NOT-EQUAL

EPSRC NetworkPlus: Social Justice through the Digital Economy

Project Review Form - Mid-Term Review Pilot Project

Please submit this form before the deadline of **5pm on the 13th December to notequal@ncl.ac.uk.**

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Lead Applicant (PI): Dr Helen Pallett **Email address:** h.pallett@uea.ac.uk **Job Title:** Lecturer **Department:** School of Environmental Sciences **Organisation:** University of East Anglia	**Co-Investigators (names and organisations):** Professor Jason Chilvers (UEA), Simon Burall (Involve), Dr Catherine Price (UEA) **Supporting Partner(s):** **Project Title:** Just Public Algorithms **Project Reference Number:** NE30

1. SUMMARY

Please provide a summary of the activities and/or initial findings of your research project to date. This also includes events, engagement activities with non-academic partners and any other activities. Please include any images or website links that could be used for dissemination purposes (at least 500 words).

In September the main focus of the project was in assembling the project team, and developing a shared sense of our collective aims for and outputs from the project. Most importantly we recruited a researcher to help carry out the review and mapping work for the project during September, and Dr Catherine Price commenced working on the project at the start of October.

The first phase of the project began at the start of October, with Catherine leading a review of the relevant existing academic and practitioner literature on responsible research and innovation frameworks, emerging approaches to public observatories and mapping participation as structures for responsible innovation, and the social impacts of algorithms and AI particularly in the context of their adoption in public services. This review work has confirmed that there has been to date relatively little work which explores frameworks and processes for ensuring responsible research and innovation in relation to algorithms, AI and other digital technologies. The focus in this area seems to have been on defining certain ethical principles for the development of emerging technologies, though there is increasingly criticism of this approach as lacking clear mechanisms to ensure the ethical development of these approaches. Another key contribution of this review work has been to get an overview of the main ways that algorithms have been adopted in the areas of health and social care, policing and justice, immigration, and welfare policy in the UK. Alongside a synthesis of excellent recent research on the social impacts of algorithms, these findings provide a good basis on which to begin our mapping of public engagement with the adoption of algorithms in public services in the UK.

From mid-November onwards Catherine has been leading this mapping work: firstly analyzing case studies of public engagement with algorithms in public services which were identified in the literature review using our conceptual framework for mapping participation; and secondly beginning to search for additional examples of diverse public engagement (including, for example, involvement in research projects, organized protests, or everyday engagements with these new approaches) in the academic literature, media and grey literature. This work is ongoing, but is already starting to build up a bigger picture of the different ways citizens are engaging with these emerging approaches, and the broader concerns and values which these responses reflect.

The other area of work on the project to date has been preparing for phase two which will involve running a high level stakeholder workshop to conduct early foresight around the adoption of algorithms in public services in the UK, and to discuss appropriate governance structures to ensure the more responsible development of these approaches. This part of the project is being led by Simon Burall at Involve who is responsible for the workshop design and running. Both the outputs of the review work and mapping of public engagement conducted in phase one of the project will provide materials for the workshop. The date and venue of this closed workshop have now been set and we have secured the attendance of a number of important participants from government, civil society, academia and business with relevant expertise in this area.

Please indicate if these details can be shared in a blog post on the Not-Equal website   YES

2. WORK PLAN

Please explain any deviations from your work plan, the reasons for this and plans to address the issue (up to 250 words)

There have been no deviations from the work plan in our original proposal.

Further Information

If you have any further questions regarding this form, please contact notequal@ncl.ac.uk or 0191 2088268.