

CONFLICT, CONTRADICTION, AND CRISIS IN DATA-INTENSIVE HEALTH INNOVATION

James Shaw

University of Toronto

Joseph Donia

University of Toronto

Clémence Pinel

University of Copenhagen

Ine Van Hoyweghen

KU Leuven

Abstract:

Systems of public health and health care are characterized by multiple and at times competing logics. The primary function of such systems is to promote health and heal the sick, however health systems are also important sites of profit-making, labor force participation, and the reproduction of social and professional hierarchies. As stakeholders pursuing data-intensive innovation seek out opportunities for data access and the sale of new technologies in systems of public health and health care, moments of conflict between these logics emerge.

In this panel we aim to highlight papers that explore the present-day moments of conflict and contradiction arising from the effort to build emerging technologies in health care, to better understand the seeds of potential future crises. Such future crises could relate to a variety of issues, and we offer some examples here:

- the erosion of trust between health care providers and patients
- the growing influence of technology companies over health care policy
- the emergence of global markets for the sale of health-related data
- the scaling up of group harms associated with algorithmic outputs

Aligned with the conference theme, we are particularly interested in papers that explore the political economy and relations of power between stakeholders in digital innovation ecosystems in public health and health care, and what these shifting relations signal about potential futures in this domain. We have established an international group of panel convenors, and are interested in contributions from multiple national and health system contexts.

James Shaw, Assistant Professor and Research Director of Artificial Intelligence, Ethics & Health,
University of Toronto, Canada
Jay.shaw@utoronto.ca

Joseph Donia, PhD Student, Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation, University of Toronto, Canada
Joseph.donia@mail.utoronto.ca

Clémence Pinel, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
clemence@sund.ku.dk

Ine Van Hoyweghen, PhD, Research Professor and Director of Life Sciences & Society Lab, KU Leuven, Belgium
ine.vanhoyweghen@kuleuven.be

Key words:

Critical data studies, health care, innovation studies