

Responsibility in AI Systems & Experiences (RAISE) at the University of Washington presents:



Zeeraak Talat

**Paving the Road to Hell with Machine Learning:
On Ethics, Bias, and Machine Learning**

Friday March 11, 2022, 9-10am PT

Join: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/94636255672>

Abstract: In this talk, I will argue that contemporary practices in machine learning limit any possibilities of equitable futures. From understanding machine learning systems as socio-technical system follows that machine learning is a social process encoded through technical processes. By examining the foundations and assumptions of machine learning, we can come to understand the exact affordances of machine learning and the compromises that machine learning techniques are forced to make, within our current conceptualization. Arguing through content moderations, I suggest that these foundations are in direct conflict with efforts to conceptualize machine learning a practice which may be equitable.

Bio: Zeerak Talat is a post doctoral fellow at the Digital Democracies Institute at Simon Fraser University. Talat received a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield. In the Ph.D., Talat worked on automated content moderation and how the practice of automating content moderation using machine learning revealed underlying the political economy of machine learning, displaying issues of access, equality, and ethical practices. Talat also founded and runs the Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms, which focuses on the technical and social developments of automated content moderation infrastructure. Talat is currently working on critical machine learning and the philosophy of machine learning, aiming to identify the specific underlying causes for why and how machine learning is a currently a marginalizing technology.

RAISE is a UW-wide group of students and faculty interested in the broad space of responsibility in AI, trustworthy machine learning, human-centered computing and data science. As part of this group, our mission is to engage in scholarly, educational, and outreach activities that lead to foundational research in these areas.

<https://www.raise.uw.edu>.

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