis Hill Marshall delivers a call to action for rebel tech leaders, who acknowledge and are prepared to address the current limitations of software development. In the book, Dr. Brandeis Hill Marshall discusses how the philosophy of "move fast and break things" is, itself, broken, and requires change.

You'll learn about the ways that discrimination rears its ugly head in the digital data space and how to address them with several known algorithms, including social network analysis, and linear regression.

A can't-miss resource for junior-level to senior-level software developers who have gotten their hands dirty with at least a handful of significant software development projects, Data Conscience also provides readers with:

- Discussions of the importance of transparency
- Explorations of computational thinking in practice
- Strategies for encouraging accountability in tech
- Ways to avoid double-edged data visualization
- Schemes for governing data structures with law and algorithms

AUTHOR BIO:

Dr. Brandeis Marshall is the founder and CEO of DataedX Group, LLC. DataedX provides learning and development training to help educators, scholars and practitioners in developing more responsible data/AI practices.

Dr. Marshall speaks, writes and consults on how to move slower and build better people-first tech. She has been a Stanford PACS Practitioner Fellow and Partner Research Fellow at Siegel Family Endowment.

Marshall has served as faculty at both Purdue University and Spelman College. Her scholarly work in data literacy, data science and computing has been supported by the National Science Foundation and philanthropy organizations. She is the author of Data Conscience: Algorithmic Siege on our Humanity (Wiley, 2022), co-editor of Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning (McGraw-Hill, 2024) and contributing author in The Black Agenda (Macmillan, 2022).

RELATED LINKS:

- LinkedIn
- Author website
- Explain Which AI You Mean, please?
- What's UnAI-able?
- AI Ethics with Dr. Brandeis Marshall

BOOK TITLE: Cyborg
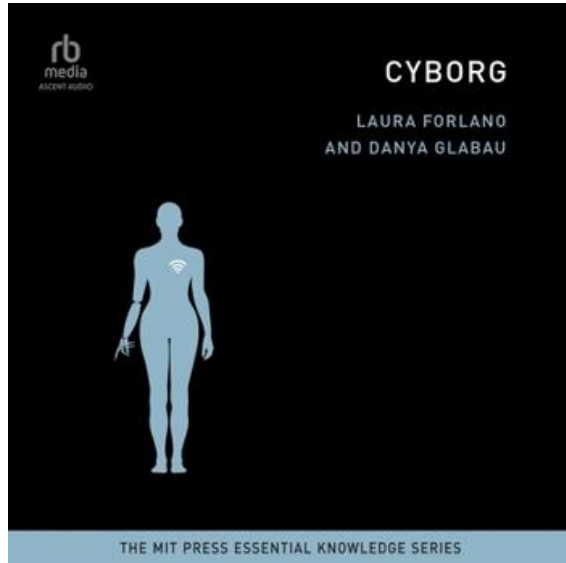
AUTHOR: Dr. Laura Forlano

TIMING: 04:00PM - 04:45PM ET

DESCRIPTION: (source: Bookshop.org)

This introduction to cyborg theory provides a critical vantage point for analyzing the claims around emerging technologies like automation, robots, and AI. *Cyborg* analyzes and reframes popular and scholarly conversations about cyborgs from the perspective of feminist cyborg theory. Drawing on their combined decades of training, teaching, and research in the social sciences, design, and engineering education, Laura Forlano and Danya Glabau introduce an approach called *critical cyborg literacy*. Critical cyborg literacy foregrounds power dynamics and pays attention to the ways that social and cultural factors such as gender, race, and disability shape how technology is imagined, developed, used, and resisted.

Forlano and Glabau offer critical cyborg literacy as a way of thinking through questions about the relationship between humanity and technology in areas such as engineering and computing, art and design, and health care and medicine, as well as the social sciences and humanities. *Cyborg* examines whether modern technologies make us all cyborgs—if we consider, for instance, the fact that we use daily technologies at work, have technologies embedded into our bodies in health care applications, or use technology to critically explore possibilities as artists, designers, activists, and creators. Lastly, *Cyborg* offers perspectives from critical race, feminist, and disability thinkers to help chart a path forward for cyborg theory in the twenty-first century.

AUTHOR BIO:

Laura Forlano is a Fulbright award-winning and National Science Foundation funded scholar, is a disabled writer, social scientist and design researcher. She is Professor in the departments of Art + Design and Communication Studies in the College of Arts, Media, and Design and Senior Fellow at The Burnes Center for Social Change at Northeastern University. Forlano is also an Affiliated Fellow at the Information Society Project at Yale Law School. She received her Ph.D. in communications from Columbia University.

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura4lano/

RELATED LINKS

- LinkedIn
- Author website
- [PDF] TechnoFeminism by Judy Wajcman
- Infrastructuring as Critical Feminist Technoscientific Practice – spheres
- Feminist Hacking/Making: Exploring new gender horizons of possibility » The Journal of Peer Production
- A New AI Lexicon: Smart - AI Now Institute