

CODED BIAS

TCA Bios



Joy Buolamwini (computer scientist, MIT researcher and film subject)

Joy Buolamwini is a researcher at the MIT Media Lab, where she works to identify bias in algorithms and develops practices for accountability during their design. During her research, Buolamwini presented facial recognition systems 1,000 faces and asked them to identify whether faces were male or female. She

discovered that software found it hard to identify dark-skinned women. Her 2018 paper "Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification" prompted companies such as IBM and Microsoft to swiftly improve their software. In 2019, Buolamwini was listed in *Fortune Magazine's* 2019 list of the World's Greatest Leaders. The magazine also termed her "the conscience of the A.I. revolution."



Shalini Kantayya (director and producer)

Director Shalini Kantayya's critically acclaimed feature documentary *Coded Bias* premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for a Critics' Choice Award for Best Science Documentary. Kantayya also directed the season finale episode for National Geographic's *Breakthrough*, a series profiling trailblazing scientists transforming the future, executive produced by Ron Howard and broadcast globally in June 2017. Her debut feature film *Catching the Sun*, about the race for a clean energy future, premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival and was named a New York Times Critics' Pick. *Catching the Sun* released globally on Netflix on Earth Day 2016 with executive

producer Leonardo DiCaprio, and was nominated for the Environmental Media Association Award for Best Documentary.

**Lois Vossen** (series executive producer)

Lois Vossen is the founding executive producer for the PBS primetime series INDEPENDENT LENS. Vossen is responsible for commissioning new films, programming the series and working with filmmakers on editorial and broadcast issues. INDEPENDENT LENS films have received over 20 Emmy Awards, over 20 George Foster Peabody Awards, five Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards and eight Academy Award nominations. The series was honored in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 with the International Documentary Association (IDA) Award for Best Curated Series.