# SEX, RACE, and ALGORITHMS





## Nature Unveiling Herself Before Science

by Louis-Ernest Barrias (1899)

- Feminine personifications ex. Mother Nature
- Sexually charged Mary v. Madonna duality
  - Exposed breasts, fabric clings to form
  - Shy look away, head bowed
- Passive role, subject to action of inspection



## Ex Machina (2014) dir. by Alex Garland

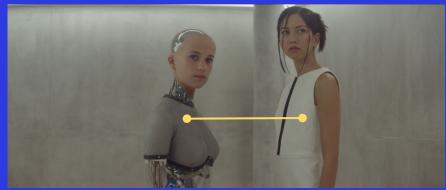


## REPLICATING ESTABLISHED GENDER ROLES

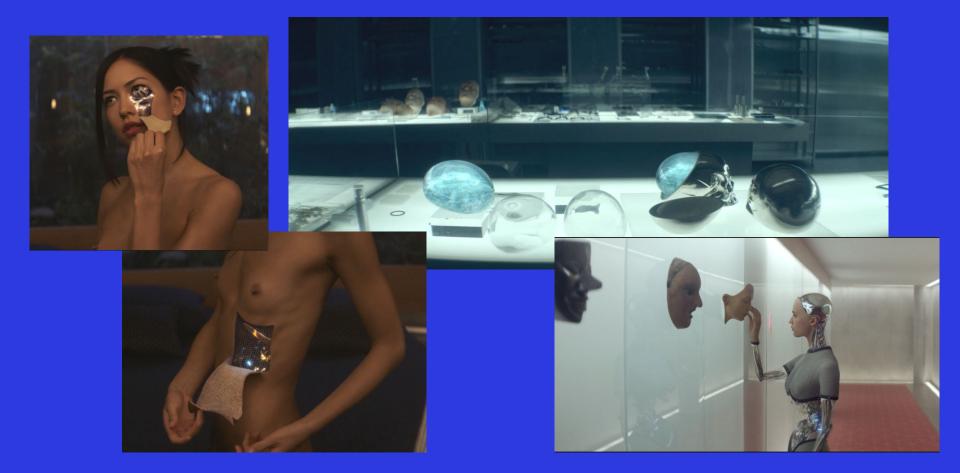




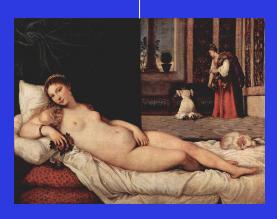




## OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN'S BODIES











CALEB

You selected me by my search engine inputs.

NATHAN

They showed a good kid.

CALEB

With no family.

NATHAN

With a moral compass.

CALEB And no girlfriend.

CALEB stares into the brightness above him.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Did you design her face based on my pornography profile?

NATHAN

Shit, dude.

"Without consumer demand for big, bandwidth-hogging sex pictures and streaming video, Cisco would never have sold so many routers and Sun Microsystems so many servers. Without programming pioneers trying to perfect video streaming software that would deliver images of copulation and procreation to paying customers hooked up with a 28.8 kbps dial-up modem, it is unlikely that CNN would be effectively delivering news clips of global breaking news. Without sexoriented chat and forums to sustain its early years, America Online might never have survived. The e-commerce payment systems that are so common today would be in a far more primitive stage of development, security and usability. Indeed, without advertising from sex sites, Yahoo! would be just another Web company with a bloody red bottom line."

-Lewis Perdue, Eroticabiz: How Sex Shaped the Internet

Neb Images Videos	Maps News Shopping Gmail more	Sign in
	Asian girls  Advanced search	] h
Search	About 84,900,000 results (0.08 seconds)	
Everything Images Maps Videos	Asian Girls: Porn & Sex Pictures & Movies aslangirlsi.com/ - Cached Asian School Girl, 23. E. Japan Girls, 33. 43. 04. Your Asian World, 14. Japan X Tgp, 24. Sexy Asian Movies, 34. 44. 05. Midnight Asian, 15. Girls From Asia, 25	Meet Asian Girls www.aslandating.com Find Your Dream Asian Woman. 1000's Of Singles Online Nowl
News Shopping More Urbana, IL	Asian Girls asian-girls.tumblr.com/ - Cached Pictures of beautiful Asian girls from around the world. Please feel free to ask any questions and submit content.	Live Asian Hookers Online www.asianhookers.com/ Live Asian Hookers on Webcam Free Chat and live Adult Cams Meet Brazilian Girls
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► Sugary Black Pussy .com-Black girls in a hardcore action galeries sugaryblackpussy.com/

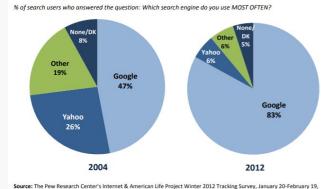
(black pussy and hairy black pussy,black sex,black booty,black ass,black teen pussy,big black ass,black porn star,hot **black girl**) ...

Figure I.1. First search result on keywords "black girls," September 2011.

Web Images Videos	Maps News Shopping Gmail more -	Sign in
	Latina girls  Advanced sear	eh
Search	About 89,100,000 results (0.07 seconds)	
Everything	Latina Girls Fucking Videos > Most Recent >	Ads
Images	Page 1 www.tnaflix.com/latina-porn - Cached	Meet Latin Beauties www.latinamericancupid.com/Dating
Maps	Watch latina girls fucking movies for free! Hot sexy big ass latina girls fucking on video! Latina porm movies fucking	Meet Sexy Latin Singles Now. Browse Photo Profiles. Join Free!
Videos	hard and sucking dick! Thousands of free	
News	Perfect Latina Girls - Cute and hot latina girls	Gorgeous Latin Women www.colombiancupid.com
Shopping	<u>archive.</u> perfectlatinagirls.com/ - Cached	Colombian Women Are Waiting For You Join Free Now. Don't Miss Out!
More	18 yr old First Timer! Gigi roller blades around town in booty shorts. Dora starts to strip in her friends car. Isabell in a	Beautiful Latin Girls
00020 10201	Baby Doll. TOP FREE LATINA GIRLS SITES	www.amolatina.com
Urbana, IL Change location	Wild Latina Girls - Latina Sex www.wildlatinagirls.com/ - Cached	1000s Ladies Profiles from Mexico & Brazil. Find your Perfect Match!
All results	If it's Latina pussy, latina booty or hot slutty latina teens you are looking for, wild latina girls is where you need to be.	Free Latin Porn www.freelatinaporntube.com
Sites with images	Latin sluts from all over the globe cum right	Watch uncensored Latin porn.
More search tools	Latina Girls: Find Dominican Women &	A must see porn site - 100% Free!

## Google

- 92.05% of global search engine market share (as of Feb 2021)\*
- 2020 revenue: est. 181.69 billion USD\*
- 73% most or all information found is accurate and trustworthy\*\*
- 66% search engines are fair and unbiased source\*\*
- 68% not okay with targeted online advertising



Source: The Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project Winter 2012 Tracking Survey, January 20-February 19, 2012. N=2,253 adults, age 18 and older, including 901 cell phone interviews. Interviews conducted in English and Spanish.

\*\* 2012 study of 2253 adults by Pew Research Center

<sup>\*</sup> Statista

"They freely provide, it seems, a sorting of the wheat from the chaff and answer our most profound and most trivial questions. They have become an object of faith"

-Alex Halavais

#### NATHAN

You know I wrote it down. That other line you came up with. About how if I've created a conscious machine, I'm not man. I'm God.

#### CALEB

... I don't think that's exactly what I said.

NATHAN doesn't seem to hear.

#### NATHAN

I just thought - fuck. That's so perfect. It's so good for the story, when we get to tell it. 'I turned to Caleb, and he was looking back at me. And he said: you're not a man, you're a God'.

#### CALEB

But I didn't say that.

#### NATHAN

Whatever it was you said. I wrote it down.

#### CALEB

... Blue Book.

NATHAN nods.

#### NATHAN

It was the weird thing about search engines. They were like striking oil in a world that hadn't invented internal combustion. They gave too much raw material. No one knew what to do with it.

CALEB looks at the orb in his hand. Into the shimmering liquid.

It looks like deep space, filled with star fields.

#### NATHAN (CONT'D)

My competitors were fixated on sucking it up, and trying to monetize via shopping and social media. They thought engines were a map of what people were thinking. But actually, they were a map of how people were thinking. Impulse, response. Fluid, imperfect. Patterned, chaotic.

"Despite the widespread beliefs in the Internet as a democratic space where people have the power to dynamically participate as equals, the Internet is in fact organized to the benefit of powerful elites, 51 including corporations that can afford to purchase and redirect searches to their own sites. What is most popular on the Internet is not wholly a matter of what users click on"

-Sufiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression

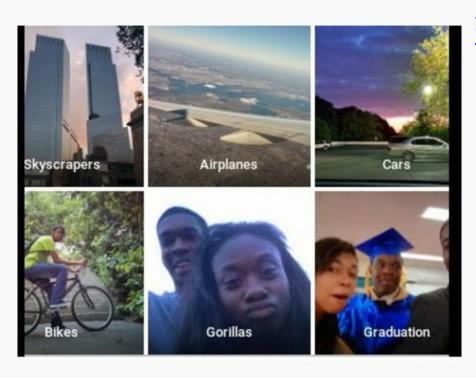


"How to Stop Al from Marginalized Communities" By Timnit Gebru

## **Discussion**

- Which applications of AI do you think are the most biased?
- Why is representation among people who implement Al algorithms important?

## Google Labels Black People as "Gorillas"



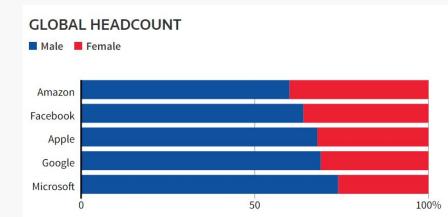
https://www.bbc.com/news/technolog y-33347866

- Same app tags photos of dogs as horses
- Racist Al or a coincidence?
- Their suggested fixes:
- Remove certain labels
- Being more careful about linguistics
- Better recognition of dark skinned faces

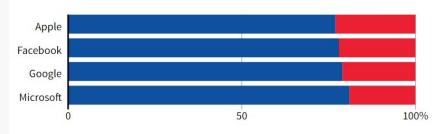
## **Amazon's Sexist Al Recruiting Tool**

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-c om-jobs-automation-insight/amazon-scrapssecret-ai-recruiting-tool-that-showed-bias-a gainst-women-idUSKCNIMK08G

- Models trained to pick applicants by looking at patterns in resumes submitted over the past 10 years
- Resumes that included "women's" were penalized
- Amazon's solution: make programs neutral to such terms



#### **EMPLOYEES IN TECHNICAL ROLES**



Note: Amazon does not disclose the gender breakdown of its technical workforce. Source: Latest data available from the companies, since 2017.

By Han Huang | REUTERS GRAPHICS

### Nature: Al can be sexist and racist

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05707-8

## Major bias source: training data and how it's obtained

- Data sets often formed by grad students or crowdsourcing platforms using specific query terms
- Encodes unintentional ethnic, cultural and sexit biases
- Particularly problematic in fields where it's hard to obtain data such as medicine
- Highlights institutional biases as well

## Another source of bias: Algorithms themselves

- Changing the learning algorithm to reduce its dependence on gender, ethnicity, income,... etc
- Evaluating algorithms with test data sets perpetuate the biases

## References

Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (2018) by Safiya Umoja Noble <a href="https://muse.jhu.edu/book/64995">https://muse.jhu.edu/book/64995</a>

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