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ASSEMBLY PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

**AUTOMATED DECISION SYSTEMS AND FRONTIER MODELS: RISKS AND  
MITIGATIONS**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Room 437

**PANELIST BIOS**

**Panel 1: Automated decision systems, algorithmic discrimination, and unsafe or ineffective systems**

**1) Arvind Narayanan – Professor of Computer Science, Princeton University; Director of Center for Information Technology Policy.**

Arvind Narayanan is a professor of computer science at Princeton University and the director of the Center for Information Technology Policy. He is a co-author of the book *AI Snake Oil* and a newsletter of the same name which is read by 50,000 researchers, policy makers, journalists, and AI enthusiasts. He previously co-authored two widely used computer science textbooks: *Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Technologies* and *Fairness in Machine Learning*. Narayanan led the Princeton Web Transparency and Accountability Project to uncover how companies collect and use our personal information. His work was among the first to show how machine learning reflects cultural stereotypes. Narayanan was one of TIME's inaugural list of 100 most influential people in AI. He is a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

**2) Alondra Nelson – Professor of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study; Head of Science, Technology, and Social Values Lab.**

**Alondra Nelson**, a renowned scholar and author, is the Harold F. Linder Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, where she leads the Science, Technology, and Social Values Lab. Author of *The Social Life of DNA*, she served as Deputy Assistant to President Biden and Acting Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where her work advanced responsible technological development, scientific integrity, and public access to taxpayer-funded research.

Professor Nelson is a distinguished senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. As a policy researcher and adviser, she provides guidance on domestic and international policy

matters to local, state, and federal governments, legislators, multilateral and international organizations, and the philanthropic sector. She has participated in the U.S. Senate AI Insight Forum, served as a member of the High-level Advisory Body on AI that issued the United Nations' Governing AI for Humanity report, and contributed to the first International AI Safety Report.

**3) Cathy O’Neil – Mathematician, data scientist, and author; founder, O’Neil Risk Consulting & Algorithmic Auditing.**

Cathy O’Neil earned a Ph.D. in math from Harvard and worked as a math professor at Barnard College before switching over to the private sector, working as a quant for the hedge fund D.E. Shaw and as a data scientist in the New York start-up scene. With her popular blog [mathbabe.org](http://mathbabe.org), O’Neil emerged as an investigative journalist. Her acclaimed book *Weapons of Math Destruction* details how opaque, black-box algorithms rely on biased historical data to do everything from sentence defendants to hire workers. In 2017, O’Neil founded consulting firm ORCAA to audit algorithms for racial, gender and economic inequality. Her opinion columns are published in Bloomberg View and she is a former Director of the Lede Program in Data Practices at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism’s Tow Center. In 1993 O’Neil was awarded the Alice T. Schafer Prize from the Association for Women in Mathematics and in 2019 she won the MAA’s Euler Book Prize for her book *Weapons of Math Destruction*.

**Panel 2: Frontier models and catastrophic risks**

**1) Yoshua Bengio, Full Professor, Department of Computer Science and Operations Research (DIRO), Université de Montréal; Founder and Scientific Advisor of Mila - Quebec AI Institute**

Yoshua Bengio is Full Professor of Computer Science at Université de Montreal, as well as the Founder and Scientific Advisor of Mila and a Canada CIFAR AI Chair. Considered one of the world’s leaders in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning, he is the recipient of the 2018 A.M. Turing Award, considered like the "Nobel prize of computing". He is also the most cited computer scientist worldwide.

Professor Bengio is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of London and Canada, an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Knight of the Legion of Honor of France, a member of the UN’s Scientific Advisory Board for Independent Advice on Breakthroughs in Science and Technology and chairs the International AI Safety Report.

**2) Kevin Esvelt – Professor of Media Arts and Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.**

Kevin M. Esvelt is a professor at the MIT Media Lab, where he leads the Sculpting Evolution Group in advancing biotechnology safely.

Prior to joining the MIT Media Lab, Esvelt wove many different areas of science into novel approaches to ecological engineering. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University for inventing a synthetic microbial ecosystem to rapidly evolve useful biomolecules, and subsequently helped pioneer the development of CRISPR, a powerful new method of genome engineering.

An outspoken advocate of sharing research plans to accelerate discovery and improve safety, Esvelt's MIT lab seeks to accelerate beneficial advances while safeguarding biotechnology against mistrust and misuse. Projects include building catalytic platforms for directed evolution, pioneering new ways of developing ecotechnologies with the guidance of local communities, developing early-warning systems to reliably detect any catastrophic biological threat, applying cryptographic methods to enable secure and universal DNA synthesis screening, and advising policymakers on how best to mitigate global catastrophic biorisks.

His work has been published in *Nature* and *Science*, covered by the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, and featured on *Last Week Tonight* and the Netflix special *Unnatural Selection*.

3) **Mariano-Florentino (Tino) Cuéllar, President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.**

Mariano-Florentino (Tino) Cuéllar is the tenth president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, an institution created by Andrew Carnegie in 1910 to advise policymakers, support diplomacy, and conduct independent research on international cooperation, conflict, and governance. A former justice of the Supreme Court of California, Cuéllar has served three U.S. presidential administrations at the White House and in federal agencies and was the Stanley Morrison Professor at Stanford University, where he held appointments in law, political science, and international affairs and led the university's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. He has served on the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Affairs Policy Board, and chairs the board of the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cuéllar has published widely on American public law and democracy, how fast-evolving technologies like artificial intelligence affect public institutions, and how political economy shapes the administrative systems that manage transnational challenges. During nearly seven years on California's highest court, he wrote opinions addressing separation of powers, policing and criminal justice, democracy, technology and privacy, international agreements, and climate and environmental law. As director of Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute, Cuéllar oversaw the university's major research centers and educational programs focused on governance and development, international security, health policy, climate and food security, and contemporary Asia and Europe.

In the first term of the Obama administration, he led the White House Domestic Policy Council's teams working on civil and criminal justice, public health, immigration, and regulatory reform. He began his career at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the second term of the Clinton administration. Cuéllar serves on the boards of Inflection AI and Harvard University. He graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School and received a PhD in political science from Stanford University.