# Harnessing Al for EDIJ: Navigating the Bias Challenge

October 10, 2023

#### **ABOUT NONPROFIT HR**

#### **Our Vision:**

We are the leading source of innovative talent management, talent acquisition services and knowledges for the social impact sector.

- Total lifecycle solutions for talent management.
- 20+ years serving the social sector as a trusted advisor and thought partner.
- Thousands of missions served.
- · Black woman owned.
- National footprint.
- Award-winning and credentialed staff.



"Nonprofit HR's experts listen, articulate people-centric solutions and understand the correlation between having high-performing, engaged staff and us being able to support our members' needs. Their team has elevated the importance of and visibility around innovative HR practices. Nonprofit HR is an invaluable strategic partner."

- Cathy Gibney, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization





#### **OUR PRACTICES**

Nonprofit HR's suite of solutions are centered around five core service areas.

#### Strategy & Advisory

- HR Audits & Assessment
- Workforce
   Planning
- Performance Management
- Workplace Culture & Employee Engagement
- Learning & Development

#### HR Outsourcing

- Interim Outsourcing
- Comprehensive General Outsourcing
- Specialty
   Outsourcing (i.e.
   strategy,
   recruitment,
   benefits)

#### Total Rewards

- Compensation Benchmarking & Program Design
- Pay Equity Analysis
- Benefits
   Assessments &
   Administration
- Cost Containment Strategy Design
- HR Technology

#### Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Justice

- Equity Assessments
   & Implementation
   Strategies
- EDIJ Training
- Cultural Transformation
- Leadership Development
- Interim Chief Equity Officer



- Executive Search
- Professional Search
- Recruitment Outsourcing
- Interim Leadership



We also partner with nonprofit and forprofit social enterprises to help strengthen their people management practices.

#### Presenters

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Dr. Rachael Forester
Senior Consultant
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Justice
Nonprofit HR



Millie Gonzalez
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# Learning Objectives











Upsides and downsides of AI within the context of EDIJ

The impact of algorithmic bias on marginalized communities

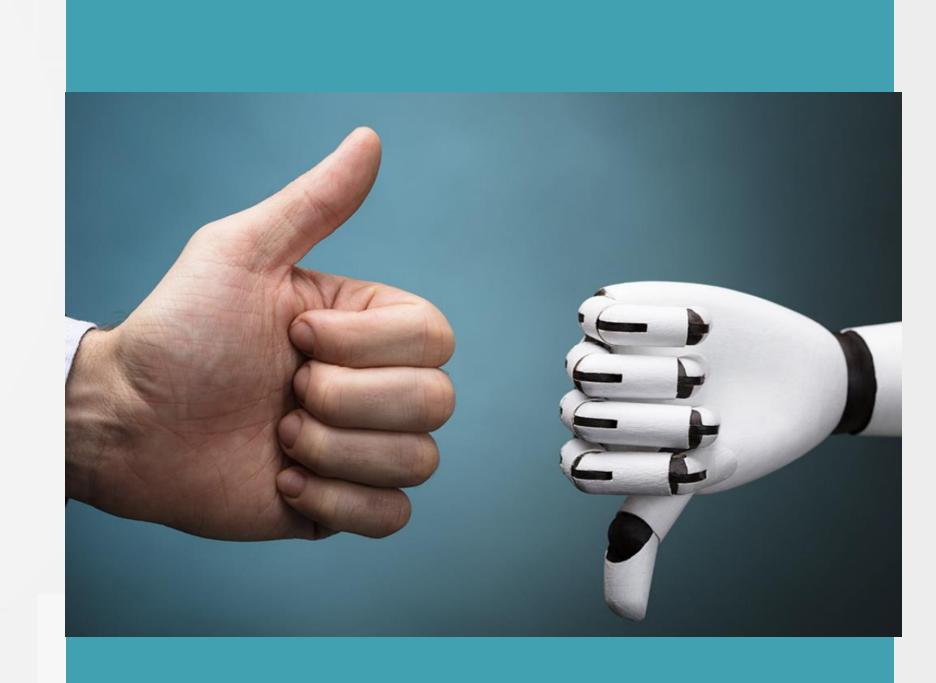
Real-life
consequences and
harm that AI can
perpetuate when
users are unaware of
what to look for and
minimize

Practical tools and strategies for effectively identifying and addressing bias in Al systems, ultimately contributing to more equitable outcomes

How to partner with leaders of all strategic business units in your organization to recognize and minimize bias



# Personal stances impacting Al usage





WHAT FEELINGS, THOUGHTS OR IMAGES COME UP FOR YOU WHEN YOU HEAR THE LETTERS A!?

HOW MIGHT THIS IMPACT HOW YOU/YOUR ORGANIZATION ENGAGES WITH AI?

# What is Al?

Al is the ability of computers to learn and think without relying on in-the-moment human intelligence.

'Every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it. An attempt will be made to find how to make machines use language, form abstractions, and concepts, solve kinds of problems now reserved for humans, and improve themselves.' —John McCarthy



#### WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

#### **Machine Learning**

Using sample data to train computer programs to recognize patterns based on algorithms.



#### Neural Networks

Computer systems designed to imitate the neurons in a brain.



#### Natural Language Processing

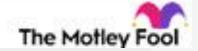
The ability to understand speech, as well as understand and analyze documents.



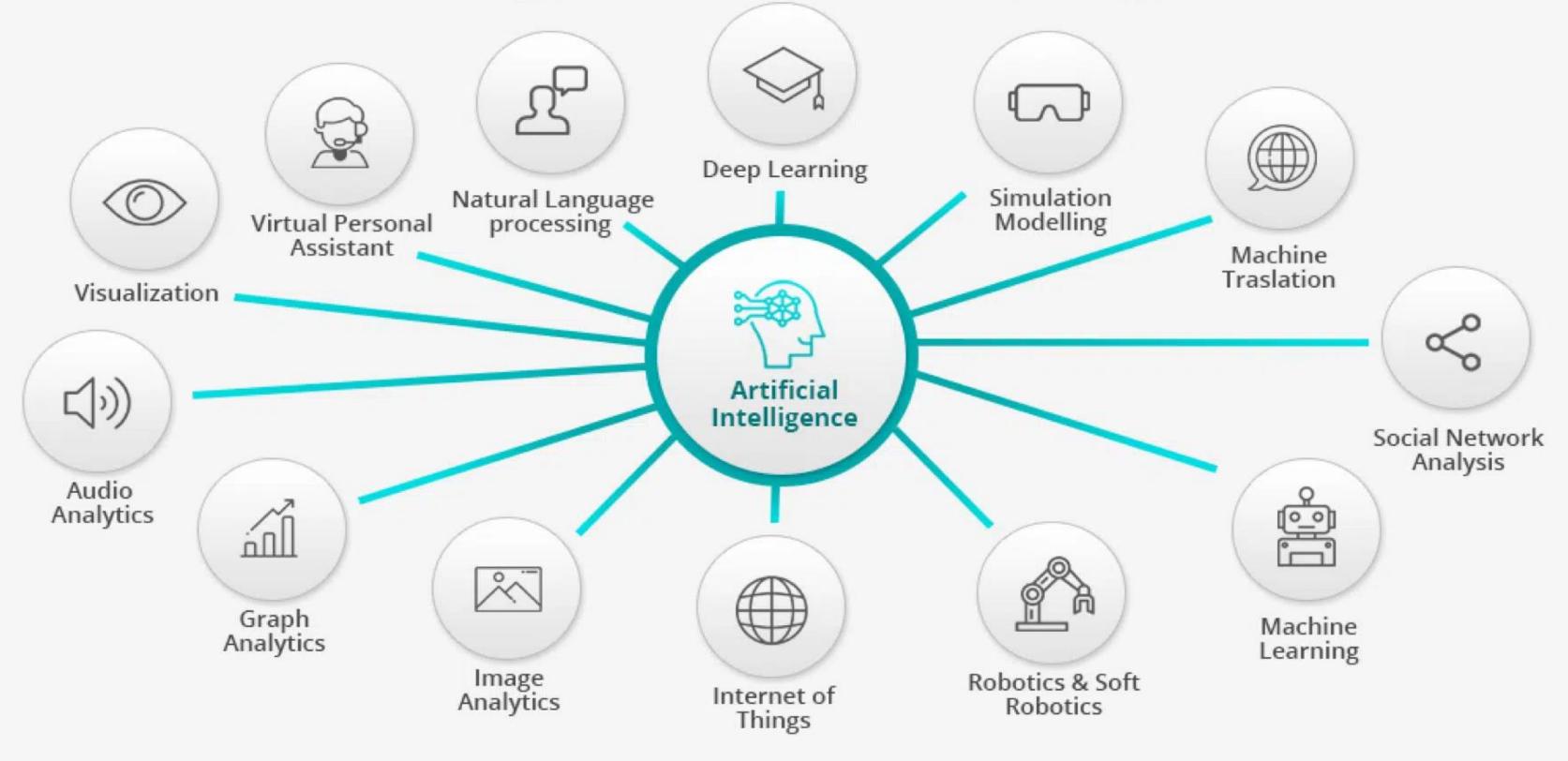
#### Robotics

Machines that can assist people without actual human involvement.





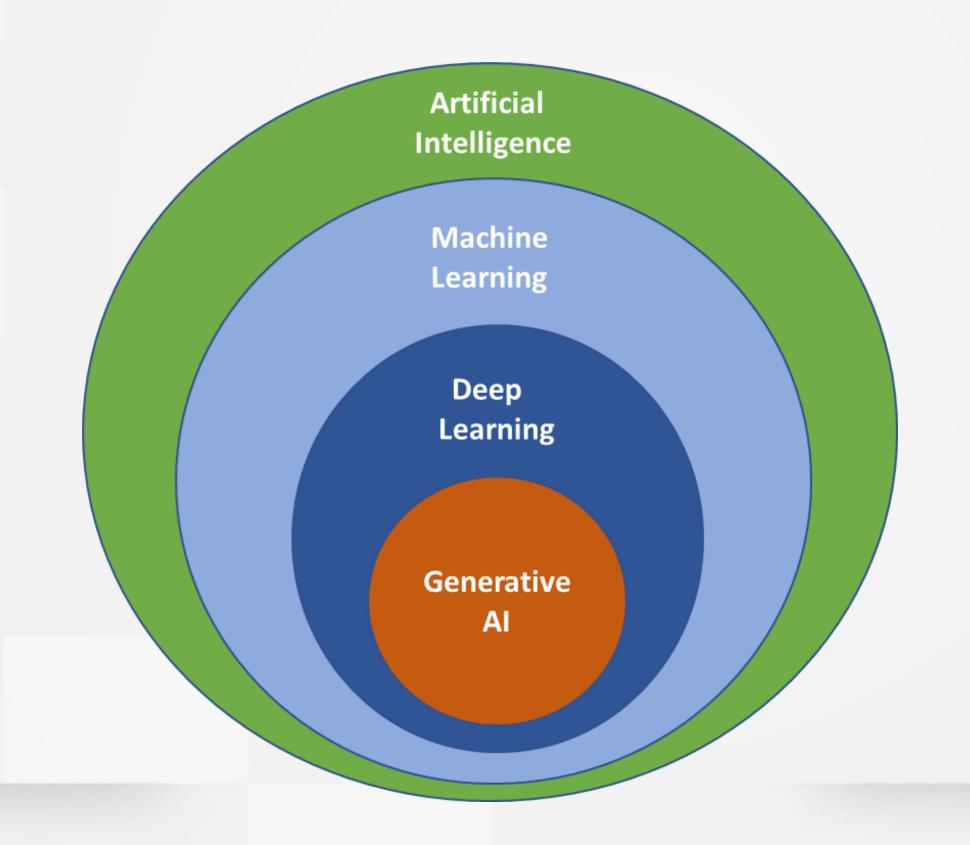
#### Possible applications for Artificial Intelligence





# What is Generative Al?





Generative AI refers to deep-learning models that can generate high-quality text, images, and other content based on the data they were trained on.



# CHAT GPT















Hey Siri

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What are some ways your organization has used or has thought about using Al?

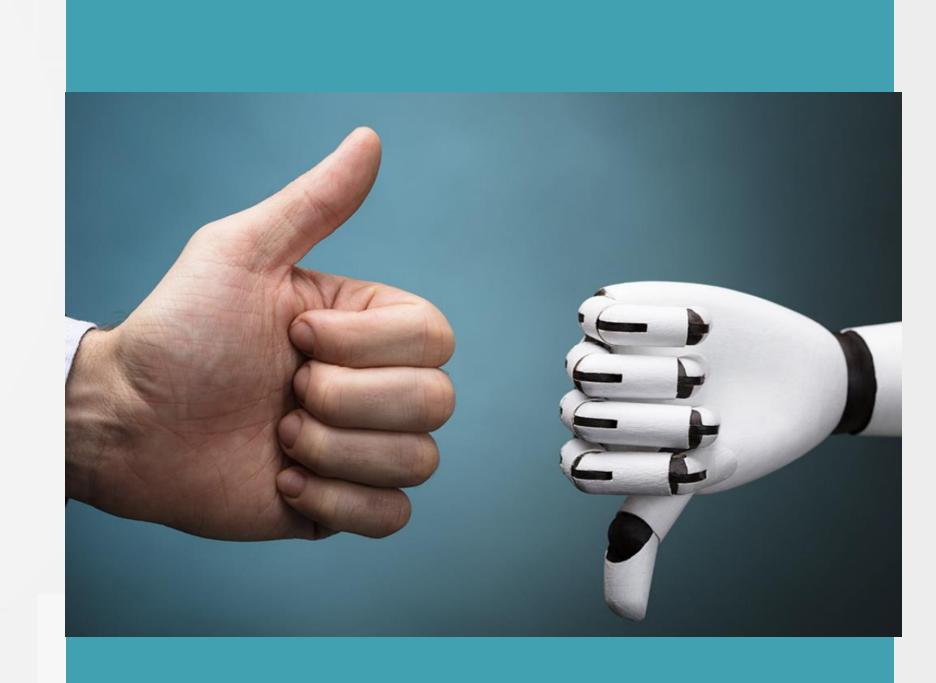


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Taking notes during or summarizing meetings	14%
Researching information	26%
Drafting organizational policy	14%
Writing job descriptions	16%
Writing performance reviews	8%
Analyzing/interpreting data	13%
Creating presentations	16%
Drafting social media posts or articles	14%
Drafting recruitment advertising copy	8%
Helping make better informed decisions	9%
Creating interview questions	12%
Our organization does not current use generative Al	45%
Our organization has not begun using it but are planning to within the next 12 months	14%





# Pros and Cons of Al in EDIJ



# EMBRACING THE BOTH/AND



#### Pros of Al



24/7 availability

Grounded in trends/patterns

Quick output

Automates processes

Can reduce human error

Eliminates
physical risk to
humans

Increased productivity with lower costs

#### Cons of Al



Relies on programmed input, often from dominant ideologies

Can only perform as well as they are designed

Lacks empathy and emotion

Displaces people in jobs

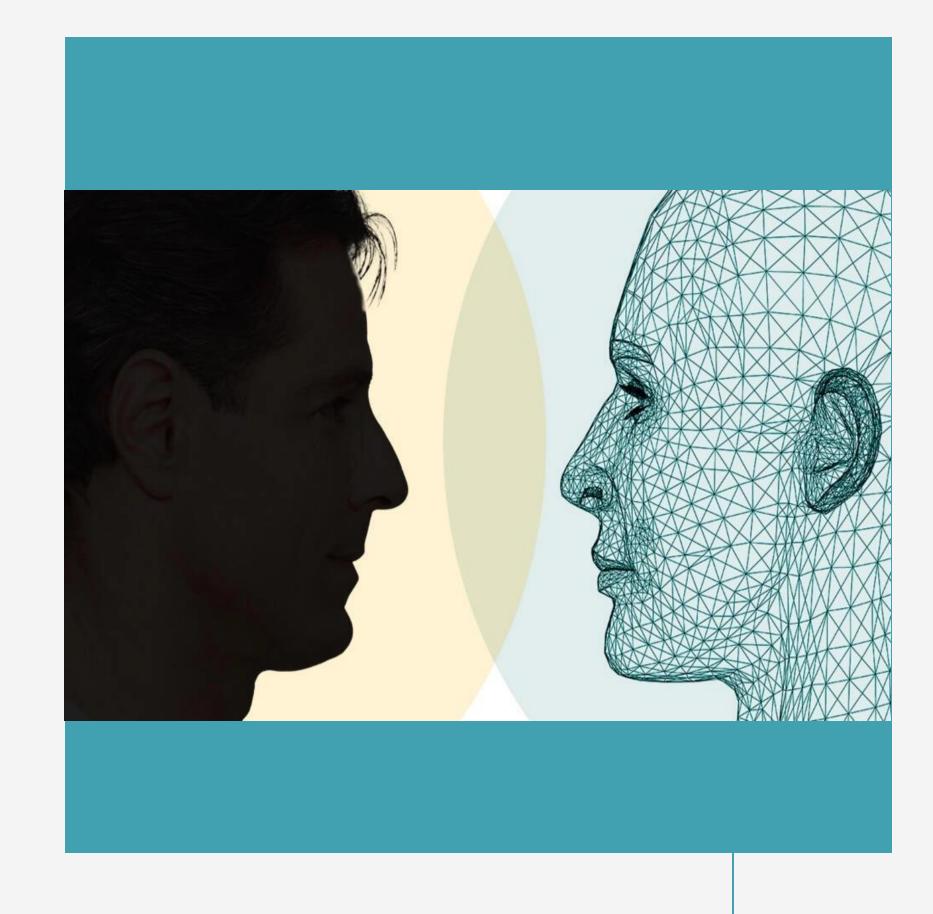
Not always up-todate Can't create neutral technology when humans are biased

What are some other pros/cons of Al?





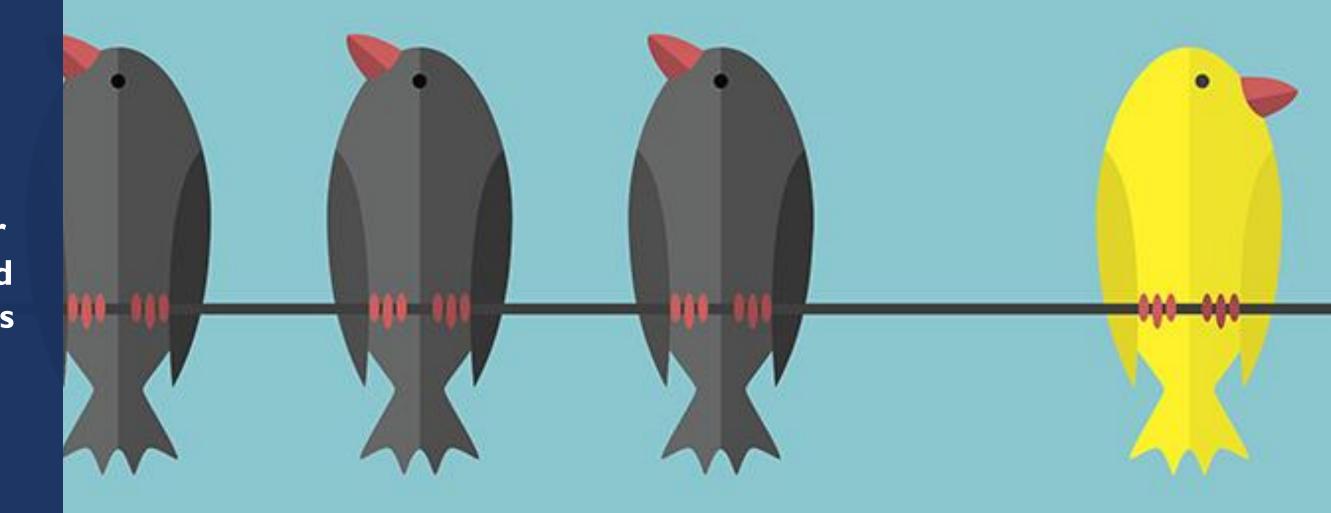
# Bias and Al





#### IMPLICIT BIAS

Refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.





#### **BORN** Into society Things are already set **ACTIONS** Expectations History/Traditions Don't make waves Stereotypes/Myths Promote status quo Missing information • Change is bad • Bias history Norms/Habits **CORE** Values/Dreams Confusion Roles/Responsibilities **RESULTS IN** Hurt Anger Dissonance Fear • Silence, Guilt, Anger, Self-Hatred Dehumanizaiton, Lack of Reality Collusion, Ignorance • Internalized Oppression/Dominance Horizontal Violence and Hostility INTERNALIZED/ENFORCED Sanctions/Stigma

• Human difference = negative

Rewards and punishments for behavior

Conscious/unconscious beliefs/attitudes

#### The Cycle of Socialization

## **HOW MIGHT** SOCIALIZATION **IMPACT BIAS IN**

#### **INSTITUTIONAL** AND CULTURAL

· Family and friends

**FIRST** 

**SOCIALIZATION** 

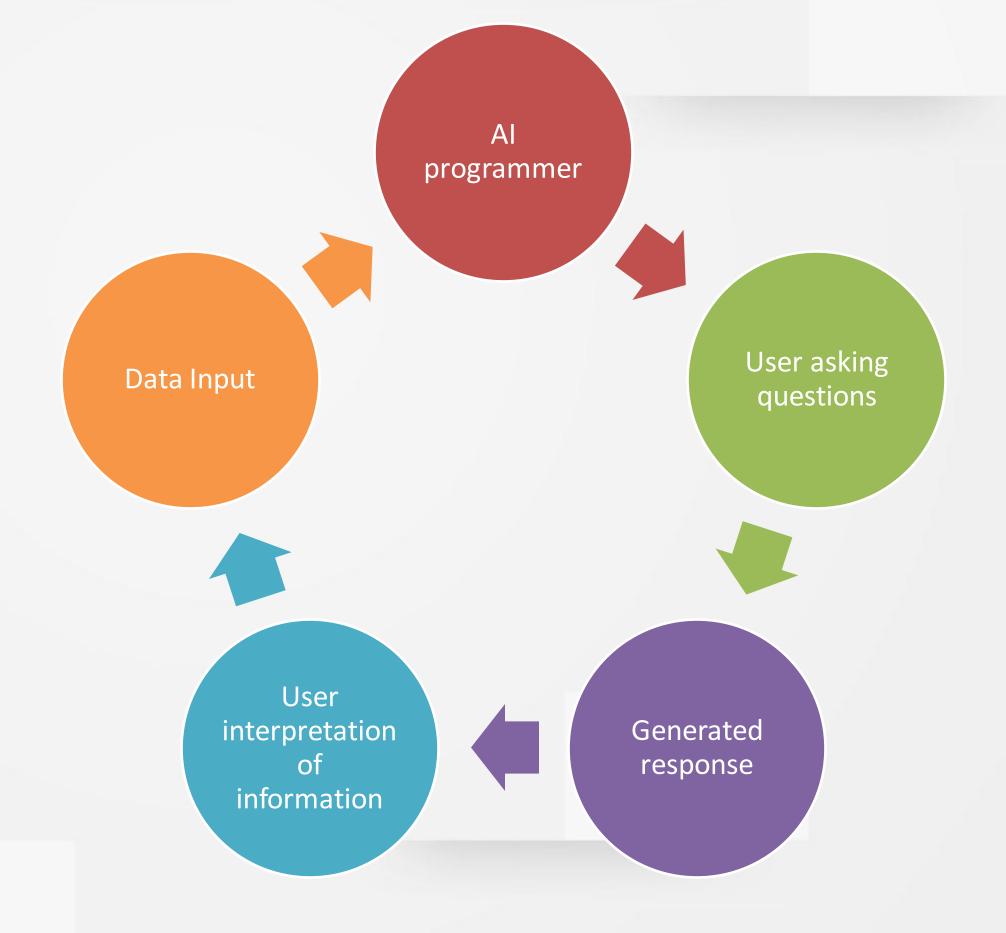
- Schools, teachers, books
- · Religious institutions
- Media
- Government/legal systems
- · Cultural "standards"

Nonprofithe **Developed by Bobbie Harro** 

AI?

Bias in Al

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#### **COMMON TYPES OF BIAS IN AI**

#### **Algorithm Bias**

- Describes systematic/repeatable errors in a computer system that create unfair outcomes, such as privileging one group over another.
- Facial recognition systems programmed to detect lighter skin tones
- Automatic faucets

#### Sample/Exclusion/Selection Bias

- Data that was used to teach the system isn't representative
- Sample size isn't large enough
- Often missing the voices and experiences of the most marginalized

#### **Prejudice Bias**

 Data used reflects our socialization, false assumptions, and prejudices. Could perpetuate stereotypes.

#### **Recall Bias**

- Bias that emerges based on subjective observations and labeling.
- IT fields are largely represented by white cisgender men



# Real-life consequences and harm





# Systemic Racism in Al: How Algorithms Replicate White Supremacy and Injustice

This op-ed argues that the uses for artificial intelligence are not objective or unbiased, but instead mirror white supremacy.

Human judgment is still needed to ensure AI supported decision making is fair

**EDITORS' PICK** 

## AI Brings Opportunities And Risks To Workplace DEI Efforts

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** 

'Counterfeit people': The dangers posed by Meta's Al celebrity lookalike chatbots



"Rather than help eliminate discriminatory practices, Al has worsened them — hampering the economic security of marginalized groups that have long dealt with systemic discrimination" (Akselrod, 2021)

"There needs to be a choice. Right now, what's happening is these technologies are being deployed widely without oversight, oftentimes covertly, so that by the time we wake up, it's almost too late." (Buolamwini, 2023)



#### GOOD AI VS. BAD AI

	Bad Al	Good Al
Automation vs. Augmentation	Automated, i.e. simply automating human decision-making. For example, if recruiters are more likely to shortlist resumes with male names, the AI will do the same.	Augmented, i.e. helping humans do complex tasks that are either beyond human cognition and/or inefficient for humans to do. Plum is classified as Expert Automation & Augmentation Software (EAAS).
Data Quality	Poor data inputs. Learns from inputs that have poor predictability and high bias, such as keyword-searching resumes, scraping social media profiles, etc.	High quality data inputs. Learns from the expertise of I/O Psychology decision-making, and selection methods proven to predict success, i.e. problem solving ability, social intelligence, personality, talent-based competency models, etc.
Human Intervention	Black box. We trust the algorithm's output without "looking under the hood" to understand how the Al came to a particular conclusion. Amazon learned this the hard way when they opened up their hiring Al's black box to discover the algorithm had learned to rank resumes with the word "women" lower.	Human-in-the-loop. This involves humans influencing algorithm decision-making and rectifying when the AI replicates human bias. At Plum, we provide detailed visualizations and reporting to explain how our algorithm comes to conclusions about job fit.



What are the pros and cons of using Al within your organization?



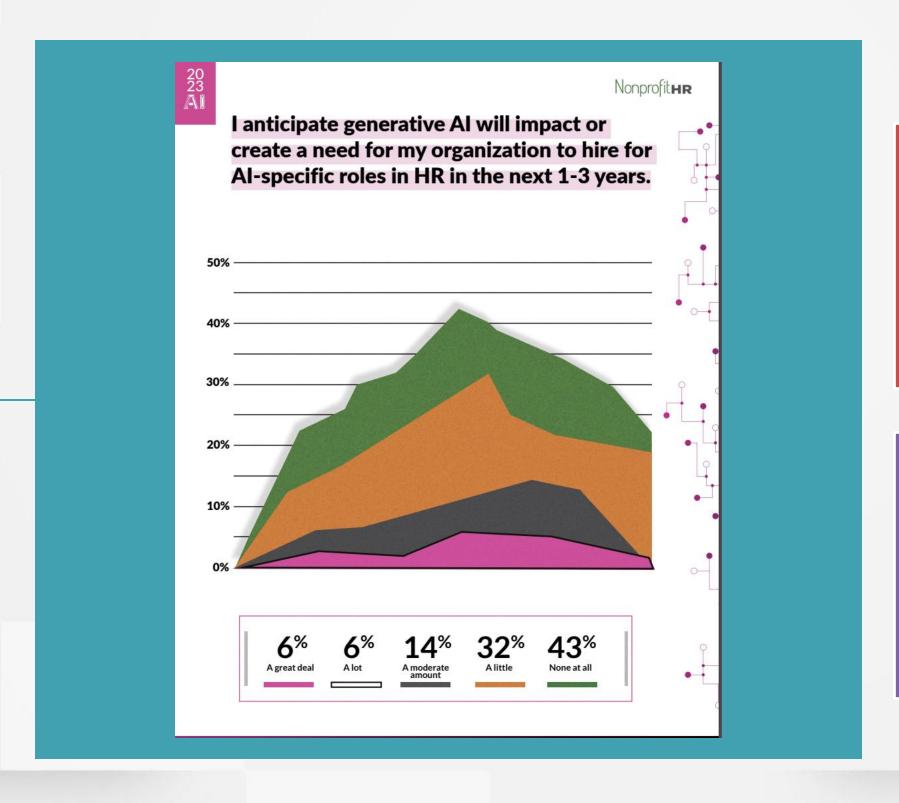
# Tools and Strategies





#### Mitigating Bias in Your Organization

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Train staff on implicit bias and bias in AI

Include diverse human touchpoints in AI processes to review information for accuracy, consistency, and to determine potential bias/patterns

Hire an AI professional on your team to assist in ethical considerations

Determine your organizations' stance on adopting AI for practice

### Mitigating Bias in Your Organization



Build out process for AI use within your organization with attention to mitigating bias.

Create a tool book of what platforms individuals in your organization are using and decide which platforms will be organization approved and for which tasks.

Determine if you will be engaging with internal vs open systems (validity).

Continue to foster a trust-based culture- systems/ethics/honesty.

Ensure access to Al education expands across age, role, and identities.

Determine inclusive language that you will use as input.

Create bias assessment teams within your organization.

#### Assess patterns

- How are you applying AI standards and consequences across identities?
- How are you dismantling white supremacy culture and stereotypes?

### Questions to Mitigate Bias



1. Whose needs are being met?

2. Whose needs are not being met?

3. Who might benefit?

4. Who might be harmed?



Source: https://www.artiba.org/blog/why-bias-mitigation-should-top-the-priorities-of-an-ai-engineer



What support will you ultimately have to invest in?







#### YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE

Engage with a EDIJ professional to help you with:

Leading the conversation and building trust

Setting the culture with equitable education, policies, processes

Assessing patterns

Creating bias assessment teams

Determining community impact/ensuring mission alignment

# Questions?

# Thank You!