My name is Dr. Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost, Assistant Vice President, and Associate Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In addition to previously serving as a US Fulbright Professor to Slovenia, my area of expertise is race and public policy. In addition, you have my permission to publish my submission in its entirety without redacting my name, title, or institutional affiliation. Please, if possible, confirm receipt, and inform me if anything more is needed.

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                                         Artificial Intelligence and Racial Discrimination

The rapid development and deployment of digital technologies aimed at assisting rank and file law enforcement officials along with border patrol agents continue to serve as legally sanctioned racial inequity and discrimination. According to the highly anticipated 2019 study released by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, captured in their "[Face Recognition Vendor Test: Part 3: Demographics Effects](https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2019/NIST.IR.8280.pdf), the bottom line is clear, facial recognition software continues to misidentify people of color more often than their white counterparts. More stunning was the discovery that most of algorithms tested falsely identified African American and Asian faces at a rate of 10 to 100 times more than Caucasian faces. In the area of "one to many" matching, oftentimes used to identify persons of interest in a criminal investigation, the study found that African American women were more likely to be misidentified when compared to other demographic groups. Furthermore, the report highlights several alarming findings, of which include:

* ​False positive rates are highest in West and East African and East Asian people, and lowest in Eastern European individuals.
* With domestic law enforcement images, the highest false positives are in American Indians, with elevated rates in African American and Asian populations; the relative ordering depends on sex and varies with algorithm.
* With mugshot images, the highest false positives are in American Indians, with elevated rates in African American and Asian populations; the relative ordering depends on sex and varies with algorithm.
* In the border crossing images, false negatives are generally higher in individuals born in Africa and the Caribbean, the effect being stronger in older individuals.

As one can see from the findings of this study, artificial intelligence is by no means a neutral actor. Mimicking much of the same type of racial profiling exhibited at state and international border crossings, the use of digital technologies as a form of surveillance only perpetuates ongoing racial tensions. The aforementioned findings given little credibility to the ongoing use of such software, and inevitably creates in some, and maintains in others, a culture of "guilty under proven innocent."

As the United States continues to become more diverse, the impact of such technologies will only compound existing racial discrimination. Whether the focus of our attention is placed upon our borderland communities, our major metropolitan areas and their surrounding communities, or elsewhere, the impact will be the same.

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