



MODEL CITY HALL ONLINE 2020
STEAM COMMITTEE

Resource Guide 2020:
Privacy and Surveillance
Racialized AI/Algorithmic Justice

Hello delegates!

I'm Zainab Iftikhar, an incoming high school senior at Hillfield Strathallan College who has 5 years of Model UN experience under my belt. I am excited to be your co-chair of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Committee alongside Cole. First of all, I would like to thank you for taking the initiative to sign up for this committee, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. I find that it is immensely rewarding to pursue your passions and stay busy in this current situation. Involving yourself in the community by debating, raising awareness, and simply staying informed about current issues and discrimination facing marginalized groups is your responsibility as youth in the fight for positive change. I am pleased to see you making those first steps.

Hello, my name is Cole Dermott and I am thrilled to be one of your co-chairs for this committee. Similar to Zainab, I'm an upcoming senior at HSC and an active MUN delegate at my school. Regardless of whether this is your first MUN-styled debate, or you are an experienced delegate I hope that you enjoy your Model City Hall experience, feel included, and learn something along the way. I wish you all the best in researching for this conference. I look forward to hearing all your wonderful ideas about these important issues.

In this committee, we will be discussing two topics, Surveillance and Privacy and Racialized AI/Algorithmic Justice. Do your research and come prepared; I am certain we will have an amazing experience. Feel free to email us at academic@modelcityhall.org if you have any questions about the committee.

We look forward to meeting you all,

Zainab Iftikhar and Cole Dermott

Committee Directors, STEAM

Topic A: Privacy and Surveillance

Overview

[Coming to Terms: The Kaleidoscope of Privacy and Surveillance](#)

[Privacy and Human Rights, An International Survey of Privacy Laws and Practice](#)

[Why Do We Care So Much About Privacy](#)

History

[A Short History of Surveillance and Privacy in the United States](#)

[Surveillance, privacy and history](#)

[The Evolution of Canada's Privacy Laws](#)

Current Situation

[Privacy Today: A Review of Current Issues](#)

[As Coronavirus Surveillance Escalates, Personal Privacy Plummets](#)

[Privacy and Security: Current Challenges and Best Practices](#)

[Canadian Civil Liberties Association's Email Regarding Surveillance and COVID-19](#)

Questions for Discussion

1. In the evolving age of technology what level of privacy versus surveillance should be attained?
2. As the COVID-19 pandemic is having an extreme impact on the state of privacy and surveillance, how do you expect this balance to evolve in the future?
3. In what situations should surveillance be prioritized over privacy, and in which should privacy be prioritized over surveillance? Why?
4. In which cases does a nation's security outweigh an individual's right to privacy? Is this a common enough occurrence to justify mass surveillance?

5. How would civilians in Canada react to the implementation of mass surveillance measures? Is it a justifiable practice? Why?
6. What are some possible beneficial but less controversial means of mass surveillance? Can these realistically be implemented?
7. With the release of new technologies for COVID-19 screening, one of the major concerns amongst Canadians was privacy. The new contact tracing app does not store data. How can these measures be placed in other technological areas?

Additional Resources

[Coronavirus brings China's surveillance state out of the shadows](#)

[The Personal Privacy vs. Public Security Dilemma](#)

[Surveillance, Security and Human Rights](#)

[Missions and Values of the National Security Agency](#)

[American Civil Liberty Union's Page on Privacy and Surveillance](#)

Topic B: Racialized AI/Algorithmic Justice

Overview

[Biased AI perpetuates racial injustice](#)

[Is Artificial Intelligence Racist?](#)

[Learn More- Algorithmic Justice League](#)

[Why algorithms can be racist and sexist](#)

History

[Untold History of AI: Algorithmic Bias Was Born in the 1980s](#)

[Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women](#)

[Discriminating algorithms: 5 times AI showed prejudice](#)

Current Situation

[Millions of black people affected by racial bias in health-care algorithms](#)

[Federal study confirms racial bias of many facial-recognition systems, casts doubt on their expanding use](#)

[Is artificial intelligence making racial profiling worse?](#)

[Wrongfully Accused by an Algorithm](#)

[The Problem With COVID-19 Artificial Intelligence Solutions and How to Fix Them](#)

[AI for Good: Battling Bias Before it Becomes Irreversible](#)

Questions for Discussion

1. As of July 2019, just 13.8 % of AI researchers were found to be women. The majority of persons building artificial intelligence systems identify as men and are typically from similar racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, leading to the biased algorithms we see today. What are some concrete, feasible solutions to the aforementioned problem?
2. How can transparency be ensured to regulate discrimination in AI when technology companies must maintain secrecy regarding their algorithms work to prevent other firms from copying them?
3. What measures can be implemented in the healthcare industry to decrease the biases of AI?
4. An additional challenge the world faces is that biases can be created within AI systems due to small/narrow data sets and then become amplified as the algorithms evolve and learn. How can this be addressed?
5. There is a disconnect between what Canadians know about AI and the reality of AI technology adoption as many are unaware that many features on their smartphones employ AI. What steps can be taken to educate the Canadian public about AI and equip them with the tools needed to help fight the prevalent racial bias?
6. How can new initiatives coming to Toronto ensure ethical practices without solely profiting off collected data?

Additional Resources

[Algorithmic Justice League](#)

[Responsible use of artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#)

[Gender diversity crisis in AI](#)