# Data Wells: Race and State Violence in the United States from 1892

## **Quantitative Histories Workshop**

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#### 0.1 Data + Ida B. Wells-Barnett

- We use the term "Data Wells" to describe how we practice the identification, input, and storage of what can be termed as critical insights data, or CIDs.
- We use information in databases in four ways:
  - (1) studying problems in the quantification of historical information across various axes: time, social constructs, and/or systemic issues,
  - (2) data identification and wrangling,
  - (3) data analysis and communication, and
  - (4) modeling abstract inquiries.
- We begin our analysis with Ida B. Wells-Barnett's organization and analysis of lynching.
- We describe "Data Wells" of U.S. state violence using quantitative history as a frame.

### 1 Quantitative Histories Workshop

#### 1.1 Quantitative history

- Quantitative history considers methods and approaches to artifacts as data and information.
- Historians like Pierre Chanu (book to the right) are centered in traditional texts; more traditional perspectives are uncovering troubling practices with regard to race<sup>1</sup>.
- Despite long-standing critiques, there are few critical dimensions in quantitative history narratives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Vovelle, Michel (1987). Bourgeoisies de province et Revolution. Presses Universitaires de Grenoble.



Figure 1: *Histoire Quantitative* by Pierre Chanu

#### 1.2 Racialization and U.S. State Violence

Today, we will explore three forms of state sponsored violence.

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• Lynching

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• Police

. . .

• Prisons

#### 1.3 The Red Record

• **Personal experience**. In 1892, a close friend of Ida B. Wells-Barnett was lynched. Wells-Barnett, a known activist, community organizer, and journalist, would generate quantitative indicators of lynching as state violence.

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• Intuition and method. Like many Black communities at the time and other allies, Wells-Barnett acknowledged both the personal (micro) social forces of racism and the systemic (macro) nature of white racial violence. In this case, this violence was expressed through the practice of lynching.

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• Impact. Wells-Barnett's databases, and the use of number and quantification have a profound impact on the current view of state-sponsored racial violence.

#### 1.4 Lynching

Caitlin Pollock has created software based on a series of extracted data from Wells-Barnett's work. Although the data provides for quick loading and analysis, it does require some data wrangling.

#### 1.4.1 1893

Content for 1893

1.4.2	1893	map
1.4.3	1894	

Content for 1894

#### 1.4.4 1895

Content for 1895

#### 1.5 Concerns

Pollock deals with the issue of erasure in their development of the data.

#### 1.6 Policing

- 1.7 Fatal police interactions
- 1.8 Campus Policing
- 1.9 Campus Policing Timeline

#### 1.10 Racism

#### 1.11 Prisons

- "In 2021, Black Americans were imprisoned at 5.0 times the rate of whites, while American Indians and Latinx people were imprisoned at 4.2 times and 2.4 times the white rate, respectively." (The Sentencing Project, 2023)
- "One in five Black men born in 2001 is likely to experience imprisonment within their lifetime, a decline from one in three for those born in 1981. Pushback from policymakers threatens further progress in reducing racial inequity in incarceration." (The Sentencing Project, 2023)

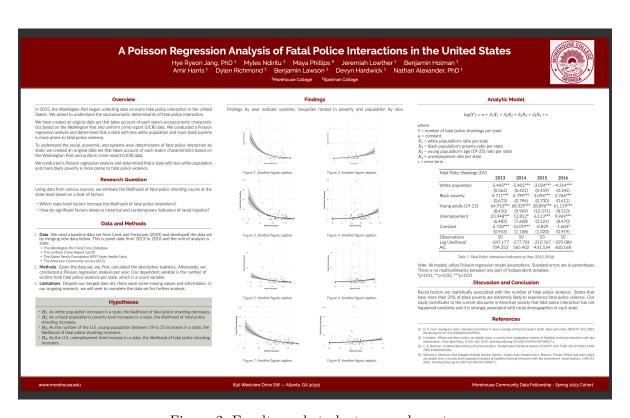


Figure 2: Faculty and student research poster

#### 1.12 Prisons

#### 1.13 Prisons

#### 1.13.1 Federal

Content for federal

#### 1.13.2 State

Content for state

#### 1.13.3 Federal and State

Content for federal and state

## 2 Thank you

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Thank you for joining us and citing today's presentation.

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