Datafied Society Seminar: Perspectives

Dates: September 30th, October 14th, October 28th, November 11th, November 25th, December 9th, 2019

Time: 14:00 – 17:00

Venue: Utrecht University, Drift 13, room 0.05.

Open to: PhD candidates, (R)MA students, RMeS members, NOG members

Credits: 3,5 ECTS

Organization: Maranke Wieringa, Gerwin van Schie and Tim de Winkel

Registration: Maximum participants in the event: 12

Register before: September 23rd

Please send an email to G.A.vanschie@uu.nl to register

General description

About the course

This reading seminar brings together perspectives on and approaches to research into various practices, systems and structures dealing with data and algorithms. We will bring together perspectives from critical data studies, gender studies, new materialism and STS in order to think through concepts such as bias, algorithms, data, platforms, knowledge and accountability.

Participants who want to take the course for ECTS, are required to 1) actively participate during the whole course (10%), and 2) write a research proposal (90%). In this research proposal, participants are required to demonstrate how the texts we've discussed in the previous weeks could be applied to a research project. The research itself does not have to be executed. Instead, students will produce a proposal, which includes a case, research question(s), and propose an adequate method(ology)/theoretical framework.

ECTS

3,5 ECTS (of 28 hours each), equates to 98 hours of study load. The study load is distributed as follows:

- 6 seminars of 3 hours each = 18 hour;
- Preparation of seminars 5 x 12 hours (thoroughly reading the texts and formulating questions) = 60 hours;
- Writing a 2500 word research proposal = 20 hours.

About Datafied Society

The Datafied Society research platform addresses societal challenges emerging from novel data practices in public governance and management, (public) media and public space and seizes opportunities for using data practices to foster citizenship, civic participation and creative production. For the coming years, our focus areas are: Government and governmentalities, Social justice and public values, and tool criticism. As part of these focus areas, the Datafied Society will regularly offer rMA students, PhD candidates and other RMeS members a themed course in we will engage in a close-reading and discussion of selected texts.

Program:

Meeting 1: The Politics of "Bias"

Date: 30 September, 2019

Session Leader: Gerwin van Schie

Dave, Kinjal. 2019. "Systemic Algorithmic Harms." Medium. May 31, 2019. https://points.datasociety.net/systemic-algorithmic-harms-e00f99e72c42.

Friedman, Batya, and Helen Nissenbaum. 1996. "Bias in Computer Systems." *ACM Transaction on Information Systems* 14 (3): 330–47.

Harding, Sandra. 1991. *Whose Science? Whose Knowledge? Thinking from Women's Lives*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (Chapter 5. What is Feminist Epistemology? p. 105-137)

D'Ignazio, Catherine, and Lauren Klein. 2019. *Data Feminism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press Open. Chapter 1 (https://bookbook.pubpub.org/pub/zrlj0jqb)

Meeting 2: Diffraction and Irreducibility

Date: 14 October, 2019

Session Leader: Iris van der Tuin

Barad, K. (2003). "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 28(3): 801-31

Miyazaki, S. (2018). ALGORHYTHMICS: A Diffractive Approach for Understanding Computation. *The Routledge Companion to Media Studies and Digital Humanities*, edited by , 243-249. London and New York: Routledge.

Van der Tuin, I. 2019. "Deleuze and Diffraction." In *Posthuman Ecologies: Complexity and Process after Deleuze*, edited by Rosi Braidotti and Simone Bignall. London: Rowman and Littlefield International. P. 17–39

Verhoeff, N. and I. Van der Tuin. forthcoming. "Irreducibility." *Critical Concepts for the Creative Humanities*

Meeting 3: Radical Technologies, Counter Publics, Fringe Platforms

Date: 28 October, 2019

Session Leader: Tim de Winkel

Kampourakis, Ioannis. 2016. "Nancy Fraser: Subaltern Counterpublics." *Critical Legal Thinking* (blog). November 6, 2016. http://criticallegalthinking.com/2016/11/06/nancy-fraser-subaltern-counterpublics/.

Lima, L., J. C. S. Reis, P. Melo, F. Murai, L. Araujo, P. Vikatos, and F. Benevenuto. 2018. "Inside the Right-Leaning Echo Chambers: Characterizing Gab, an Unmoderated Social System." In *2018 IEEE/ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM)*, 515–22. https://doi.org/10.1109/ASONAM.2018.8508809.

de Winkel, Tim. forthcoming. "Fringe Platforms". *chapter 1 of unpublished manuscript.*

Meeting 4: Constructing Gender and Race in Biometric-Based Algorithms

Date: 11 November, 2019

Session Leader: Christine Quinan

Buolamwini, Joy and Gebru, Timnit. 2018. 'Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification.' *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research* 81: 1-15.

Pugliese, Joseph. 2005. 'In Silico Race and the Heteronomy of Biometric Proxies: Biometrics in the Context of Civilian Life, Border Security and Counter-Terrorism Laws.' *Australian Feminist Law Journal* 23: 1-32.

Keyes, OS. 2018. 'The Misgendering Machines: Trans/HCI Implications of Automatic Gender Recognition.' *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction* 2, No. CSCW, Article 88.

Meeting 5: Algorithms and Art

Date: 25 November, 2019

Session Leader: Rosa Wevers

Blas, Z., & Gaboury, J. (2016). Biometrics and Opacity: A Conversation. *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies*, *31*(2 92), 155–165. https://doi.org/10.1215/02705346-3592510

Liljefors, M., & Lee-Morrison, L. (2015). Mapped Bodies : Notes on the Use of Biometrics in Geopolitical Contexts. In A. M. and F. Tylstrup (Ed.), *Socioaesthetics: Ambience – Imaginary* (pp. 53–72). Leiden, Boston: Koninklijke Brill NV.

Magnet, S. A. (2011). 'Representing Biometrics'. In *When Biometrics Fail. Gender, Race, and the Technology of Identity*. Durham, London: Duke University Press. https://read-dukeupress-edu.proxy.library.uu.nl/books/book/1609/

To watch: Zach Blas, *Facial Weaponization Suite*. http://www.zachblas.info/works/facial-weaponization-suite/

Meeting 6: Algorithmic Accountability

Date: 9 December, 2019

Session Leader: Maranke Wieringa

Diakopoulos, N., Friedler, S., Arenas, M., Barocas, S., Hay, M., Howe, B., … Zevenbergen, B. (n.d.). Principles for accountable algorithms. Retrieved October 23, 2017, from http://www.fatml.org/resources/principles-for-accountable-algorithms

Kemper, Jakko, and Daan Kolkman. 2018. "Transparent to Whom? No Algorithmic Accountability without a Critical Audience." *Information, Communication & Society* 0 (0): 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2018.1477967.

Neyland, Daniel. 2016. "Bearing Account-Able Witness to the Ethical Algorithmic System." *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 41 (1): 50–76. https://doi.org/10.1177/0162243915598056.

Seaver, Nick. 2017. "Algorithms as Culture: Some Tactics for the Ethnography of Algorithmic Systems." *Big Data & Society* 4 (2): 2053951717738104. https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951717738104.

Preparation and readings:

Literature will be accessible online or will otherwise be made available to students prior to the start of the course.

Credits & certificate

Certificates of participation and credits are available upon request after the event. Event coordinators will decide whether the participant has fulfilled all requirements for the ECTS. Please direct your request to RMeS-fgw@uav.nl and include the postal address you want the certificate send to. Note: the certificate itself is not valid as ECTS, you need to validate it yourself at your local Graduate School.