

# HIST 491: Data & Power

An imagined syllabus by Sara Simon



"Historical documents guarded with great care by National Archives."

November 22, 1939. Harris & Ewing photo collection, Library of Congress, LC-H22-D- 7849 [P&P].

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016876642/>

## Course description

Data is a multifaceted beast. Proud data flows confidently through the currents that sustain our lives, like a school of fish jostling a boisterous river. Quiet data lurks in crevices, our eroding infrastructure an invitation for data to tuck itself away, shielded and unseen. "Raw" data reflects the conditions of its creation, then it gets scooped up, twisted, dunked, and dyed. "Clean" data is always performative, playing the part of savvy chameleon.

For some, data's ubiquity is benign, unremarkable, part of the rhythm of everyday life. Data can even be quite useful in some cases, helping to identify trends, highlight disparities, and push for important reforms. For many, though, the pervasiveness of data surveillance presents a ceaseless threat, with systems of data capture developed and deployed to ensure power is kept in the hands of the already powerful. What's more, wholly false narratives about data's

objectivity dominate popular understandings of science and technology, concealing the discriminatory biases baked into the designs of data systems.

Welcome to Data & Power. **This is a history class, so we'll explore themes related to data and power by interrogating historical examples of how data has poured fuel on power.** Informed by methods from Science and Technology Studies (STS), we'll also look at the production of data, grappling with state incentives to collect information about individuals and communities. We'll unravel how and why data can be shaped and constricted and expanded and extrapolated upon, morphed into various forms. We'll also study the landscape of technological infrastructure that facilitates data collection, paying close attention both to the workers on whom data relies and to the environmental consequences of our society's current obsession with data. At times, we will challenge the motivations behind concerns about data integrity, and we'll identify when and why issues become problematized unnecessarily, solely for the sake of producing "data-driven" solutions. **Every week, we will ask: What makes data powerful, and how does data support power?**

The course material is split into two-week sections, with each consisting of readings designed to approach a theme from sometimes complementary, other times contradictory angles. These contradictions are purposeful. It can be very confusing and frustrating to grapple with the many realities, uses, and consequences of data! Our goal in this class will be to create a shared space where all students feel safe to sit with this confusion and frustration. Importantly, too, this class aims to create a space where all students can make use of this confusion and frustration, finding momentum to push for a better future and making sense of data's current ubiquity in ways that are generative and productive. **We'll try to develop a theory around datafication that is powerful in its own right—a theory that can help us to discern data's role in ongoing fights against structural oppression.**

### **Expectations & learning outcomes**

We'll meet once a week.<sup>1</sup> Please try to complete the readings listed for each week prior to the week's class. As you read, **I encourage you to keep a reading journal.** Your reading journal doesn't need to be anything formal, and you don't need to share it with me or with your classmates, though you're certainly welcome to!

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<sup>1</sup> Given the subject matter of this course, I'll ask that we follow a disability justice framework in this class. As long as COVID-19 is still with us, we'll try to meet online. If that's not possible, we'll take advantage of the effective and decidedly low-tech tools that will make our classroom safer: good air circulation and high-quality masks.

My recommendation for your reading journal: Write one journal entry each week, about three or four paragraphs max. The first paragraph or two should summarize the week's readings. Focus on identifying the core arguments, and try to put those arguments into your own words. Then, write a paragraph or two in response, maybe about what stood out to you in the readings, or try to pull together themes from across the week's readings, or jot down questions you have about them. **Writing in your reading journal each week will be the best way for you to prepare for class.**

Midway through the semester, you will write a **midterm paper or poem**. There will be a longer **final paper** due at the end of the semester. Details about both assignments are provided within the syllabus.

## **Book list**

Most of the readings will be provided in pdf format. There are a few books we'll read in full, though. Please plan on requesting these four books from interlibrary loan or purchasing:

- *W. E. B. Du Bois's Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America: The Color Line at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, eds. Britt Rusert and Whitney Battle-Baptiste (2018).
- *Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside*, by Xiaowei Wang (2020).
- *Latinas on the Line: Invisible Information Workers in Telecommunications*, by Melissa Villa-Nicholas (2022).
- *Immeasurable Weather: Meteorological Data and Settler Colonialism from 1820 to Hurricane Sandy*, by Sara J. Grossman (forthcoming).

## **A critical introduction to data**

In the first two weeks of the course, we'll get used to asking some seemingly basic but extremely big questions. To start: What is data? Or rather, what isn't! We'll think about the ways data orbits around us, and about how our everyday lives intersect with data.

## **Week 1 intro**

No readings prior to the first class. In class, I'll give a broad overview of the course, and then we'll start looking at next week's readings. **The goal with this selection is to see that there's a**

**breadth of writing about data.** Some stories are about data being weaponized by the powerful; others tell of people attempting to gather data as a process of forcing people in power to identify and correct inequities. Start getting comfortable thinking about this dichotomy, that data can both elucidate and obscure, help and harm.

### Week 2 readings

Select three readings from the list of ten below and come to class prepared to talk about your three in small groups:

- “Data Against Democracy” by Bermet Zhumakadyr kyz, published in *Logic Magazine* (2018).
- “AI Translation is Jeopardizing Afghan Asylum Claims” by Andrew Deck, published in *Rest of World* (2023).
- “The Secret Bias Hidden in Mortgage-Approval Algorithms” by Emmanuel Martinez and Lauren Kirchner, published in *The Markup* (2021).
- “How Far is Too Far? An Analysis of Driving Times to Abortion Clinics in the US” by Russell Samora, Amber Thomas, and Caitlyn Ralph, published in *The Pudding* (2017).
- “We’re Histories of Disability. What We Just Found on eBay Horrified Us” by Aparna Nair and Kylie M. Smith, published in *Slate* (2022).
- “The Viral AI Avatar App Lensa Undressed Me—Without My Consent” by Melissa Heikkilä, published in *MIT Technology Review* (2022).
- Chapter 2: “Captivating Algorithms” from *Computing Taste: Algorithms and the Makers of Music Recommendation*, by Nick Seaver (2022).
- “How Wastewater Can Help Track Viruses Like Covid and Polio” by Aliza Aufrichtig, Emily Anthes, and Jonah Markowitz, published in the *New York Times* (2022).
- “An AI Told Me I Had Cancer” by Meredith Broussard, published in *Wired*, adapted from *More Than a Glitch, Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech* (2023).
- Chapter 2: “Straight Code” from *The Digital Closet: How the Internet Became Straight* by Alexander Monea (2023).

### Poverty, inequality, and the prevalence of technochauvinism

These days, whenever there’s a problem, there’s a well-funded team of technologists eager to build a solution. Even when there’s *not* a problem, technological solutions seem to be cropping up everywhere. Consumed by austerity measures and efficiency mindsets, policy makers and corporate executives alike often turn to the promise of “data-driven” solutions.

In this section, we'll grapple with what Meredith Broussard calls *technochauvinism*, the belief that regardless of the issue at hand, technology is the solution. **Specifically, we're going to interrogate technochauvinism in the context of class, poverty, and the rural/urban divide.** What should we make of the fact that farmers in rural China are using artificial intelligence to breed chickens and pigs? Here in the United States, is technology advancing the higher ed experience for college students across the board, or only for those at well-resourced institutions? When billionaires boast that their large language models are going to propel society into the promised utopia, what unspoken motivations might be simmering under the surface? In each of this section's readings, we're going to be asking what Daniel Greene puts so simply: **Why do we keep turning to technology to solve the problem of poverty?**

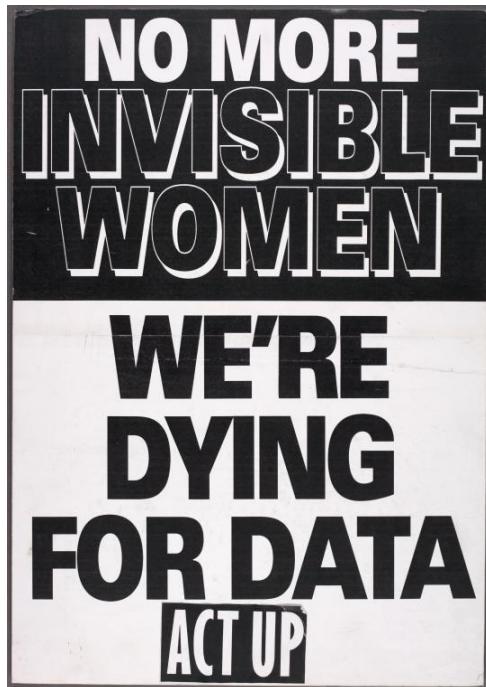
### Week 3 readings

- Excerpts from *Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World*, by Meredith Broussard (2018).
  - Chapter 1: Hello, Reader
- *Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside*, by Xiaowei Wang (2020). (A relatively short book! Please read the whole thing.)

### Week 4 readings

- Excerpts from *The Promise of Access: Technology, Inequality, and the Political Economy of Hope* by Daniel Greene (2021).
  - Introduction: The Internet: You're Future Depends on It
  - Chapter 1: Discovering the Divide: Technology and Poverty in the New Economy
- "Rethinking the Context of Edtech" by Tressie McMillan Cottom, published in *Educause Review* (2019).
- Listen to the episode: "AI and Stochastic Parrots, with Emily Bender and Timnit Gebru" on the podcast *Factually! with Adam Conover* (2023). (~75 minutes)

## The public's right to public health



"No More Invisible Women. We're Dying for Data."

New York Public Library Digital Collections, Manuscripts and Archives Division.

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e3-1ca0-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

"Health is politics by other means," writes Alondra Nelson in the opening line of *Body and Soul*, riffing on the Bruno Latour quote about science as politics. **In this section, we'll look at the power dynamics behind public health crises, and at the ways political groups can both use data to push for change, and, conversely, push for change by advocating explicitly against the collection of data.**

In the first week of the section, we'll head to antebellum New Orleans, where epidemics of yellow fever ravished communities and created a system of class rule Kathryn Olivarius calls *immunocapitalism*, in which "disease was endowed with spiritual purpose" (Olivarius, 9). We'll learn how yellow fever created vastly different experiences for people based on race and free-status. As Olivarius explains, the white public's hegemonic conceptions about *acclimation*, or immunity, dominated the city's economic landscape and worked to dismiss concerns of risk, despite how little was actually known about why and how yellow fever spread.

From there, we'll fast forward into the 1970s for an examination of the Black Panther Party's campaign to bring awareness to sickle cell anemia. We'll also learn about another initiative from the Panthers, one that successfully prevented the establishment of a university research center for the study and reduction of violence. As Nelson writes, a coalition of activists worked to

“shield the impoverished, the incarcerated, and otherwise vulnerable populations from becoming biomedical research subjects” (Nelson, 19).

Moving chronologically still, the Schulman readings bring us to the 1990s, showing how citizen scientists from the political group ACT UP did the work U.S. health authorities refused to do, poring over scientific literature and assembling proof that women were indeed dying from AIDS, despite the fact that the official disease classification at the time limited AIDS diagnoses to men.

We’ll end the section with much more recent history. In “The Discomfort of Death Counts,” Raji explores the humanity lost through the compilation of COVID-19 death data, writing about the cruelty and harms of data scientists who use data “to package and expose, to harvest and exploit” (Raji, 1). In the field of data science, Raji writes, “we assume true power lies within the implied stories—these impactful narratives our data will either support or contradict” (Raji, 2). Raji argues COVID-19’s profound disparities, particularly by race, demand a far more humane method of engaging with death data, asking how we might instead tell richer, more personalized stories. Keep Raji’s arguments in mind as we read congressional testimony about the “deadly gaps in our nation’s public health data infrastructure” (Hamilton, 1).

### Week 5 readings

- Excerpts from *Necropolis: Disease, Power, and Capitalism in the Cotton Kingdom* by Kathryn Olivarius (2022).
  - Introduction: A Rising Necropolis
  - Chapter 2: Danse Macabre
  - Chapter 3: Immunocapital
- Excerpts from *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination* by Alondra Nelson (2013).
  - Preface: Politics by Other Means
  - Chapter 4: Spin Doctors: The Politics of Sickle Cell Anemia
  - Chapter 5: As American As Cherry Pie: Contesting the Biologization of Violence

### Week 6 readings

- Excerpts from Part III of *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993*, by Sarah Schulman (2021).
  - Treatment and Data #2: Citizen Scientists
  - Changing the Definition: Women Don’t Get AIDS, We Just Die From It

- Raji, Inioluwa Deborah. "The Discomfort of Death Counts: Mourning through the Distorted Lens of Reported COVID-19 Death Data." *Patterns* (New York, N.Y.) 1, no. 4 (2020): 100066–.
- "Data for Decision-Making: Responsible Management of Data During COVID-19 and Beyond." Written testimony by Janet Hamilton, Executive Director, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, submitted September 23, 2020, to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight.

### **Midterm paper assignment**

- **Option 1:** Pick two readings we've covered so far this semester from two \*different\* sections and come up with an argument that ties the two readings together. Write a short essay (~700 words) driven by your argument.
- **Option 2:** Read the poem "Counting Descent" by Clint Smith, published in Smith's 2016 collection of poems with the same title. Then, write a poem about data and power (both terms broadly defined) of similar length and structure.

The choice is yours! Either way, midterm assignments will be due by the start of Week 9.

### **On the manipulation and weaponization of data**

Data can be a powerful tool. In the hands of reformers and activists, it can provide crucial evidence, force conversation, and compel change. But data in the hands of the powerful can act as a kind of camouflage, able to be morphed and manipulated into telling whatever narrative pleases its facilitator. **It's important to understand this manipulation of data isn't always intentional. With savvy hands, data can deflect; with careless hands, data can obscure.** In this section, we'll confront these contradictions head on, looking at the consequences of collecting data.

First, we'll read about a major effort from the World Health Organization (WHO) in the 1950s and 1960s to standardize data around mental health. Motivated by the WHO's post-World War II "quasi-utopian scientific internationalism" (Wu, 138), the organization embarked on a mission to embrace new advancements in technology for the sake of standardizing metrics and methods of mental health data collection. As Harry Yi-Jui Wu describes, the WHO's project of international standardization had the effect of making mental health more "visible, measurable, and eventually manageable" (Wu, 115). In seeking to standardize the data, though, the WHO

flattened cultural differences into universal forms, obscuring nuanced expressions of mental health.

From Dan Bouk, we'll read about the life insurance industry's grip on data, exploring the long legacy of U.S. capitalism's motivations for and methods of gathering—or *smoothing*—data, quantifying risk, and predicting death.

Next, we'll read a recent Decision and Order from the National Labor Relations Board, which found that Goddard College engaged in unfair labor practices related to COVID-19 and return-to-campus policies. When reading the decision, pay close attention to the language Goddard College used to assert it was safe for employees to return to campus in person, with the mask requirement dropped.<sup>2</sup> We'll pair this reading with one about how and why meatpacking executives in the early days of the pandemic were able to convince policy makers and health officials to keep their plants up and running, at the sacrifice of factory workers.

But the weaponization of data isn't just a tool for the already powerful; it can also be a forceful form of defense. So, to close out this section, we'll explore how union members at the *Washington Post* came together to collect demographic and salary data about their newsroom, in the hopes of compelling their newsroom's leadership into meaningful change.

### Week 7 readings

- *Mad by the Millions: Mental Disorders and the Early Years of the World Health Organization*, by Harry Yi-Jui Wu (2021).
  - Introduction: A Shared Vision
  - Chapter 2: Structure
  - Chapter 5: Technology
- Excerpts from *How Our Days Became Numbered: Risk and the Rise of the Statistical Individual*, by Dan Bouk (2015).
  - Preface: Strange Books
  - Chapter 4: Smoothing

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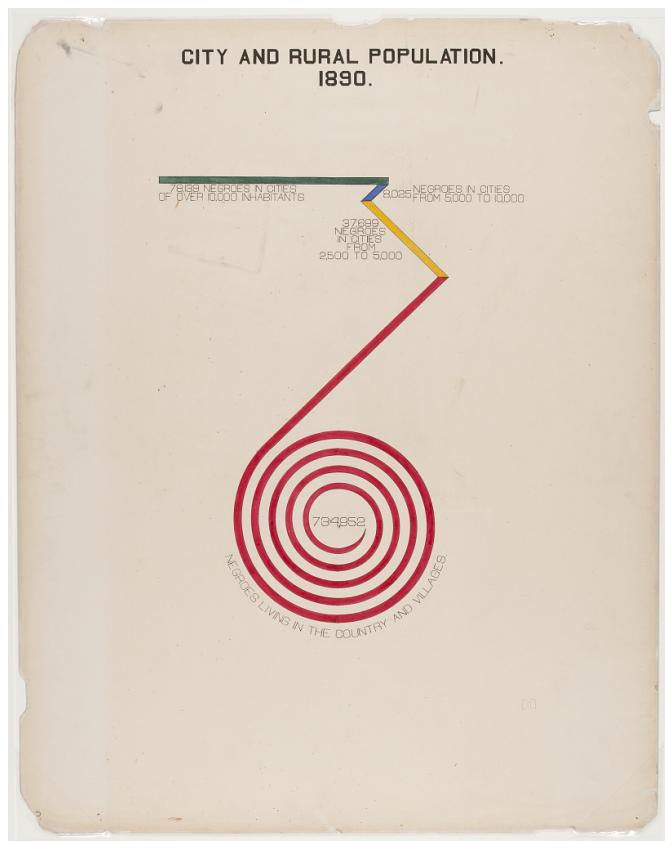
<sup>2</sup> I'll point you right to it! On page 7 of the Decision and Order, we see that Goddard College decided to follow the local jurisdiction's COVID-19 protocols in an attempt to remain "objective, data based, nuanced, measured, and apolitical" about COVID-19.

## Week 8 readings

- 372 NLRB No. 85 (2023): Goddard College Corporation and United Auto Workers Local 2322. Case 03-CA-283012. Decision and Order by Chairman McFerran and Members Wilcox and Prouty (2023).
- “The Plot to Keep Meatpacking Plants Open During COVID-19” by Michael Grabell, published by *ProPublica* (2022).
- “Pay, Diversity and Retention at The Post: 2022 Report” by members of the *Washington Post* Guild (2022).
  - Introduction
  - Explore the data
  - Data analysis

Midterm assignments due.

## Identity, administration, and the state



W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Georgia Negro City and Rural Population*. Paris, France, ca. 1900. Photograph.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2013650430/>.

How does the state gather population-level statistics? How do local officials know how many people are born and die in their jurisdictions? How granular does this data get, and is the level of granularity consistent across cities, counties, and states? How does it change over time? Can demographic data collected and held by the state ever be accurate? Does this level of accuracy differ by community? Does accuracy matter? Ultimately, whom does this data serve?

In this section, we'll begin with W. E. B. Du Bois's collection of data visualizations, presented as part of the American Negro Exhibit at the 1900 Paris Exposition. Du Bois's work for the exhibit highlighted the progress made by Black Americans since Emancipation, despite the vast and violent obstacles Black communities faced. His infographics drew on data gathered both by a lab of sociology students and alumni from Atlanta University and from sources like the U.S. Census, the Atlanta University Reports, and other government records. **As you read through Du Bois's work, consider why he used both community-gathered data and data from official sources.** What stories could the data from each source tell individually, and what stories could the data tell together?

In the second half of the section, **we'll spend some time thinking about how (and why, and how well) the government collects vital statistics data**, which covers births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths. We'll start with an article about how the vital statistics officials who fill out U.S. birth certificates have historically negotiated "illegitimate" births, with various constituencies arguing sometimes for and sometimes against the collection of *birth status*.

From there, we'll read about policy changes in the twentieth century that affected the U.S. technological landscape of vital statistics collection, and we'll pair it with a reading about government computer systems in the UK that, in the mid-twentieth century, were unequipped to handle requests from transgender people who sought to correct their government-issued identification.

### **Week 9 readings**

- *W. E. B. Du Bois's Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America: The Color Line at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, eds. Britt Rusert and Whitney Battle-Baptiste (2018). (A vibrant, visual stunner. Please spend time with the whole book.)

## Week 10 readings

- “Facts Which Might Be Embarrassing: Illegitimacy, Vital Registration, and State Knowledge” by Susan J. Pearson, published in *Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History*, edited by Margot Canaday, Nancy F. Cott, and Robert O. Self (2021).
- Starr, Paul, and Susan Starr. “Reinventing Vital Statistics. The Impact of Changes in Information Technology, Welfare Policy, and Health Care.” *Public Health Reports* (1974) 110, no. 5 (1995): 534–544.
- “Hacking the Cis-tem” by Mar Hicks, published in *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* (2019).

## Data's coworkers

What kinds of human labor is needed for data to be collected and put to use? And on the flip side, what kinds of labor does data surveil? **In this section, we'll be exploring the experiences of working in roles that orbit around technology and data, along with the experiences of people whose data and technology work is increasingly surveilled.**

We'll spend the first week of the section with *Latinas on the Line*, Melissa Villa-Nicholas's account of the Latina information workers who entered the telecommunications field after the EEOC v. AT&T consent decree in 1973. Villa-Nicholas uses both oral histories and archival research to tell the human-centered stories that sit at the center of telecommunications infrastructure modernization.<sup>3</sup>

In week two, we'll look at some of the most egregious players in data labor and workplace surveillance, from Reddit to TikTok to Amazon to... long-haul trucking companies? That's right. We'll hop on the road with Karen Levy, who shows how a rapid rise in digital surveillance—compelled by company policies and federal regulations—is upending the day-to-day work of long-haul truckers.

## Week 11 readings

- *Latinas on the Line: Invisible Information Workers in Telecommunications*, by Melissa Villa-Nicholas (2022). (Please read the whole book.)

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<sup>3</sup> See also: Venus Green's 2001 book *Race on the Line: Gender, Labor, and Technology in the Bell System, 1880-1980*, upon which Villa-Nicholas's writing builds.

## Week 12 readings

- Listen to the interview: “The Psychologically Taxing Work of Content Moderators” hosted by Rachael Myrow of KQED, featuring Sarah T. Roberts and Niamh McIntyre (2023). (~53 minutes)
- “The Eyes of Amazon: A Hidden Workforce Driving a Vast Surveillance System” by Niamh McIntyre and Rosie Bradbury, published in the *Bureau of Investigative Journalism* (2022).
- “Surveillance Was Supposed to Make Long-Haul Trucking Safer. Did It?” by Karen Levy, published in *Slate*, and adapted from *Data Driven: Truckers, Technology, and the New Workplace Surveillance* (2022).

## Final paper assignment

For your final paper, please write a ~2,000 word historiographical essay on a topic of your choosing related to data and power. The paper should be tailored to your own research interests and motivated by our conversations so far this semester. Final papers will be due at the end of the exam period.

## Environmental injustice, and the consequences of colonialism



A crew member from Microsoft’s Project Natick off the Orkney Islands in Scotland power washes a piece of the datacenter that had been on the seafloor for two years. (Photo: Jonathan Banks. Published in the September 2020 Microsoft Source article titled: “Microsoft finds underwater datacenters are reliable, practical and use energy sustainably.” <https://news.microsoft.com/source/features/sustainability/project-natick-underwater-datacenter/>)

Despite the manufactured invisibility of data—from cloud storage to underground cables—it's not a stretch to say our reliance on data systems is wreaking havoc on our already fragile planet.

**In this section, we'll grapple not only with the environmental consequences of data infrastructure but also with the grim legacies of settler colonialism and its hold on how meteorological data is produced.**

We'll dedicate the first week of the section to Sara J. Grossman, who explores the inextricable ties U.S. environmental data collection has to the country's history of settler colonialism. As Grossman argues, the data outputs produced for weather science must therefore be contextualized, understood in the context of their exploitative political roles.

In the second week of the section, we'll spend some time thinking about how we might inject interventions into the data and technology projects that cause environmental harm. We'll read stories about activists around the turn of the twenty-first century who fought for a cleaner Silicon Valley, and we'll lean into the idea of pre-conversations, suggested by Tonia Sutherland and Gailyn Bopp, who warn of potential dangers in Hawai'i related to Microsoft's expansion of subsea data centers.<sup>4</sup> We'll also read a reflection on *Black Panther*, a film that invites us to imagine a different future.

### **Week 13 readings**

- *Immeasurable Weather: Meteorological Data and Settler Colonialism from 1820 to Hurricane Sandy* (forthcoming), by Sara J. Grossman. (Please read the whole book.)

### **Week 14 readings**

- Excerpts from *The Silicon Valley of Dreams: Environmental Injustice, Immigrant Workers, and the High-Tech Global Economy*, by David Naguib Pellow and Lisa Sun-Hee Park (2002).
  - Chapter 8: Beyond Silicon Valley: The Social and Environmental Costs of the Global Microelectronics Industry
  - Chapter 9: Toward Environmental and Social Justice in Silicon Valley, USA, and Beyond
- “The Pacific Futures of Subsea Data Centers” by Tonia Sutherland and Gailyn Bopp, published in *New Media & Society* (2023).

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<sup>4</sup> As you read this article, pay close attention to what the authors write about their positionalities; consider, too, how many of the warnings we've read so far this semester about the potential harms of data and data systems have come from women of color, and from Black women specifically.

- “Wakanda Doesn’t Have Suburbs” by Kendra Pierre-Louis in the anthology *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, eds. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson (2021).

## **Metadata, archives, and the power of preservation**

If the data’s already been collected, what next? Or, if the data hasn’t yet been collected, should it be? What kinds of power dynamics sit at the foundation of data preservation and archival work? **Who gets to create “formal” archives, and what considerations about data should be made in the process?**

Monica Muñoz Martinez kicks off this section with an article on the importance of reconsidering data archives, arguing that historians should better recognize archival absences and expand our definition of what counts as data worthy of archiving. We’ll see similar themes in a reading from R. Arvid Nelsen, who writes about the responsibility of archivists and librarians to search for history in nontraditional sources. Finally, from Marika Cifor and Claire McDonald, we’ll read about data archiving as care work.

In our final week, we’ll listen to Mél Hogan and Tamara Kneese discuss the wacky ways our data lives beyond us, even past death. Then, we’ll close out the semester with an exploration into the confusing history of the U.S. census’s confidentiality policy, as well as the bureau’s development of the Disclosure Avoidance System.

### **Week 15 readings**

- “Lives, Not Metadata: Recovery Methods for Digital Histories of Racial Violence” by Monica Muñoz Martinez, published in *Annals of the American Academy* (2021).
- “Race and Computing: The Problem of Sources, the Potential of Prosopography, and the Lesson of Ebony Magazine” by R. Arvid Nelsen, published in *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* (2017).
- “I Hope We Leave More of a Record: Radical Queer Care Within and for the AIDS INFO BBS’s Caregivers Mailing List” by Marika Cifor and Claire McDonald, published in *Feminist Media Histories* (2023).

### **Week 16 readings**

- Listen to the episode “Death, with Tamara Kneese” on the podcast *The Data Fix* with Mél Hogan (2023). (~45 mins)

- “The U.S. census’s 72-year confidentiality rule has a strange history” by Hansi Lo Wang and Susie Cummings, published by NPR (2022).
- “Disclosure Avoidance for the 2020 Census: An Introduction” published by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Government Publishing Office (2021).

Final papers due on the last day of the exam period.