Title of Project: Situating London’s AI Homelessness Model: Considering Historical, Social, Political, Legal and Policy Contexts

Undergraduate Students

| Undergraduate Students | 2 students (MIT or MPI) will each be hired for 2 terms at $1,250 per term |

Required Skills: Excellent communication skills; ability to work in a team environment; organizational skills; completion of MIT2025 Research Methods in the Digital Age with a final grade of 75 or higher.

Suggested Skills: Digital skills (journalism, communication or graphic design experience are assets)

Term of Employment: September – December 2021; January- April 2022

Research Team:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Melissa Adler, FIMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alissa Centivany, FIMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Lizotte, Departments of Computer Science, and Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics</td>
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<td>Joanna Redden, FIMS</td>
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<td>Luke Stark, FIMS</td>
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Description of Project

In August 2020, the city of London announced that it had developed a Chronic Homelessness Artificial Intelligence (AI) model to help officials predict which individuals are likely to become chronically homeless. London’s use of AI to tackle homelessness reflects a larger shift in governance approaches, as governments around the world increasingly turn to AI and automated systems in an attempt to use automated prediction systems to better target services, increase efficiency and lower cost. The promise of AI carries with it significant risks, given the range of harms people are experiencing as a result of this datafied turn by governments. This project will work to situate the CHAI project in a wider context in order to better understand the risk/benefit trade-offs of CHAI and to understand how CHAI could inform similar projects elsewhere.

The study will involve four integrated streams:

a) historicizing the datafied turn to tackling homelessness through AI by placing this new practice within a longer and history of poverty politics and policy;

b) investigating the impact of this AI system from a social justice and intersectional perspective;

c) considering how this system is part of changing information systems and ways of knowing; and,
d) detailing the rights-based legal and ethical implications of this new data practice. The study will use a mixed methods approach using document analysis, semi-structured interviews as well as a data system audit.

| Support and development of Undergraduate Student Fellows |

The project provides undergraduate fellows with interdisciplinary training and experience in project development and design, and research methods training. Students will be involved at every stage of the research process and will be mentored and supported by the faculty research team.

Each undergraduate student will be responsible for research support related to one or more of the project’s streams and will work primarily with one of the project’s investigators. Expected time commitment for the project is approximately 5 hours per week, with allowances for changes in course workload over the semester.

Duties of each undergraduate student will involve:
- Document analysis support: analyzing government reports, meeting minutes, contracts, legislation and policy guidelines.
- Secondary research support: finding and collecting relevant primary and secondary source materials
- Digital/social media administration (such as simple website setup/maintenance)
- Assisting with the preparation of research ethics applications
- Writing and editing support for academic publications

An initial team workshop will be held to foster a collaborative and supportive working environment and bi-monthly team meetings will provide a valuable opportunity for team support and development. In addition, the project will involve professionalization opportunities as the fellows engage with the project team as well as with civil servants and civil society organizations.

Interested students will be provided with an opportunity to gain presentation experience as they are invited to co-present the project and its findings at a workshop and at other FIMS opportunities such as the seminar series, public library talks or graduate student research day.