

Essays on Technology and Society

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Propositions accompanying the Ph.D. thesis

Essays on Technology and Society
The Impacts of Algorithms and Online Media on Labor Market Outcomes and Political Dynamics

By Lorena Giuberti Coutinho

1. Automated systems are a valuable tool to deal with information overload and inherent human limitations in assessing information consistently.
2. The successful use of automated systems in decision-making depends on how individuals perceive and react to them.
3. Firms introducing algorithms into their hiring process should be aware that pre-existing attitudes concerning algorithms can affect the evaluation of candidates.
4. Promoting algorithmic literacy geared to instruct decision-makers on algorithm systems' rationale, strengths, and limitations may play a significant role in optimizing algorithm-human interactions in decision-making.
5. Political polarization is a general trend reshaping the public spheres of several democracies.
6. Different accounts have associated the strengthening of political segregation in different countries with the massive diffusion of new technologies.
7. Technologies should be analyzed for their unintended consequences as much as for their intended benefits.
8. "Most of us discover where we are headed when we arrive." (Watterson, 1990)
9. "All models are wrong; the practical question is how wrong they have to be not to be useful." (Box & Draper, 1987)