

Introduction

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Our goal is to introduce concepts and tools for doing exploratory and predictive modelling from textual sources. We will be focusing on natural language processing.

- ▶ Preliminaries
- ▶ Topic I: Tokenising text
- ▶ Topic II: The NLP Pipeline
- ▶ Topic III: Modelling Textual Data
- ▶ Conclusions

Taylor Arnold

- ▶ studies the application and computational challenges of using natural language and image processing to analyze large datasets
- ▶ intersection of statistics, computer science, linguistics, and the computational humanities

Lauren Tilton

- ▶ scholar of 20th century U.S. culture
- ▶ applies computational techniques to answer humanities questions

Joint Work

- ▶ *Humanities Data in R* – (2015) Quantitative Methods in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Springer
- ▶ *Photogrammar* – Digital project of historical photographs from the 1930s and 1940s: <https://photogrammar.org>
- ▶ *DistantTV* – Digital project applying computational techniques to analyze moving image culture at scale: <https://www.distanttv.org/>

All of the materials we are showing today are available as a GitHub repository. We encourage following along on your laptop as we run through the code snippets, or later at your own pace.

To do so, clone the GitHub repository from here:

https://github.com/statsmaths/useR2017_nlp.

Each of the sections to the talk are presented as individual R markdown files. All of the data is included in the repository and any required packages required can be downloaded from CRAN.

Today we will make heavy use of the coding style adapted from

- ▶ the piping paradigm of the **magrittr** package
- ▶ *table verbs* from the package **dplyr**
- ▶ graphics from **ggplot2**

If you are not familiar with these, the code may seem a bit strange at first but we feel that it is the clearest way to present the material and very much simplifies the code.

As a way of a very brief tutorial, the pipe operator `%>%` simply passes the output of one expression to the first element of the next:

```
1:10 %>%  
  length()
```

```
## [1] 10
```

Or

```
matrix(1:12, ncol = 4) %>%  
  dim()
```

```
## [1] 3 4
```

Our main tool for text processing today will be our package **cleanNLP**. It is available on CRAN and is described in the forthcoming paper to be published in The R Journal:

Taylor Arnold (2017). A Tidy Data Model for Natural Language Processing using cleanNLP. The R Journal, 9(2), 1-20. URL <https://journal.r-project.org/archive/2017/RJ-2017-035/index.html>.

A more formal analysis of the internals of the package will be covered in the talk on Wednesday at 14:06 in Plenary 4.0 as part of the *Text Mining* session.