“A Data Science Toolkit for Raising Police Accountability”

In today’s climate, calls to examine the role of policing in communities are increasingly loud. We know that data, when it is available, is a powerful resource. Unfortunately, a general culture of withholding data and institutional structures that prioritize protecting individuals at the top can make studying powerful entities like a police department quite challenging. In this talk we will look closely at Northville, a small New England town that has a well-documented history of police misconduct with little oversight or accountability. We will explore how to use tools from data science, image processing, geospatial mapping, machine learning and statistical sampling to better understand the provision of service of the Northville PD and community use of police resources. The goal is to present an easily replicable framework for analyzing police and community interactions with the hope of raising the accountability of police departments nationwide.

Anna is a senior data scientist in the Tufts University Data Intensive Studies Center with a secondary appointment in the Department of Mathematics. She earned a PhD in mathematics from Wesleyan University. Her research lies at the intersection of mathematics and the social sciences and it deals with the many ways that we can use data to help make a safer, more sustainable, and more equitable world.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 2023 • 12:00 P.M
BOWEN AUDITORIUM, MCCREARY 115
Lunch will be served.