The Persistent Problem of the Fair Algorithm
Tucker Sechrest

What makes algorithms such powerful tools? What can they do that we can't? Why do we deploy them so broadly? Why might we prefer an algorithm to a human in making a decision?

Why should an algorithm struggle to resolve long-standing inequalities like the gender pay-gap or unequal sentencing for minority offenders? It simply needs to be properly calibrated.

Why should we worry about the use of predictive policing? If an algorithm can help catch more criminals, what reason do we have to object? Unless you're doing something illegal, you have nothing to worry about.

Why can't algorithms simply give us an answer to what would be "fair" in different contexts? Why can't an algorithm adequately balance competing values like privacy and public good?