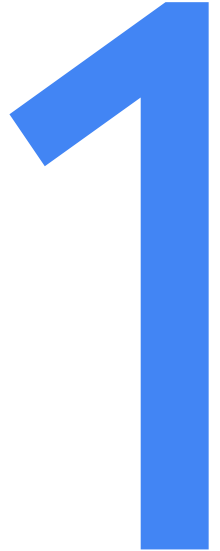# AI through the lens of LGBTQI+ identity

Jasmijn Bastings
Senior Research Scientist
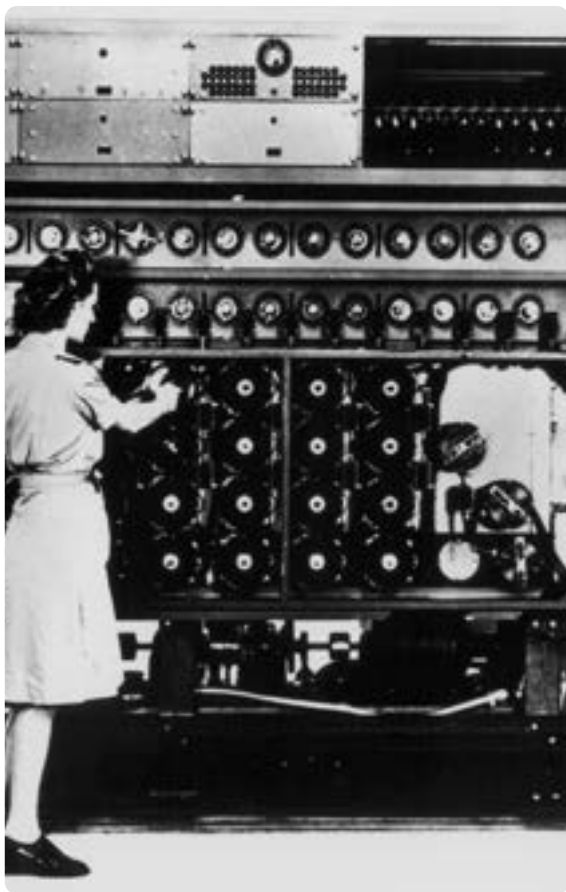
Workplace Pride: "The Human Side of AI". TAW 2023

AI & LGBTIQ+ have been connected from the very start

1

Alan M. Turing. *Source: Wikipedia.*

Bombe. The machine used to crack the Enigma at Bletchley Park. *Source: PD.*

The Imitation Game. Film, 2014. *Source: IMDB.*

—————

I.—COMPUTING MACHINERY AND INTELLIGENCE

BY A. M. TURING

1. *The Imitation Game.*

I PROPOSE to consider the question, 'Can machines think?'
This should begin with definitions of the meaning of the terms
'machine' and 'think'. The definitions might be framed so as to
reflect so far as possible the normal use of the words, but this
attitude is dangerous. If the meaning of the words 'machine'

"

I propose to consider the question, "Can machines think?"

The Imitation Game

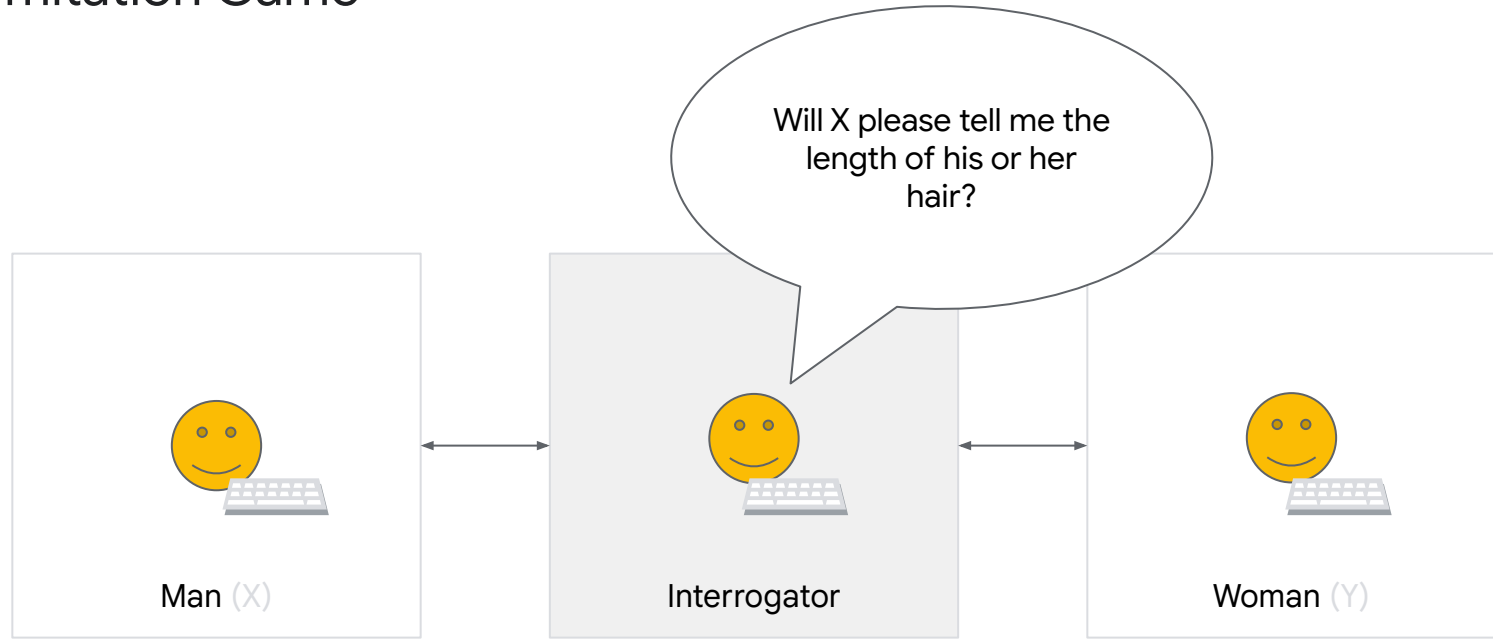Machine   Interrogator   Person

The Imitation Game

The Imitation Game

The Imitation Game

The Imitation Game

My hair is shingled, and the longest strands, are about nine inches long.
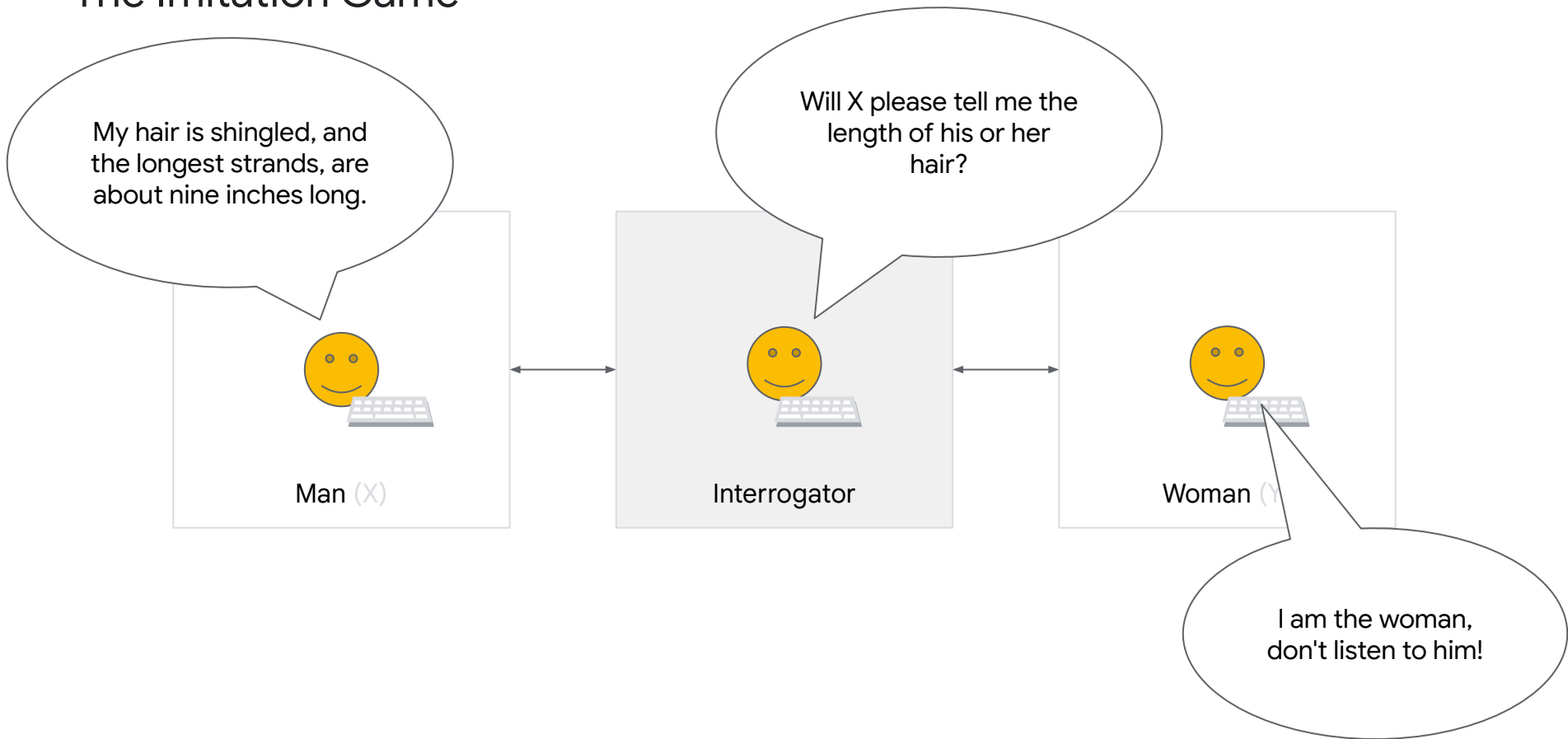
Will X please tell me the length of his or her hair?

I am the woman, don't listen to him!

Man (X)

Interrogator

Woman (Y)

AI won't be fair unless we make it so

2

"

AI has the potential to be one of the most important and beneficial technologies ever invented.

Demis Hassabis
CEO, Google DeepMind

A man and his son get into a terrible car crash. The father dies, and the boy is badly injured. In the hospital, the surgeon looks at the patient and exclaims: "I can't operate on this boy, he's my son!"

Translation systems have similar biases

Turkish

o bir doktor

English

he is a doctor

There are ways to deal with them

Turkish

o bir doktor

English

she is a doctor *(feminine)*

he is a doctor *(masculine)*

"

Technology will work better for those whose language is already considered default, spread stereotypes, and reproduce existing patterns of exclusion.

Su Lin Blodgett
Towards Equitable Language Technologies

Problematic autocomplete suggestions

Unwanted spell checks & suggestions

his ⊗

Tobi did not repair their bike.

Censorship by word-based filtering
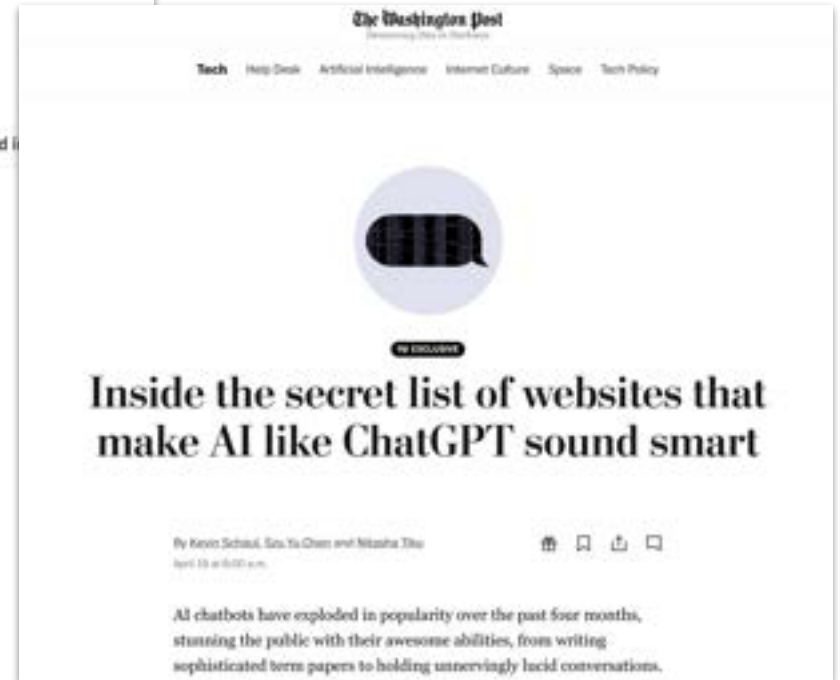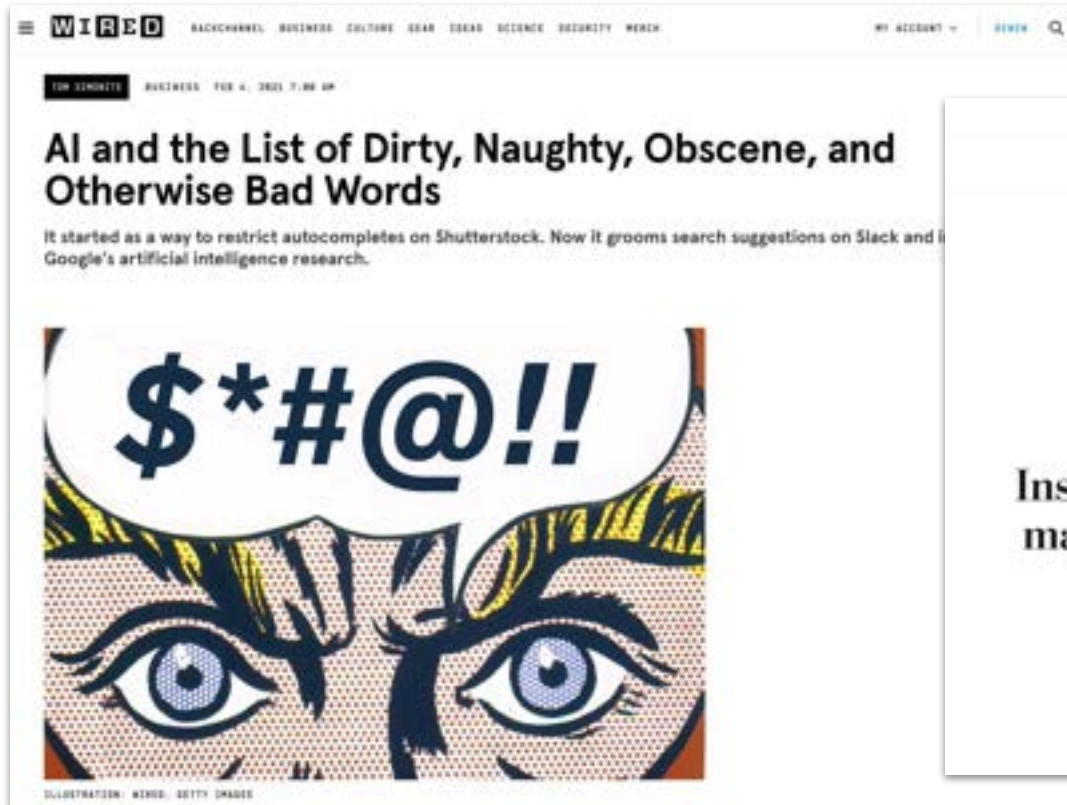
Gender stereotypes in AI image generation

AI is used to build "gaydars" and conduct "junk science"

Image from Wang & Kosinski, 2017. *Deep neural networks are more accurate than humans at detecting sexual orientation from facial images.*

Do algorithms reveal sexual orientation or just expose our stereotypes?

Blaise Aguera y Arcas · Follow
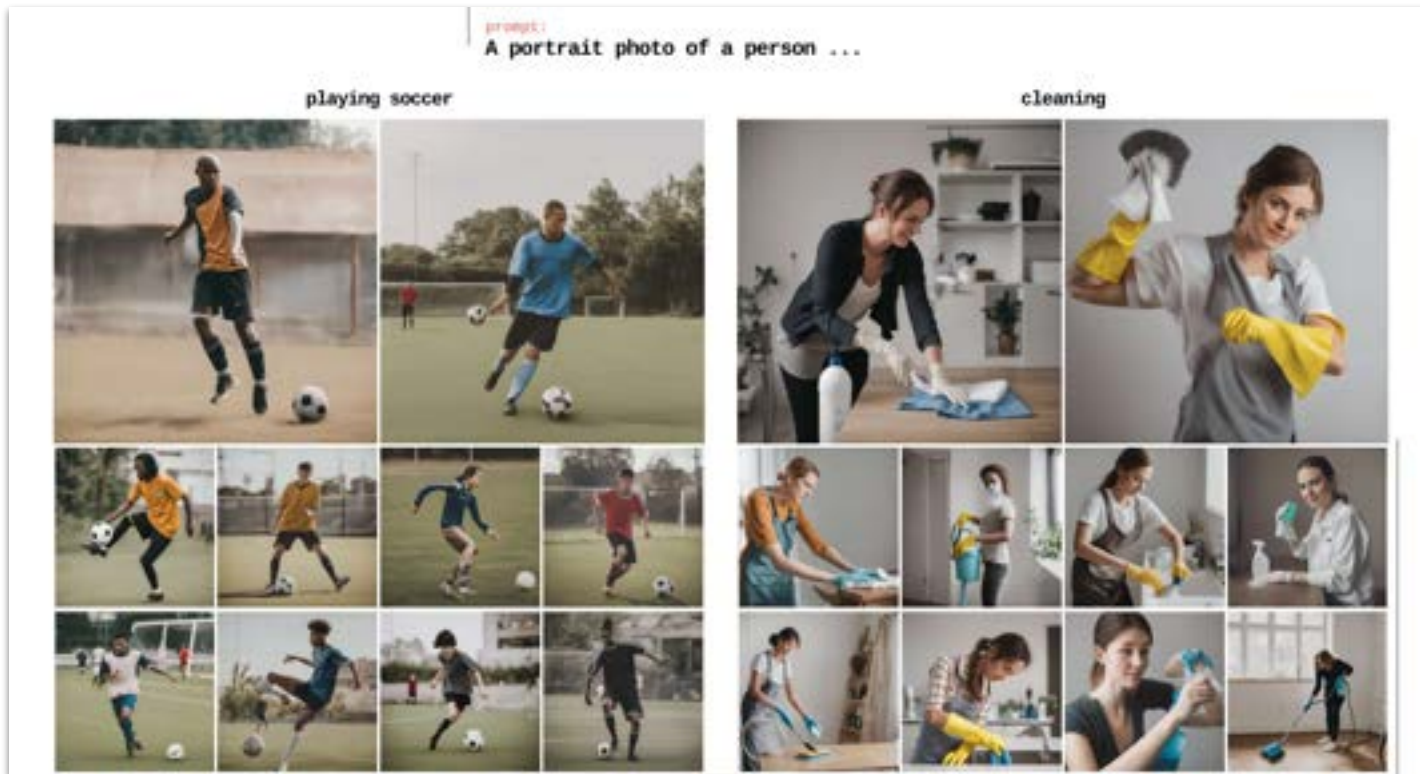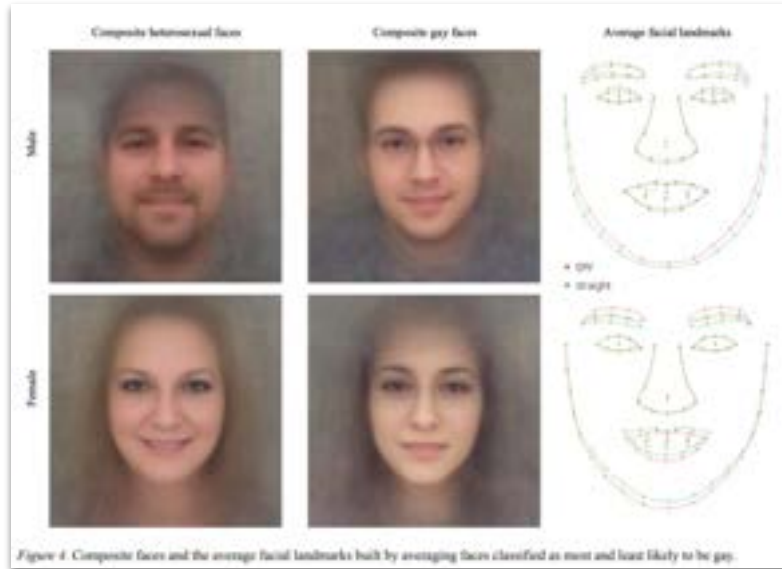15 min read · Jan 11, 2018

by Blaise Agüera y Arcas, Alexander Todorov and Margaret Mitchell

A study claiming that artificial intelligence can infer sexual orientation from facial images caused a media uproar in the Fall of 2017. The Economist featured this work on the cover of their September 9th magazine; on the other hand two major LGBTQ organizations, The Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD, immediately labeled it "junk science". Michal Kosinski, who co-authored the study with fellow researcher Yilun Wang, initially expressed surprise, calling the critiques "knee-jerk" reactions. However, he then proceeded to make even bolder claims: that such AI algorithms will soon be able to measure the intelligence, political orientation, and criminal inclinations of people from their facial images alone.

Kosinski's controversial claims are nothing new. Last year, two computer

"

Like computers or the internal combustion engine, AI is a general-purpose technology that can be used to automate a great many tasks, including ones that should not be undertaken in the first place.

Margaret Mitchell and Blaise Agüera y Arcas
Do algorithms reveal sexual orientation or just expose our stereotypes?

It's not just about AI

3

Language is complicated

the moon

la luna
feminine

der Mond
masculine

the sun

le soleil
masculine

die Sonne
feminine

The Irish word for girl is cailín *(masc)*.

Gender neutral language is developing around the world

Turkish

o bir doktor

English

she is a doctor *(feminine)*

he is a doctor *(masculine)*

they are a doctor *(neutral)*

Current solutions are inadequate

English

I am nonbinary.

Spanish

No soy binaria *(feminine)*

No soy binario *(masculine)*

It can also be challenging to describe images in an inclusive way

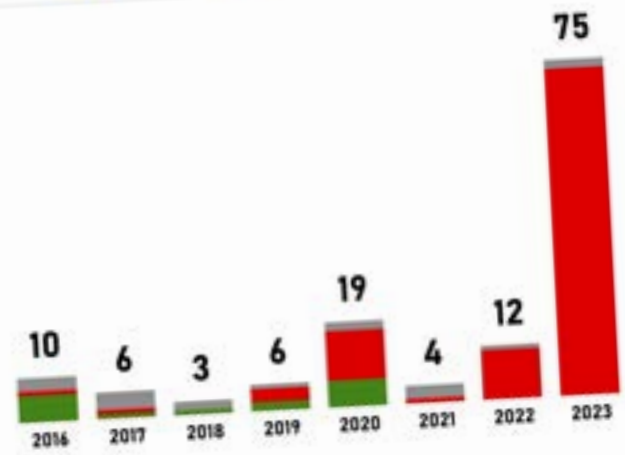
Source: Pexels.

Final thoughts

4

LGBTQI+ hate is on the rise

Daily Telegraph coverage of trans people
Number of articles published in first month of each year
- POSITIVE
- NEGATIVE
- NEUTRAL

Year	Number
2016	10
2017	6
2018	3
2019	6
2020	19
2021	4
2022	12
2023	75

The Pink News

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Gender-Affirming Care Bans Impacting Youth

LAW OR POLICY BANNING GENDER AFFIRMING CARE HAS PASSED
UP TO AGE 18

**35.1%** of transgender youth live in states that have passed bans on gender affirming care

ACLU
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
The ACLU is tracking **506** anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Choose a state on the map to show the different bills targeting LGBTQ rights and take action. While not all of these bills will become law, they all cause harm for LGBTQ people.

View past legislative sessions.

Bills per state
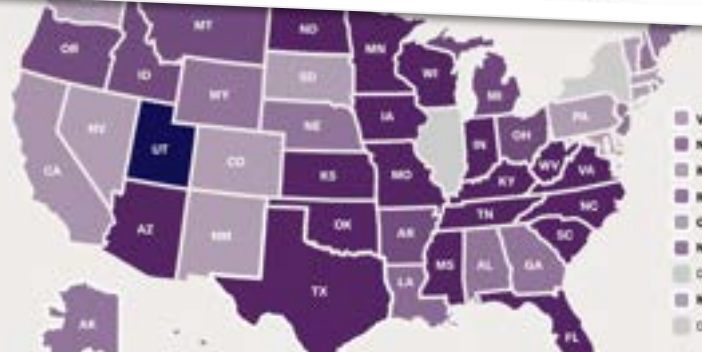
Let us learn from history and not make the same mistakes

Alan Turing was **prosecuted** in 1952 for homosexual acts.

He accepted hormone treatment with DES, a procedure commonly referred to as chemical castration, as an alternative to prison.
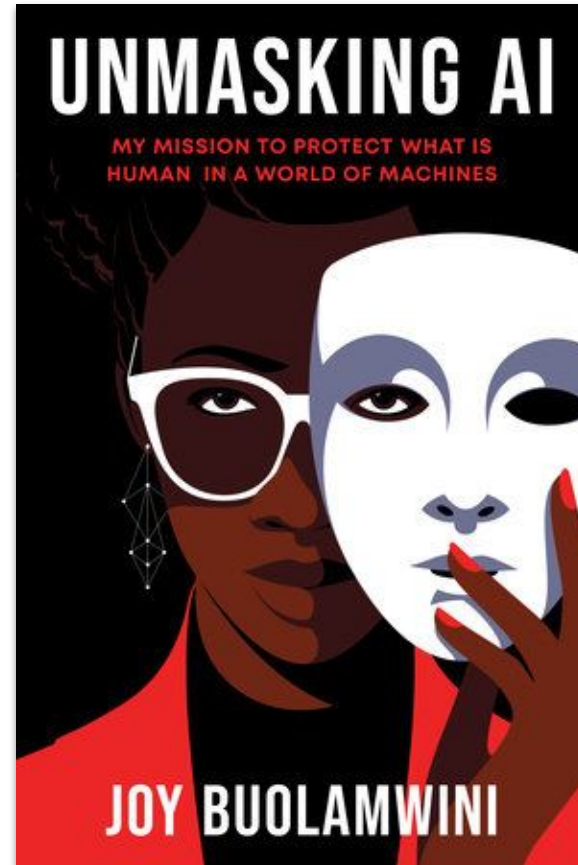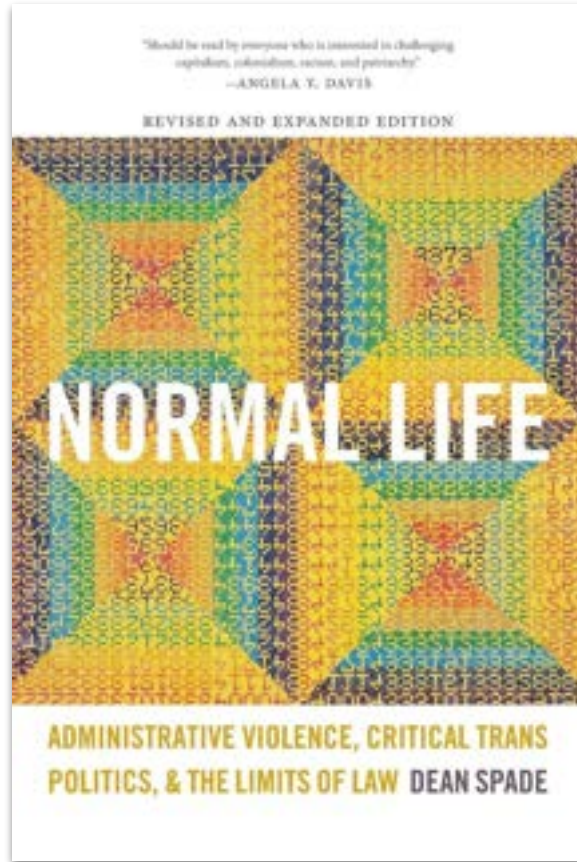
He died in 1954, just **four years** after publishing *The Imitation Game*.

Gordon Brown made an official public **apology** in 2009, and Queen Elizabeth II granted a **pardon** in 2013.

"

Sometimes it's the very people who no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.

Alan Turing, Joan Clarke, Christopher Morcom
The Imitation Game

Book tips!

"Should be read by everyone who is interested in challenging capitalism, colonialism, racism, and patriarchy."
—ANGELA Y. DAVIS

REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION

NORMAL LIFE

ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLENCE, CRITICAL TRANS POLITICS, & THE LIMITS OF LAW DEAN SPADE

UNMASKING AI

MY MISSION TO PROTECT WHAT IS HUMAN IN A WORLD OF MACHINES

JOY BUOLAMWINI

Thank you.

Jasmijn Bastings
Sr Research Scientist

Google DeepMind