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The recent convergence of big data, cloud computing, and novel machine learning algorithms and statistical methods is causing an explosive interest in data science and its applicability to all fields, enabling the automation of some tasks that better human performance. At the same time, such capabilities risk leading to biased, inappropriate, or unintended action.

The Data Science Institute at Columbia University promotes "Data for Good": using data to address societal challenges while bringing a humanistic perspective along with the new science and technology. In this talk, Professor Wing will present the mission of the institute, highlights of its educational and research activities, and plans for future initiatives.

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