THE DISESTABLISHMENTARIAN: *A Journal of Contemporary Sociocultural Inquiry and Experiment*

Call for Papers

Special Edition: Big Data and Predictive Futures

The Disestablishmentarian, an interdisciplinary graduate student journal associated with Concordia University's department of Sociology and Anthropology, is actively seeking submissions of original work for its special edition on Big Data and Predictive Futures.

Big Data describes a field of practice taking shape in relation to the contemporary proliferation of information technologies and the digitization of everyday life. Across numerous sectors organizations are collecting, storing, aggregating, analyzing and communicating digital information. Drawn from a variety of sources, such as hospitals, law enforcement agencies, schools, military, local governments, internet search engines, social network sites, health and medical apps and even drones, data originates in increasingly surprising interactions. This data is merged, analyzed and aggregated, with the objective of interpreting current actions and then envisioning future behaviours. Big Data algorithms pull from the past to actively disrupt and shift seemingly inevitable events.

The focus of this special issue is on critical questions surrounding the predictive futures enabled by big data analytics. These Big Data analytics promise to generate innovative understandings of risks that in turn shape decisions about interventions that might mediate these risks. Yet these imagined possibilities may also yield new risks and unintended consequences, disadvantaging some who go against these emerging directives of big data algorithms.

The rapid growth of Big Data has generated new prospects for those who have an interest in facilitating and forecasting future behaviors such as law enforcement, public health agencies and the military. Big Data analytics that aim to deliver data that can lead to pre-emptive interventions such as police profiling, quarantine or preventative medical procedures to name a few. Scholars have raised a range of critical questions about the consequences of such pre-emptive imaginaries, focusing attention on their discriminatory potential, their capacity to amplify bias, and their propensity to generate self-reinforcing and self-perpetuating forms of knowledge (Barocas et al. 2013) that produce "cumulative disadvantage" (Gandy 2010).

The aim of this special issue in the *Disestablishmentarian* is to explore ideas around big data and the way that it might shape, sort, direct, discriminate, and predict both individual and group behaviors.

What are the intended vs unintended consequences?
How might Big Data impact privacy, reputation, control, self-censoring, and the reinforcing of bias?
How might Big Data and predictive analytics affect potentialities, opportunities and outlooks?
How might these predictive analytics disturb or obfuscate claims of progress, protection and risk assessment?
These are some of the key questions taken up in this special issue.

Focus of the papers

We welcome papers that address the topic of Big Data and predictive futures in diverse realms. Authors are invited to submit high quality, original papers around the following themes:

1. Big Data and predictive policing
2. Big Data and racial profiling
3. Big Data and predictive medicine
4. Big Data and Public Health Surveillance
5. The Quantified Self
6. Big Data and Biometrics
7. Big Data and Human Rights
8. Drones and prediction for protection
9. Empowerment and Resistance in an era of Big Data
10. Big Data, Ethics and Algorithms.
11. Big Data as a Black-box

We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines addressing social and cultural issues that reflect our theme of Big Data and Predictive Futures. Ideally, research submitted will exemplify our mission by extending beyond limited disciplinary parameters to gain a more comprehensive understanding of complex challenges we face in contemporary society. Projects that include a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches are welcome. We will not accept papers which have been published or are currently being considered for publication elsewhere.

We encourage graduate students (MA and PhD) to submit their papers to:
thedisestablishmentariansite@gmail.com
by midnight on June 30, 2016.

Submission Guidelines:
·   4000-8000words double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins
·   Referencing using ASA citation
·   Previously unpublished
·   Original piece of work
·   An abstract of 200-250 words (separate from piece of work)
·   Name of author and institutional affiliation on abstract

 Wordpress site: https://thedisestablishmentariansite.wordpress.com/

Bibliography
Barocas, S., Hood, S., & Ziewitz, M. (2013). Governing algorithms: A provocation piece. *Available at SSRN 2245322*.
Gandy Jr, O. H. (2010). Engaging rational discrimination: exploring reasons for placing regulatory constraints on decision support systems. *Ethics and Information Technology*, *12*(1), 29-42.