Save the Date:
September 29, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Lecture:
A Conversation with
Margaret Gould Stewart

In this moderated question and answer discussion, Stewart will lead conversations on what it means to responsibly innovate and how that shapes her team and Facebook's navigation of modern tech ethics.

MARGARET GOULD STEWART

Vice President of Product Design at Facebook

Product Designer   User Experience Expert   Tech Ethicist

UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES

"As technologists, we are all stewards of some of the most powerful communication tools ever created. These tools have generated a lot of good in the world, but their very power requires a deep sense of responsibility and a commitment to making most ethically responsible decisions possible, every day."

— Margaret Gould Stewart

Margaret Gould Stewart is vice president of Product Design at Facebook. In addition to leading a global team of product designers and researchers for teams such as Artificial Intelligence, New Product Experimentation, and Workplace, she also oversees Facebook's Responsible Innovation & Design Core Team, which is focused on integrating ethical foresight into the company's overall product development process.

Margaret has been at Facebook for more than eight years and has been a leader in the field of user experience design for over 20 years. Before joining Facebook, Margaret served as Director of User Experience at YouTube, overseeing the design of all YouTube's products globally. Prior to that role, she managed Google's Search and Consumer Products User Experience team.

As part of the Google design team, she accepted the National Design Award for Corporate Achievement in 2008 and now serves as a member of the board of trustees for the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum. She is a frequent speaker on the subjects of design leadership at conferences such as TED, CHI, and AIGA, and writes about design and leadership on Medium. She is a graduate of New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program.

DESIGN AS VALUE-LADEN

In this 2019 F8 Developer Conference keynote, Stewart argues that design is not neutral and instead is value-laden because each design decision has consequences at scale. Stewart offers that individuals need to pay attention to the socio-political context of the users to design responsibly. As she noted in a recent interview, technology has the potential to combat barriers of access and designers need to attend to the needs of all possible users whether it is in memorializing accounts or promoting hand washing.

MODERN TECH ETHICS

In a 2018 address at SXSW, Stewart offered an important question on modern tech ethics — encouraging individuals to not ask whether it is possible or whether it is allowed and instead ask should we. She expanded on this point in a recent Medium post about COVID-19 in writing that her experiences at Facebook suggest a need to "design with intentionality, empathy, and privacy in mind from day one." Stewart suggests in this interview that a culturally sensitive and multipronged research approach can ensure a more responsible approach to design.