

Class Activity 1

An article in TechCrunch from a few years ago said: “Zuckerberg defended the News Feed’s progress arguing that the filter bubble isn’t an issue for Facebook. He suggested the real problem is that people by nature engage with content they like and find agreeable, and dismiss things they don’t agree with online as they would in real life.”

To what extent is it fair to put the blame or responsibility on people? Use any ethical theory of your choice to develop your answer.

Class Activity 2

Is it wrong to work on an intelligent machine if it can't be guaranteed the machine will be benevolent toward humans? Who takes the ownership of unforeseen outcomes?

Class Activity 3

Should digital media, such as social media platforms continue to use highly sophisticated but opaque algorithms to adapt users' experiences on their platforms? The lecture highlighted some examples such as autocompletion or product recommendation where such algorithms can be harmless or even beneficial, but the proliferation of fake news and social bots showcase how these algorithms may steer political conversations in polarizing and misleading ways.

Present your rationale using a social contract theory perspective.