ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Antiracist Science and Tech Policy Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Data &amp; Society (New York, NY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

Data & Society (D&S) is an independent, nonprofit research institute that explores the growing field of data-centric technologies and automation. We produce original, empirical evidence to help our stakeholders understand the promise, power, and pitfalls of these technologies. Our work challenges existing narratives about the purpose and power of technology in society using rigorous interdisciplinary research. Additionally, we design programming and engagement strategies to ensure that civil society, media, policymakers, and industry can use our research insights, and those of our broader network, to inform and reframe decision-making around data-centric technologies. To learn more about Data & Society, visit https://datasociety.net/

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will explore the concept of antiracism within the context of AI, science, and technology, elevating and expanding ongoing work to use history and decolonial theory to challenge power asymmetries in these fields. Despite what we learn about scientific neutrality and objectivity, science has a long history of being used as a tool to legitimize and perpetuate racism. The very concept of intelligence, which many people and organizations are working to artificially recreate, is a highly value-laden concept whose ideological legacy is deeply implicated in the creation and justification of social, political, and economic hierarchies that place Black people at the bottom and white people at the top.

The Leading Edge Fellow will both contribute to and nurture the research and engagement pipeline for this new work on antiracism in science and technology. This will include working with the Policy Director to map the current research landscape and explore new lines of inquiry; producing and publishing writing on the topic; working with leadership in Communications and Research teams to build out engagement strategies with a specific policy audiences in mind; and positioning D&S’s research to achieve greater impact in multiple sectors: government, industry, civil society, and media. The fellowship tenure is 12 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 40 hours per week. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Research policy implications of the current funding landscape for AI-related research in the context of the racialized history of the concept of ‘intelligence’
- Research antiracist practices, policies and research methods that can preempt and prevent AI from harming marginalized people
- Collaborate with Data & Society’s network of scholars to examine National Science Foundation and other research funding agencies’ funding priorities vis a vis antiracist practices and principles
- Write policy briefings, and produce media engagement, events, and interviews with prominent actors and scholars in this field for Data & Society to amplify

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields here;
- Excellent research and critical analysis skills;
- Experience translating academic publications for specialist audiences; and
- Demonstrated ability to work and communicate with diverse staff.
- Evidenced professional experience with the norms and culture of academic research, including peer review, research ethics and methodologies, especially as they relate to the humanistic social sciences

Preferred:

- Evidenced professional familiarity with the tech sector and race equity

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021

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