



The Power of Absence: Thinking with Archival Theory in Algorithmic Systems

Lauren Klein, Romi Morrison, and Jihan Sherman

Thursday, February 29, 2024, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (PT), Communications 120

Panel Discussion

This panel explores the value of archival theory as a means of grappling with algorithmic bias. Rather than seek to mitigate biases perpetuated by datasets and algorithmic systems, archival theory offers a reframing of bias itself. Drawing on a range of archival theory from the fields of history, literary and cultural studies, Black studies, queer theory, and feminist studies, we propose absence—as power, presence, and productive—as a concept that might more securely anchor investigations into the causes of algorithmic bias, and that can prompt more capacious, more creative, and more joyful future work. A **Reimagining Datafication and AI, Creativity and the Humanities** event.

Lauren Klein is Winship Distinguished Research Professor and Associate Professor in the departments of Quantitative Theory & Methods and English at Emory University, where she also directs the Digital Humanities Lab. She works at the intersection of data science, AI, and the

humanities, with an emphasis on questions of gender and race.

Romi Morrison is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and educator. Their work investigates the personal, political, ideological, and spatial boundaries of race, ethics, and social infrastructure within digital technologies.

Jihan Sherman is an architect, designer, and artist. She is a storyteller, creative, and maker. She is curious, questioning, and learning. Her research and practice explore design, culture, and materiality, with a particular focus on absent heritages and lived experiences of design.

Accommodation requests related to a disability or health condition should be made by February 19, 2024 to the Simpson Center 206.543.3920, schadmin@uw.edu.

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