

Reaction to the Reading

I chose to delve deeper in “the mapping of the 2009 election in Tehran.” Due to the reelection of Mohamed Ahmadinejad the citizens of Iran were angered because of his supposed “coup government”. In Iran there was a limited amount of news coverage available since Tehran is state-run, it was noted that the mapping project had to be conducted. The authors have the intentions of disproving anarchy and bureaucracy of the Iranian government and showing that the protests were in fact widespread spanning many regions of Iran. Acclaimed the “Twitter Protest”, the Iranian government refused to cover the events. Twitter users were able to see the intensity of the protest broadcasted by Iranian twitter users under the “#Iran Election” title. With the help of an IT programmer from San Francisco named Austin Heap, the authors tracked the uploads from the Iranian twitter users. Furthermore, the authors used google maps to extrapolate communities and find protest leaders around Iran. The goal of this was to bolster the “honest news” coming out of Iran and investigate the validity. Lastly, the authors put the information in chronological order to timestamp the events leading up to the protest. The outcome of the coverage was to withdraw the solidarity associated with the movement, thereby limiting the effect and trauma for people suffering the reign of Mohamed Ahmadinejad. Now I transition into “Mapping Events and Mapping Social Media”. It begins with citing participation as the root of cultural humanity and how that is interwoven into aspects like race and culture. Even more, participation plays a central role in community engagement and digital humanities. The authors mention the ideas of Michel Foucault claims that participation is “open-minded” and is a condition which is constructed in our imagination. Lastly, the author mentions the importance of social media to dissect the issues and we can see how important Twitter was in coverage and validity of the aforementioned events of “the reelection of 2009 in Tehran”. [1]

Citation

Presner, Todd; Shepard, David; Kawano, Yoh. *Hypercities: Thick Mapping in Digital Humanities*.