

**Class Activity 1 (Online Radicalization and Polarization):**

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 (Online Radicalization and Polarization):**

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.

**Class Activity 3 (Intellectual Property)**

A plane makes an emergency crash landing on a deserted tropical island. Two dozen survivors must fend for themselves until help arrives. All of them are from large cities, and none of them has camping experience. The survivors find it impossible to gather enough food, and everyone begins losing weight. One person spends a lot of time by himself and figures out how to catch fish. He brings fish back to camp. Others ask him to teach them how to catch fish. He refuses, but offers to share the fish he has caught with the other passengers as long as they take care of the other camp chores, such as hauling fresh water, gathering firewood, and cooking.

Debate the morality of the bargain proposed by the fisherman, from the perspective of intellectual property rights. One side of the debate concerns why the fisherman’s position is morally wrong. The other side explains why the fisherman’s position is morally acceptable. Pair with a student next to you for this debate exercise, taking opposite stances. Use the chart below to outline your ideas.

Fisherman’s position is morally wrong	Fisherman’s position is morally acceptable