Torsdag d. 18. marts, kl. 14:30-15:30 (ONLINE)

Forskningsenheden for biomedicinens, sundhedsfagenes og folkesundhedsvidenskabernes filosofi og videnskabsteori

Justin Biddle (Associate Professor, Georgia Institute of Philosophy)

"On Predicting Criminality: Epistemic Risk, Values, and Racial Justice in Machine Learning"

Abstract: Recent scholarship in philosophy of science and technology has shown that scientific and technological decision making are laden with values, including values of a social, political, and/or ethical character. This paper examines the role of value judgments in the design of machine-learning (ML) systems generally and in recidivism-prediction algorithms specifically. Drawing on work on inductive and epistemic risk, the paper argues that ML systems are value laden in ways similar to human decision making, because the development and design of ML systems requires human decisions that involve tradeoffs that reflect values. In many cases, these decisions have significant—and in some cases, disparate—downstream impacts on human lives. After examining an influential court decision regarding the use of proprietary recidivism-prediction algorithms in criminal sentencing, Wisconsin v. Loomis, the paper provides three recommendations for the use of ML in penal systems.

Please contact Anke for the zoom link.