

Are Innovation Systems Stacked against Equity?

2023 Buchdahl Lecture February 23 at 5pm in the Talley Coastal Ballroom

There is growing awareness that our innovation system reflects and sometimes even reinforces social inequity and injustice. Marginalized communities rarely experience direct benefits from innovation investment. Structural biases are built into devices like facial recognition and the pulse oximeter, while many life-saving technologies are inaccessible to those who need them most. In response, governments, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector have begun to support “inclusive innovation”, technological development explicitly for and often also by marginalized communities. Drawing from my research in India, a pioneer in inclusive innovation, I argue that in their current form, these initiatives are unlikely to be successful. To produce significant positive change, we will need to fundamentally reimagine



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