GREETINGS FROM LONDON, where the days are lengthening and spring flowers are blooming. As you might expect, we are hard at work on planning for Data for Policy 2024, having communicated peer-reviewed decisions to our 300+ authors; you can also register for the conference or apply to be a volunteer at the event - full details in our article below. Apart from the conference, our Chair and Director Zeynep Engin has been much in demand as a speaker, and we bring you updates from some of the events she has been involved in. To top off this edition, we have news of an unmissable, upcoming online event hosted in conjunction with Cambridge University Press and UCL's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

Join the Vanguard: Register Now for Data for Policy 2024 "Trustworthy Governance with AI?"

We are very pleased to have received a high volume and quality of international submissions for the eighth edition of the conference "Trustworthy governance with AI?", to be held at Imperial College 9-11 July, in collaboration with Imperial Policy Forum, Cambridge University Press and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Registration for in-person attendance is now open to all.

We are preparing an exciting programme, in collaboration with our conference general chairs, Dr Zeynep Engin, Prof Jon Crowcroft and Prof Stefaan Verhulst, and local chairs Dr Rossella Arcucci and Dr Mark Kennedy, from Imperial College. We are also working with esteemed conference committee members from prestigious and influential organisations including Microsoft, PwC UK, The World Bank, UNICEF, the National Research Council of Canada, OECD and more. Speakers are confirmed from top institutions across the globe, including Microsoft, the Minderoo Centre for Technology & Democracy, Re-Imagine Europa, University of Cambridge, The Alan Turing Institute, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and many more.

The conference will feature presentations submitted to nine special tracks, as well as our six standard tracks. Track topics include 'Anticipating Migration for Policymaking', 'AI, Ethics and Policy Governance in Africa', 'Social Media and Government' and 'Generative AI for Sound Decision-Making'. The breadth and depth of coverage combined with the record number of submissions will make this year's conference unmissable.

Full details of the conference can be found on our 2024 conference website. We look forward to seeing you in July in London.

Participate in our Webinar on "Algorithmic Attention Rents"

DATA & POLICY

Algorithmic Rents: How Big Tech Platforms Control Attention and Shape Markets

Tim O'Reilly
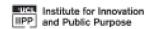
Mariana Mazzucato

Ilan Strauss

In Conversation with:

Zeynep Engin

Jon Crowcroft

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

DATA FOR POLICY .ORG

Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose

Join us for an engaging conversation following the publication in Data & Policy of a pivotal article that delves into how today's digital aggregator platforms wield their immense power over the attention of billions of users to shape the markets they engage in, serving their own interests. The research of Tim O'Reilly (Founder and CEO of O'Reilly Media), Ilan Strauss, and Mariana Mazzucato (UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose) outlines a theory of algorithmic attention rents. It analyses the way that as platforms grow, they become increasingly capable of extracting rents from a variety of actors in their ecosystems—users, suppliers, and advertisers—through their algorithmic control over user attention.

In this event, the authors discuss the work and the process through which it was produced with Zeynep Engin and Jon Crowcroft, Editors-in-Chief of Data & Policy. The event is organised by the Cambridge University Press, Data for Policy and the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP).

Authors:
Tim O'Reilly | Founder and CEO of O'Reilly Media
Ilan Strauss | Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, UCL
Mariana Mazzucato | Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at UCL; Founding Director at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, UCL

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING - MARCH 2024

In conversation with:
Zeynep Engin | Chair, Director and co-Founder of Data for Policy; UCL Department of Computer Science
Jon Crowcroft | University of Cambridge & The Alan Turing Institute; co-Founder of Data for Policy

Date, Time & Registration Details
Wednesday 3 April at 1700 BST / 1200 EDT / 0900 PDT. Event lasts for approximately 60 minutes with Q&A.
This free-to-attend event is hosted on Zoom: register here

AI Regulation and Beyond: Data for Policy's Engagements Across the Globe

In March 2024, the European Parliament took a significant step forward by approving the Artificial Intelligence Act, setting a precedent for ensuring AI's safety and adherence to fundamental rights, while also encouraging innovation. As a recognised leader in facilitating dialogue and debate on this critical issue, Data for Policy continues to contribute its expertise and perspectives to the evolving landscape of AI governance.

On March 21st, Dr Zeynep Engin, Chair & Director of Data for Policy CIC, delivered a talk on "What gets lost in translation between AI Science and Practice" at the Queen Mary's Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI). This was as part of the workshop on "Responsible Data Science & AI Research: Fairness, Safety, and Reproducibility", organised by the Software Sustainability Institute, Queen Mary's Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI), and Queen Mary's School of Business and Management. The workshop brought together experts from different fields—including computer science, medicine and health, economics, business, banking, technology policy, and philosophy—to facilitate multidisciplinary discussions on issues of responsible data science and AI research. In a lively and engaging session, Dr Engin discussed the risks and safety of AI research with the audience and fellow panellists.

On March 13th, Dr Engin spoke at the Café AI workshop in Johannesburg, organised by the South African Cultural Observatory and supported by the Nelson Mandela University, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The workshop's theme was "Artificial Intelligence: Rushed Revolution or the holy grail of a creative future".

On February 29th, Dr Engin led a session on the 'Ethics of AI Usage' for Digital Greenhouse Guernsey, aimed at 15-17 year olds with a passion for technology. The participants had an interactive discussion on major ethical questions, such as "How can we make sure AI doesn't pick up and repeat unfair judgments that already exist in society?" and "Why does AI need government regulation? What are the challenges of doing this globally?"

In further acknowledgement of Dr Engin's contributions to the field of AI and digital policy, she has been invited to join the <u>Global Academic Network (GAN)</u> of the <u>Centre for AI and Digitial Policy (CAIDP)</u> based at Washington DC. GAN is an initiative aimed at nurturing excellence and fostering cooperation in AI Policy. It gathers experts to facilitate comprehensive policy debates, ground-breaking research, and the development of ethical norms in AI. Congratulations to Zeynep on this well-deserved recognition.

Volunteering Opportunities at the 2024 Conference

We are recruiting a team of volunteers to assist with the running of the 8th Data for Policy International Conference, which is taking place between 9th and 11th July 2024 in London. This is an opportunity to use your skills to help us deliver an interdisciplinary conference, and to network with some key people and organisations working at the interface of data science and policy.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in a range of tasks, likely to include communications, content creation, customer service, operations and logistics before, during and after the event.

Students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels studying a relevant subject (Data Science, Computer Science, AI, Algorithms, Public and Social Policy, etc.) are highly recommended to apply.

Check <u>our website news item</u> for further details of the role, responsibilities, expected skills and how to apply.

Data & Policy Updates

Hot off the press:
Catch up with our latest publications https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/data-and-policy/latest-issue

Special collections completed:
Data-Driven Innovation for the European Public Sector, which has been Guest Edited by Danny Lämmerhirt, Marina Micheli and Sven Schade (European Commission Joint Research Centre):
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/data-and-policy/special-collections/practices-of-data-driven-innovation-in-the-european-public-sector

Sustainable Mobility Using Data in Latin America, Guest Edited by Catalina Vanoli (Development Bank of Latin America): https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/data-and-policy/special-collections/sustainable-mobility-using-data-in-latin-america

If you would like to propose a special collection, see this page:
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/data-and-policy/announcements/call-for-papers/proposals-and-review-process-for-special-collections

Data & Policy Blog:
Two key articles have been submitted in this period.

In 'The Branding Dilemma of AI', Zeynep Engin explains that choosing the term 'artificial intelligence' for the rapidly evolving domain unwittingly laid the groundwork for some of its most significant challenges. The early nomenclature misguided the conversation from the outset, setting questionable objectives for the AI community and shaping a public perception that strayed from reality. This foundational misstep has led to widespread misconceptions about AI's capabilities, characteristics, potential impact, and the regulatory expectations surrounding the technology.

Stefaan Verhulst and colleagues look at learning for data-driven decisionmaking derived from the Covid-19 pandemic. In their article 'Outpacing Pandemics - solving the first and last mile challenges of data-driven policy-making' they focus on two critical stages proven to be especially challenging: the first mile (Data Readiness and Accessibility) and the last mile (Implementing Data-Driven Decisions). They argue that focusing on these two stages (or chokepoints) can help pandemic responses and rationalize resources. In particular, they highlight the role of Data Stewards at both stages and in overall pandemic response effectiveness.

Keep up to date with further publications via eTOC alerts and @data_and_policy.

Thank you for reading; we hope you found the content useful and interesting. If you have any feedback for the newsletter or think there's an interesting piece of research, event or development we've missed, please do let us know via team@dataforpolicy.org

Did you know there are six ways to join our community ?

Become an institutional partner

Host our international conference in your institution

Contribute to our conference with a panel, full paper or extended abstract

Submit your work or a blog entry to Data & Policy

Join us as a reviewer

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