Graduate Research Assistant: Technology and Democracy White Paper Series

The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy are partnering to develop a white paper series on technology, democracy, and human rights. Over the coming months and years, the series will produce policy-oriented papers, co-authored by scholars and practitioners, about how technology is changing the pursuit of democratic renewal and the protection of human rights.

**What**

The series aims to flip the narrative around technology policy. Instead of exploring the impact of technology on democracy or human rights, the series will explore what the pursuit of democracy and the protection of human rights should mean for how we govern technology. Instead of exploring the implications of technology for democratic values and human rights, we explore the implications of democratic values and human rights for how we build and use technology. To better understand what it means to pursue democratic reform and protect human rights in the twenty-first century, we will interrogate the public policies and regulatory schemes at a federal, state, and local level that shape how technology is governed.

**How**

The paper series will deploy the [Justice, Health, and Democracy’s](https://ethics.harvard.edu/JHD-impact-initiative) innovative model for policy development. Addressing the challenges of technology governance is an opportunity to rethink how policy is made and who makes it. We will bring experts in technology, democracy, and human rights, together with leaders across jurisdictions and at all levels of government to ensure effective policy solutions for local implementation and national scale.

**Who**

We are seeking a graduate student to help organize, develop, and research/co-author white papers in the series. We will begin by focusing on the ethics and policy questions surrounding two topics: the use of predictive tools in policing and the criminal justice system, and the use of data in educational environments. We are seeking someone who can help identify the salient theoretical and practical questions in these domains and identify and convene practitioners, policy experts, and scholars who can work together to answer those questions.

The project will be fast-paced and output-focused, so we need candidates who are capable of managing multiple workstreams, excited to work across a variety of domains and disciplines, and willing to deliver high-quality written outputs within relatively short timescales. This is an opportunity to join an exciting initiative within two leading Centers at Harvard, to expand your research and practitioner networks, and develop cutting-edge scholarship and policy in the domains of technology, democracy and human rights.

**Eligibility**

This position is open to Harvard graduate students.

If interested, please submit a brief cover letter and CV/resume to Vickie Aldin, [valdin@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:valdin@fas.harvard.edu). The position is available immediately and applications will be considered on a rolling basis.