Affordances and AI: An Interactive Workshop

March 8 4 pm

https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/93549664745

With Jenny Davis, Senior Lecturer/Tenured, School of Sociology, the Australian National University.

Davis's work addresses human-technology interaction, role-taking, and the ways politics, power, and values integrate into technological systems. She holds an Australian Research Council Fellowship for the study of ethics in tech, is a Chief-Investigator on the Humanising Machine Intelligence project

Affordances are how the features of a technology affect its functions; how they enable and constrain direct utilities and flow-on social dynamics.

In this interactive workshop, we will apply the framework to artificial intelligence technologies, collaboratively interrogating how these technologies operate and to what effect, how these operations and effects vary across contexts, and how AI can be intentionally reconfigured.

The twin goals of the workshop are to highlight the practicality of an operational model of affordances and to systematically investigate the ways AI technologies reflect, affect, and remold social life for diverse populations in complex societies— maintaining attention towards a future that is not yet formed.

In preparation for the workshop, please read the introduction (open access) to Davis's latest book *How Artifacts Afford: The Power and Politics of Everyday Things* (MIT, 2020) https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/how-artifacts-afford

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