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THE POLITICS OF DATA

DATA IS NOT “NEUTRAL”

- ▶ Status quo favors the powerful
- ▶ Existing practices harm marginalized people and the world at large
- ▶ *Technochauvinism re-inscribes oppressive and paternalistic systems*

ANARCHIST PRINCIPLES – FOR DATA, HCI, AND TECH WORK

- ▶ Call for a re-examination of politics embodied by tech work, leading to **explicit** articulation of these politics
- ▶ Honoring autonomy and human dignity
- ▶ Hold ourselves and our community accountable for oppressive work and practices
- ▶ Uplift liberatory approaches

ANARCHIST PRINCIPLES – FOR DATA, HCI, AND TECH WORK

- ▶ Offer our vision of an explicitly political (*anarcho-communist*) HCI
- ▶ Share strategies for building **prefigurative counterpower**
- ▶ Offer mechanisms through which to hold ourselves accountable for honoring **autonomy** and **human dignity**
- ▶ Inviting reckoning, reflection, and discussion
- ▶ Holding space for critique, pushback, and transformation

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ~OWN~ DATA?

- ▶ Collect/record instances within a particular context
- ▶ Articulate the dimensions of “data” that is analyzable
- ▶ Edit/manipulate labels attached to records
- ▶ Store and process records
- ▶ Tell the story

ANTI-OPPRESSIVE DATA SCIENCE - WHY IT'S HARD

- ▶ Privacy
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Disruption of current platforms
- ▶ Reduction or dismantling of infrastructure

TOWARD SELF-DETERMINATION

- ▶ Open-source appropriate technology (OSAT)
- ▶ Mesh Networks
- ▶ Participatory design/Co-design
- ▶ Un-design
- ▶ Justification or reconfiguration of power and control

MAKING & MAPPING:

LEARNING TO LASER-CUT AND VISUALIZING OUR MAKING EXPERIENCES

- ▶ Ongoing research informal design learning
 - ▶ interest-driven physical fabrication projects
 - ▶ focus on the laser-cutter as a digital fabrication tool
- ▶ Group members develop a project that utilizes a laser-cutter as the main tool
- ▶ We journal individually about our experiences and design process
- ▶ Collaboratively, we develop coding schema and visualizations to map our evolving understanding of laser-cutting as means of fabrication.

MAKING & MAPPING PROJECT

- ▶ Making as a site for integrating:
 - ▶ material inquiry
 - ▶ self-reflection and data collection
 - ▶ collaborative articulation of dimensions of analysis
- ▶ Shifting the “ownership” of data and projects to communities earlier in the pipeline

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Articulate politics explicitly in tech and data science work
- ▶ Affirmatively justify or demonstrate reconfiguration of power structures
- ▶ Actively oppose technochauvinism
- ▶ Local, contextual ownership and treatment of data
- ▶ Build prefigurative counter power