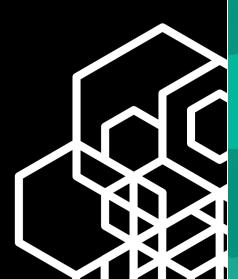


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DATA AS PROTEST

There were 144 protests in 26 cities across the country on the day the cop who killed ERIC GARNER got away with murder.

For those of us who protested in Miami, we did not know Eric Garner personally, but that did not matter. What brought us together was the common experience of grief that came with the loss of an innocent life, particularly when the theft of that life was authorized by the law. We did not know Oscar Grant, or Sandra Bland, or Mike Brown. But we knew our own--every single of one of us who took over the I-95 highway had attended funerals, comforted grieving family members, and cried for those who were slain. All of us knew what it meant to live with our backs against the wall. All of us had worn black before we held Black Lives Matter signs.

The danger and the urgency of being on the highway was not new to us. Three years earlier, we drove 7 hours to the Florida state capitol the day after Trayvon Martin's murderer was acquitted. Within days, young people mobilized by the hundreds from all over the U.S. to join us as we occupied governor Rick Scott's office. Many were barely over the age of 18. We slept on the cold marble floor of the state capitol, surrounded by federal agents and undercover law enforcement. We missed class and were fired from our jobs because we could not leave. To go home meant to face a new reality, one that we were unwilling to accept – with a single verdict it had now become legal in Florida to kill a Black child.

For the silenced, the internet is a megaphone. For the powerless, technology is power. A movement was growing all over the country, and the internet became the rallying point- a place where we could leave our individual silent struggles and take part in something greater. Where we were no longer afraid. Social media became press, and a forum for the voiceless. It became a street corner on which to

congregate, free of police cars. But it was also a dining room table, a living room sofa where we could cry, mourn and strategize. Where laughter could birth resilience.

It became a way for people who once felt isolated in their experiences to find connection and collective purpose.

DATA AS PROTEST

In his seminal speech, The Other America, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. defines riot as the language of the unheard. He urges people to condemn the conditions that create riots as forcefully as they condemn the riots. He asks, 'What has America failed to hear today?" Riots were necessary to change the status quo, to expose and disrupt a system where racism was not only encouraged, but in which the dispossession of entire peoples was seen as necessary to maintaining the American way of life.

We are once again living in an era of the unheard. The police dogs and fire hoses of our foreparents were replaced with crack cocaine, police brutality, and a new system of social control ossified in the legal apparatus known as the criminal justice system. Today, oppression takes on new and different forms. Risk assessment algorithms -- with the veneer of objectivity -- reinforce historical oppression in the courtroom. New forms of redlining, enabled by "big data" and machine learning, have taken root in Black communities across the country. And with detailed polling data, state legislatures have disenfranchised millions of Black voters through gerrymandering and targeted voter suppression. New forms of racism demand new forms of activism and resistance.

We took to the streets because all other channels of communication were gridlocked. We blocked the busiest highway on the East Coast because like moving traffic – the onslaught of policies, practices and systems that had become the bedrock of our society could only be disrupted by protest. We protested because like the ones that came before us, and the ones who came before them, we were unwavering in the principle that our lives were worth fighting for. Data, like protest, is a form of advocacy when all other channels are blocked. No one marches against moving traffic unless the highways are safer than their own homes. No one puts their bodies on the line unless their voices alone are not enough. But some narratives created by data can only be disrupted by data. And when the stories and experiences of individuals fall on deaf ears,

THERE IS POWER IN A NUMBER.

DATA AS ACCOUNTABILITY

Since the advent of computing, data systems have penetrated virtually every aspect of our social and economic lives. These new data regimes have the power to fight bias and racism, but as we are witnessing, this potential is limited by the choices and assumptions of human beings. If we are not careful, the anti-Black racism we seek to resist will become further embedded into the systems that govern our society.

Algorithmic racism is not new; its logic is inherent in our country's founding. In 1787, the framers of the constitution reached an agreement now known as the three-fifths compromise. In a single phrase- "three fifths of all other persons"- the degradation of Black livelihood in America was encoded in mathematical terms. But 3/5 was not just a fraction, but a coefficient in an algorithm known as the electoral college, a process devised to elect representation that has persisted to this day.

This was not a compromise between Black Americans and white Americans but a compromise between Northern whites, who coveted political dominance, and Southern whites, who sought to inflate the population of slaveholding states to increase their political influence as slavery made them rich.

As an algorithmic process, the electoral college did not define success as democratic representation (one person, one vote as we define it today). Within this perverse logic, Black people were relegated to property rather than personhood, fully present in the everyday violence and humiliation that was chattel slavery, but denied any semblance of citizenship. With the electoral college, the only way slavery could have been abolished in the early days of the union was if Black people were counted as "zero", giving more power to whites in the North to whom slavery was more of an economic threat than a moral calamity.

What was incentivized in this algorithm is a reality we have yet to confront- the brutal, enduring and deeply ingrained impulse to deny Black people's political power at all costs. The basic algorithm that resulted in the election of Thomas Jefferson as the first President – elect of the United States and ensured that a Southern slave owner won 12 of the first 16 elections, is an early iteration of the same electoral college algorithm that has upheld anti- Black racism in the highest office of this country today. Two hundred and thirty years later, the moral depravity that was sent into motion by this algorithm has succeeded.

TWO HUNDRED & THIRTY YEARS LATER, THIS ALGORITHM IS STILL WORKING.

DATA AS ACCOUNTABILITY

It is with this history in mind that we hold these truths to be self-evident, that the future of this nation depends on our collective ability to denounce the brutal logic on which our country was formed. Our call to action is simple: we must apply the same critical lens to the algorithms and technologies of the present that we apply in retrospect to the past. For we know that this oppressive mathematics has not disappeared, but has evolved and transmuted over time, resurfacing under the guise of progress.

At this very moment, police departments across the country are using sophisticated predictive algorithms to target and intimidate entire communities of people. Acclaimed as groundbreaking advances in "scientific" policing, these technologies continue the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow, reinforcing the inherent impulse of racism to deny Black people the freedom of citizenship and personhood. These technologies do not work in isolation – In the 2016 election,2.2 million Black people were denied their fundamental right of citizenship, stripped of the right to vote because of prior criminal convictions and denied a voice in the decisions that impact their lives. This is the modern legacy of slavery and the mathematical racism that was the three-fifths compromise.

But we dream of a new world. One where data and analytics are used in novel ways to build progressive movements and promote civic engagement. A world where the reclamation of the very methods that have been weaponized against Black communities will be used to reject and overcome unconscious bias in decision-making and to detect and expose racism in housing, education, and public health. We conceive of a world where the data and modeling that led to decades of redlining and housing discrimination are used to build wealth in Black communities. Where the troves of election data that has been used to disenfranchise Black voters are leveraged instead to modernize voter registration and ensure that every single eligible Black voter makes it to the polls.

Our panelists and presenters have used data and technology in innovative ways to mobilize formerly incarcerated people in Louisiana, the state with the highest rate of incarceration in the country and therefore the world. They have developed new mathematical models to reverse racist gerrymandering practices. They have fought racism and bias in machine learning and artificial intelligence. Our panelists have courageously advocated for a new future for Black creative production, one where Black artists and entertainers own their work as well as the immense value created by their data. With the past as their compass, they have built community-led maker-spaces and digital fabrication labs in Detroit, their hometown and a city whose resilience in the face of automation and state-sanctioned violence must be a blueprint for us all.

Accountability means the power to influence the decisions that impact your life. It means the ability to hold those in power liable for their actions, but most importantly, to be represented in the first place. In the absence of true democracy, data has the unique ability to amplify the voices of those who have been silenced and to make them impossible to ignore. With data – whether community-lead surveys or machine learning algorithms – decision-makers are forced to reckon with the decisions that have made the survival of so many impossible.

DATA AS COLLECTIVE ACTION

Enter the people. Out of hiding they come. From out of dimly lit laboratories, amongst stacks and library cubicles. From narrow roads in rural towns lined with shotgun houses, from the isolation of tall buildings and offices housed within cities built by the sweat of their brow. Can you see them walking in unison? They are here to gather.

See them coming off of the highways, moving through cars and traffic, off of bridges and intersections. Out of prison gates they come, rejoicing for the coming of a time where neither bars nor borders can limit possibility. See them coming, chanting and singing. A new way of life, a new country is upon us.

Enter the people. From the depths of the holds of the slaving ship as it surges over the Atlantic. They are holding on to each other as firmly as they hold onto their languages, their traditions. In song, in memory, they will instruct the ones who come after them. For them, rhythm is a way of knowing.

Let us all listen. A powerful assembly of voices ascending above the cotton, sugarcane and tobacco fields. They sing because the slave holders have long banned talking drums. For even they know their power as an ancient precursor to the world wide web, used to relay messages to enslaved people across plantations, as far as a hundred miles away.

Piercing through rows of dirt and the thickness of the forest, the correspondence is subversive, a loud percussion, yet hidden in plain sight. This language, syncopation, was a rhythm that was foreign to the ears of their oppressors, a sound that resonated resilience, penetrating the enduring forces of persecution.

They sang, music is a Black secret, a technology of resistance birthed as their lives were under siege. Songs that were highly sophisticated compositions, complex beats and sounds that transmitted crucial information across space and time. Information to organize, to gather, to plot. Data in service of escape.

Our ancestors imagined freedom while living in chains. They proclaimed a future without slavery in the midst of an institution that asserted its permanence. They refused to be limited by the conditions of the present, even when those conditions made survival impossible. For the future of humanity depended on it.

This weekend we implore you to ask yourselves, how do data and technology function in society? Are they forces for justice or are they instruments of oppression? And what role do we all play in shaping their impact? The arc of the universe may bend towards justice, but only if we bend it so. We are the leaders we've been waiting for, and today we gather.

Welcome to Data for Black Lives.

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017 MIT MEDIA LAB 75 AMHERST ST, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Note: Unless otherwise specified, all events take place on the 6th floor of the MIT Media Lab, 75 Amherst St. Cambridge

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

3:00-5:00PM // PRE-CONFERENCE

Flagway Game (Location: Morss Hall, Walker Memorial Building, 142 Memorial Dr. Cambridge, MA)

5:00 - 8:30 PM // CONFERENCE DAY 1

5:00 Conference Registration Opens (Winter Garden) 5:00-7:00 PM Dinner Reception (Winter Garden) 7:15-8:30 PM Welcome & Keynote (Multipurpose Room)

CONFERENCE WELCOME: Rafael Reif, President of MIT (5 min)

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Yeshimabeit Milner, D4BL Executive Director (20 min)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Ruha Benjamin (45 min)

9:00 - 11:00 PM SOCIAL HOSTED BY D4BL CO-FOUNDERS

(Location: Google Headquarters, 355 Main St, Cambridge, MA)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00 AM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS (WINTER GARDEN)

8:00 - 8:45 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (WINTER GARDEN)

8:45 - 9:00 AM VIDEO MESSAGE FROM US SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS (MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:00-10:30 AM OPENING PANEL (MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES

DESCRIPTION: Since the advent of computing, big data and algorithms have penetrated virtually every aspect of our social and economic lives. New data systems have tremendous potential to empower communities of color. Tools like statistical modeling, data visualization, and crowd-sourcing, in the right hands, are powerful instruments for fighting bias, building progressive movements, and promoting civic engagement.

But history tells a different story -- one in which data is too often wielded as an instrument of oppression, reinforcing inequality and perpetuating injustice. Redlining was a data-driven enterprise that resulted in the systematic exclusion of Black communities from key financial services. More recent trends like predictive policing, risk-based sentencing, and predatory lending are troubling variations on the same theme. Today, discrimination is a high-tech enterprise. In this opening panel, we discuss the role that data and technology can and should play in Black communities.

Moderator: Yeshimabeit Milner

Panelists: Cathy O'Neil, Atyia Martin, Malika Saada Saar & Purvi Shah

10:45-12:15 AM BREAKOUT 1 (LECTURE HALL, 6TH FLOOR MIT MEDIA LAB)

WHERE ARE THE BLACK SCIENTISTS?

DESCRIPTION: Black and brown people are vastly underrepresented in science, tech, and engineering. Although Black people report desiring to major in STEM at the same rate as their white counterparts, they are less than half as likely to end up in STEM-related jobs (US Census Bureau). And in a world that is increasingly high-tech and automated, this representation gap is a serious cause for concern. There are many factors that contribute to this problem, from the School-to-Prison Pipeline and the defunding of public education to corporate culture and depictions of Black people in the media. How do we bring together educators, universities, policy-makers, and employers to unleash the potential of Black people in the sciences? What can we learn from local efforts to close the representation gap?

Moderator: Turahn Dorsey

Participants: Bob Moses, Piper Harron, Amon Millner & Zakiyah Ansari

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

BREAKOUT1 (MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)

CODE BLACK: CLOSING THE HEALTH EOUITY GAP

DESCRIPTION: The distribution of health and disease is not random. Health disparities between Blacks and whites run deep, no matter the age or ailment. Here are the facts: Blacks have a higher mortality rate than any other racial or ethnic group for eight of the top 10 causes of death. African-American adults are nearly 50% more likely to be obese than their white counterparts. And Blacks are six times more likely than whites to be victims of intentional violence. This breakout session will explore the representation, access, and care delivery gaps in our health system. It will also examine the role that racism, poverty, and the lack of opportunity play in perpetuating disparities.

Moderator: Max Clermont

Participants: Selwyn Rogers, Cheryl Dorsey, Paulah Wheeler & Susannah Fox

12:30 - 1:30 PM **LUNCH** (WINTER GARDEN)

1:45 - 3:15 PM BREAKOUT 2 (LECTURE HALL)

BUILDING BLACK POLITICAL POWER IN THE AGE OF BIG DATA

DESCRIPTION: In 2012, for the first time in American history, Black people had the highest rate of voter turnout of any racial or ethnic group. And advances in data and technology have created new opportunities to expand the political power of Black people and hold institutions accountable. SMS technology has demonstrated tremendous potential to turnout Black voters, and automatic voter registration is gaining momentum across the country. Meanwhile, groups of mathematicians and lawyers are developing innovative new metrics for gerrymandering to hold legislators accountable.

And yet 2.2 million Black voters are missing from the political process. These are men and women who have been denied the right to vote because of past criminal convictions. This number does not include the millions of Black people nationwide who never make it to the polls. A complex web of laws, tactics, and practices -- from voter ID laws and gerrymandering to "crosscheck" and voter intimidation -- have eroded the most fundamental right of citizenship in Black communities across the country. This panel will explore areas where scientists and organizers can work together to protect this fundamental right.

Moderator: Rahsaan Hall

Participants: Marc Elias, Leah Aden, Moon Duchin & Ejike Obineme

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

BREAKOUT1 (MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)

AUTOMATING (IN)JUSTICE: POLICING AND SENTENCING IN THE ALGORITHM AGE

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. incarcerates more people than any country in the world, and Black communities are disproportionately impacted by this mass incarceration. The disparities are staggering: although the majority of illegal drug users and dealers are white, three quarters of those imprisoned for these crimes have been Black or Latino (the New Jim Crow). Across the country, big data, algorithms, and predictive analytics play an increasingly prominent role in policing and sentencing. In theory, tools like predictive policing and risk-based sentencing reduce bias by replacing subjective judgments with hard data. In practice, these tools often perpetuate cycles of racism. In this session, we address the questions: How can we use data to fight racism in policing and in the courtroom? In a world where discrimination is automated, how do we hold algorithms accountable?

Moderator: Adam Foss

Participants: Samuel Sinyangwe, Julia Angwin, Charmaine Arthur & Kim Foxx

3:30 - 8:30 PM HACKATHON (LOCATION: WINTER GARDEN)

8:30 - 10:00 PM IMAGO: THE FUTURE OF BLACKNESS FEATURING AMIR SULAIMAN (BERKLEE DAVID FRIEND RECITAL HALL, 921 BOYLSTON ST, BOSTON, MA)

CONCERT DESCRIPTION: In biology, the imago is the last stage attained during metamorphosis, a process of growth and development. It also is called the imaginal stage, the stage in which the being attains maturity. This concert will explore the transition to the next stage beyond surviving and towards thriving for the African Diaspora, including the growing pains and social challenges that it will face to reach its full potential. Featuring acclaimed HBO Def Poet Amir Sulaiman and Berklee Students, and produced by Dom Jones.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:00 - 9:30 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND GALLERY WALK (WINTER GARDEN)

9:45 - 11:15 AM BREAKOUT 3 (LECTURE HALL)

THE REVOLUTION WILL BE DIGITIZED: MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY, AND BLACK CULTURAL PRODUCTION

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

THE REVOLUTION WILL BE DIGITIZED: MUSIC. TECHNOLOGY. AND BLACK CULTURAL PRODUCTION

DESCRIPTION: Black artists have shaped the history of American music and continue to do so every day. Virtually every form of popular music around the world has roots in the powerful African-American musical traditions of Jazz, Blues, R&B, Rock and Roll and Hip Hop. But these same artists have historically been denied their share of profits from their artistry. New advances in technology have created opportunities to shift power and profits back to the artists. Innovative new streaming platforms have created new precedents for artist ownership and compensation, while distributed ledgers, digital footprints, and smart contracts have the potential to revolutionize the way musicians interact with marketplaces and manage their intellectual property. How do we leverage new technologies to ensure that artists reap the benefits of their cultural production?

Moderator: Roger Brown

Participants: Panos Panay, Chaucer Barnes, Tef Poe & Avriel Epps

BLACK WORK, BLACK WEALTH, BLACK FUTURES (MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)

DESCRIPTION: New innovations in technology are radically changing our economy. Self-driving cars are poised to transform the trucking industry, putting over eight million people at risk of losing their jobs. Exciting advances in 3D printing and digital fabrication will create new possibilities for manufacturing and construction, but also threaten to destabilize bedrock American industries. The backdrop for all of this is staggering racial inequality: it will take the average Black family 228 years to build the wealth of a white family today. While technology can exacerbate inequality, it also has the power to reverse historical trends. How do we reclaim technological innovation to empower Black communities, build wealth, and reverse inequality through ownership?

Moderator: Damon Cox

Participants: Terri Williams Cohee, Blair Evans, Geeta Pradhan & Omoju Miller

11:30 - 12:15 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE AND FAREWELL (MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)

Keynote Address: Ronald Sullivan

Farewell: Yeshimabeit Milner, Lucas Mason-Brown, and Max Clermont





KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ruha Benjamin

at Princeton University. Her work investigates the relationship between innovation and equity, science and citizenship, health and justice. Ruha is the author of People's Science: Bodies and Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier (Stanford University Press 2013); Race After Technology (Polity, forthcoming); and editor of Captivating Technology: Reimagining Race, Resistance, and Carceral Technoscience (Duke University Press, forthcoming). Her work has received numerous awards including fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Institute for Advanced Study, and 2017 President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton.

Ruha Benjamin is Associate Professor of African American Studies

OPENING PANEL: DATA FOR BLACK LIVES



Cathy O'Neil

Cathy O'Neil was trained as a mathematician, went into finance just before the crisis hit, then left for data science and joined Occupy, where she saw many of the same problems. She quit her day job to write a book, "Weapons of Math Destruction: how big data increases inequality and threatens democracy."



Ronald Sullivar

Professor Ronald S. Sullivan Jr. is the faculty director of the Harvard Criminal Justice Institute. Prior to joining Harvard Law's faculty in July 2007, he served on the faculty of the Yale Law School, where he won the law school's award for outstanding teaching after his first year teaching. Professor Sullivan is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College, and the Harvard Law School, where he served as president of the Black Law Students Association and as a general editor of the Harvard BlackLetter Law Review. Professor Sullivan has provided legal commentary for CNN, FoxNews, and PBS on topics ranging from the Impeachment of President Clinton to the Kobe Bryant criminal proceedings.



Malika Saada Saar

Malika Saada Saar is Google's Senior Counsel on Civil and Human Rights. Before joining google, Malika was founder and Executive Director of the Human Rights Project for Girls (Rights4Girls), a human rights organization focused on gender-based violence against young women and girls in the US. As a human rights lawyer and advocate, Malika led the effort to shut down Craigslist sex ads that served as the leading site for the trafficking of children for sex, ended the federal practice of shackling pregnant mothers behind bars in US prisons, and successfully advocated for millions in federal funding for treatment services for at-risk families. Newsweek and the Daily Beast have named Malika as one of the "150 Women Who Shake the World." The Obama White House selected Ms. Saada Saar to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.





S. Atuia Martin, CE

Dr. Atyia Martin was appointed by Mayor Martin J. Walsh in 2015 as the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Boston. In this role, she has led the development of Boston's first resilience strategy. Dr. Martin has been working in homeland security, intelligence, emergency management, and public health preparedness at the federal and local government for over 16 years with positions in the U.S. Air Force, the FBI, the Boston Police Department, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and the Boston Public Health Commission. She has a doctor of law and policy from Northeastern University, and a masters in homeland security leadership from the University of Connecticut. She and her husband live in Boston and have five children.



Purvi Shah is co-founder of Law4BlackLives, a network of over 2,000 lawyers, law students and legal workers of color dedicated to building the Black Lives Matter movement. Previously, she was director of the Bertha Justice Institute at the Center for Constitutional Rights. She also worked as an attorney with the Community Justice Project at Florida Legal Services, Inc., and was co-director and adjunct clinical professor at the University of Miami School of Law's Community Lawyering Clinic. Shah received a BS from Northwestern University, and a JD from the University of California—Berkeley School of Law.

WHERE ARE THE BLACK SCIENTISTS

Turahn Dorsey

Turahn Dorsey serves as the Chief of Education for the City of Boston and is a member of Mayor Martin J. Walsh's cabinet. Prior to joining the Mayor's cabinet, Mr. Dorsey served as Evaluation Director and an Education Program Officer at the Barr Foundation. At Barr, Dorsey led the development and implementation of data monitoring and evaluation frameworks for Barr's strategic investments in local education and climate change. Mr. Dorsey has dedicated much of his volunteer time to systems innovation and improvement in education including serving as co-chair for the Boston Public Schools School Quality Working Group, co-chair for the Opportunity Agenda's Summer Subgroup, co-chair of the Boston Afterschool and Beyond Partnership Council, and a member of the External Advisory Committee on School Assignment.



Zakiyah Ansari is the Advocacy Director of the New York State Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), the leading statewide organization that has been fighting for educational justice in New York State. Zakiyah has dedicated almost 20 years of her life to the fight for educational justice and ending the oppression of Black and brown people. In 2013 Zakiyah co-initiated a national grassroots movement, "Journey for Justice," an alliance of grassroots organizations from over 24 cities across the United States representing youth, parents, and inter-generational organizations who have been impacted by the harmful policies of school closing, turnaround, and corporate charter expansion of schools in communities of color. Zakiyah was recently named one of City and State magazine's "25 Most Influential in Brooklyn".



Piper Harron

Piper Harron received her PhD in mathematics from Princeton University in January 2016. More interestingly, she started in 2003, left in 2009, lectured at Northeastern for three semesters, then stopped working and had two children born in 2011 and 2014. Her PhD thesis received recognition for its humorous style and blunt social commentary (Spoiler: math culture is oppressive), and she has traveled to many institutions around the country and in Canada to talk about her experiences trying to survive other people's good intentions. She is currently a postdoc in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Amon Millner

WHERE ARE THE BLACK SCIENTISTS

Amon Millner is an Assistant Professor of Computing and Innovation at the Olin College of Engineering. He direct the Extending Access to STEM Empowerment (EASE) Lab. He advises students, teaches courses, engages in research, and releases products that are guided by his mantra: make things; make a difference; make your way. Millner Develops systems that lower the barrier for entry into computing, embedded electronics, and digital design and fabrication as tools that help people become more empowered as learners and contributors to their communities - especially those who are not currently on traditional pathways that foster engineering mindsets and practices.



Bob Moses

Bob Moses is the founder of the Algebra Project, which uses mathematics as an organizing tool for quality education for all children in the United States. Born and raised in Harlem, NY, Moses received a B.A. in Philosophy from Hamilton College and an M.A. in Philosophy from Harvard University. Moses directed the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's Mississippi Voter Registration Project from 1961-1964, was co-Director of the Council of Federated Organizations 1962-1964, and was a lead organizer for the 1964 Mississippi "Freedom" Summer Project, parachuting the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to 1964 National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City. A MacArthur Foundation Fellow 1982-1987, Moses is co-author of the book Radical Equations—Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project.

CLOSING THE HEALTH EQUITY GAP



Selwyn Rogers

Selwyn Rogers, Jr., MD, MPH, FACS, is the Section Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery and Executive Vice President of Community Health Engagement at the University of Chicago Medicine. Dr. Rogers is an acclaimed critical care surgeon and public health expert who has served in leadership capacities at health centers across the country. Dr. Rogers has also served as the chairman of surgery at Temple University School of Medicine and as the division chief of Trauma, Burn and Surgical Critical Care at Harvard Medical School. While at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), he helped launch the Center for Surgery and Public Health to understand the nature, quality and utilization of surgical care nationally and internationally.

CLOSING THE HEALTH EQUITY GAP

Cheryl Dorsey s the president of Echoing Green, a global organization unleashing next-generation talent to solve the world's biggest problems. Previously, Cheryl was a social entrepreneur herself and received an Echoing Green Fellowship in 1992 to help launch The Family Van, a community-based mobile health unit in Boston. She has served in two presidential administrations and serves on several boards including the SEED Foundation, The Bridgespan Group and, previously, the Harvard Board of Overseers. She has a medical degree from Harvard Medical School and her Master's in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School.



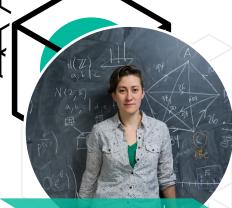
BUILDING BLACK POLITICAL POWER OF BIG DATA

Rahsaan Hall is the Director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. In this role Rahsaan helps develop the ACLU of Massachusetts' integrated advocacy approach to address racial justice issues. Prior to joining the ACLU of Massachusetts, Rahsaan was the Deputy Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice. He also served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He also serves on the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation's board of directors and the Hyams Foundation's board of trustees.



Susannah Fox

Susannah Fox advises organizations on how to navigate the intersection of health and technology. She serves on the board of directors of Cambia Health Solutions and on the advisory committees for the Atlas of Caregiving and the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at Smithsonian Institution. Fox recently served in the Obama Administration as the Chief Technology Officer of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she oversaw the open health data and open innovation initiatives. She has also worked as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and as an Associate Director of the Internet Project at the Pew Research Center.



Moon Duchin

Moon Duchin is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Tufts University, where she also directs the interdisciplinary Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Her mathematical research is in geometry, topology, and dynamics. Recently she is focused on applications of geometry to identifying gerrymandering, and the many other mathematical aspects of the redistricting problem.



Paulah Wheele

Paulah is the co-founder of BLKHLTH, an organization that aims to improve the health and wellness of the Black community by providing a platform for centralized and accessible information, engaging content, community events, and professional services. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Global Health from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health.



Ejike Obineme

Ejike, born and raised in Baltimore, is a self-taught programmer and social justice techie. From the age of 18, Ejike has played key roles in various social justice campaigns including Jena 6, #TakeEmDownNOLA and #FightFor15. After graduating from Xavier University he worked for Apple for 6 years and currently serves as the Data Director for Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), an organization committed to restoring the rights of formerly incarcerated people in Louisiana.

BUILDING BLACK POLITICAL POWER OF BIG DATA



Leah C. Aden serves as Senior Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF). In that capacity, Leah uses litigation, legislative, policy, and public education strategies to ensure that Black and other people of color have equal access to the political process. Leah was a member of LDF's litigation team in Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder, a high-profile case in which, in a devastating opinion, the Supreme Court of the United States struck as unconstitutional Section 5, the heart of the Voting Rights Act. Leah recently authored "Democracy Diminished: State and Local Threats to Voting Post-Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder."



Kimberly M. Foxx is the first African American woman to lead the Cook County State's Attorney's Office – the second largest prosecutor's office in the country. Kim was elected on Dec. 1, 2016 on a message of reform, restoring trust, and being responsive to the community that resonated throughout the county. She previously served as Chief of Staff for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, where she was the lead architect of the county's criminal justice reform agenda to address racial disparities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Kim holds a B.A. in Political Science and a J.D. from Southern Illinois University.



Marc Elias is the chair of Perkins Coie's Political Law Group, where his clients include the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the Democratic Governors Association, and the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. As a litigator, he has brought numerous cases challenging unlawful Republican gerrymandering and, in 2016, successfully argued three such cases before the U.S. Supreme Court: Wittman v. Personhuballah, Bethune Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections, and Cooper v. Harris.



Kimberly M. Foxx

Samuel Sinyangwe (@samswey), 26, is a policy analyst and data scientist who works with communities of color to fight systemic racism through cutting-edge policies and strategies. Samuel co-founded Mapping Police Violence to support activists across the country to collect and use data to fight police violence and co-founded Campaign Zero to advocate for local, state, and federal policy solutions to end police violence. Previously, Samuel worked at PolicyLink to support a national network of 61 Promise Neighborhoods communities to build cradle-to-career systems of support for low-income families. He grew up in Orlando, FL and graduated from Stanford University in 2012.

AUTOMATING (IN)JUSTICE: POLICING & SENTENCING IN THE ALGORITHM AGE



Adam J. Foss

Adam J. Foss is a former Assistant District Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO) in Boston, MA, and a fierce advocate for criminal justice reform and the importance of the role of the prosecutor in ending mass incarceration. Before leaving the District Attorney's Office, Mr. Foss helped to create the first juvenile diversion program in Suffolk County, keeping young people out of the cradle to prison pipeline. He is a visiting senior fellow at Harvard Law School. He also is a fellow at the Open Society Foundation Leadership in Government initiative as well as a Director's Fellow at the MIT Media Lab.



Charmaine L. Arthur

Charmaine L. Arthur is the Director of Community Programs and continues to serve as the Director of the Multicultural Dropout Outreach Collaborative, in partnership with the Boston Private Industry Council. Charmaine has been in the field of out-of-school time and youth development for over 27 years. She has dedicated her career to the success and development of urban youth. Ms. Arthur is mother of 3 and a grandmother of 2. She is a Reverend, Facing Our Journey International Ministries.

AUTOMATING (IN)JUSTICE: POLICING & SENTENCING IN THE ALGORITHM AGE

Julia Angwin

Julia Angwin is a senior reporter at ProPublica. In 2016, she led a team that was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting. From 2000 to 2013, she was a reporter at The Wall Street Journal, where her privacy coverage was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 2011 and won a Gerald Loeb Award in 2010. In 2003, she was on a team of reporters that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting for coverage of corporate corruption. She is also the author of two books: "Dragnet Nation: A Quest for Privacy, Security and Freedom in a World of Relentless Surveillance," and "Stealing MySpace: The Battle to Control the Most Popular Website in America." She earned a B.A. in mathematics from the University of Chicago and an MBA from the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University.

THE REVOLUTION WILL BE DIGITIZED: MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY, & BLACK CULTURAL PRODUCTION



Roaer H. Brown

Roger H. Brown is the president of Berklee and a graduate of Davidson College and the Yale School of Management. Brown co-founded Bright Horizons Family Solutions in 1986 with his wife, Linda Mason, and served as chief executive officer until January 2002. A former co-director of the Save the Children relief and development effort in Sudan, he and Mason coauthored the book "Rice, Rivalry, and Politics," which examines the management of emergency relief efforts. He was a co-founder of the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children and Horizons for Homeless Children, which serves the needs of homeless children throughout the Boston area. Brown is an active member of the Bright Horizons Family Solutions board of trustees and the Boston Public School Arts Advisory Board.



A five-year veteran of Translation, Chaucer Barnes leads the Audience group, which scales and maintains conversation share, advocacy, and audiences for Translation clients. Chaucer's journey prior to Translation--through Wieden+Kennedy Portland and The Martin Agency--enabled his professional development across multiple disciplines: media planning and buying, digital strategy, and creative among them. He first found a way to unify his experiences, and with it, his footing within Translation, as the head of Context Strategy. As Chief Audience Officer, he leads a diverse array of analysts, strategists, designers and producers, all unified by a single intent: to help real people tell flattering stories about themselves, which propel Translation's partners' cultural command.

THE REVOLUTION WILL BE DIGITIZED: MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY, & BLACK CULTURAL PRODUCTION



Marcus Cobb is a seasoned entrepreneur — having started or helped to start 16 companies — best known as the CEO and Co-Founder of the online music and tech platform Jammber.com, a place where raw talent can shine. Used by top record labels such as Sony Music and Big Machine Label Group, Jammber is becoming the tech platform to use in the entertainment industry. Previously, Cobb has deployed a unique methodology for developing profitable businesses through technical acumen creativity, innovation and resiliency. At just 21 years of age, the Las Vegas Review Journal recognized Cobb as a computer prodigy. Shortly thereafter, Microsoft Consulting Services recruited him, where he acted as team lead specializing in innovative technologies. Upon leaving Microsoft, he amassed a remarkable project portfolio in excess of \$1 billion dollars. Since the start of Jammber in 2013, Cobb has combined his technological processes with his creative and musical abilities to create something unique this industry has never seen before.



Avriel Epps is a PhD student and Presidential Scholar at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. As a scholar, she has garnered numerous awards and honors including an invitation from the U.S. Department of Education to present her work for Congress in Washington D.C. Her previous work on hip hop lyrical themes compliments her foray into music-making, under the stage name King avriel. Her most recent musical project 'thesis' was released to critical acclaim, hailed as "prodigious" by the Huffington Post and "... a cerebrally significant gift" by The Guardian. Today, her research focuses on the intersection of algorithmic bias, digital media literacy, and racial identity development.



Panos Panau

Panos is Berklee's Vice President for Innovation and Strategy and the Founding Managing Director of the Berklee Institute for Creative Entrepreneurship (BerkleelCE). In his role at Berklee, Panos spearheaded the founding of the Open Music Initiative, which brings together over 200 leading music, media, technology industry organizations and academic institutions to create an open protocol for uniform identification of rights owners across the music industry. Prior to Berklee, Panos was founder and CEO of Sonicbids, where he created the leading online platform for matching bands with music promoters, resulting in over 1 million new artist performances around the globe over a 13 year span. His awards include Fast Company's "Fast 50"; Inc Magazine's "Inc 500"; Mass Hi-Tech All Stars; and Boston Business Journal's "40 under 40". He was named as one of Boston Globe's Game Changers in 2017.

BLACK WORK, BLACK WEALTH, **BLACK FUTURES**

Damon serves as the Senior Director of Economic Development at The Boston Foundation. In this role, he works to ensure that all Greater Boston residents have access to economic opportunity regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or socio-economic status. Damon Cox joined The Boston Foundation in 2013 as Director of Economic Development, overseeing the Foundation's portfolio of investments focusing on economic mobility and workforce development. Damon also has over a decade of experience in marketing and communications in the entertainment and media business. He served as VP of Marketing and Promotions for Universal Music Group.



Omoju Miller is a Senior Machine Learning Data Scientist with Github. She has over a decade of experience in computational intelligence. She has a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. In the past, she has co-led the nonprofit investment in Computer Science Education for Google and served as a volunteer advisor to the Obama administration's White House Presidential Innovation Fellows. She is considered one of the folks to watch, as part of Bloomberg's Beta Future Founders program. She is a member of the World Economic Forum Expert Network in Al.



Teri Williams is President and Chief Operating Officer of OneUnited Bank, the largest Black owned bank in the country. She is responsible for implementation of the Bank's strategic initiatives, as well as the day to day operations of the bank. Ms. Williams holds an M.B.A. from Harvard University and a B.A. in Economics from Brown University. She currently serves on the Boards of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA) and the 79th Street Corridor Initiative in Miami, Florida. Ms. Williams is author of "I Got Bank! What My Granddad Taught Me About Money." She has received awards from the Urban League, NAACP and the National Black MBA Association. Ms. Williams is married to Kevin Cohee and has two children.



Omoju <u>Mille</u>r

Geeta Pradhan

Geeta Pradhan is president of the Cambridge Community Foundation, which envisions a vibrant, thriving and inclusive Cambridge, with the culture of giving and opportunity for all. Geeta is responsible for setting the Foundation's strategic vision and positioning it as a high impact grantmaker, an influential civic leader, and a collaborative philanthropic partner. Previously she oversaw community impact at the Boston Foundation, where she led the Fairmount Corridor initiative – a multi-neighborhood effort focused on racial equity, co-founded the Boston Indicators Project and directed the New Economy Initiative using technology and data to drive social change. A painter and an architect, Geeta received her graduate degree in Urban Design from Harvard University.



Blair Evans is founder and director of Incite Focus, a program of Digital Fabrication, Agroecology and Appropriate Technology which are practically applied to community empowerment through centers of community production. Blair has started centers of community production in Detroit, each incorporating a Fab Lab and an Agroecolgov Program (permaculture). He is a "guru" in Digital Fabrication with the Fab Academy and an instructor in Digital Fabrication. In addition to work in the built environment he has deep experience in the natural environment - a Certified Permaculturist and Permaculture instructor, has owned a farm for 2 decades and has active agroecology programs in rural and urban core.

HACKATIS THE HACKATHON

We believe that relationships are most effectively forged through collaborative problem-solving and ideation. The Data for Black Lives hackathon, taking place from 3:30 - 8:30 pm on Saturday will be an opportunity for conference participants to roll up their sleeves and creatively re-imagine the role that data plays in greater Boston. This will not be a traditional hackathon. In fact, we encourage participants to put their computers aside for this portion of the conference. The hackathon will begin with presentations from four organizations: Citizens for Juvenile Justice, IntegrateNYC, Journey for Justice, and Keep Eggleston 100. These organizations have chosen to participate because they are seeking guidance and insights around the use of data in their work. Participants will sort themselves into groups (one for each organization) and begin an ideation exercise facilitated by representatives from these four organizations and Intelligent Mischief, a Boston-based design lab.

We believe data is best utilized when it is combined with other organizing strategies, including media, legal, and direct action tactics. We welcome all conference participants to attend (regardless of technical background) and lend their unique experiences and insights.

INTELLIGENT MISCHIEF is a creative action design lab using culture, narrative and design to hack social change. Our mission...to boost invention and imagination, realign action logic and experiment with new forms of civil society to create atmospheres of change. We believe in the power of culture. As humans we are deeply entrenched in cultures that lie in our conscious and subconscious. These cultural experiences inform our identities, communities, & politic, and impact how we see the world. At IM, we curate transformative cultural experiences and interventions that re-imagine the possibilities and shift the "common sense".

As afro-caribbean immigrants, veteran organizers, and creatives/cultural organizers we bring a unique perspective and range of skills to our broader social justice community and social justice values and vision to the creative sphere. We work at the nexus of arts, popular culture, social change and activism. Our networks allow us national reach with deep Boston roots. We are particularly committed to working with black and brown communities to offer solutions that are often fenced off from them due to expense or lack of cultural awareness of existing design and creative firms.

MEDIA LAB

The Media Lab came into being in 1980 through the efforts of Professor Nicholas Negroponte and former MIT President and Science Advisor to President John F. Kennedy, Jerome Wiesner. The Lab grew out of the work of MIT's Architecture Machine Group, and remains within MIT's School of Architecture + Planning.

The Media Lab opened the doors to its I.M. Pei-designed Wiesner Building in 1985, and in its first decade was at the vanguard of the technology that enabled the digital revolution and enhanced human expression: innovative research ranging from cognition and learning, to electronic music, to holography. In its second decade, the Lab literally took computing out of the box, embedding the bits of the digital realm with the atoms of our physical world. This led to expanded research in wearable computing, wireless "viral" communications, machines with common sense, new forms of artistic expression, and innovative approaches to how children learn.

Now, in its fourth decade, the Media Lab continues to check traditional disciplines at the door. Product designers, nanotechnologists, data-visualization experts, industry researchers, and pioneers of computer interfaces work side by side to invent—and reinvent—how humans experience, and can be aided by, technology.



OUR SPONSORS

THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

For more than 100 years, the Boston Foundation has been bringing people and resources together to solve Boston's big problems. We are proud to support the inaugural conference and the work of Data for Black Lives.



The Hyams Foundation is fully committed to dismantling racialized economic disparities in Boston and Chelsea, Massachusetts and is proud to co-sponsor the Data for Black Lives conference. We're excited to support this vital work bringing data and grassroots leadership together to advance racial justice.

Hyans FOUNDATION

MIT SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SCIENCES

"What kind of world do we want to make? Will the future be humane and livable? What knowledge and values will guide and sustain us? MIT's SHASS faculty and students address some of largest, most consequential human questions of our time."

— Melissa Nobles, Kenan Sahin Dean, MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences



MIT GSC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUBCOMMITTEE

GSC's Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee works to improve the ability of MIT to advocate for the needs of all constituencies in and around the graduate student body by bringing together races, ethnicities, genders, sexualities and religions to strengthen diversity and inclusion initiatives campus-wide.





OUR SPONSORS

GOOGLE

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. Because we believe in justice for everyone, we are committed to using our different platforms to disrupt the human costs of mass incarceration. A key part of our commitment to reform and justice is investing in support for organizations employing data transparency to improve outcomes in criminal justice and policing practices.



COMMUNITIES FOR JUST SCHOOLS FUND

The Communities for Just Schools Fund (CJSF) is a nationally-focused donor collaborative. CJSF provides resources in support of community-led organizations that are working to ensure positive and supportive school climates that affirm and foster the success of all students. CJSF's efforts are explicitly focused on advancing racial equity by elevating the efforts and expertise of community organizers.



ONEUNITED BANK

OneUnited Bank is leading the movement to build Black economic power and wealth in America.



THE NELLIE MAE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is the largest philanthropic organization in New England that focuses exclusively on education. The Foundation supports the promotion and integration of student-centered approaches to learning at the high school level across New England—where learning is personalized; learning is competency-based; learning takes place anytime, anywhere; and students exert ownership over their own learning.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Putting this conference together has been a truly collaborative effort. The organizers would like to thank MIT Conference Services for working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this event to fruition; Paul Parravano, co-director of MIT Office of Community and Government Relations, for believing in this idea from the beginning; The MIT Media Lab for opening up this wonderful space; President Rafael Reif for his support; The brilliant organizers of Law for Black Lives for their inspiration and ideation; MIT undergraduate Isaiah Borne for helping us build support and excitement for this conference within MIT; Terry Marshall and Aisha Shillingford of Intelligent Mischief for their leadership and vision on the Hackathon; All of our volunteers for their hard work and commitment; Megan Hester and Richard Gray at NYU MetroCenter for organizing the Education Justice pre-conference session; Steven Pargett and Sherika Shaw of Militia Design for making this conference beautiful; Dominique Jones and her team for pulling together an amazing concert; Charmaine Arthur of Freedom House, for believing in our mission and sharing it with the Black organizing community in Boston; US Senator Kamala Harris for amplifying our message; Echoing Green for supporting our work and welcoming us into an inspiring community of leaders; Bob Moses for laying the foundations for Data for Black Lives with his revolutionary book, "Radical Equations: Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project;" And all of our panelists, speakers, and performers for sharing their passion, insights, and time.

ABOUT DATA FOR BLACK LIVES

Data for Black Lives is a Boston-based organization committed to the mission of mobilizing scientists around racial justice issues and building a future in which data and technology are forces for good, rather than instruments of oppression, in communities of color. The founders were recently awarded the Echoing Green fellowship, joining a national network of bold social impact leaders. To join the movement, visit d4bl.org.



Yeshimabeit Milner i is co-founder and Executive Director of Data for Black Lives. Raised in Miami, FL, Yeshimabeit began organizing against the school-to-prison pipeline at Power U Center for Social Change as a high school senior. There she developed a lifelong commitment to movement building as a vehicle for creating & sustaining large-scale social change. Yeshimabeit returned to Power U in 2013 to lead a victorious campaign to improve breastfeeding policies at the largest public hospital in the country. More recently, she was a campaign manager at Color of Change, where she spearheaded several major national initiatives, including OrganizeFor, the only online petition platform dedicated to building the political voice of Black people, and a successful campaign to remove Bill O'Reilly from television. She has a BA from Brown University and serves on the board of the Highlander Center in Tennessee.



Max Clermont, MPH is a public health and community engagement strategist based in Chicago, IL. He is co-founder and board chair of Data For Black Lives and chief of staff at the University of Chicago Medicine's Trauma Center. Max is a former project manager with 270 Strategies, where he led his clients in the design and implementation of policy and advocacy strategy focused on organization building, issue identity, partnerships, and constituent activation. He has previously held positions with Obama for America, Partners In Health, and Brigham & Women's Hospital. Max is inspired by work that protects rights, promotes equity and closes the representation gap across systems. Max holds a B.A. and M.P.H. from Brown University's School of Public Health with a concentration in health services, policy & practice.



Lucas Mason-Brown, is a PhD student in the mathematics department at MIT and co-founder of Data for Black Lives. Previously, Lucas taught seventh grade math and science in Boston. As an undergraduate, Lucas deciphered a 17th century code developed by the founder of Rhode Island and published a book on his findings, Decoding Roger Williams: the Lost Essay of Rhode Island's Founding Father. Lucas has a B.Sc. in mathematics from Brown University and a M.Sc. in mathematics from Trinity College, Dublin.



MOVING FORWARD NOTES

This conference is just the beginning.
Follow our activities on Twitter at
@Data4BlackLives and join our mailing
list on our website d4bl.org.

If you are interested in joining the planning committee for next year's conference, send us an email at conference@d4bl.org.



