Chair & Committee

Chair
Mark Hansen, Journalism

Committee
Owen Rambow, Center for Computational Learning Systems (co-chair)
Peter Bearman, Sociology
Augustin Chaintreau, Computer Science
Matthew Connelly, History
Dan Ellis, Electrical Engineering
Laura Kurgan, Architecture
Gary Natriello, Sociology

Center Summary

The Center for New Media is interested in the human in data. It is comprised of students and faculty who are engaged in both creative as well as research practices grounded in data. We study the ways in which we can use data to understand human behavior, and we address questions about how data and data processing are shaping how we work, how we live, and what it means to be person in a networked, digitized world.

In the Center for New Media, we use data generated by people and data about people -- from the Tweets and status updates of social media, to images and video culled online, to large quantities of text. We design and build new tools for using data collections inside and outside of the University. Projects include uncovering the pattern of official secrecy by examining databases of declassified documents, a “personalized” news engine that creates a kind of algorithmic editorial voice, and a visual study of Thomson-Reuter’s Web of Science. Columbia has a long track record of startups in the new media field, including Newsblaster, MPEG, Dygest, and Musically Intelligent Machines.

The Center for New Media draws on participants from the fields of Architecture, the Humanities, the Social Sciences, Education, Journalism as well as Computer Science and Engineering. We are a diverse group of creative technologists, designers and scientists. Join us!
AFFILIATED LABS
Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theories and Empirics (INCITE)
Lab for Recognition and Organization of Speech and Audio (LabROSA)
Spatial Information Design Lab
EdLab - http://edlab.tc.columbia.edu
Written Interaction and Social Relations (WISR)

CURRENT OR PREVIOUS PROJECTS

Sample Current Projects

The Listening Machine
"The Listening Machine - Sound Source Organization for Multimedia Understanding" is an NSF-funded project at LabROSA concerned with separating and recognizing acoustic sources in complex, real-world mixtures.

The Declassification Engine
The enormous growth in the number of official documents - many of them withheld from scholars and journalists even decades later - has raised serious concerns about whether traditional research methods are adequate for ensuring government accountability. But the millions of documents that have been released, often in digital form, also create opportunities to use Natural Language Processing (NLP) and statistical/machine learning to explore the historical record in very new ways.

DRATS: Detecting Relations and Anomaly in Text and Speech
This project aims at using NLP to analyze large amounts of textual and speech data (an in particular interactive data) to find relations among people, and between people and propositions (such as sentiment or belief), and to identify when such relations change in an unexpected manner.

Sample Publications

Peter Bearman:
After Tobacco: What would Happen if Americans Stopped Smoking? (2011)

Dan Ellis:
Speech Decoloration Based On The Product-Of-Filters Model (2014)

May, Chaintreau, Korula, Lattanzi:
Filter & Follow: How Social Media Foster Content Curation (2014)

Gary Natriello:

Prabhakaran and Owen Rambow:
Written Dialog and Social Power: Manifestations of Different Types of Power in Dialog Behavior (2013)