

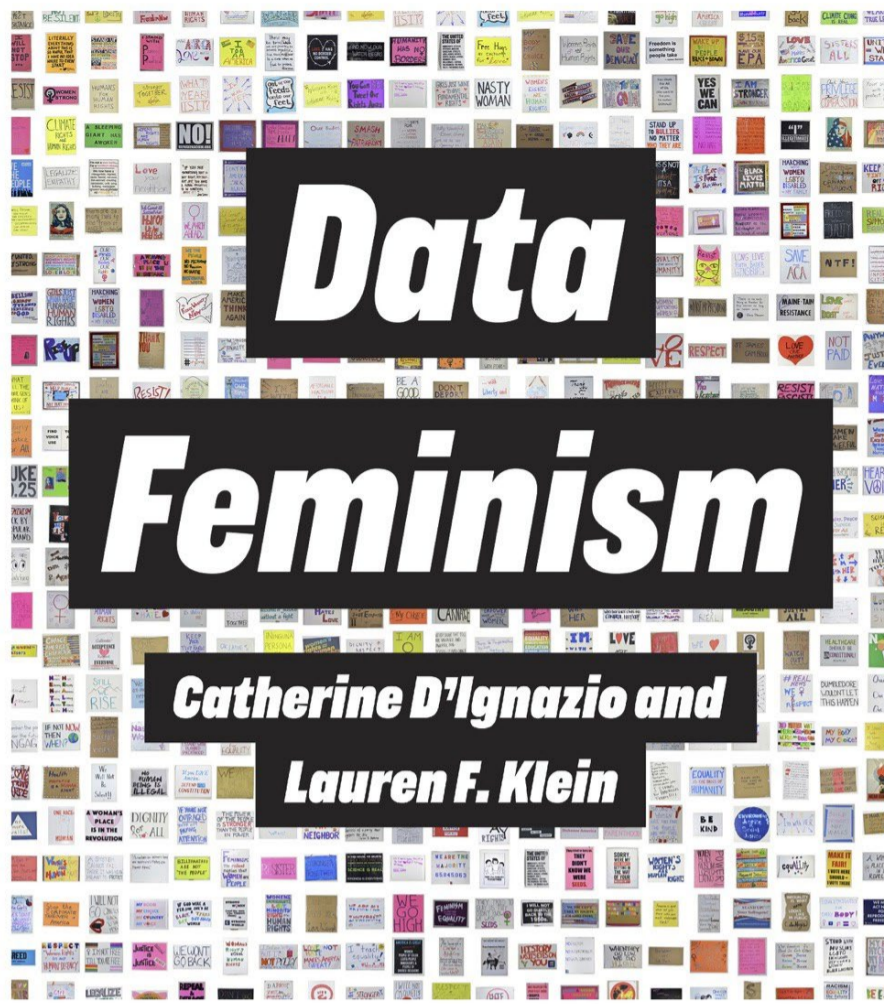
06.10.21

Online Interview

Link:

<https://youtu.be/PC7iVmC7e>[HQ](#)

Info:

<http://sdg11.polito.it/it/dist-fest>

Data feminism in urban history and heritage

Welcome and discussant: **Mesut Dinler** (DIST)

Speaker: **Catherine D'Ignazio** (MIT)

In their 2020 book *Data Feminism* from MIT Press, Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren Klein present a new way of thinking about data science and data ethics—one that is informed by intersectional feminist thought. In this interview, Catherine D'Ignazio and Mesut Dinler look at how Data Feminism relates to urban history and cultural heritage.

Today, data science is a form of power. It has been used to expose injustice, improve health outcomes, and topple governments. But it has also been used to discriminate, police, and surveil. This potential for good, on the one hand, and harm, on the other, makes it essential to ask: Data science by whom? Data science for whom? Data science with whose interests in mind? These questions are extremely valid for understanding the space as well because especially in urbanized landscapes, spaces are becoming increasingly more informational with the quantity of layers of data produced through and accumulated over space.

Within this perspective, the relationship between data science and cultural heritage and urban history is essential to understand whose history and events are commemorated and conversely, who is not commemorated in urban places.

Illustrating data feminism in action, D'Ignazio and Klein show how challenges to the male/female binary can help challenge other hierarchical (and empirically wrong) classification systems. In this interview, D'Ignazio elaborates on how these systems have been reproduced in historic narratives and represented even today through cultural heritage. Presenting examples from her projects, she also explains how these narratives and representations can be challenged with the principles of Data Science.

For the book: <https://data-feminism.mitpress.mit.edu/>

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