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Sabbatical Report, Fall 2024

I completed edits to my article, “Classificatory versus transformative data regimes: towards a positive right to data production and analysis.” This article was published in 2025 in the following volume: Sarah Giest, Bram Klievink, Alex Ingrams and Matthew Young (eds.), *The Handbook on Governance and Data Science*, Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2025.

In addition I did extensive reading and began a draft of new papers following up on my published article. One paper deals with how epistemic power is created not just from a circulatory perspective (the flow of already-existing information and knowledge) but from a production perspective (the turning of unknowns into knowns through experiment and analysis); this distinction puts into sharper focus new avenues through which inequalities in epistemic power occur and are sustained. Another line of research I have been doing extensive reading on looks how earlier moments in history dealing with the interaction of humans with machine-like processes replicate some of the problems that artificial intelligence now poses. These separate but related lines of research will eventually be drafted into new potential papers.

Finally, I met weekly with two former students who graduated from Sonoma State University in 2024, both of whom have an interest in pursuing graduate studies. We are extending research they initially started with a Koret grant in 2024. The research deals with how the TikTok algorithm responds to different identities. TikTok has become a dominant social media platform supposedly because of its personalization and supposed ability to get people hooked on the app through delivering to users content that they would personally find highly engaging. Our initial results back in spring 2024 was that the TikTok algorithm does not personalize well to certain identities, such as sexual orientation minority identities like asexual and nonbinary. Over the fall of 2024, I have guided the graduates in further exploring the algorithm and solidifying our methodology through purchase of anonymous phones and creation of fake identities to see how the

algorithm responds. This has laid the ground for us to set summer 2025 as the time in which we will formally set up an experiment and collect data that we hope will be the basis for an article that the graduates can be listed as authors.