

**CS 4873-A Computing and Society | Spring 2021 | Homework 4**  
**Instructor: Munmun De Choudhury**  
**Privacy and Algorithms**

<b>Due:</b>	<b>March 26, 2021, 11:59pm Eastern Time</b>
<b>Format</b>	Approximately 3 pages, double spaced, single column, 12 point font
<b>Logistics</b>	Submit as a PDF on Canvas
<b>Grading criteria</b>	Completeness
	Writing
	Understanding of course materials
	Quality of reasoning, or ethical analysis
	Late policy applies
<b>Grade</b>	60 points (6% of your overall grade)

Recently, some Silicon Valley companies have started to consider building data practice ethics into the data science interviewing process. The idea is to add a few questions mixed in with the standard technical interview, and paying attention to the responses. Describe how you would respond to the following three questions<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) **[20 points]** You are working on a model for consumer access to a financial service. Race is a significant feature in your model. Would you use the race variable in your model? If you are disallowed from using it, what would you do?
- 2) **[20 points]** You are asked to use network traffic data to offer loans to small businesses. It turns out that the available data does not rigorously inform credit risk and estimates are relatively poorer for certain groups. What do you do?
- 3) **[20 points]** You are talking to a new potential client who wants you to use public profile photos on the web to get age and race for “inclusion” in their recruiting. Would you consider this request? Justify your reasoning.

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<sup>1</sup> Acknowledgments to Hilary Mason (@hmason; Founder & CEO of Fast Forward Labs + Data Scientist in Residence at Accel Partners) for suggesting questions of this flavor