



Desmond Upton Patton

Professor at University of Pennsylvania
Founder and Director of SAFELab

Desmond Upton Patton is a researcher, technologist, and social worker who studies how social media affects well-being, mental health, and violence.

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Social Media Channels

- in [Desmond Patton](#)
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Academic Profiles

[UPenn](#) / [Google Scholar](#) / [CV](#)

Samples of Public-Facing Work

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Available to Comment On

- Technology and well-being
- AI ethics and bias
- AI and race
- Inclusive innovation
- Social media and mental health, especially among young people
- Grief, trauma, joy, and resilience
- Youth development and well-being
- Issues facing Black and Latinx youth
- Gun violence prevention
- Gangs and community violence

Expertise

- Studies how online activity connects to grief, violence, trauma, and harmful behaviors offline.
- Partners with young people, including youth of color, to understand how they use social media.
- Develops AI techniques to analyze social media content.
- Integrates context and culture into the training of AI models so they more accurately reflect Black people's speech.
- Collaborates with youth, computer scientists, and clinicians on strategies for using technology to promote joy and well-being.
- Advises AI startups and social media companies on ethics, responsible innovation, social justice, and mental health.

Work Featured In



Affiliations

