

A Model Future? Implications of the Data Science Movement for Economic and Social Inclusion

We are in the process of creating a more data-driven world--a society where digital technology plays a greater role in deciding what education we will have, what jobs we will perform, where we will live, who we will have relationships with, what information we will see, and how we will be policed and disciplined. Technology will increasingly label us, categorize us, and predict what we will become as human beings. How can we understand what is happening, and shape this digital future towards inclusion and human empowerment? This presentation will focus on the emergence of a new technology-based movement for social change: the rise of data science. The predictive powers of data science provide opportunity and hope, but are bursting forth into a pre-existing world of growing inequality in the developed economies. A better data-driven world may depend on the ability of new technology-based movements, such as data science, to be more inclusive, and to prioritize goals of human empowerment over continued wealth and power concentration.