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SIMILARITY INDEX

Status: Low Matching

Feminism, at its very core, aims to dismantle systems of oppression; however, the identification of which systems are oppressive and what kinds of beings are harmed by them has been the subject of debate in feminist circles for more than a century.

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In an ambitious attempt to resolve some of those tensions in the field of data science, Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein's 2021 book, *Data Feminism*, poses seven principles and strategies that are worthy of examination for those of us who might not hold the title of "data scientist," but work with data nonetheless.

As geographers and geography departments engage in efforts to improve our approaches to justice and equity, the principles of data feminism can be effective tools to guide our discussions for how to integrate feminism into our research practices and pedagogy, as well for how we apply geography in the public sphere.

Data Feminism aspires to unite both feminist activism and feminist critical thought behind a way of thinking about data that forefronts the labor and everyday practices surrounding the collection, production, analysis, and presentation of data.

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As a result, the principles of data feminism stand to embolden everyone who works with data to see the people and communities involved in their production—who makes data, who is represented in the data sets, who benefits from them, how the relationships between those who count and those who are counted reinforce existing power structures, and how, through a deeper understanding of those relationships and the contexts in which data are produced, we can use data to challenge normalized oppression.

One of the greatest assets of the book is how it makes critical feminist thought accessible to people without a background in social theory.

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Citation2014; Carey et al.

Citation2016; Eichhorn, Baker, and Griffiths Citation2020).

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Additional
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Applying critical and feminist thought to natural and quantitative sciences creates space for theoretical innovation and empirical richness from interdisciplinary research, but also for making a more welcoming geographic community that celebrates difference and recognizes the advantage of having diverse perspectives in making better science and better scientists.

There continues to be, however, understandable concern from those who have not yet had the training to do this work concerning how to "get it right," how to do justice to larger social inequities, and how to not cause more undue harm in the process, despite good intentions.

Data Feminism can be a guidebook to introducing discussions of power, oppression, coliberation, and intersectionality, and how these topics are indeed relevant to anyone working with data.

As social scientists, as well as experts in geospatial technology and environmental systems,

geographers are uniquely situated at the methodological and multidisciplinary intersections where these conversations need to be had, encouraged, and taken seriously.

The book is broken up into seven chapters (plus an introduction and conclusion), each of which introduces a new principle of data feminism and how to apply that principle to data science.

The introduction invites us to think seriously about why feminism matters for data science and "how can we use data to remake the world" (p. 10).

Chapter 1, "The Power Chapter," asks us to examine power "not only to understand it, but also to be able to challenge and change it" (p. 47).

A data feminist approach requires an awareness of the structures that make data sets and data science po