2023 Annual Report

**DATA&
SOCIETY**

Contents

About Data & Society

At Data & Society, we advance public understanding of the social and cultural implications of data-centric technologies and automation. Through empirically grounded research and inclusive engagement, we work to ensure that knowledge guides the development and governance of technology.

This report presents an overview of institutional highlights from 2023.

Letter from the Executive Director

2023 felt like the most action-packed year in technology and society I've seen over my two decades in this field.

Urgent questions about the use of generative AI in Hollywood set the stage for historic writers' and actors' strikes, while workers across sectors continued to organize against invasive workplace data collection practices. Popular platforms like Twitter (now X) and TikTok faced intensifying public scrutiny over their ownership, power, and influence. And as the year drew to a close, President Biden's long-awaited AI executive order outlined a welcome framework for accountable AI governance — one that protects people from known harms and prioritizes their rights. It was and is thrilling to see this kind of progress on the issues Data & Society has worked on since our inception, and to recognize how years of effort prepared us to seize on such a moment.

As we prepare to celebrate our tenth anniversary in 2024, Data & Society's history has special resonance. It also reminds us of the important work that lies ahead. Over nearly a decade of rigorous empirical research, we've developed an evidence base that has helped to meaningfully change the terms of the debate about automated and data-centric technologies, including in many of the ways we saw in 2023. Accompanying the AI executive order, for instance, we saw the Office of Management and Budget's draft memo on federal agencies' use of AI highlight two methods we've long worked on and advocated for: algorithmic impact assessments and public participation in the AI life cycle. Partnerships we've forged, including through our Public Technology Leadership Collaborative, have demonstrably strengthened our field and its capacity to respond to pressing issues in real time.

In 2023, our experience fostering expert conversations on key questions and ideas laid the groundwork for dynamic events celebrating the groundbreaking Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, unpacking the AI executive order, and weighing what comes next for the field's research and policy agendas.

Through it all, we've seen Data & Society's staff and broader network become increasingly recognized as trusted experts, frequently consulted by journalists and policymakers seeking to untangle the societal implications of the latest technological developments.

As we approach our second decade, Data & Society has never been better positioned to advance critical thinking and meaningful change at the intersection of technology and society. The questions we're grappling with will cut across every area of our lives — our relationships, our families, our jobs, our opportunities, our natural environment, and our democracy. And in all of them, we have a chance to shape a future that is more just and equitable, one that demands we raise up the public interest.

We hope you'll join us in seizing those opportunities, whether by staying up-to-date on our research, publications, events, and other projects; or by donating to support our ongoing work.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant and growing community.

Janet Haven
Executive Director, Data & Society

People

None of this work would be possible without our incredible network of staff, researchers, fellows, affiliates, advisors, and board.

Board of Directors

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President of the Board, Data & Society
Vice Provost for Faculty Engagement and
Development, New York University

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Co-Founder and Executive Director,
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Suresh Venkatasubramanian
Professor of Data Science and
Computer Science, Brown University

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Emnet Tafesse
Briana Vecchione
Meg Young
Eve Zelickson

Fellows

Lindsey Cameron
2022–23

Christina Harrington
2022–23

Our Values

Independence

Intellectual independence enables us to select our projects, choose methodologies, and make publishing decisions based solely on our analysis of the issues at hand, without political or financial influence. We never accept funding that would compromise the independence or rigor of our work.

Equity

Out of a fundamental respect for diversity and a desire to challenge power relations in data-centric fields, we recognize and embrace differences among us. This requires equitable hiring and retention, centering community experiences in our research, and adhering to the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in everything we do.

Creativity

We support interdisciplinary work and deeply value creative expression. Externally, this means supporting original thinking that challenges dominant narratives and engages multiple audiences. Internally, we enable risk-taking research and explore thoughtful engagements.

Integrity

We build trust and accountability through our commitment to the independence and autonomy of our research, our transparent funding relationships and mutually shared organizational practices, and our inclusive outreach to a wide range of communities and individuals.

Mutuality

We value reciprocal relationships — not only with other institutions but with the people and communities affected by data-centric technologies. We cultivate respect and mutual responsibility by appreciating our distinct and complementary strengths, actively listening to each other, and striving to understand our shared goals and differences, while being mindful of unequal power dynamics.

Equity, Inclusion, and Mutuality

Data & Society is committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility (DEIA) in the workplace. In 2021, we initiated an intensive, organization-wide race equity training in partnership with specialized consultants. The partnership focused on our internal culture, with the goal of instituting policies that center DEIA. We pledged to maintain this work after the direct engagement concluded in 2022, continuing to dedicate resources and attention to DEIA efforts.

In 2023, these efforts included establishing a senior researcher position focused on equity in our internal research practices and methodologies; supporting the work of our staff-led DEIA committee; adding *mutuality* as an organizational value that guides and cuts across all our work; and developing a set of norms and processes to formalize our approach to co-authorship and our commitment to research integrity and anti-racist research practices. We also focused on institutional practices that promote equity, such as regular staff reviews and goal setting, people management training and standards, and updating our transparent compensation policy.

Organizational DEIA work is by its very nature iterative and ongoing, rather than a project that is "solved." Our focus, as a sustainable institution, a network, and a workplace, is on interpersonal, organizational, and systemic change. We hope that our work in 2023 demonstrates our investment in continuous learning, and our ongoing dedication to building an equitable and inclusive workplace where everyone is meaningfully supported.

Illustration by Jin Xia

Theory of Change

Our research seeks to challenge assumptions and shift understandings about the social and cultural implications of data-centric technologies. Empirical research is a first, crucial step to building an evidence base for just data governance that more equitably serves the public. That research must be grounded in a range of disciplines and lived expertise, and it must have the capacity to be translated across communities. It must be legible, discoverable, and compelling to our key audiences and collaborators.

Photography by Tim Biondo

Our Impact

We trace the social impact of our work from initial concept through execution and engagement using the following pillars. Each pillar represents an area in which we hope to affect change, and helps us gauge our successes and see opportunities for future growth. Our work seeks to:

Change the terms of debate by challenging technosolutionist narratives and pushing for nuanced, context-specific understandings of technology's role in society.

Shift power by foregrounding systemically affected communities and offering approaches to design and governance that are grounded in equity and justice.

Shape policy and practice by informing emerging data governance with a rigorous, interdisciplinary evidence base drawn from empirical research.

Build organizational trust and equity by connecting and engaging with our staff and network to nurture a culture where everyone's work is supported, celebrated and valued.

Illustration by Yukai Du | The Flowing Moon LTD

Forging Pathways for Research to Inform AI Governance

The past few years have presented an increasing number of opportunities for Data & Society to contribute to key policy debates surrounding artificial intelligence. These opportunities were especially pronounced in 2023, which saw the release of President Biden's long-anticipated AI executive order and its corresponding draft Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memo; the establishment of the United States' AI Safety Institute; and the need to define proper accountability measures to accompany these directives. In order to meet the needs and opportunities of this moment, Data & Society has invested heavily in forging and strengthening pathways through which our research can reach key decision-makers when they need it most. As a result, our team is already deeply engaged in the next stages of building a robust system of AI governance in the United States.

Here are some of the core outputs and impacts of this work in 2023:

- We continued to position algorithmic impact assessments (AIAs) as a key AI accountability tool. Our efforts aligned with the OMB's draft memo on how AI can be used by federal agencies. This memo includes guidance for how AI can be evaluated to ensure it does not impact people's rights or safety, pointing to AIAs as a measure for these harms and a way to mitigate risk. This guidance aligns with our 2021 report on AIAs and the work done by our Algorithmic Impact Methods Lab. Once the memo is finalized in 2024, these guidelines will be binding.

- We contributed to multiple requests for information on AI strategy and regulation issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Our comments advocated for the AI executive order to include measures to ensure fair governance of these technologies. Examples of our input include:

  - *Response to the White House OSTP's Request for Information on Automated Worker Surveillance and Management,* which recommended executive actions to curtail the grave risks that automated surveillance and management tools present to workers.

  - *Response to the White House OSTP's Request for Information on National Priorities for Artificial Intelligence,* which outlined our recommendations for pursuing a human-centered, rights-respecting approach to AI governance.

- We supported the work of our executive director, Janet Haven, in her capacity as a member of the National AI Advisory Committee (NAIAC), which provides expert advice on AI-related matters to the president and the National AI Initiative Office within the OSTP. Haven led a group of fellow members in writing a dissenting member perspective that was included in the NAIAC's first-year report to the president, arguing that the committee's recommendations should fo-

cus on the need for a national AI strategy that prioritizes civil and human rights, including workers' rights.

- We worked to center civil rights in discussions about AI, including the aforementioned NAIAC comment, which led to Janet Haven's invitation to address the bipartisan AI Insight Forum in a session focused on "risk, alignment, and guarding against doomsday scenarios." This series of forums, led by Sen. Chuck Schumer, has brought together artificial intelligence scholars, tech advocates, and civil rights leaders to discuss AI regulation and development. In her statement, Haven emphasized to US senators that the best way to address the theoretical risks of AI in the future is to address the ways AI is harming Americans now.

- We helped forge symbiotic connections between researchers and government personnel from agencies that will help deliver on the AI executive order. For example, within two days of the announcement of President Biden's AI executive order, our Public Technology Leadership Collaborative team organized a meeting in which leaders who worked on the order shared their insights with researchers looking to support the next stage of its implementation.

Janet Haven
Executive Director, Data & Society

Liz O'Sullivan
CEO, Vera

Frank Pasquale
Jeffrey D. Forchelli Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School

Amanda Ballantyne
Director, Technology Institute, AFL-CIO

"To meet this critical moment, the National AI Advisory Committee should clearly articulate a commitment to a people-first, rights-respecting American AI strategy."

Member perspective on the National AI Advisory Committee's first-year report.

Responding to Platform Anxieties

2023 saw significant shifts in the design, governance, and leadership of some of the world's most popular social platforms, from Elon Musk's changes to Twitter (now X) to the numerous efforts to ban TikTok in the United States and abroad. These high-profile changes have ignited both old and new anxieties from a public that has grown increasingly skeptical of platform power. Much of the conversation around platforms tends to prioritize the viewpoints of owners, investors, and politicians over the needs and expectations of users, and Data & Society sought to reverse that trend. To do so, we have invested heavily in our capacity to be responsive. Our communications and policy teams have worked to issue timely responses to breaking news and hot-button debates as they emerge. At the same time, our researchers have worked diligently to field insights that speak to the public's current anxieties while also anticipating new ones. The result has been an uptick in media engagement that has further solidified our reputation as an authoritative voice in unfolding debates, and

has given us new opportunities to spotlight our work for broader audiences.

Here are some of the core outputs and impacts of this work in 2023:

- We contributed to public conversations about TikTok as it faced potential bans in the United States. Robyn Caplan, senior researcher with our Trustworthy Infrastructures program, emerged as a key voice in these debates, critiquing the underlying motivation for these bans in outlets including *The New York Times* and *Yahoo News*. In a post for *Points*, Caplan unpacked young TikTok users' reactions to congressional hearings on the matter, noting their disappointment in leaders' lack of knowledge about how TikTok works as well as their own questions about the platform and its effects.

- We voiced concerns about platform updates and user data practices. In August, for instance, changes to Zoom's terms of

Report | Wellness Capitalism: Employee Health, the Benefits Maze, and Worker Control

service led to widespread concern about its use of user data to train its AI features. Our executive director, Janet Haven, was quoted by *NBC News* and *WIRED* within days of the changes being announced, underscoring the importance of viewing data privacy as a collective problem, not just an individual one.

- We signed an open letter calling for the Twitter API to remain free for research. This letter, also signed by many of our peer institutions around the globe, checks platform power by calling on policymakers to act decisively to ensure public-purpose data access for researchers, journalists, and civil society.

- We sponsored the Platform Governance Research Network Conference, a two-day conference held online and across various time zones. This year's theme, "Imagining Sustainable, Trustworthy, and Democratic Platform Governance," was channeled through a rich slate of presentations from an international and interdisciplinary group of platform governance researchers.

- We continued to research platforms' roles in the administration and delivery of healthcare and other essential services. *Wellness Capitalism: Employee Health, the Benefits Maze, and Worker Control*, a new primer

Digital Doppelgangers: illustration by Gloria Mendoza

from Labor Futures researchers Tamara K. Nopper and Eve Zelickson, scrutinized employers' use of platforms to monitor workers' health data and compile crucial benefits information.

- We explored more personal, intimate, and immaterial platform experiences when we hosted *Digital Doppelgangers*, an academic workshop 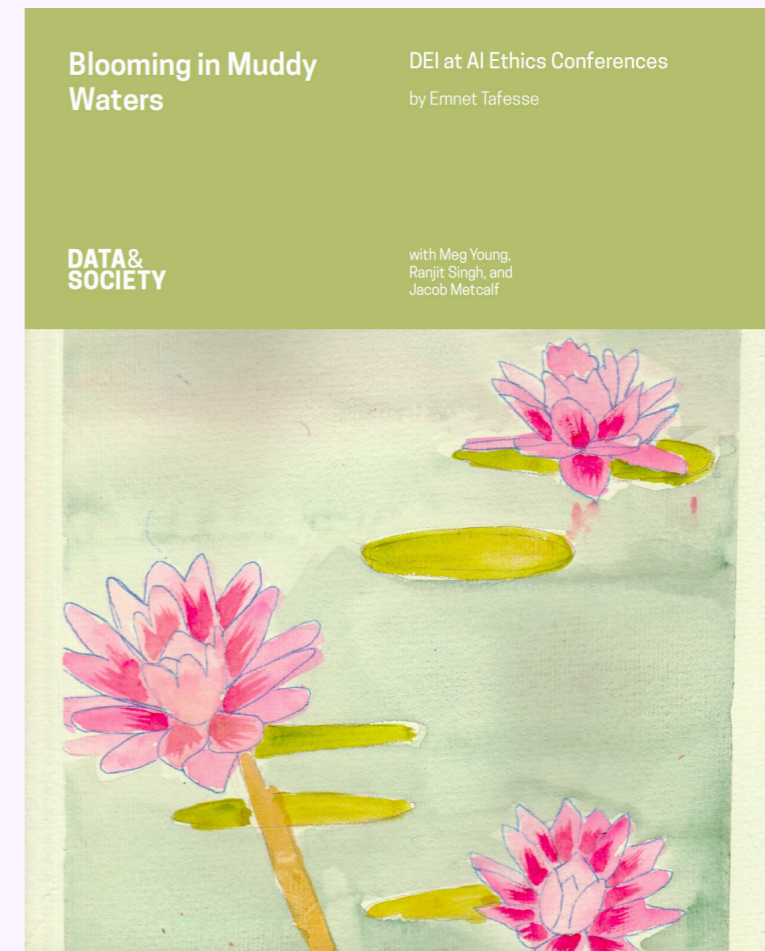focused on the "digital others" born out of our data. This innovative workshop included presentations on topics such as deepfakes and DNA phenotyping, as well as interactive sessions led by scholar-artists and technologists through which participants were invited to engage creatively with their own data.

Leading AI Debates in the Public Sphere

Throughout 2023, questions about artificial intelligence and its trajectory dominated conversations about the role of technology in society, and researchers, journalists, and policymakers rushed to satisfy the public's need for nuanced, reliable information. We recognized that doing so effectively often means emphasizing the opportunities people have to shape systems as they develop, rather than passively waiting for them to wreak havoc. Accordingly, Data & Society has become increasingly invested in countering AI narratives that are rooted in hype, doomerism, and pure techno-solutionism — narratives which tend to limit and confuse the public's understanding of how AI systems work and evolve. Our dynamic research and engagement arms have allowed us to stay at the forefront of this work, endeavoring to steer AI debates in more productive directions. We have also turned our attention to shaping key debates and practices within the field, becoming a trusted, influential voice in struggles against exclusion and corporate influence in AI accountability and ethics spaces.

Here are some of the core outputs and impacts of this work in 2023:

- We expanded our focus on algorithmic impact and its evaluation with the public launch of our Algorithmic Impact Methods Lab (AIMLab). Led by a team of interdisciplinary, multi-talented researchers, this project focuses on developing methods for assessing how automated decision-making systems impact people's lives and society as a whole. Its launch drew considerable buzz, evidenced by coverage in outlets including *Semafor* and *Politico*. As a result, AIMLab has already established itself as a high-profile presence in public interest AI research and development spaces, with several partnerships lined up to carry its work into 2024 and beyond.

- We energized conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion in AI research spaces. Careful research conducted by Emnet Tafesse, a research analyst on our AI on the Ground team, culminated in the publication

Blooming in Muddy Waters

DEI at AI Ethics Conferences
by Emnet Tafesse

DATA & SOCIETY

with Meg Young, Ranjit Singh, and Jacob Metcalf

Report | Blooming in Muddy Waters

of _Blooming in Muddy Waters: DEI at AI Ethics Conferences_. This report focuses on the experiences of BIPOC attendees at AI ethics conferences, offering pragmatic recommendations for conference organizers looking to address tokenism and disparities in funding, attribution, and representation. Upon its publication, Tafesse was invited to present her work to the ACM FAccT Conference's executive committee and serve as one of the conference's diversity, equity, and inclusion chairs.

- We contributed to field-wide appraisals of red-teaming and its place in the larger AI accountability ecosystem. In August, our researchers attended the Generative Red Team Challenge at the annual DEFCON cybersecurity convention in Las Vegas. Observations from the event provided the basis for _AI Red-Teaming Is Not a One-Stop Solution to AI Harms: Recommendations for Using Red-Teaming for AI Accountability_. This policy brief, as well as a corresponding op-ed in _Tech Policy Press_, underscored that red-teaming, while useful, should always be accompanied by additional accountability measures.

- We sought to correct misleading narratives surrounding generative AI, reorienting public debate to focus on actionable concerns over gloomy hypotheticals. For example, our director of research, Jenna Burrell, published timely op-eds about ChatGPT and its impact on journalism and copyright in _Poynter_ and _Tech Policy Press_. These pieces rejected the idea that AI marked a death knell for journalists, instead highlighting the ways in which its presence might reinvigorate their responsibilities moving forward.

- We saw members of our team gain individual recognition for their contributions to AI debates as well as the development of the field as a whole:

  - Ranjit Singh was included on _Business Insider_'s "AI 100" list, which profiled "people who are not only pushing the boundaries of the field but also those who are trying to ensure AI develops steadily and responsibly."

  - Meg Young was named a rising star by Women in AI Ethics; she was also selected for the yearlong Public Voices Fellowship to Shape Discourse Technology in the Public Interest.

  - Janet Haven was recognized by _The Chronicle of Philanthropy_ for her leadership in promoting public interest AI accountability measures.

Photography by Tim Biondo

Strengthening Partnerships and Expanding our Network

Our capacity to engage with pressing sociotechnical issues throughout 2023 was a testament to the strength and dexterity of the relationships we have built outside of our own organization. Partnerships with research centers, academic institutions, government entities, and community groups that focus on technology in the public interest have always been a core part of Data & Society's strategy. We continued to play the role of connector within our network, fostering relationships between partners in order to grow and strengthen the field. We benefit greatly from sharing resources and coordinating research and policy agendas with like-minded partners, whose perspectives and contributions have continuously raised the bar for the work we produce. Likewise, our research projects are always designed to include space for connecting directly with impacted communities. These connections often grow into long-term relationships, bringing grassroots and advocacy groups into our network alongside scholars and technologists.

Nurturing the Network
Blackness, Trust, and Health Tech

**June 23, 2023
12 – 3 PM ET**

Organized by Joan Mukogosi with support from Tunika Onnekikami, Christina Harrington, Iretiolu Akinrinade, and CJ Brody Landow.

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Event | Nurturing the Network

Photograph by Fortytwo on Unsplash

Here are some of the core outputs and impacts of this work in 2023:

- We adopted *mutuality* as our fifth organizational value, representing our dedication to building and maintaining reciprocal relationships with other institutions and with communities affected by data-centric technologies. This value was articulated and chosen following a series of organization-wide conversations held as part of our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- We sought new ways to promote tenacity and combat burnout faced by those in our network. "Nurturing the Network: Blackness, Trust, and Health Tech" offered a virtual space for Black researchers, designers, health practitioners, and artists to come together and discuss challenges associated with working through the pandemic and beyond it. In a corresponding blog post, event organizers Joan Mukogosi and Tunika Onnekikami discussed their approach to designing the event, which prioritized community and focused on meditation, rest, and reflection.

- We saw increasing interest in our Public Technology Leadership Collaborative (PTLC), which worked expeditiously to respond to unfolding policy developments and debates. The strength of the PTLC's network — and its capacity to quickly respond to timely issues — has already led to the growth of its membership and the expansion of its roster of network partners.

- We built partnerships meant to strengthen coalitions for protecting workers' rights. For example, our AIMLab team partnered with the Workers' Algorithm Observatory, which was funded by the Mozilla Technology Fund, to explore the potential of crowdsourcing audits of digital platforms to contest algorithmic wage discrimination. We also continued to support the Labor, Race, and Tech Working Group, which helps bring researchers and civil society leaders closer to seasoned labor advocates and on-the-ground organizers.

- We continued to grow our affiliates program, welcoming 22 new members to this dynamic community of scholars and practitioners, all of them brought together by a shared vision for a future in which data-centric technologies are grounded in equity and human dignity. Our affiliates help us develop our research and build stronger partnerships, whether through direct collaboration on funded projects or through active participation in our events and programming.

Engagement

Engagement is at the core of Data & Society's approach to building awareness around issues at the intersection of technology and society. Across teams and with external partners, our staff works diligently and collaboratively to design engagement initiatives that reframe the way various audiences — be they policy-makers, academics, media, civil society, or the general public — think about their relationships with technology.

The following sections highlight three key areas of our engagement work — policy, media, and events — and their activities in 2023.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Our policy team works alongside our research teams to translate rigorous, empirical social science for multiple audiences and create actionable learning and policy recommendations for key targets and partners. They work closely with academic and policy research bodies, government institutions, civil and human rights advocacy groups, and community-based or-

ganizations. Our policy work currently focuses on opportunities at the federal level, particularly with executive agencies that are directly engaged in developing and implementing new approaches to governing artificial intelligence and data security.

Highlights from 2023 include::

- *Democratizing AI: Principles for Meaningful Public Participation* by Michelle Gilman: This policy brief summarizes evidence-based recommendations for better structuring public participation processes for AI, and underscores the urgency of enacting them.

- *AI Red-Teaming Is Not a One-Stop Solution to AI Harms: Recommendations for Using Red-Teaming for AI Accountability* by Sorelle Friedler, Borhane Blili-Hamelin, Brian Chen, Ranjit Singh, and Jacob Metcalf: This policy brief outlines the conditions under which AI red-teaming works well and those under which it does not, and argues that any use of red-teaming should be accompanied by additional forms of accountability, like algorithmic impact assessments, external au-

dits, and public consultation.

- Address to the US Senate AI Insight Forum, by Janet Haven. In December, Haven was invited to address the bipartisan Senate AI Insight Forum in a session focused on "risk, alignment, and guarding against doomsday scenarios." In her statement, she emphasized that the best way to address the theoretical risks of AI in the future is to address the ways it is harming Americans now.

- Response to the National Science Foundation's RFI on Developing a Roadmap for the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships by Serena Oduro and Janet Haven: This public comment highlights the benefits that a public interest and sociotechnical oriented Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) would bring to the American public and the AI ecosystem.
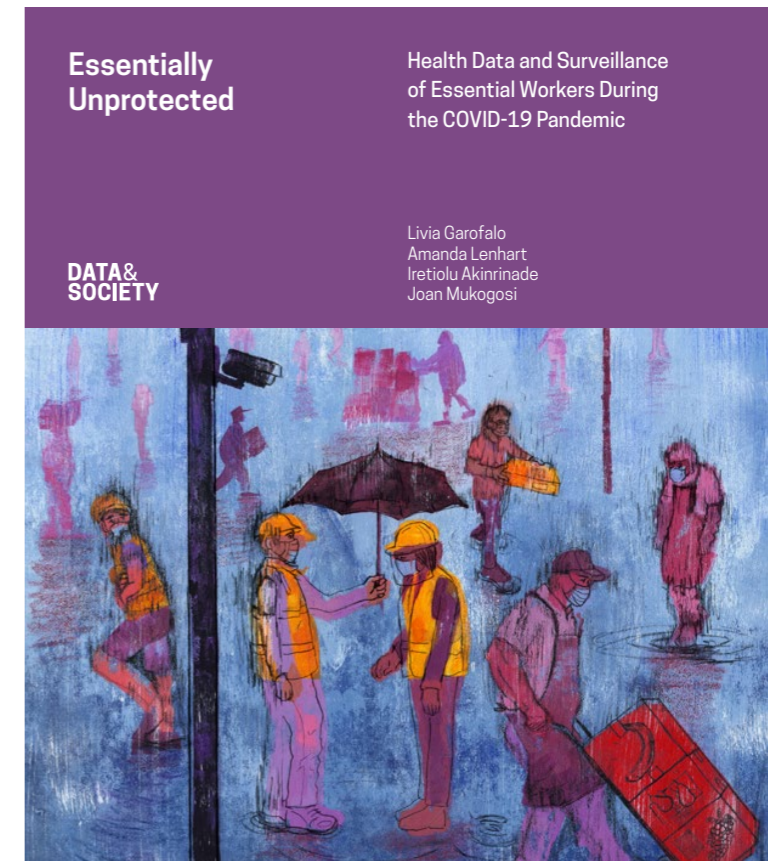
MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Our communications team builds and maintains relationships with national and global media outlets to ensure the circulation and visibility of our work. Their proactive media engagement strategy incorporates educational and convening opportunities for journalists, editors, and publishers to develop specialized knowledge in areas related to our research. As a result, Data & Society is a go-to authority on AI issues for journalists writing at the intersection of technology and policy.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- "How Amazon Turned Small Businesses Into 'Day Traders,'" *Semafor*, January 2023.

- "ChatGPT Advances Are Moving So Fast Regulators Can't Keep Up," *Bloomberg*, March 2023.

- "Journalists and AI: Is the Newsroom Big Enough for Both?" *Christian Science Monitor*, March 2023.

- "A Biden Speech and a Trump Prayer: AI's Chilling Intrusion into Politics," *Le Monde*, March 2023.

- "What Do We Lose, What Do We Gain When We Turn To AI?," *LAist*, April 2023.

- "Algorithms Get a New Watchdog," *Politico*, July 2023.

- "Zoom Addresses Privacy Concerns Raised by AI Data Collection Language in Terms of Service," *NBC*, August 2023.

- "A More Immediate 'AI Risk,'" *Politico*, August 2023.

- "The AI 100 2023: The Top People in Artificial Intelligence," *Business Insider*, October 2023.

- "What Biden's Plan to Rely on Ethical Hacking for AI Safety Leaves Out," *Axios*, October 2023.

- "How the UK's Emphasis on Apocalyptic AI Risk Helps Business," *The Guardian*, October 2023.

- "The AI Safety Summit, and Its Critics," *Politico*, November 2023.

- "New York City Is Offering Free Online Therapy to Teens: Will It Work?" *The New York Times*, December 2023.

Essentially Unprotected

Health Data and Surveillance of Essential Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Livia Garofalo
Amanda Lenhart
Iretiolu Akinrinade
Joan Mukogosi

DATA&SOCIETY

Report | Essentially Unprotected

Decoding the AI Executive Order

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
11 a.m. ET on LinkedIn Live

Janet Haven

Brian Chen

Sorelle Friedler

Suresh Venkatasubramanian

Event | Decoding the AI Executive Order .

EVENTS

In 2023, we continued to hold engaging and innovative virtual events. These included new installments in our flagship Databites series, as well as conferences, academic workshops, book talks, and other convenings. Our team has continued to prioritize accessibility and inclusion in these virtual events, including experimenting with translation services and coordinating across various time zones.
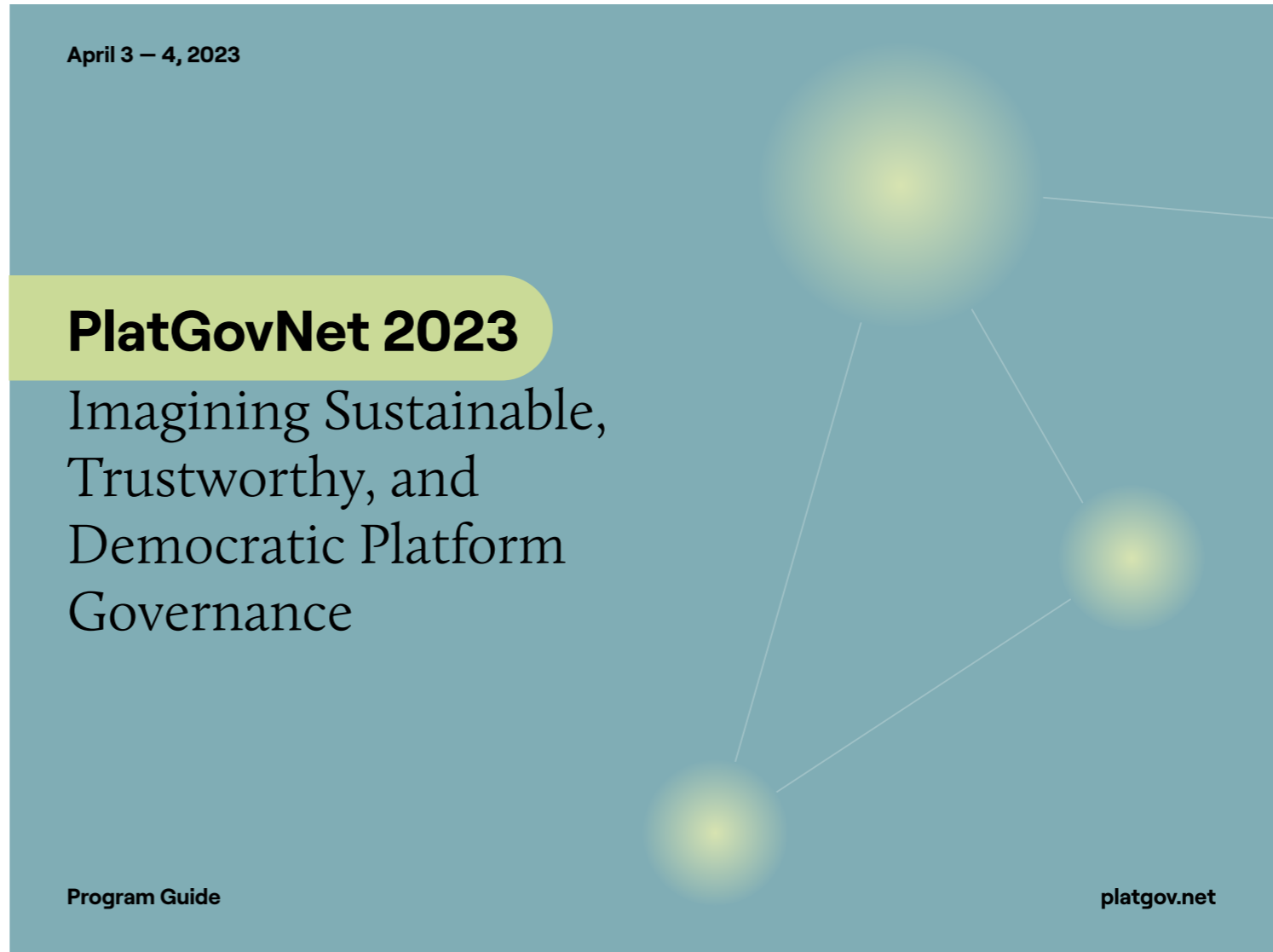
This year also saw our gradual return to holding in-person events for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included a panel event in Washington, DC and network meet-ups in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. We look forward to expanding our in-person events in the coming year.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- Essentially Unprotected: Featuring D&S researchers Amanda Lenhart and Livia Garofalo in conversation with Angela Stuesse and Irene Tung, this Databite event was a discussion of the eponymous report upon its release. Like the report itself, the event was presented in both English and Spanish.

- 2023 Platform Governance Research Network Conference: Data & Society co-sponsored this online conference, which spanned multiple time zones, with the Platform Governance Research Network. The conference theme was "Imagining Sustainable, Trustworthy, and Democratic Platform Governance."

- Indigenous Approaches to Technology and Trust: This seminar series, curated by Tiara Roxanne, postdoctoral fellow for Trustworthy Infrastructures, explored Indigenous approaches to technology as points of departure for unpacking trust. These sessions brought Indigenous scholars, artists, and elders together in conversation with members of our network.

- Digital Doppelgangers: This experimental, interdisciplinary workshop explored questions at the core of what it means to have a doppelganger in a digital world. The two-day event included research presentations, interactive

sessions, and a public keynote from former D&S faculty fellow Shaka McGlotten.

- <u>Celebrating the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights</u>: Hosted in partnership with the College of William & Mary and the Center for Democracy and Technology, this in-person event in Washington, DC explored the impacts of the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights as well as its potential to shape future policymaking and legislative action.

- <u>Decoding The AI Executive Order</u>: This event, our first on LinkedIn Live, brought together a panel of experts to discuss the implications of President Biden's AI executive order. Over 650 people registered for this event, which was held only a week after the order was issued.

- <u>Caring for Digital Remains</u>: This book forum foregrounded death as a site for understanding the social values and power dynamics of our contemporary, platform-saturated world. D&S researcher Tamara Nopper moderated a conversation featuring Tonia Sutherland, author of <u>*Resurrecting the Black Body: Race and the Digital Afterlife*</u>, and Tamara Kneese, author of <u>*Death Glitch: How Techno-Solutionism Fails Us in This Life and Beyond*</u>.

April 3 — 4, 2023

PlatGovNet 2023

Imagining Sustainable, Trustworthy, and Democratic Platform Governance

Program Guide

platgov.net

Conference | 2023 Platform Governance Research Network

Fellowships

Lindsey D. Cameron

Christina N. Harrington

Since our public launch in 2014, Data & Society has hosted a range of practitioners and academics: data scientists and engineers, lawyers and librarians, ethnographers and creators, historians and activists. In 2023, fellows Lindsey D. Cameron and Christina N. Harrington completed their time with us. You can learn more about their projects in this video.

Lindsey D. Cameron is an assistant professor at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work includes a five-year ethnographic study of the ride-hail industry and an examination of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted gig economy workers. Cameron's research has been published widely in academic journals and cited in teaching resources; her work has also been featured in outlets including *Bloomberg, NPR's Marketplace, Human Resources Magazine, and Fast Company*. Cameron's fellowship project focused on the interplay of race and gender in the gig economy, with attention to how the intersection of top-down organizational practices and bottom-up worker behavior may impact gig workers.

Christina N. Harrington is a designer and qualitative researcher who works at the intersections of interaction design, health, and racial equity. Her background in electrical engineering and industrial design informs her focus on designing universal, accessible, and inclusive products for historically excluded groups — such as Black communities, older adults, and individuals with differing abilities — that help support and maintain their health, wellness, and autonomy. Harrington's fellowship project involved examining how older African Americans experience, value, and interact with voice technologies. She considered bias in speech-recognition interactions and the inclusion of marginalized voices in speech-recognition research.

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Financials

Data & Society's mission is to advance public understanding of the social implications of data-centric technologies and automation. Our team strongly believes that operational decisions should reflect our organizational values of independence, integrity, and equity. You can learn more about our funders, and review our 990s and audited financial statements on our website.

As a 501c3 funded entirely by charitable giving from a range of donors, we recognize the risks inherent to this model, including risks to the integrity and independence of our work, and risks to the viability of executing the work effectively. Therefore, in order to fulfill our mission and adhere to our values, a rigorous gift acceptance policy guides our decision-making about which gifts to accept and which to reject. Read more about our statement of independence.

Acknowledgements

We are gratified and inspired by the ways our staff, our network, and our supporters have stepped up to meet the opportunities and challenges of the past year. Thank you to everyone who worked with Data & Society in 2023 — we look forward to continuing our research, engagement, and connection.