

Racism and Technology Center Annual Report 2022

These are our 2022 Highlights:

1. Proctoring case

The Center supported bio-informatics student, Robin Pocornie, in filing an official complaint with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, against her university, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, for the use of discriminatory proctoring software. After a hearing, and as of 7 December 2022, the [Netherlands Institute for Human Rights has ruled](#) that Robin Pocornie has presented enough evidence to assume that she was indeed discriminated against. The current status of the case is pending, whereby the burden of proof is shifted onto the VU to demonstrate that the proctoring software is not discriminatory.

- The Center has garnered **extensive media coverage** for bringing forth the complaint:
 - *News media*: coverage by the largest news agency in the Netherlands (ANP), led to attention in the national media: [Volkskrant](#), [NRC](#), [Trouw](#), [NOS](#), [NU.nl](#), [Joop](#), [ThePostOnline](#), [Parool](#) and [Ad Valvas](#) (the VU's student news outlet)
 - *Broadcast media*: [NOS op 3](#) radio (also broadcast on [FunX](#)) and [a long nightly radio interview](#) at Omroep Zwart.
- There was a **second round of media coverage** regarding the judgement:
 - *News media*: [Volkskrant](#), [NU.nl](#), [NRC](#), [Parool](#), [Trouw](#), [AT5](#), and [Noordhollands Dagblad](#). In English language news outlets: [NL Times](#) and [DutchNews.nl](#), as well as student news sites: the [VU](#), the [University of Twente](#) and the [Radboud University](#).
 - *Broadcast media*: [Bits of Freedom podcast](#), and the daily news show, [Radio 1](#).
- There was **political attention** in [the Dutch Parliament](#), with [a position paper](#) from Netherlands Institute for Human Rights. The Center is in talks with political party BJJ1 at the Amsterdam city level.
- The Center has drafted press releases for [the complaint](#), [the ruling](#), alongside summaries of [the complaint](#), and [the judgment](#).

2. Fellowship

The Center has obtained funding from [Stichting Democratie en Media](#) to start a fellowship programme. The goal of the programme is to fund three fellows who will each develop and execute their project ideas on the intersection of racism and technology.

- Selected 3 external jury members to be part of the selection process.
- Received 26 applications.

- Selected and finalised three fellows/proposals.

3. Newsletter

The Center curates a newsletter that is sent out every four weeks. In the newsletter, three news stories are selected, and contextualised with our own writing; a racist technology in action is featured, and events on the topic of racism and technology are listed.

- Sent out 13 newsletters, to nearly 300 subscribers.
- Migrated to a self-hosted phpList installation, open source and tracking-free way to send out newsletter.

4. Social media

The Center has a minimal social media presence, as its main communication channels are via the website, newsletter, and email list

- Established an Instagram account with 214 followers.

5. Speaking engagements

The Center engages with (paid and unpaid) speaking engagements in events, workshops, masterclasses, related to the topic of racism and technology.

- Privacy Camp, “Centring social injustice, de-centring tech: The case of the Dutch child benefits scandal” ([YouTube](#))
- Facilitation for “This is What Police Tech Looks Like” by the Justice, Equity and Technology Table
- Roma Day 2022, “Technolution: Yearned-for Hopes or Old Injustices?” ([info](#))
- Colour of Surveillance conference ([slides](#))
- World AI Summit
- Decidim Festival Barcelona, “Internet regulation as a battleground” ([YouTube](#))
- Goethe Institut AI Ethics Summer School, “Addressing the (In)Visibility of Racism in AI and Technology” ([YouTube](#))
- Masterclass Netpolitiek 2022 ([slides](#))
- WAAG Plant-B podcast, “racistische technologie en inclusieve platforms” ([podcast](#))