# Acknowledgments of Collaborative Work

The research presented in this publication is a culmination of climate change-related projects that I have worked on since 2007 with many colleagues from the Digital Methods Initiative at the University of Amsterdam and in collaboration with our research partners at Médialab Sciences Po, Density Design at Politecnico di Milano, and Digital Sociology at Goldsmith's University in London. This book has known a previous life, in the form of a Ph.D. dissertation with the University of Amsterdam Department of Media Studies. The feedback and suggestions provided by my supervisors, Prof. dr. José van Dijck and dr. Bernhard Rieder, as well as the impeccable proof-reading and copy-editing by Rachel O'Reilly, have proven invaluable.

At the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences I have worked at the Institute of Network Cultures collaborating with many fellow organizations on international research conferences such as the Society of the Query (on search engine critique) and Video Vortex (on visual media after YouTube), and on data literacy projects with the Citizen Data Lab as part of Amsterdam Creative Industries Network. While it is not easy to disentangle the many ideas and influences traversing these years, I highly value to at least attempt to properly acknowledge these collaborative efforts, which have led to the chapters of this book and refer to the previously published work this has resulted in.

## Chapter 1: Introduction

The idea of formulating the research that has led to this book has its origins in a project during the Digital Methods summer school of 2007, the first annual summer program on methods and tools for social research with the web at the University of Amsterdam, titled ‘New Objects of Study.’ Here, I worked with Esther Weltevrede on our project titled ‘Issue Animals’, which I briefly discuss in this chapter. The idea of the technicity of web content I publicly presented for the first time at ‘Enquiring Minds,’ a research seminar as part of *PICNIC08*, 24-26 September 2008, Amsterdam.

The discussion in this chapter of the work of Bruno Latour and Noortje Marres has also been published in a paper co-authored with Ruurd Priester. In that research project, we applied some of the methods proposed in this book to an analysis of bottom-up initiatives in the city of Amsterdam. The paper has been published in a special issue of Computer Supported Cooperative Work.

S. Niederer and R. Priester, ‘Smart Citizens: Exploring the Tools of the Urban Bottom-up Movement’, *Computer Supported Cooperative Work*, (2016) 25: 137-152, https://doi.orgf/10.1007/s10606-016-9249-6.

## Chapter 2: Foundations of Content Analysis

This chapter was written mostly during my time spent as a visiting scholar at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. Here I had the opportunity to work with scholars at the core of Content Analysis and collaborate with the Iran Media Group there on a study of Internet censorship, which was published by the Annenberg School and included in the *Blackwell Companion to New Media Dynamics*.

R. Rogers, E. Weltevrede, S. Niederer, and E. Borra, ‘National Web Studies: The case of Iran’, in J. Hartley, J. Burgess, & A. Bruns (eds.) *Blackwell Companion to New Media Dynamics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2013, pp. 142-166.

## Chapter 3: Climate Debate Actors in Science and on the Web

A full version of this chapter in a previous form has been published in the journal *Necsus* (2013). The chapter is a culmination of multiple collaborative projects. The first is a scientometric analysis and extended mapping of climate skeptics, which I conducted during the Digital Methods summer school of 2008 in collaboration with Andrei Mogoutov, developer and owner of ReseauLu, and Bram Nijhof (at the time a student of the New Media & Digital Culture master’s program at the University of Amsterdam). The first version of this study was published on the online research platform www.mappingcontroversies.net, as part of the EU 7th Framework project Macospol in 2009, with scientific coordinator Bruno Latour.

My collaboration with the French climate journalist Denis Delbecq led to the mapping of French climate skepticism, which resulted in a co-authored online publication (2010). In 2011, I continued this research with a mapping of Dutch climate skepticism. I have presented this research at *Media in Transition 7* (MiT7) in Cambridge, Massachusetts (May 2011), the *Media of Collective Intelligence* event at the University of Siegen (November 2011) and the conference *Data Traces: Big Data in the Context of Culture and Society* at the Institute of Experimental Design and Media Cultures in Basel (July 2015).

D. Delbecq and S. Niederer, ‘Climatosceptiques et Climatologues, Quelle Place Sur l’Internet?’, 2010, http://effetsdeterre.fr/2010/04/12/climatosceptiques-quelle-place-sur-linternet/.

S. Niederer, ‘Climate Change Skeptics on the Web’, 2009, https://web.archive.org/web/20140621023333/http://www.mappingcontroversies.net/Home/PlatformClimateChangeSkepticsScience.

S. Niederer, ‘Global Warming Is Not a Crisis! Studying Climate Change Skepticism on the Web’, *Necsus* 3 (Spring, 2013): http://www.necsus-ejms.org/global-warming-is-not-a-crisis-studying-climate-change-skepticism-on-the-web/.

## Chapter 4: Wikipedia as Socio-technical Utility for Networked Content Analysis

This chapter is based on research conducted at a Digital Methods Summer School of 2009, with Richard Rogers, Zachary Deveraux, Bram Nijhof, and Auke Touwslager, in which we compared the dependency of Wikipedia on bots for editing, in the various language versions of Wikipedia. In 2010, a discussion of this research with my Ph.D. supervisor José van Dijck led to the decision to develop this research further into a co-authored paper. This paper was published in the journal *New Media & Society* and reprinted in 2014 as part of the edited volume *Researching Society Online*.

The research for this chapter has led to an interview about Wikipedia with Nicholas Nova, which is published in his book *Wikipedia’s Miracle* (and in the French edition *Le Miracle Wikipedia*).

I have presented various versions of this chapter at *Formatting Utopia – from Paul Otlet to the Internet*, a conference at the Mundaneum in Mons/Bergen in Belgium (November 2008), ATACD *Changing Cultures, Cultures of Change* conference at the University of Barcelona (December 2009), as a *Brown Bag Lecture* at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (January 2010), at *Medien der Kollektiven Intelligenz* at the University of Konstanz, at the Annenberg School for Communication in Philadelphia (April 2011), at the *ReClaiming Participation* conference in Zürich (May 2014) and at *Reading Wikipedia,* the Praemium Erasmianum Conference at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) in November of 2015.

S. Niederer, ‘Interview’, in N. Nova and F. Kaplan (eds) *Wikipedia’s Miracle*, Lausanne: EPFL Press, 2016, pp. 53-61.

S. Niederer, ‘Entretien’, in N. Nova and F. Kaplan (eds) *Le Miracle Wikipedia,* Lausanne: PPUR, 2016, pp. 51-61. (French edition)

S. Niederer and J. van Dijck, ‘Wisdom of the Crowd or Technicity of Content? Wikipedia as a Sociotechnical System’, *New Media & Society* 12.8 (2010): 1368–1387.

S. Niederer and J. van Dijck, ‘Wisdom of the Crowd or Technicity of Content? Wikipedia as a Sociotechnical System’, in M. David and P. Milward (eds) *Researching Society Online*, London: Sage, 2014 (Reprint).

## Chapter 5: Mapping the Resonance of Climate Change Discourses in Twitter

This study was published in the online publication *Climaps: An Online Issue-Atlas of Climate Change Adaptation* and featured in *Wired Italia*. The United Nations tweeted the study’s climate vulnerability world map after its publication in the *Climaps* atlas.

For the case studies in this chapter, which were conducted in data sprints as part of the EU FP7 project Electronic Maps to Assist Public Science (EMAPS), I have collaborated closely with researchers at the Digital Methods Initiative, including Sophie Waterloo, Simeona Petkova, Natalia Sanchez Quérubin, Liliana Bounegru, and Catalina Iorga. Erik Borra and Bernhard Rieder are the developers of the tools used for this analysis. The research team also consisted of information designers from DensityDesign in Milan, including Carlo de Gaetano, Gabriele Colombo, and Stefania Guerra.

After the data sprint, the descriptions of our various case studies, which I worked on with various team members but especially Sophie Waterloo and Gabriele Colombo, were compiled and expertly edited by Natalia Sanchez Quérubin and Lilliana Bounegru for publication in the online issue atlas *Climaps.eu*, which presents the issue stories and issue maps of the EMAPS project. For this chapter, I have re-assembled and subsequently rewritten the Climaps materials and our original descriptions (co-authored with Sophie Waterloo and Gabriele Colombo) to suit the focus of this book and aptly present the collaborative case studies of mapping the climate debate with Twitter. I have presented the research at the conference *Social Media and the Transformation of Public Space,* at the Royal Netherlands Academy of the Arts and Sciences (June 2014).

R. Battaglia, ‘Clima, Ecco la Mappa di Chi Litiga Sul Cambiamento Climatico’, *Wired Italia*, 2014, http://www.wired.it/attualita/politica/2014/12/15/emaps-come-mappare-disaccordo-clima/.

EMAPS, ‘Profiling Adaptation and Its Place In Climate Change Debates With Twitter’, 2014, http://climaps.eu/#!/map/profiling-adaptation-and-its-place-in-climate-change-debates-with-twitter-I.

EMAPS, ‘Reading the State of Climate Change From the Web: Top Google Results’, 2014, http://climaps.eu/#!/map/profiling-adaptation-and-its-place-in-climate-change-debates-with-twitter-ii.

EMAPS, ‘Who is Vulnerable According to Whom?’, 2014, http://climaps.eu/#!/map/who-is-vulnerable-according-to-whom.

@UNEnvironementUNEP, ‘This map compares 3 lists of countries ranked by #climeatechange vulnerability. Surprised? buff.ly/1tFvlZJ’, Twitter post, 1 November 2014, 3:12 PM, https://twitter.com/unep/status/528550060397957120.

## Chapter 6: Conclusions

In the conclusions, I mention three studies that I have worked on collaboratively: *People’s Dashboard*, *The City as Interface*, and the *Knowledge Mile Atlas*.

*The People’s Dashboard* was a project developed during the Digital Methods Winter School of January 2015. Esther Weltevrede and I facilitated the group, which included the following participants: Evelien Christiaanse, Caio Domingues, Yvette Ducaneaux, Inte Gloerich, Alex Harrison, Hendrik Lehmann, Gabriel Reis, Pavel Rodin, Jurij Smrke, Janina Sommerlad. Erik Borra developed the plugin. Stefania Guerra and Tommaso Renzini (Density Design) made the design.

*The City as Interface* was a project developed during the summer school of 2015, in which we worked with subject matter expert Martijn de Waal, author of the book *The City as Interface* (2014). The project team, which I facilitated, had as participants Nataliya Tkachenko, Xinyang Xie (Yang), Peta Mitchell, Maarten Groen, Adrian Bertoli, Khwezi Magwaza, Naomi Bueno de Mesquita, Joe Shaw, Alexander van Someren, Tim Leunissen, and Philip Schuette. Designers working with us on the project were Michele Mauri and Donato Ricci.

The *Knowledge Mile Atlas* is an ongoing collaboration (2014-) with information designers Gabriele Colombo, Michele Mauri, and Matteo Azzi of Density Design and Calibro, and Carlo De Gaetano, Federica Bardelli, Wouter Meys, Maarten Groen, Maarten Terpstra, and Matthijs ten Berge at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, in which we analyze and visualize the online presence and resonance of an urban area under development. The area cuts through the city center of Amsterdam and crosses many districts and neighborhood borders. We presented our co-authored paper about the Knowledge Mile maps at the conference *Hybrid City 3: Data to the People* (September 2015) at the University of Athens. The paper was published in the conference proceedings.

*The People’s Dashboard* is described extensively on the wiki project page: https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/PeoplesDashboard. To install the plugin, go to: https://github.com/digitalmethodsinitiative/peoplesdashboard.

The wiki page for the project *The City as Interface* is: https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/TheCityAsInterface.

S. Niederer, G. Colombo, M. Mauri, and M. Azzi, ‘Street-Level City Analytics: Mapping the Amsterdam Knowledge Mile,’ in *Hybrid City 3: Data to the People*, Athens: University of Athens, 2015, www.media.uoa.gr/hybridcity.

A previous version of this chapter has been published as:

S. Niederer (2018), ‘The Study of Networked Content: Five Considerations for Digital Research in the Humanities, in Schiuma, G., Carlucci, D. (eds.) *Big Data in the Arts and Humanities*, New York: Auerbach Publications, p. 89-100. https://doi.org/10.1201/b19744