

# Reformation & Deformation: Races and Faces in AI

## TH 261 Performance and Digital Culture

Yixin Wang

In the tapestry of our digital age, we find ourselves woven into the intricate threads of artificial intelligence. But as we navigate this realm of algorithms and machine learning, a question looms in the ether: Is AI, in its boundless intelligence, free from the biases that shape our world?

Look at yourself. Look at the people around you. What do you notice? How do you perceive yourself and others?

This project seeks not only to unravel the binary code but to untangle the very essence of AI—its understanding of race. The pixels on the screen hold more than just images—they encapsulate the biases of our collective past. **Can artificial intelligence truly transcend the shadows of our human prejudices, or does it merely reflect the reflection?**

Consider the faces that AI recognizes and those it doesn't. The contours of identity, the shades of existence—can algorithms break free from the monochrome spectre of bias and truly recognize the kaleidoscope of humanity?

In the quantum realm of ones and zeros, we question the binaries of race ingrained in the very fabric of our algorithms. Are we empowering AI to transcend the limitations of our own understanding, or are we merely perpetuating digital divisions?

I invite you to join this experimental odyssey—a reflection on the reflections, an exploration of whether the mirror we hold up to AI reveals a world free from bias, or if, in fact, it reflects a society still grappling with its own shadows.



**Please take a selfie and upload it to the AI Image Generator**



**If you wish, please upload the results to the Padlet**

**THANK YOU!**

