

Algorithmically Encoded Identities Cheat Sheet

<i>Infrastructure</i>	Infrastructure typically brings to mind the idea of the built environment, such as roads, bridges and water pipes. Here, we are typically referring to <i>informational infrastructure</i> , which refers to decentralized technologies that are embedded into and act as foundation for other social structures, tools, and technologies. Data formats, calibration test images (e.g. Lena in signal processing), and ISO standards all make up that infrastructure. When an infrastructure works, it's typically invisible. We typically see it when it breaks down.
<i>Infrastructural inversion</i>	Infrastructural inversion is a method of turning an infrastructure on its head and understanding what's behind it. The method deconstructs the assumptions, values, and measurement issues with particular elements which are taken for granted within elements of infrastructure.
<i>Social construction</i>	Social construction is the idea that particular social categories are not biological facts (e.g. race, gender, class) but are constructed by society. Even though they are not "real", they have very real impacts in the world.
<i>Torque</i>	Torque is the process of twisting or forcing an individual into classification systems that are not aligned with their lived experience.
<i>Classification system</i>	A set of boxes (metaphorical or literal) into which things can be put to then do some kind of work.
<i>Naturalization</i>	An object becomes naturalized when the contingencies of its creation and its situated nature are lost. The more naturalized a category scheme is, the more likely it is to be adopted in an uncritical manner (Bowker and Star 2000).

Bowker, G. C., & Star, S. L. (1999). Sorting things out: Classification and its consequences. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.