Meredith Broussard, *Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University*
For *Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World* (The MIT Press, 2018)

Meredith Broussard's powerful book, Artificial Unintelligence looks at the history of artificial intelligence from a new and necessary angle, and is strongly deserving of the Sally Hacker Prize. Broussard, a data journalist, professor, and programmer, tackles the history of how artificial intelligence's reality has never aligned with its public promises. This has led to the situation in which we find ourselves today, where AI technology is given credit for being more and of doing more than it actually is or can, and the public is repeatedly sold a vision of AI that seems far more capable and robust than the actual technology. Broussard shows how aggrandized ideas about AI create discourses of deskilling, harming workers whose jobs are continuously threatened with the prospect that they will soon "be done by AI." Broussard reveals how the promise of AI has failed repeatedly to deliver on such lofty promised results, while humans continue to do enormous amounts of labor to train AI systems. Labor is involved, too, in efforts to correct AI technologies when they return racist, sexist, and classist results because corporations often have opted to base the systems on cheap, pre-existing databases instead of paying more money to human workers to better train the system.

Artificial Unintelligence brings us squarely into the territory of one of the most pressing areas that we confront today: algorithmic bias, or, perhaps more accurately, an emergent form of technological oppression. Broussard uses her expertise to show, carefully and specifically, the ways in which the false promise of AI has translated into broken and inadequate systems that have been deployed in the real world, hurting those who already have the least power in society – those who were already most likely to be left out of consideration in the construction of pervading technological systems. Broussard demonstrates that AI is no different from numerous previous technologies and information infrastructures, except perhaps in how readily it scales and how uncritically it is often perceived. Those two aspects in fact make AI extremely dangerous to the populations that it purports to serve, but in fact discriminates against. Using examples of racist algorithms in particular, Broussard's book shows in no uncertain terms the stakes of understanding this history.

Broussard's highly accessible and suggestive Artificial Unintelligence is a model for how to integrate the history of technology with current concerns. It makes clear the incision and utility of history as a mode of inquiry into the contemporary world, while attending to the ongoing power of these specific historical technological claims that construct our current landscape.