



**DATA &  
SOCIETY**  
*at 10*

**FORESEEABLE  
FUTURES**

September 26, 2024

When Data & Society was founded ten years ago, the social implications of data-centric and automated technologies were not something the average person thought very much about. To say that has changed would be a vast understatement. Today, conversations about how data, AI, and concentrated power in the tech sector impact our daily lives, our political system, and society at large are everywhere; they are urgent and anything but abstract. Data & Society's decade-long dedication to interdisciplinary, empirical research that reveals how technology shapes society — and that underscores society's power to shape technology in turn — has prepared us to meet the scale of the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

We are thrilled to mark our tenth anniversary with the incredible network of people whose collaboration and vision have shaped Data & Society to become the vibrant, vital organization we are today. All of you with us, in person and online, represent the power we have, together, to choose our collective future. We have never been better positioned to advance critical thinking and meaningful change at the intersection of technology and society. The future is in our hands.



**Janet Haven**  
Executive Director



**Charlton McIlwain**  
Board President

Data & Society is an independent nonprofit research organization, founded by danah boyd in 2014. Since our founding, we have grown from twelve fellows in a borrowed meeting room in New York City to some 45 full-time staff members across the United States.

We believe that empirical evidence should directly inform the development and governance of new technologies — and that these technologies can and must be grounded in values that are chosen deliberately, beginning with equity and human dignity. Our research on the social implications of data, automation, and AI offers evidence to counter the notion that technology is the best or only solution to the host of societal challenges we face as a society. Our communications, policy, and engagement work applies and amplifies those findings to shape decision-making. In all our work, we collaborate with a growing, international network to explore the far-reaching ways that technology is shaping lives and opportunities. Together, we are demonstrating not only why our societies must prioritize more equitable and just systems, but how it can be done.

RESEARCH AND POLICY FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Canarsie and Munsee Lenape people, who were removed unjustly. We acknowledge that we in this community are the beneficiaries of that removal, and we honor the Canarsie and Munsee Lenape people as we meet here at 501 Union.

**5 - 6 PM**

DOORS, REGISTRATION  
AND REFRESHMENTS

**6 - 7:30 PM**

PROGRAM

**Welcome**

Charlton McIlwain

**Creating a Field**

danah boyd

**Lightning Talks: Foreseeable Futures**

Zara Rahman, Michelle Miller, Ranjit Singh,  
Xiaowei R. Wang

**Acting On What We Know:  
Research and Policy in 2024**

Alondra Nelson, John Palfrey,  
Suresh Venkatasubramanian, Felicia Wong

**Creating Our Future**

Janet Haven

**Closing**

Charlton McIlwain

**7:30 - 8:30 PM** RECEPTION

**Janet Haven** is the executive director of Data & Society. She has worked at the intersection of technology policy, governance, and accountability for more than twenty years, both domestically and internationally. Her career has spanned technology start-ups, philanthropic institutions, non-profit organizations and government roles in leadership and board capacities. Janet is a member of the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (NAIAC), which advises the president on a range of issues related to artificial intelligence.

**Charlton McIlwain** is the president of the board of directors at Data & Society. He is vice provost for faculty development, pathways, and public interest technology at New York University, where he is also a professor of media, culture, and communication at NYU Steinhardt. McIlwain is the founder of the Center for Critical Race + Digital Studies, leads NYU's Alliance for Public Interest Technology, and is the university's designee to the Public Interest Technology University Network. He is the author of *Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice, From the Afronet to Black Lives Matter* and the recent PolicyLink report *Algorithmic Discrimination: A Framework and Approach to Auditing and Measuring the Impact of Race-Targeted Digital Advertising*.

**danah boyd** founded Data & Society in 2014, and currently serves as an advisor. She is a partner researcher at Microsoft Research and a distinguished visiting professor at Georgetown University. Her research focuses on the intersection of technology and society, with an eye to how structural inequities shape and are shaped by technologies. The author of *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens*, boyd is currently working on a book about the US census that examines what makes data legitimate. She is also a trustee of the Computer History Museum, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the advisory board of the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

EAKERS  
SPEAKERS  
SPEAKERS  
SPEAKERS

# SPEAKERS

KERS

**Michelle Miller** is the director of innovation for the Center for Labor and a Just Economy at Harvard Law School, where she focuses on changes to work and organizing brought on by the integration of technologies like automated software, algorithmic management, and artificial intelligence. She joined the Center after a decade as the co-founder and co-director of Coworker.org, an organization that nurtures early stage worker-led organizing across multiple industries. During this time, Miller also pioneered the labor movement's research and response to the proliferation of software and technology tools being used to manage and surveil workers and working class people. She is a visiting social innovator with the Social Innovation + Change Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School, and is on the boards of the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research and Arts and Democracy.

**Alondra Nelson** is the Harold F. Linder Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study and a distinguished senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. A former deputy assistant to President Joe Biden, she served as acting director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). At OSTP, Nelson was architect of the White House's landmark Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, which is a cornerstone of President Biden's Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. In recognition of this work, Nelson was named to the inaugural TIME100 list of the most influential people in AI. A Data & Society advisor, Nelson served on the organization's board from 2016 until her appointment to the Biden administration in 2021.

**John Palfrey** is president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, one of the nation's largest philanthropies. An educator, author, and legal scholar, Palfrey has published extensively on how young people learn in a digital era, as well as on the effects of new technologies on society at large. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including *Safe Spaces*, *Brave Spaces: Diversity and Free Expression in Education*, and *Born Digital: How Children Grow Up in a Digital Age*. He served as a founding member of Data & Society's board of directors from 2013 to 2017.

**Zara Rahman** is a British-Bangladeshi author and researcher whose interests lie at the intersection of power, technology and justice. Her book *Machine Readable Me: The Hidden Ways Tech Shapes Our Identities* builds upon more than a decade of research on how data about who we are is used to shape the paths available to us in life. Currently a visiting research collaborator at Cornell University, she serves on the board at Saheli, a UK-based non-profit providing support and refuge to women of color fleeing domestic abuse, and A People's Guide to Tech, an organization helping people navigate their past and future with technology. She is the co-founder of Interlalia, a new fiscal sponsor based in Germany and working worldwide, that centers care, solidarity, and movement-building.

**Ranjit Singh** is a senior researcher at Data & Society, conducting qualitative research for its Algorithmic Impact Methods Lab. With a particular focus on research equity, he helps guide research ethics and equitable research practices both internally and with external partners. Singh's work examines the everyday experiences of people subject to data-driven practices and follows the mutual shaping of their lives and their data records, aiming to understand how data is increasingly used to imagine and develop new digital solutions for democratizing inclusion. His research sits at the intersection of data infrastructures, global development, and public policy, and uses methods of interview-based qualitative sociology and multi-sited ethnography.

**Suresh Venkatasubramanian** directs the Center for Technological Responsibility, Reimagination, and Redesign (CNTR) with the Data Science Institute at Brown University, where he is a professor of computer science and data science. His background is in algorithms and computational geometry, as well as data mining and machine learning. His research interests include algorithmic fairness and the impact of automated decision-making systems in society. In 2021–2022, Venkatasubramanian served as an assistant director for science and justice in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he co-authored its Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights. He has served on Data & Society's Board of Directors since 2022.

**Xiaowei R. Wang** is an artist, writer, organizer, and coder based across the Pacific and a post-doctoral researcher at the UCLA Center on Race and Digital Justice. Their multidisciplinary work over the past 15 years sits at the intersection of public art, tech, and social and environmental justice. Wang is the author of the book *Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech In China's Countryside*, which examines the social and environmental impacts of technology on agriculture and rural communities. Their work is shaped by their Buddhist spiritual practice, guided by the experiences of their ancestors and the care of the communities they are part of. A big influence on their work and how they see the world is their experience of ongoing vision loss due to glaucoma.

**Felicia Wong** is a Data & Society advisor and president and CEO of the Roosevelt Institute, where she directs the organization's mission, vision, and strategy in pursuit of a high-care, low-carbon economy that works for all. She was the US representative on the G7 Economic Resilience Panel in 2021, served on the Biden-Harris administration transition advisory board, and currently serves as vice chair of the treasury advisory committee on racial equity. Since joining the Roosevelt Institute in 2012, Wong and the team have quadrupled the overall budget and made Roosevelt a key collaborator with the nation's top public officials, academic experts, and progressive movement organizers.

DEMAKERS  
SPEAKERS

# BOOKS BY OUR NETWORK

We're delighted to showcase many of the great books published by Data & Society's staff, board, advisors, affiliates, alumni, and broader network — including tonight's speakers.

To learn about more than 75 titles written by members of our network, including discounts and giveaways, visit

<https://bookshop.org/shop/datasociety>

or scan the QR code below.



Thank you to the authors and the following publishers for their donations and discounts.



# THANK YOU

We are so grateful to our generous donors who have championed Data & Society over the last ten years — and to all our supporters who helped make tonight possible. Learn more about our funders: [datasociety.net/funder-list](https://datasociety.net/funder-list)

## VENDORS



## STAFF AND ADVISORS

Thank you to our 10th anniversary committee members Brian J. Chen, Ronteau Coppin, Robyn Jackson, Alexandra Mateescu, Joan Mukogosi, Serena Oduro, Melinda Sebastian, and Emnet Tafesse. Big thank yous to the network engagement and strategy team for leading planning and invites, specifically Iretiolu Akinrinade, Ania Calderon, and Irene Chung. Our operations team including Robyn Jackson, Carly DeVries, and Daniela Franco handled legal and financial matters with finesse. Thanks also to our tireless communications team of Sona Rai, Eryn Loeb, Alessa Erawan, Gloria Mendoza, and Chris Redwood; our incredible events team of CJ Brody Landow, Rigoberto Lara Guzmán, and Tunika Onnekikami; and our development team: Joanna Gould, Camille Horton, and Harry Hudome. We're grateful to have the collaboration and support of our senior leadership team, including Patrick Davison, Nicole Lee, and Janet Haven.





