Speaker 1:

The Disability and Philanthropy Forum presents Lydia X. Z. Brown, Center for Democracy and Technology.

Speaker 2:

We already know, in 2021, that technology is ubiquitous and that algorithms are present in every part of our lives, from deciding what ads you see, to whether or not you will be targeted for a particular credit offer, or even perhaps whether you'll get a job, or whether you'll be referred for a specialist screening after seeing a primary care physician. What many people don't know as the algorithms have particularly profound, painful, and discriminatory impact on disabled people, especially disabled people in the margins of the margins.

Speaker 2:

Whether we're talking about the ways in which algorithmic systems and technologies uphold carceral spaces through predictive policing, based on predictive data analytics and prioritizing allocating police resources to communities, mostly impoverished black and brown and disabled communities, that have always and already been subjected to hyper-surveillance and criminalization, to reinforce those cycles of criminalization and incarceration. Whether through the use of predictive policing tools that bleed into our judicial system through algorithmic risk assessments that disproportionately deny bail and access to release to people who have always been over criminalized, incarcerated, and surveilled. Again, always having been black, brown, indigenous, queer and trans, and disabled folks.

Speaker 2:

The ways in which automated technologies exist to manage and to control the ways that students and workers learn and do their jobs through surveillance, through management, through monitoring, through use of automated remote exam proctoring everywhere from elementary school to post-graduate education, to the use of software programs that allow bots to spy on their workers, whether in warehouses, in offices, or even working from home.

Speaker 2:

With the ways in which governments use algorithmic tools to make decisions about public benefits, access to welfare, food stamps, ability-specific benefits, publicly funded or subsidized healthcare, all of which disproportionately impact disabled people because our communities are disproportionately impoverished, generationally poor. We are underemployed, we are unemployed, and we are precariously employed, and thereby more dependent upon forms of public support and subsidization. All of which wrap up in eugenicist ideas of existing only as burdens, existing as drains on society, and being insufficiently capable of performing productivity and contributing citizenship, which itself is a concept wrapped up in settler colonialism and white supremacy.

Speaker 1:

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