Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
Applicant is passionate about the proposed research with social media. Applicants recognizes systemic biases at various levels. The applicant has clear thought-out parts in their proposal.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
Applicant is from a marginalized population who might have insights about the proposed research. Applicant has previously worked in the field of research interest.

Summary Comments
The applicant is connected to the research and has clear goals. The applicant has strong letters of recommendations from two universities.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
The proposed research would help us understand how influence is formed and exerted in social networks as well as how algorithmic structures perpetuate or reduce inequity. The proposal would benefit from a description of specific metrics to be utilized, and Phase 3 of the proposal could be better situated alongside the wealth of more recent research on the interaction between tie strength and the propagation of change (see, for example, work on language change), but the study structure is sound and likely to provide insight at multiple levels of granularity.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
Fairness in artificial intelligence is a booming field with clear societal importance. The candidate's life experiences and career history add diversity to an academic setting, and the results are likely to be of broad interest to industry, academia, and policymakers.

Summary Comments
This is a strong proposal by a remarkable graduate student. The methodological underpinnings are well thought out and the theoretical import is clear. The candidate would do well to formalize more carefully the metrics being used to answer their research questions in each phase of the proposed work, and they would benefit from a systematic review of more recent research

regarding the influence of social ties on innovative behavior and social structure, but I have few reservations regarding the likelihood of this project's success.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
The applicant has a very successful and highly relevant (to the application) academic and professional background-- with an interdisciplinary BS from MIT as well as several tech- and media studies-related positions and research experiences. The applicant's recommenders describe the applicant's rare combination of specialized technical skills and theoretical know-how. The research the applicant is currently doing and proposes to pursue or continue pursuing has the potential to expand our understanding of social networks and community online. I found the proposed research to be compelling, although few details regarding specific methods could be included given the three separate phases described. It would have been helpful to know (more clearly, more explicitly) how these three described phases/projects speak to the overall goal of understanding how people with marginalized identities can find and make community online.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
The applicant's commitment to the social and societal relevance of their work is apparent throughout the application. The applicant's work centers around understanding how people with marginalized identities can find and make community online. Several of the applicant's recommenders point to the critical importance of the applicant's work for our society right now. Additionally, the applicant has worked to encourage, mentor, and advocate for other scientists, scholars, and colleagues in various capacities. The applicant describes a desire to potentially work in policy, and the applicant's combination of technical skill and research capabilities and experience, in addition to the applicant's interests and investment in marginalized communities and communities of care, would uniquely position the applicant to advocate for and shape positive media- and tech-related policy for our society.

Summary Comments
This is an excellent application. The applicant possesses an impressive academic, professional, and technical background. The applicant outlines very specific research plans with scientific as well as social implications. The applicant's research itself has the potential to make broad social impact but so too do the applicant's concurrent mentoring activities as well as the applicant's future potential goals to work in policy related to social media.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
The candidate does a good job of operationalizing many of their ideas. However, there were instances where the ideas or concepts were not operationalized. For example, can you describe "surprising ties?" I would also recommend spending a bit more time on the social network literature, we have come a long way from Granovetter and some interesting research has come

out of this work. The candidate does a good job of operationalizing many of their ideas. However, there were instances where the ideas or concepts were not operationalized. For example, can you describe "surprising ties?" I would also recommend spending a bit more time on the social network literature, we have come a long way from Granovetter and some interesting research has come out of this work.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Good

Explanation to Applicant
A satisfactory history of BI initiatives. It will be interesting to see how the candidate takes their experience with BI working in industry contexts and translate those to academic contexts. I was not excited by the ideas presented in the BI for the research plan. They seem to lack creativity and simply repeats ideas.

Summary Comments
The candidate has submitted a strong application package. I have no reservations that they will excel. They have presented a good research plan, with a clear theoretical foundation. However, the candidate will need to develop their ideas more to not run of the risk of presenting vague statements. The candidate did a good job of explaining their ideas in the personal statement, but some ideas in the research plan was vague. The candidate also needs to develop a clearer understanding of their contributions to field, rather than a blanket statement. The BI were not innovative or creative and I would encourage the candidate to think outside the box.