

# DataMYNE

<http://mining.parsons.edu>

## Overview

DataMYNE is an open-source online platform to connect, visualize and integrate the academic community of The New School. Bringing together faculty, students and administrators, DataMYNE visualizes dynamic relationships between academic offerings and ongoing research allowing a new understanding of the life within the University. As a faculty-led initiative, this project is a creative response to the three major challenges to facilitate and support the diverse and progressive offerings of the New School: 1) disconnected data sources between various structural bureaucracies 2) lack of sustained inter-department/divisional contact between faculty, especially within an urban campus and 3) the scale and complexity of institutional structures and their variety.

## Features

Specifically developed for the complexity and robustness of a diverse academic community, DataMYNE provides several unique features:

Data Hub, updated directly by faculty, students, staff & alumni, that can dynamically feed many other content areas, such as the school web site, school magazines, mobile applications and a plugin for any WordPress blog.

Integration with existing technologies such as Banner & ALVIN, while expanding their limitations, to verify and streamline large importation of data.

Profiles that provide robust options for individuals members to share information publicly, internally or privately, including a photo gallery, title and contact information, office hours, areas of expertise, tags of interest, teaching history, portfolio links, research/creative projects, syllabi, streaming lectures, groups and student work.

Search options that provide detailed results of data attributes, as well as filtered browsing, and random content generation to provide a range of methods in which to discover connections.

Visualizations in both a list and networked view, mapping connections between faculty, students, professional staff, alumni, courses, syllabi, curricular attributes, programs, areas of interest, expertise, creative projects and research.

## Timeline

Launched in spring semester of 2009 to full-time faculty, DataMYNE has since been expanded to include full-time and part-time faculty within Parsons. In building the project to-date, the team has developed scripts to scrape content from existing documents, created the database and data model, and designed the interface and front-end -- allowing faculty to directly maintain their own profiles. Future work will expand the interface to include more robust features, integrating the curricular content and visualization engine. Once tested amongst faculty and professional staff at Parsons, DataMYNE aspires to expand to include the entire New School population, including students and alumni.

## Support

Funding for DataMYNE has generously been supported by the Parsons Deans Office and the School of Art, Media and Technology faculty fund. TNS IT and CEA have been key collaborators in this project, and we appreciate their ongoing support.

## Team

Project Directors: Jane Pirone & Jess Irish (Parsons FTF/AMT)

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