## Passpharse 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 Al podcast I co-produced called In Machines We Trust won two Front Page Awards.

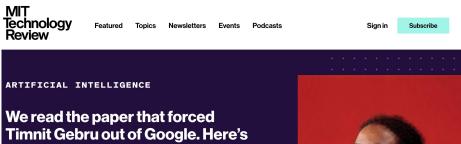
In 2020 and 2021, my pieces on the forced dismissal of Google's ethical Al co-lead Timnit Gebru and Facebook's addiction to and funding of misinformation were cited by Congress (here, here, and here). In 2018, my "What is Al?" flowchart was featured in a museum exhibit in Vienna.

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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MINI

by **Karen Hao** March 11, 2021 Joaquin Quiñonero Candela, a director of Al 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?