

## Digital + Humanities

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### Introduction

The Digital Humanities work to close the divide in the academy between what is "digital" and what is "human", creating a new discipline that bridges and combines the two fields and methods.

### Why Are the Digital Humanities So White?

McPherson, 2012

Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities

Gallon, 2016

We Are All Social Scientists Now

Grimmer, 2015



## Why Are the Digital Humanities So White? or Thinking the Histories of Race and Computation

#### Tara McPherson, 2012

- The historical background of both civil rights and computation
- Rules of Computation connected to industrial America
- Computation is inherently multicultural

Rule of Modularity: Write simple parts connected by clean interfaces.

Rule of Clarity: Clarity is better than cleverness.

Rule of Composition: Design programs to be connected to other programs.

Rule of Separation: Separate policy from mechanism; separate interfaces from engines.

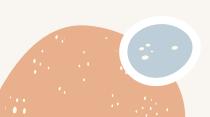
Rule of Simplicity: Design for simplicity; add complexity only where you must.

Rule of Parsimony: Write a big program only when it is clear by demonstration that nothing else will do.

Rule of Transparency: Design for visibility to make inspection and debugging easier.

Rule of Robustness: Robustness is the child of transparency and simplicity.

Rule of Representation: Fold knowledge into data so program logic can be stupid and robust. (13)





## Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities - Gallon, 2016

[Source]

#### **Overview**

- Kim Gallon Background and Motivation
- What is "Technology of recovery"?
- History behind Black Digital Humanities
- Impact of the Black Digital Humanities and Technology of recovery



[source]

### We Are All Social Scientists Now - Grimmer, 2015



[Source]

"Social scientists know that large amounts of data will not overcome the selection problems that make causal inference so difficult."

- Necessity of closer relationship between social and computer science
- Social sciences are needed to better analyze big data
- Big data and machine learning assist with causal inferences

### **Takeaways:**

#### Main Findings:

- Grimmer: Big Data and Social Science experts could benefit from engaging with each others' fields!
- McPherson: Multicultural data science requires multicultural systems!
- Gallon: Black Digital Humanities requires including Black perspectives on humanity in a digital context!

#### Broader Implications:

- Grimmer: Solving problems, especially with Big Data, is requiring a growing amount of interdisciplinarity.
- McPherson & Gallon: Advocate for a widening perspective of Digital Humanities and provide urgency for critical thought-process reexamination and the consistent inclusion of marginalized voices.

### "The Digital Humanities Debacle"

- Summary: Digital Humanities Debacle
  - o Pros
    - New ways to examine literature
    - Can look at large amounts of content at a time
  - o Cons
    - Most findings are exploratory
    - Field is running on 'potential'
- McPherson and Gallon
  - Race is another cultural gap crucial to making relevant claims in humanities



[Source]

# Thank you for listening!