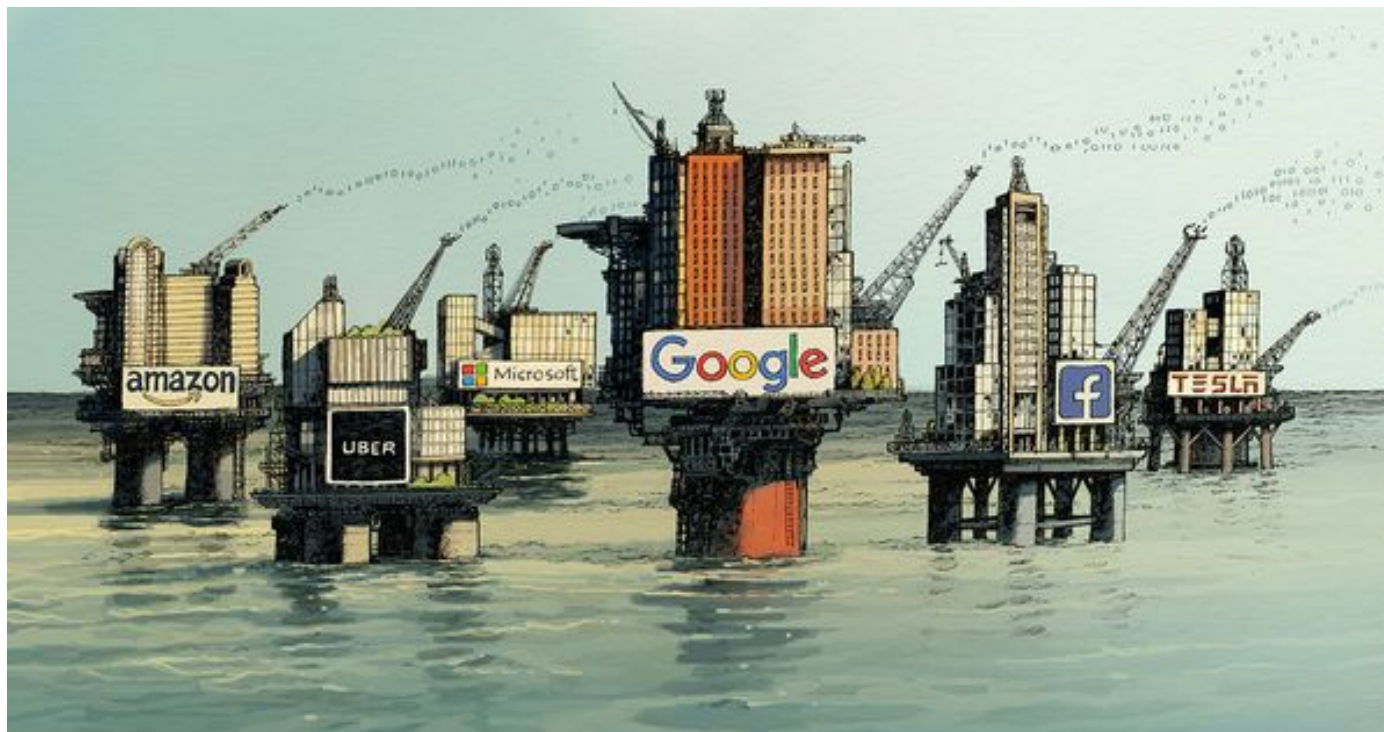


Examining Societal Biases in the Humanities

DIGHUM 101: Practicing the Digital Humanities (Summer 2020)

Annie Zeng, Crystal Kim, Malcolm Devoe, Rishabh Parekh
UC Berkeley



Topic

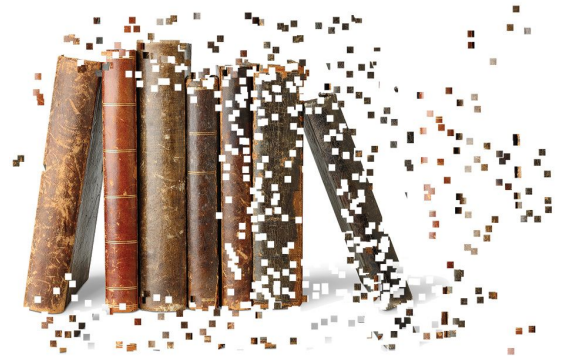
Research utilizing big data deserves thorough scrutiny to ensure that diverse topics - and the potential answers they offer - are not overlooked.

- How do digital tools and platforms affect the rise or demise of racialization in society?
- What are the parallels between feminist analysis and Digital Humanities methods, and can one be used to improve the other?
- How has the growth of and increased access to big data created challenges and opportunities for the Digital Humanities?

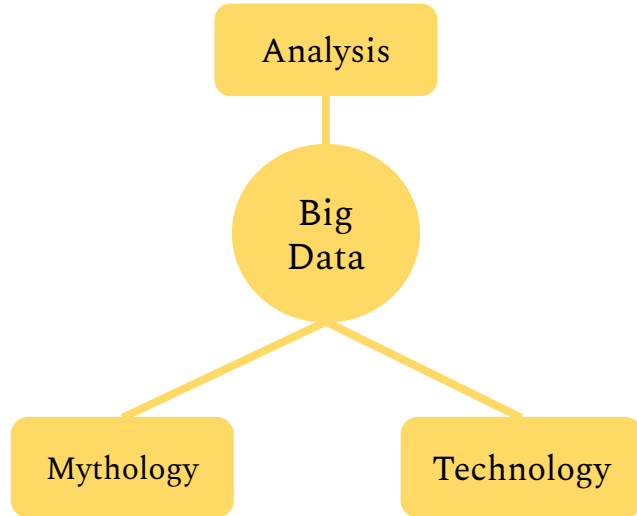


Selected Readings

1. Critical Questions for Big Data
2. Why I Dig: Feminist Approaches to Text Analysis
3. Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities
4. The Digital Humanities Debacle



Critical Questions for Big Data



1. Big Data changes the definition of knowledge
2. Claims to objectivity and accuracy are misleading
3. Bigger data are not always better data
4. Taken out of context, Big Data loses its meaning
5. Just because it is accessible does not make it ethical
6. Limited access to Big Data creates new digital divides



Why I Dig: Feminist Approaches to Text Analysis

Methods:

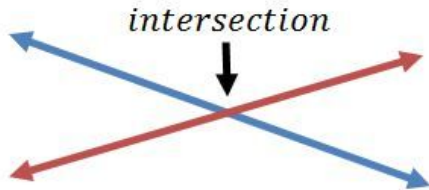


Results:



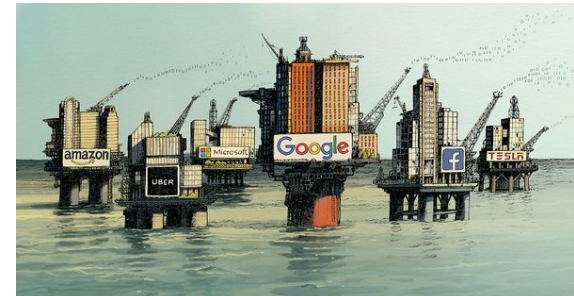
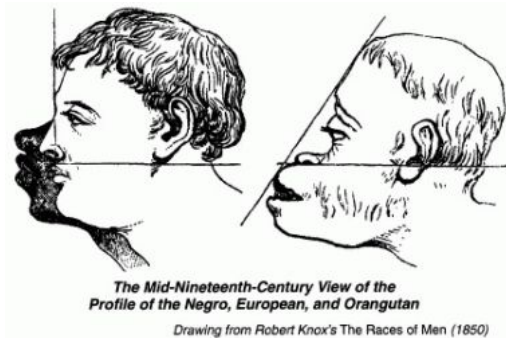
Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities

Methods:



Results:

- Technology of recovery
- Deregulate the tendency of technological tools to deemphasize questions about humanity
- Racialization of humanity + the digital
= POWER

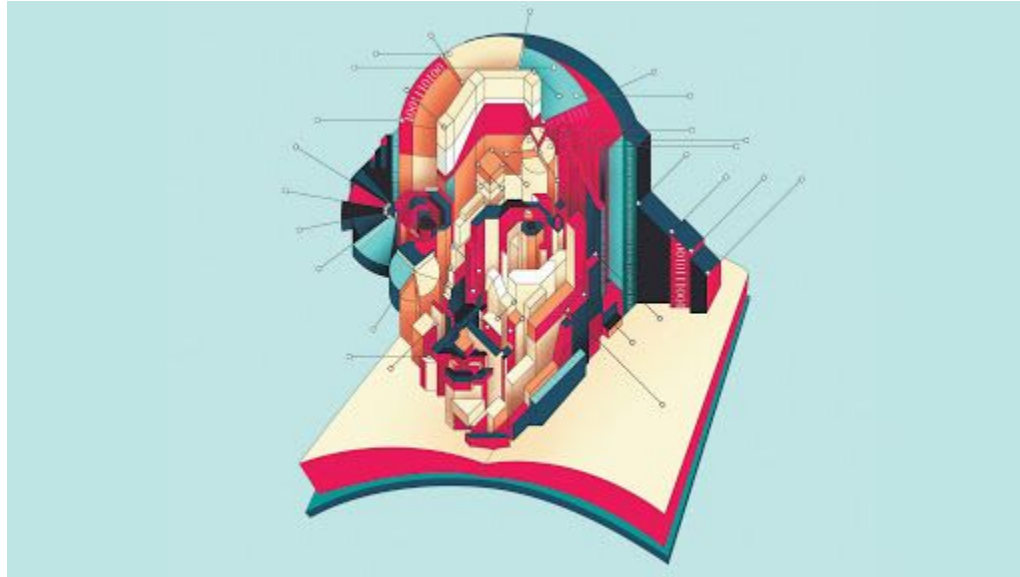


Discussion

All three of our selected readings forcefully conclude that increased racial and gender diversity in the Digital Humanities is needed to ensure consideration of diverse research topics and critique of tools and methods.

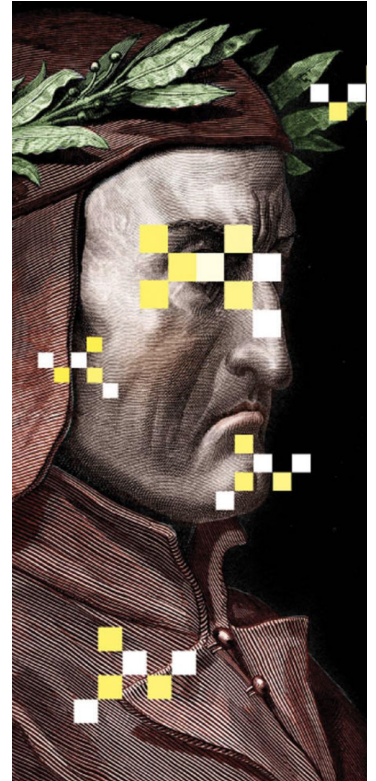


Nan Z. Da's *The Digital Humanities Debacle*



Limitations

- Twitter data
 - “Hashtags reveal that black people’s humanity is tethered to a racial system...” vs. “Twitter does not represent ‘all people’...”
- Fixing the analysis tools
 - We shouldn’t have to expect all people to have a feminist approach to not have flawed analyses
- DH is not uniquely flawed
 - Other humanities and analysis fields also have similar biases.



Take Home Points & Implications



Conclusion & Q/A

“...who is asking the questions determines which questions are asked.”

-quoted in Critical Questions for Big Data