>> RESUME // SHORT BIO

ALEXANDRIA AHLUWALIA is a Rome-based digital artist and researcher interested in building systems and speculations that reconfigure entanglements of technology, community, place, and ecology. Her emerging creative practice explores how data and digital technologies affect disability, environments, and expressions of gender. Alexandria's work encourages reflection on digital technologies and contexts by critically re-imagining and speculating diverse futures of technology and society through various digital mediums, maps and materials. Her main research topics surround data justice, sustainability and environmental justice principles, complex systems, and text generation.

She has presented work at The Creative Computing Institute in the UK, Ars Electronica in Austria, and with the Center for Arts Design and Social Research (CAD+SR) in Villa Pianciani in Spoleto, Italy, and more recently, at Casa do Povo in São Paolo. Additionally, she has a background in Ethical Technology Development, Socio-Technical Relations, and the Internet (Creative Computing Institute at the University of the Arts London MA' 23). Alexandria also holds a BSc in Mathematics from the University of British Columbia.

>> WORK SAMPLE 1/7

>> [December 2022, project] Text Regurgitation

University of the Arts London, MA Thesis Project, Presented in the CCI Postgraduate Showcase
Advisors: Joana Chicau (CCI), P M Krafft (CCI).

Text Regurgitation aims to critique Large Language Model's often unacknowledged but harmful decontextualization of language through the parody of text generation algorithms. The project takes the form of multiple receipts, each containing a "thesis," the code to generate the theses, and informative documentation. These theses have been generated intentionally without using Large Language Models. Instead, the text is generated using various functions that take inspiration from algorithms, some over 100 years old. The text corpus was created from the assigned readings for the course "MA Internet Equalities" and the syllabus "Book of Units" itself.

Text Regurgitation is simultaneously a commentary on western education systems and knowledge production. Regurgitation refers to the act of bringing up something that has been previously swallowed or digested. In the context of information, regurgitation refers to the repetition of previously learned information without understanding it. With the recent release of OpenAI's ChatGPT, it is crucial to acknowledge that even if the produced text is seemingly coherent, language models can not understand; they can only regurgitate without meaning. Shared project open source.
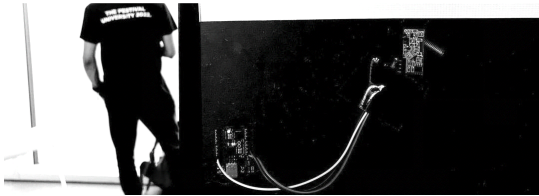

explore: https://lexahl.github.io/maie/ma-thesis-text-regurgitation/

>> WORK SAMPLES 2-4/7

>> [September 2022, collaboration] Energy Exchange
Presented at the Ars Electronica Festival 2022, Festival University Participant
Collaborators: Roham Haghro, Coralie Huber, Natalia Marin, Cosmo Schüppel, David Vega.

Interactive piece dealing with the (in)tangibility and (in)visibility of energy consumption in everyday life. Through the visual, sonic, and spatial configuration of open-source electronic hardware and software, Energy Exchange makes our proximity to energy perceptible and hopes to encourage a shared responsibility in our energy usage and consumption. Project drew on sustainability and environmental justice principles.

>> [June 2022, project] What could a community internet look like if only sustained by renewable energy sources?
Interactive Website, Sustainability, Internet
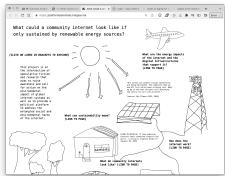
This project is at the intersection of speculative fiction and research that aims to raise awareness and call for action on the environmental impact of global internet systems as well as to provide a political platform to address the entangled social and environmental harms of the internet.

explore: https://platformpotentials.hotglue.me/

>> [April 2022, project] Digital Deconstruction of Human Rights
Interactive Website, Data, Human Rights

This project critiques human rights as framed by the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) from 1948. Through a collection of text data about human rights, the imagery and various contexts, this project encourages the viewer to question "who has power to declare rights?" and "who can claim rights?" in a critique of the uneven distribution of rights and the antiquity of certain rights around the world today.

explore: https://ddhr.cargo.site/

>> WORK SAMPLES 5-6/7

>> [March 2022, teaching] Data Justice Workshops: Ideas, Problems, and Resistance Methods Surrounding Data Biases
London College of Communication, Guest Lecturer

Data is everywhere and affects us all - even a conversation with a community member is a way of collecting data. What kind of questions are you asking? What happens with their answers? What are the power dynamics of the conversation? Whom is this project for? Who is this project by? In this workshop, ideas about power, bias, and extractive research methods were discussed and challenged. Different kinds of biases were recognized through various examples and group discussions. Furthermore ways to work with these biases while considering our own power as researchers was explained with community based research as a focus.

>> [December 2021, project] I don't need to explain this to you, but I want to.
Migraine Chatbot, Interactive Website
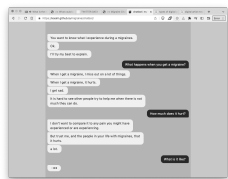
This project is about the conversations I have about my migraines and how that in itself is labour. I do not owe it to anyone to explain my migraines, but it is expected of me. From explaining to friends why I can't see them to requiring documents from 3 countries to prove I have an invisible condition, it is expected of me in society, and it is labour. This project is a way to shift labour and shift power. As the chatbot is scripted and the user cannot ask questions that I do not want to answer, the chatbot cannot receive abuse, and I control what is shared in the conversation.

explore: https://lexahl.github.io/migraine/

>> WORK SAMPLE 7/7

>> [2020/2021, research, project] Data Justice

Data Justice Researcher, UBC Office of Regional International Community Engagement (ORICE), Gender+ in Research Collective.
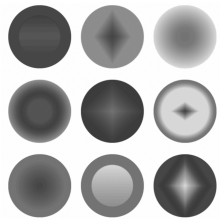
Researching, collaborating, designing, and writing an accessible and intersectional guide as part of a multidisciplinary research team to help organizations incorporate data justice principles in community-based data projects. This guide introduces and develops the concept of 'data justice' for community organizations that already work with data or are looking to work on data-based projects. In addition, this guide explores dismantling power structures and privilege through definitions, examples, reflexivity, and critical thinking. Sharing critical technical knowledge and skills.

explore: https://orice.ubc.ca/research/collective-for-gender-in-research/

Ahluwalia, A., Bean, C., Chachram, M., Chan, R., Cheang, R., Cheng, S., Chindea, V., ConradKilgallen, K., Cooey-Hurtado, L., Correa, K., Dresselhuis, A., James, E., Kim, C., Knight, K., Mozolevych, N., Poissant, J., Sarvini, J., Tomar, B., Traboulay, A. (2022). Community-Based Research & Data Justice Resource Guide. Gender + in Research Collective at ORICE UBC, Vancouver, BC.