Can You Automate ‘Fair’?

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Automated decision making is an integral part of many modern business processes. In addition to speed, such processes offer what appear to be objectively fair outcomes. Fairness, however, is inherently perceptual --- it depends on both context and perspective. This talk discusses the role of algorithm design when balancing principles of equity, equality, need, and efficiency. In addition to recent examples from the popular press (vaccine distribution, employee hiring, wage setting, etc.), the benefits of designing principled algorithms will be illustrated through a labor scheduling example in the University of Cincinnati Department of Emergency Medicine.