Notes for the presentation:
Question from WenHao: What is common between google fb and advertising?
Common answer from audience: our personal information, data, preferences

Discussion from Professor? One important distinction between early industries (human labor) and IT industries is that before, the Displacement of information did not result in new industries. For example, displacement of some people who did labor manually in factories, meant that people were still needed to work in those factories.

The basis for the new industry: Who bought which object when and where? -> information
The automated transactions give new pieces of data that are used for new business models.

Can u give any examples of a time a company has surveilled you and bypassed user awareness?
-any addictive games/products bypass user awareness

Continuous experiment:
Discussion from Professor: When nature is commodified as real estate, the natural resources are finite. Data on behavior (surveillance capitalism) is mined and commodified. The difference is that this data supply is limitless.

CS questions:
Is this so important that it can only be resolved through changing laws?
What is the role of Computer Science or can we use CS to fix this situation?

Changing laws? CS research create a balance of power?

Anvi: we are all contributing as free labor to these companies.
3B people contributing. We are all contributing to train the model self driving cars - recaptcha and waymo
Maybe we can get paid for this free labor.
This amount of training data is required for technological advancements is massive.

Suneer:
Monitor how computers get our information, build applications to counter this in OS, etc.
Anonymize our data to keep discriminative data, by removing personally identifying information
Technological solutions?

Service<->information Allow access of service, as well as degrading information collecting form us

How do we limit the amount of data that is being sent about us without degrading quality of service?

Heather: extensions that exist that help you granularly
control what scripts, etc you want to enable to protect yourself.

Professor: Applications that intercede into data collection.
Create fake queries to google so that google's profile of us will be different. They created a bot that executed 100 queries for every query you actually executed. This will change google's understanding if you.

Con: it was very easy for google to block and notice that all queries are spam
Professors' idea for dealing with surveillance capitalism and possible research topic:
How is it possible to execute queries on google, that you can hide the real queries, however the behaviour profile that google will have of me is no different from average person fitting my description, therefore my data will become worthless to google as it is the same as that of an average person.

Basically google can't know that I'm trying to hide this data about me, so google is unaware that we are tricking it. If people can be successfully anonymous, can they then auction off their behaviour traces? Selling right now is of no use because google is already harvesting this data for free, however if google is forced to come to the auction (because the information it collected about us is useless by giving Google average data) then we as consumers can make some profit.

There are also things like incognito mode where some people switch to an incognito browser to not have it show up on their specific search history ,

If we can anonymize our behavior? Google might come to an auction of data market

Silas : The companies aren't giving informed consent.

Rick? : System 1 and System 2, system 1 is impulsive and makes decisions which are not reviewed by your reflective mind. No autonomy? Only 1 legal document in the constitution that talks about autonomy.

Heather: Couldn't offering alternatives be another solution for computer scientists? There are things like Duck Duck Go that I know people have switched to in order to maintain some "privacy" but then it goes back to how to get people to switch systems (like the convenience)

Anvi: There's a browser called ecosia that supports reforestation