

Passphrase for today: **Karen Hao**

I came to media via Silicon Valley.

Whether I'm interviewing scientists about their research or poring over data to find my next story, I have always thrived best at the intersection of storytelling and technology.

I am now covering China tech & society at the Wall Street Journal. Prior to that, I was a senior editor at [MIT Technology Review](#), where I wrote about the latest research and social impacts of artificial intelligence. I'm also a [Harvard Technology and Public Purpose fellow](#) and was an [MIT Knight Science Journalism fellow](#).

My work won an [ASME Next Award](#) in 2022 for "outstanding achievement for magazine journalists under the age of 30." My former weekly newsletter, [The Algorithm](#), was named one of the best newsletters on the internet by The Webby Awards, and an AI podcast I co-produced called [In Machines We Trust](#) won two Front Page Awards.

In 2020 and 2021, my pieces on [the forced dismissal of Google's ethical AI co-lead Timnit Gebru](#) and [Facebook's addiction to and funding of misinformation](#) were cited by Congress ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). In 2018, my "What is AI?" flowchart was featured in a [museum exhibit](#) in Vienna.

I have guest lectured at MIT, Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, NYU, and Notre Dame. My work is taught in universities around the world.

My writing has also appeared in Quartz, Mother Jones, The New Republic, and other publications. In a past life, I was an application engineer at the first startup to spin out of Google[x]. I received a B.S. in mechanical engineering and minor in energy studies from MIT.



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

We read the paper that forced Timnit Gebru out of Google. Here's what it says.

The company's star ethics researcher highlighted the risks of large language models, which are key to Google's business.

By Karen Hao December 4, 2020

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How Facebook got addicted to spreading misinformation

The company's AI algorithms gave it an insatiable habit for lies and hate speech. Now the man who built them can't fix the problem.

by **Karen Hao**
March 11, 2021

Joaquin Quiñero Candela, a director of AI at Facebook, was apologizing to his audience.

Discussion Prompts

- **We're going to start without me biasing you!**
- **Come up, with your group, with 1 question, and post it on the relevant thread on piazza**
- Pending how many questions we find that we like, we'll use some of Atri and my's summary points, or not.

Some points we noted

- Reflections on the IP
- Why do academics talk like that?
- How *should* we do toxic content moderation?
- Is boycotting effective? Does anything ever change? Is this all hopeless?
- Who is to "blame" for what happened to the workers? Is it even so bad?
- What are the costs of developing "good AI" (Suradhya)
- Wouldn't focusing on a marginalized group mean that it won't be applicable generally?
- Questions (for next week)
 - What is Black feminist theory?
 - What is the matrix of domination?
 - If X doesn't do it, won't Y just do it?