

Zurich University of the Arts

—

Andrés Villa Torres  
Research Associate

—

Interaction Design

—

—

Input for Embodied Interaction, November 15th 2019 - 13.00 pm to 17.00 pm

—

### **Title**

Data, self and bodies

### **Introductory Text**

We spend everyday a considerable amount of hours connected to the internet through our devices and all sorts of networked interfaces and services. Through the data that smartphones, laptops, tablets, voice assistants and wearables produce (devices which are both extensions of our bodies and brains and are artefacts that keep sleepless watch of our actions), we voluntarily and involuntarily make ourselves visible, predictable and trackable.

What and how can we learn from these sleepless trackers and the data that we-they leave behind? How is this data shaping our bodies and behaviours?

### **Keywords**

Data forensics, data bodies, data-sovereignty, human-data interaction

### **Description:**

In the session I provide the students with an overview of ways of keeping track or retrieving the data generated through our devices using everyday networks and online interfaces such as google, gmail, instagram, tinder, uber, apple devices and services. I introduce them to ways of accessing their own data by requesting downloads, and accessing other's data through "hacker" tools such as web scrapers and APIs.

### **Activity "Imagining bodies / staging data"**

1. analyse and discuss in groups data-sets provided (which have been previously retrieved ), what can you track or trace from the data you have in front of you
2. extract or identify remarkable features and build a mental map that synthesises the data-set provided
3. pass your mental maps over to another group or swap teams
4. with the mental map try to imagine in groups how does the physical body / bodies which generated these data, function, look like, move like, interact, exist...
5. reflect on the questions during your discussions:
  1. how is data and the interaction with it extending the human body , limiting it, enhancing it , harming it?
  2. what are consequences, benefits, compromises and biases? How to bridge these gaps?
6. Based in your previous discussions, reflections and mental maps, prepare a small presentation trying to address and focus on one of the following scenarios
  1. Embodying data: material process and context through which data is originated
  2. Exploiting data: means to commercialise or make profit out of data
  3. Data Activism: means to encourage better practices, ensure protection, anonymise information and avoid over exploitation, pollution, over production, etc.

4. Data , Ownership and re-appropriation: who owns the data and what does that mean?
5. Data and *the Right to be Forgotten*: what happens with your data in the future? How will your data shape your reality?

### Program

- 13.00. - 14.15 > intro and input. Data-sets, scraping, hacking and examples.  
14.15 - 14.30 > exercise explanation - example - pick groups  
14.30 - 15.15 > start with part **1 - 2**  
15.15 - 15.30 > **break**  
15.30 - 16.15 > swap teams **3** and keep going **4 - 5**  
16.15 - 17.00 > sum up discussions and present (3-4 teams | 3-5 min each) **6**

### Preparations

Read texts provided before the session

Bring with you your laptop and a minimal text editor installed such as sublime text 3

Retrieve your data set from any of the following services and bring a digital copy from it with you:

Google (<https://takeout.google.com>)

Location History

Youtube search history

YouTube watch history

Uber ([Link](#))

Instagram ([Link](#))

Tinder (<https://account.gotinder.com/data>)

Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/help/1701730696756992?helpref=hc\\_global\\_nav](https://www.facebook.com/help/1701730696756992?helpref=hc_global_nav))

WhatsApp - account report (<https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/android/26000110/?category=5245246>)