Teaching Infrastructures Breaching through Data journalism and Data Activism

Tommaso Venturini, INRIA, tommasoventurini.it

"This article is in a way a call to study boring things. Many aspects of infrastructure are singularly unexciting... It takes some digging to unearth the dramas inherent in system design creating, to restore narrative to what appears to be dead lists" (p. 37)

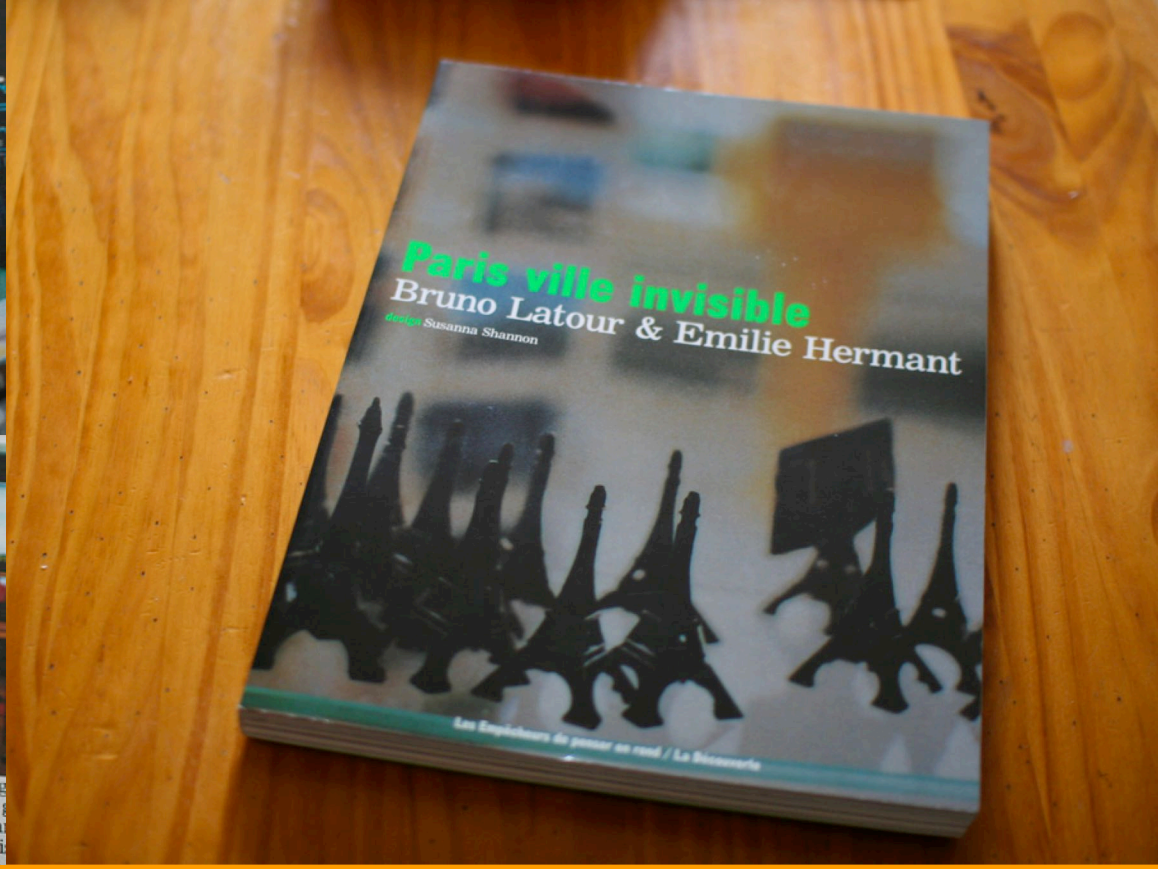
Susan Leigh Star (1999). The Ethnography of Infrastructure. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43(3).

"The most salient characteristic of technology in the modern (industrial/post-industrial) world is the degree to which most technology is not salient for most people, most of the time...

mature technological systems... reside in a naturalized background, as ordinary and unremarkable to us as tree, daylight, and dirt. Our civilization fundamentally depend on them, yet we notice them mainly when they fail, which they rarely do"

Paul Edwards (2003). Infrastructure and Modernity.
In *Technology and Modernity: The Empirical Turn* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press).

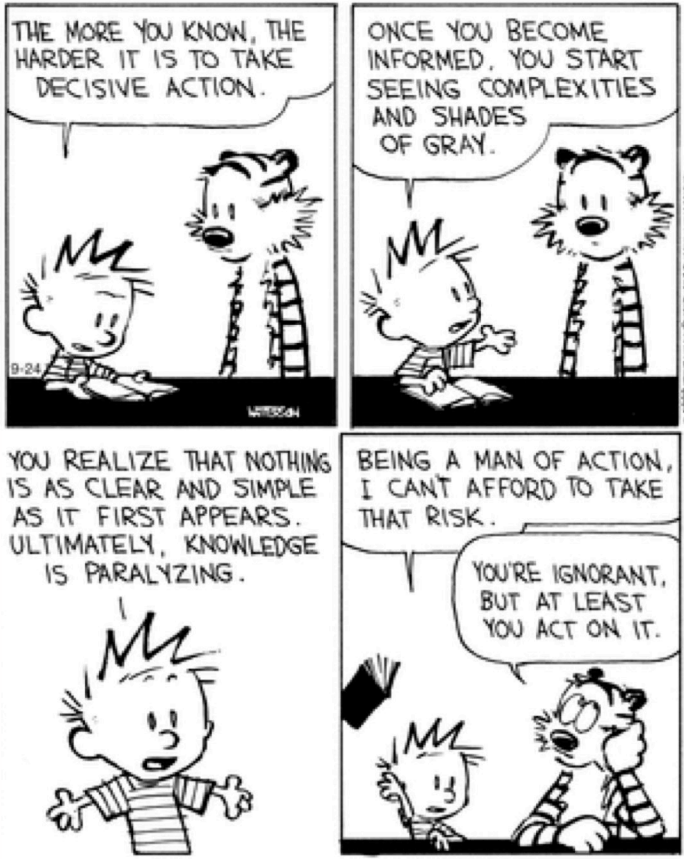
Infrastructure invisibility



Infrastructure invisibility

"Procedurally it is my preference to start with familiar scenes and ask what can be done to make trouble. The operations that one would have to perform ... to produce the socially structured affects of anxiety, shame, guilt, and indignation; and to produce disorganized interaction should tell us something about how the structures of everyday activities are ordinarily and routinely produced and maintained" (p. 37)

Harold Garfinkel, 1967, *Studies in ethnomethodology*.



On the use of "breaching experiments"

“My husband and I were watching television. My husband remarked that he was tired. I asked, ‘How are you tired? Physically, mentally, or just bored?’

(S) I don't know, I guess physically, mainly

(E) You mean that your muscles ache or your bones?

(S) I guess so. Don't be so technical. (After more watching)

(S) All these old movies have the same kind of old iron bed–stead in them

(E) What do you mean? Do you mean all old movies, or some of them, or just the ones you have seen?

(S) What's the matter with you? You know what I mean

(E) I wish you would be more specific

(S) You know what I mean! Drop dead” (p. 43)

Harold Garfinkel, 1967, *Studies in ethnomethodology*.

An example of breaching experiments

Head −2 −1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 End

Intrusion point

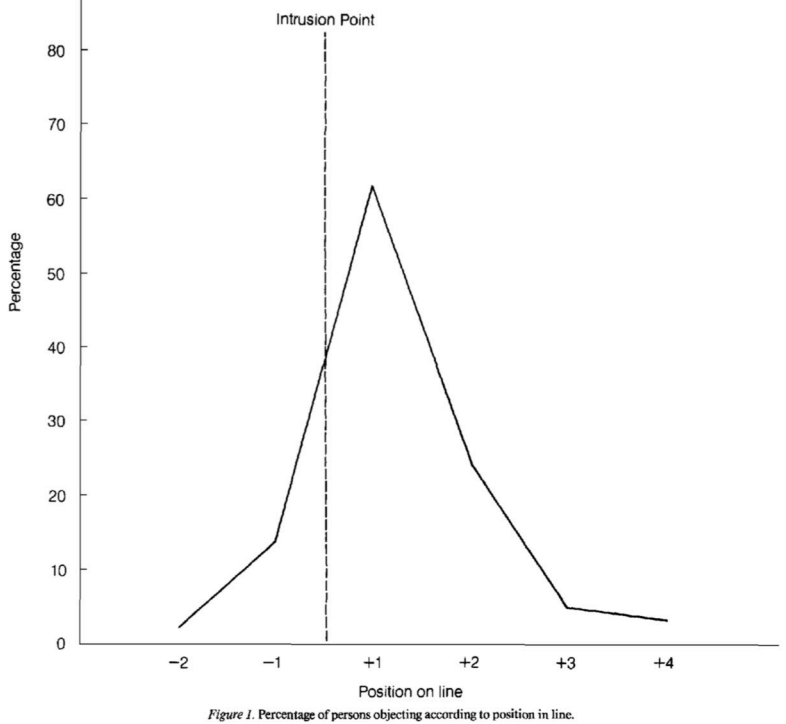


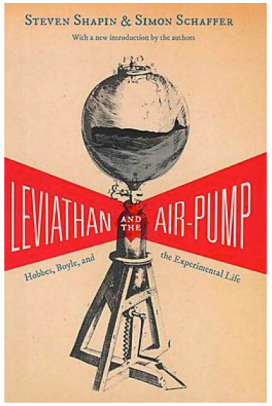
Figure 1. Percentage of persons objecting according to position in line.

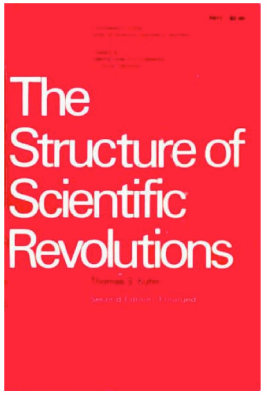
Stanley Milgram, Liberty, H. J., Toledo, R., & Wackenhut, J. , 1986
Response to Intrusion Into Waiting Lines. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51(4), 683–689.

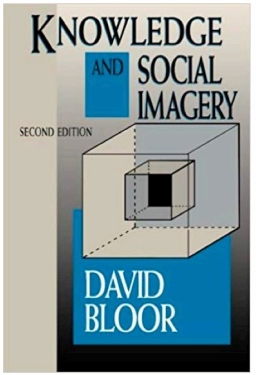
Breaching experiments in social psychology

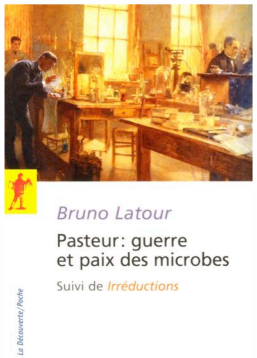
"a similar methodology was advocated by Harold Garfinkel, for investigating the taken-for-granted features of social life… The methodological assumption underpinning the study of controversies is similar, only in this case the breach in the normal social operation of science is produced by the scientists themselves. By studying a scientific controversy, or moments of contestation, one learns something about the underlying dynamics of science and its relations with wider society"

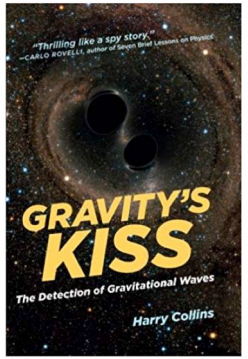
Trevor Pinch, 2015, "Scientific Controversies" in *Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*







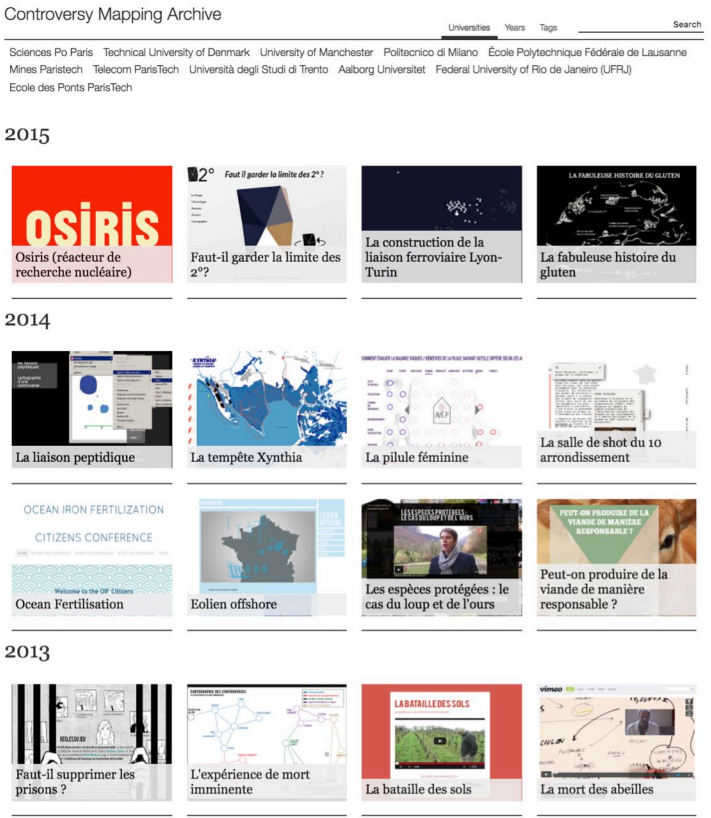




Controversies as STS breaching experiments

“I have stopped in the engineering school where I teach, to give a social science class: I only ask the young engineers to follow for one year, in real time, a scientific or technical controversy… They learn more science – meaning research – and it just happens that, without even noticing it, they learn also more law, economics, sociology, ethics, psychology, science policy and so on, since all those features are associated with the piece of science they have chosen to follow”

Bruno Latour, *From the two cultures debate to cosmopolitics*

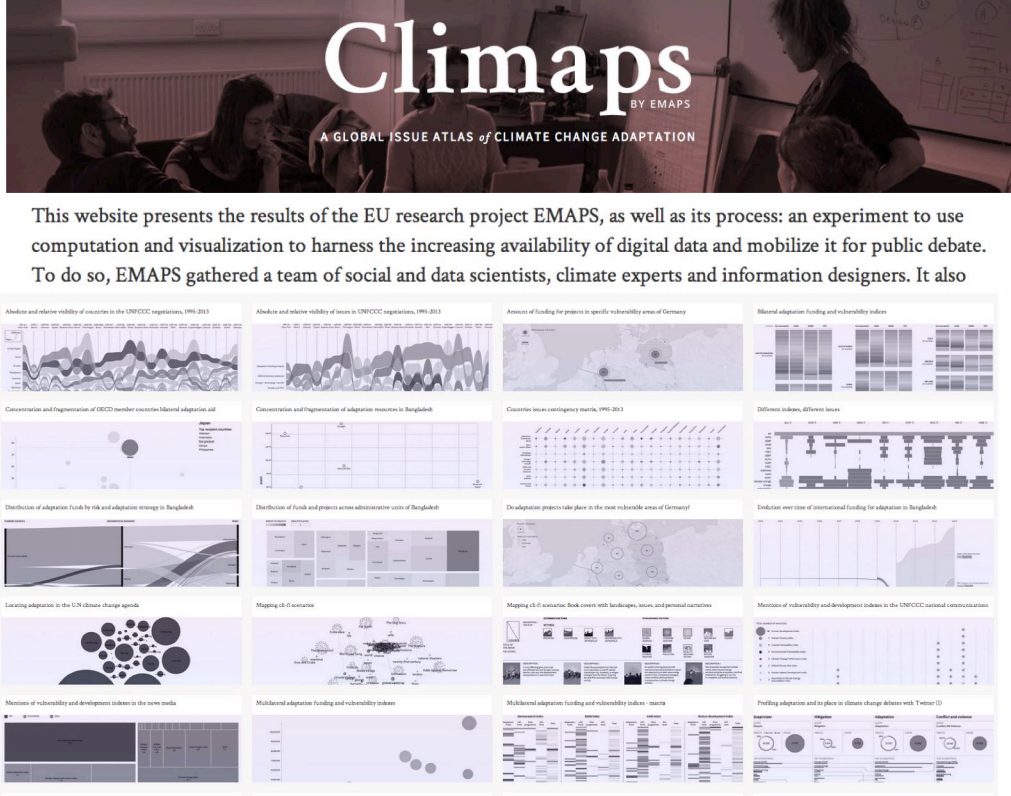


Controversy mapping as a teaching method

Marres, N., & Rogers, R. (2005).
Recipe for Tracing the Fate of Issues and their Publics on the Web.
In L. Bruno & P. Weibel (Eds.), *Making Things Public* (pp. 922–935). ZKM/MIT Press.

Venturini, T. (2012).
Building on faults: how to represent controversies with digital methods.
Public Understanding of Science, 21(7), 796–812.

Marres, N., & Moats, D. (2015).
Mapping Controversies with Social Media: The Case for Symmetry.
Social Media + Society, 1(2), 1–17.



climaps.eu

Controversy mapping and Digital Methods

Data Journalism, 2016
King's College London

Data Activism, 2017
École Normale Supérieure, Lyon

A BREACHING DIDACTICS FOR DATA INFRASTRUCTURES

Data Journalism, 2016
King's College London

with Liliana Bounegru

- BA students in "Digital Culture"
- Focus on data visualization and story-telling
- Collaboration with data activists
    - Tax Justice Network
    - Open Trials project
    - Amnesty International Decoders
    - Ressources contract Open Oil

Data Activism, 2017
École Normale Supérieure, Lyon

with Axel Meunier

- MA students in "Information Architecture"
- Focus on data collection and usage
- Collaboration with grassroot activist
    - Open source developers in Lyon
    - Migrants help associations

A BREACHING DIDACTICS FOR DATA INFRASTRUCTURES

Data Journalism, 2016
King's College London

with Liliana Bounegru

1. Introduction to data storytelling (2 hours)
2. What makes a good data story? (2 hours)
3. Collecting data (2 hours)
4. Cleaning data (2 hours)
5. Data analysis (2 hours)
6. Turning data into images (2 hours)
7. **Data sprint** (2 **full days**)
8. Conclusion (2 hours)

Data Activism, 2017
École Normale Supérieure, Lyon

with Axel Meunier

1. Course introduction (3 hours)
2. Project section and group formation (3 hours)
3. Help with project development (30 min Skype)
4. **Ethnography mini-workshop** (2 **full days**)
5. Help with project development (30 min Skype)
6. **Data sprint** (3 **full days**)

Course structure

1. **Successful data projects are rare**, for they demands the alignment of

   - an interesting and precise research question (which is generally not evident)
   - and a dataset that can allow to tackle it (which is generally not available)
   - Give students time to test & explore, but help them avoiding wrong track

2. **Data creation** is where the action is

   - Both in terms of problems and of learning occasions (data is always oriented)
   - But it is also the longest and most frustrating operation (data is never right)
   - Encourage students to invest efforts in the creation of data

Lessons learnt

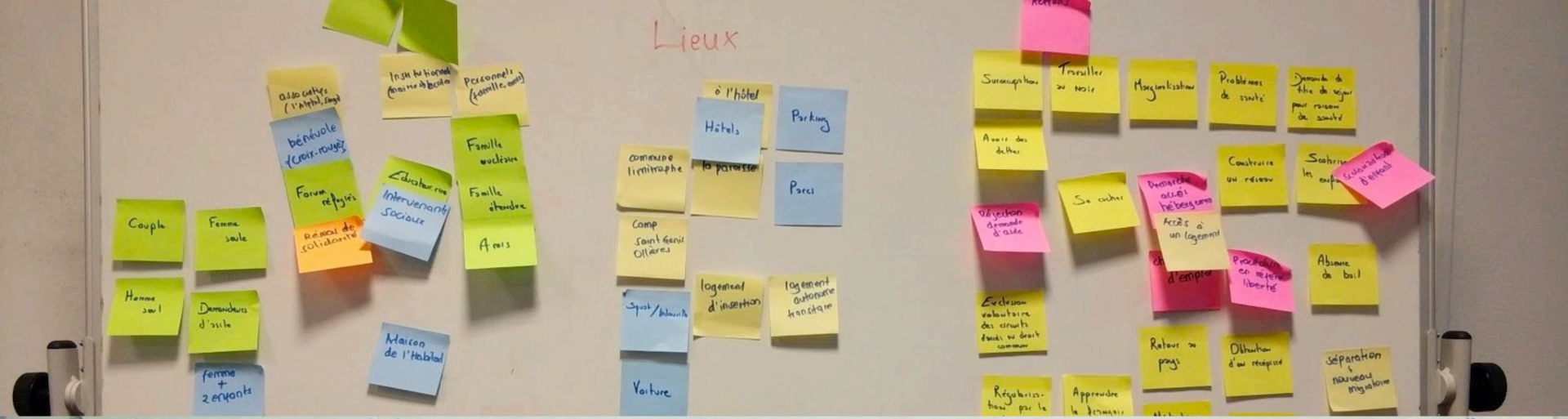
3. **Ethnography** is crucial but also difficult because

- It takes time to find the right informants and built a relation with them
- Informants ideas about "data projects" are too definite or not enough
- Allocate time & support to the construction of a shared "scope statement"

4. **Most student will fail the exercise**, but not the course if

- they use the discussion within their group to adopt a reflexive posture
- The final report describes the process and not only the product
- Make clear that the exercise is about de-construction as much as construction

Lessons learnt



Création d'un médium pour représenter la réalité des migrants déambulant à Lyon

-▷ Sous la forme d'un webdoc

-▷ Permet de sensibiliser à l'action des association ainsi qu'à la réalité qui a poussé

Création d'un outil ou "Kit" d'un Lyon "Migrant friendly"

- Sous forme d'une carte offrant les différentes possibilités (Réparat°/accompagnement/ Logement/nourriture.

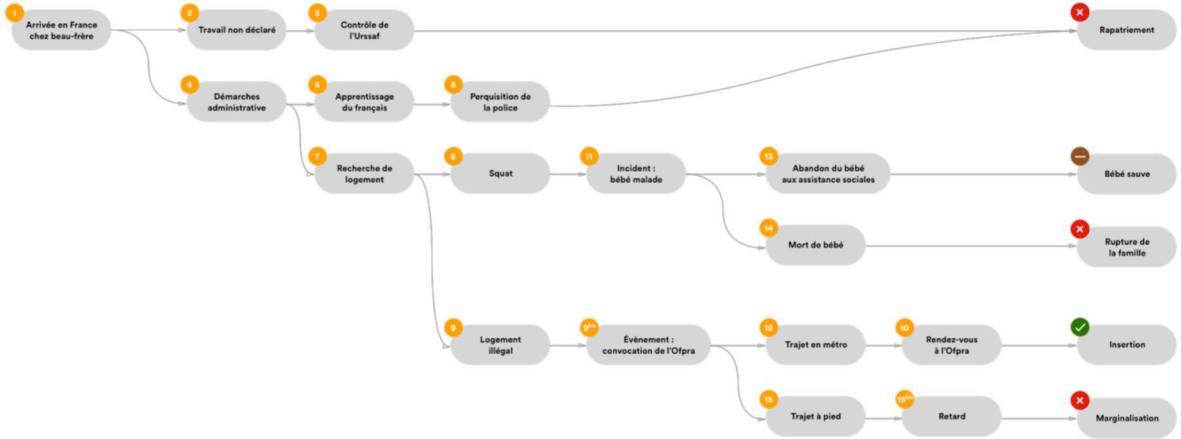
"Internal migration" example

date	lieu_type	lieu_adresse	source_nom	source_URL	acteurs_initiaux	note_event	nb_pers_affectees
20180107	Squat	La Cabine, # avenue Berthelot, 69007, Lyon 7e	LyonMag	https://www.lyonmag.com/article	Police	Intervention de la police au squat « La Ca	200_personne
20171207	Squat	12 rue Baudin, 69100, Villeurbanne	Rebellyon	https://rebellyon.info/Occupat	Initiative populair	Squat du bâtiment 12 rue Baudin	50_personne
20171201	Collège	10 Avenue Henri Barbusse, 69120 Vaulx-en-Velin	Rebellyon	https://rebellyon.info/College-	Ville de Lyon	Occupation du collège Barbusse de Vaul	2_famille
20171125	Ecole primaire-m	5 Impasse Flesselles, 69001 Lyon	Rebellyon	https://rebellyon.info/Familles	Ville de Lyon	Occupation du gymnase de l'école éléme	
20171124	Ecole primaire-m	2-6 Rue Alsace Lorraine, 69001 Lyon	Rebellyon	https://rebellyon.info/Ce-soir-l	Ville de Lyon	Occupation de l'école Servet par des fam	
20171121	Ecole primaire-m	5 Rue Sergent Blandan, 69001 Lyon	Rebellyon	https://rebellyon.info/Occupat	Ville de Lyon	Occupation de l'école primaire Robert Do	6_famille
20171115	Amphithéâtre	Université Lyon 2	Rue89	http://www.rue89lyon.fr/2017/1	Ville de Lyon	Occupation de l'amphithéâtre C à l'unive	40_personne
20171031	Squat	5 rue de la saint André	Rue89	http://www.rue89lyon.fr/2017/1	Police	Expulsion du plus grand squat de Guilloti	4_famille
20171008			Ekathimerini	http://www.ekathimerini.com/2	International Org	Un groupe de 234 réfugiés a quitté Athèr	234_personne
20170913	Camp	Pont Raymond Poincaré, 69100 Villeurbanne	20minutes	http://www.20minutes.fr/lyon/2	Police	Camp (bidonville) du Pont Raymond Poir	145_personne
20170531	Camp	Porte de Croix-Luizet, 69100 Villeurbanne	20minutes	http://www.20minutes.fr/lyon/2		Camp (bidonville) de la Porte de Croix-Lu	145_personne

"Internal migration" example

Profil

- famille monténégrine
- père, mère
  1 fille (14 ans), 1 garçon (8 ans), 1 bébé (3 mois)
- lié à la Mafia, risque de vendetta
- 5.000 € de budget



"INTERNAL MIGRATION" EXAMPLE

From “how can we make the public opinion aware of the problem?”

To “how can we facilitate the delivery of help, without exposing the migrants?”

- The issue was not about public awareness, but about expert practices
- The addresses was not the public or the migrants, but the intermediaries
- The problem was not about making data visible, but making it invisible (and yet usable)
- The contribution may have been about setting up a data infrastructure rather than using it

“Internal migration” example

Tommaso Venturini
Digital Methods / Controversy Mapping / Public Data
tommaso.venturini AT iscpif.fr

Tommaso Venturini is researcher at the CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research) and associate researcher at the Sciences Po médialab. He is recipient of the "Advanced Research Fellowship" of the INRIA - French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation.

In 2008, he has been lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and, from 2009 to 2015, he has conducted research at the Sciences Po médialab where he was also in charge of the Web Observatory.

His research interests focus on:
Main CV
CV en Français
Complete CV

My research activities focus on:
Digital Methods
Controversy Mapping
Social Modernization

I have been leading scientist of the projects MACOSPOL and MEDEA and responsible for the Axis 1 of the project Interlogos.

I teach Controversy Mapping, Digital Methods, Data Journalism and ANT to graduate and undergraduate level.

I have been involved in sociology and media studies at the University of Bologna, competence at the University of Milano Bicocca and at the Sociology of Modernity at the University of Bologna.

During my studies, I have founded a web design agency and worked in several online communication projects.

July 18
The Expert Network (presentation for EASST 2018)
Conference / Science and Technology Studies

May 18
Confessions ofa Fake News Scholar
Conference / Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Tommaso Venturini (2018). Confessions of a Fake News Scholar (or "on to study popular subject). 68th Annual Conference - International Communication Association, Prague, 24-28 May 2018.

Should we talk about "fake news"? Assuming a colleague or friend's shocklist's at this notion is vague, politically charged, indistinguishable from post-truth propaganda, the answer is certainly yes, if only because it is among the most important frames of the phenomenon. Indeed, such frames is not deceptiveness, but vitality – the vitality of a notion that is constantly fed by spreading and transforming. But if virality is the defining features of fake news, then the terrible college another way of propagating the infection? Yes it is, but it is not the only one. Moreover, if we exploit it to encompass every media inquiry. Because of its simplicity, exaggeration, diffusion, rapid reproduction and mutation, take fake news as the Drosophila of media studies.

Download the full paper
Download the slides of my presentation

December 13
Doing Networks Other than with Mathematics
Conference / Digital Methods

On the October 27th 2017, I was invited to present my work at the Digital Humanities Day of the University of Groningen. Here is the abstract of my talk.

Networks are, no doubt, powerful instruments to describe and to measure to networks from the properties of their nodes. Unfortunately, networks are also rich visual figures and engaging narrative devices. In this keynote, we will discuss how these other qualities of networks can be leveraged to understanding the interplay between digital infrastructures, social organization, propaganda and of and resistance practices, and their influence on public opinion and its role in democratic societies.

We examine methods and recipes for tracing trolling practices, the public debate around controversial issues, and reuses online, and for commercial underpinnings of this content. The guide aims to be an assemble learning resource for students, researchers and practitioners interested in this topic.

Download the field guide
Read an article presenting the project and its first results
Read an article using the methods of the guide on BuzzFeed News

November 17
Public Data Lab
Digital Methods / Highlight / Projects

I am very proud to introduce the new research network I have been co-founded with friends and colleagues from all over Europe.

The Public Data Lab (publicdatalab.org) is a network of European researchers working on digital data and public interventions. It aims to foster a critical engagement and debate around the future of the data-scape. We work in collaboration with researchers, practitioners, journalist, civil society groups, designers, developers and public institutions across the world. Our approach is characterized by:

Intervention around social, political, environmental and digital issues.

Participation through involving different publics in the making of our work.

Attending to advancing the craft of developing data projects and experiments.

Openness in sharing our research, data and code for all to use.

See our website

March 17
Fake News – Call for collaboration
Controversy mapping / Digital Methods

Pleased to announce a new project to create "a Field Guide to Fake News", led by Claire Wardle and Tommaso Venturini.

Here's the announcement about the role:

"Fake News" is endemic to the US election, the project aims to catalyse collaborations between digital media researchers, data journalists and civil society groups. The goal is to kick off the first project of the First Draft Lab, an interdisciplinary network seeking to transform research, democratic engagement and public debate around the future of the data society – in collaboration with the First Draft coalition.

If you're interested in collaborating on the project, refer to the Call for Collaboration.

November 16
INRIA Advanced Research Fellowship
Digital Methods / Highlight / Projects

Starting from January 2017 and for three years, I will be the recipient of an advanced research fellowship of INRIA (the French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation) working in the médialab of the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

Read my research project

September 26
Data Journalism at King's College
Digital Methods / Teaching

On the 2nd of December, 2016, in collaboration with the Centre for Internationl and the EU project DATACROS, the Médialab of Sciences Po and King's College London will host a workshop on data journalism.

During the workshop, they will work on the issue of data journalism and will have the chance to participate in an one-day hands-on data journalism workshop.

During the workshop, they will work on the issue of data journalism and will have the chance to participate in an one-day hands-on data journalism workshop.

April 18
Japanese translation of the Field Guide to 'Fake News'
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

The Public Data Lab and myself are pleased to announce the Japanese translation of the Field Guide to 'Fake News' and Other Information Disorders'. Through its various recipes we hope to inspire investigations and experiments around the fake news ecosystem, but also the platforms, infrastructures and algorithms through which they are shared, quantified, monetised and circulated. We are very grateful to Asahi Shimbun's Reset! team for their reminder that this remains a vital area of concern for journalists, policy-makers and public policy – and we look forward to hearing about your work with it.

Download the Field Guide in Japanese

January 18
A Field Guide to Fake News
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Today sees the launch of A Field Guide to Fake News and Other Information Disorders, a new free resource for researchers, students, journalists and researchers to investigate misinformation and 'fake news'.

The field guide responds to an increasing demand for understanding the interplay between digital infrastructures, social organization, propaganda and of and resistance practices, and their influence on public opinion and its role in democratic societies.

It contains methods and recipes for tracing trolling practices, the public debate around controversial issues, and reuses online, and for commercial underpinnings of this content. The guide aims to be an assemble learning resource for students, researchers and practitioners interested in this topic.

Download the field guide
Read an article presenting the project and its first results
Read an article using the methods of the guide on BuzzFeed News

December 17
Highlights from the year

2017

January 17
Bons champs: la multipositionnalité par l'analyse des réseaux
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., Jacomy, M., Bounegru, L., & Gray, J. (2016). Bons champs: la multipositionnalité par l'analyse des réseaux. 169(3), 9-21. doi: 10.3917/res.199.0009

This article is based on a conversation Luc Boltanski on professor of the Institut des Etudes Politiques de Paris. In this research, Boltanski relies on a network representation of social fields and shows that the French elite and artists in general are characterized above all by its multi-positionality – that is to say by the tendency of its members to occupy positions in several social fields. By replacing Boltanski's work in the context of the sociology of fields and institutions, we will discuss the features and the benefits of a multi-positional network sociology.

Download the preprint
Read the article online

December 16
From Analysis to Presentation
Controversy mapping / Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., Jacomy, M., Bounegru, L., & Gray, J. (2016). From Analysis to Presentation. Journalism Data Journalism, In S. I. Eldridge & B. Franklin (Eds.), Routledge Handbook of Developments in Digital Journalism Studies. Abingdon: Routledge. (forthcoming)

Networks are classic but unloved: acknowledged figures of journalistic imagination, they are rarely used by them. We present a recent example from ourselves, namely a catalogue of French infrastructure sources curated by Le Monde's Decodex. We establish that networks are not necessarily narrative as an iterative process which practices to denounce categories and territories are mingled and constantly constitute.

Download the PDF of the article

November 16
Highlights from the year

2016

September 16
3D-EASST Conference
Conference / Digital Methods / Science and Technology Studies

This year (2016) I intervened at the 3D-EASST Conference with two different presentations:

June 16
DMI Summer School 2016
Conference / Digital Methods / Summer School

The syllabus of the Data Journalism course that I am teaching with Liliana Bounegru at Goldsmith College London

Download the syllabus

May 16
Data Sprint: a Public Approach to Digital Research
Controversy mapping / Digital Methods / Publications

Venturini, T., Munk, A., & Meunier, A. (2016). Data-Sprint: a Public Approach to Digital Research. (C. Lury, P. Clough, M. Michael, J. Puwar, & N. Thrift, Eds.) Lancaster, U.K.: Lancaster University. (2016). Interdisciplinary Research Methods (forthcoming).

This paper is about the politics of interdisciplinarity. Yet is the scene of the research politics festering between disciplines? Is it the stronger power relations between disciplinary boundaries to make interdisciplinary research precarious. In short: it is about the making research practices. The case in point we mentioned is discourse the social sciences is collective life, but how to bring it into practice. We present an example: an original transdisciplinary practice, that we call data-sprint.

Read the pre-print version of the paper

November 15
Climate Negotiations Browser
Digital Methods / Highlight / Projects

On the eve of the UNFCCC COP21, I am proud to introduce our new online application: the Climate Negotiations Browser.

I have worked for the occasion with a nice team of researchers and developers from the médialab of Sciences Po, the LSTE EPFL and the médialab Tactique. The platform allows to browse through the contents of the 21 Conferences of the Parties organized under the auspices of the UNFCCC:

- The discourse interface providing a fine-visualization on the relative importance of actors and issues of the UNFCCC negotiations.
- The actors interface allowing to ask complex questions such as: "give me all the COP21 actors who have ACRONYMS" or "give me all the Groups who are Women".

Try the beta here: http://www.médialab-sciencespo.fr/cop-beta/

May 15
Visual Network Analysis
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., Jacomy, M., De Carvalho Pereira, D. Visual Network Analysis. (forthcoming). Project.

The visualization of networks has so far lacked of sufficient theoretical formalization. Through all network visualizations, nevertheless, are based on the same theoretical assumptions. Most literature on networks analysis is still centered on statistical measures and does not detail how to read network visualizations. This project aims to fill this gap by describing the main principles of graphs in the open. This paper means to contribute to the reflection and propose a tentative formalization of the "visual grammar" of networks. To do so we will draw on the visual semiotics of Jacques Bertin (1967) and to propose a theory of the variables: positions, size and hue. The variables will be described according to each addressing to and to various variables. Each section will explain how to project one network features networks and provide guidance on how to make sense of these features.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS IS A WORKING DRAFT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Download the working paper

March 15
Understanding Climate Negotiations Controversies
Conference / Controversy mapping

A introduction to the terms and turns of the climate negotiations, and to the statistics that can be used to ensure that I gave to a little crowd of data-journalists from several news outlets.

See the website of the event
See the presentations of the project developed by the participants.

February 15
Climapa et Europeana 2015
Conference / Controversy mapping

The presentation that I gave at the Europeana Conference and the Climapa project.

Read the paper in the Journal of Digital Humanities

February 15
Keynote speech at the Digitale Praxis conference at Frankfurt University
Conference / Digital Methods

May 14
Hyphe, a Curation-Oriented Approach to Web Crawling
Conference / Digital Methods / Publications

Jacomy, Mathieu; Girard, Paul; Ooghe-Tabanou, Benjamin; Venturini, Tommaso (2016). Hyphe, a Curation-Oriented Approach to Web Crawling for the Social Sciences. International Conference on Web and Social Media, Cologne, 17-20 May 2016.

A paper and a poster on the fundraising Hyphe, the Web crawler developed by the médialab, and the conceptual principles behind it.

Read the paper online
Download the poster

December 15
EMAPS wins the Etoiles d'Europe prize
Digital Methods / Highlight / Projects

Bounegru, L., Venturini, T., Gray, J., Jacomy, M. (2016). Narrating Networks: Exploring the Affordances of Networks as Storytelling Devices in Journalism. Digital Journalism, (forthcoming).

While the mathematical and statistical capabilities of networks have been extensively studied, this is not the case for their narrative affordances. This article we argue that the narrative dimension of networks have been systematically neglected in order to address this we use computational methods to demonstrate the structure that networks evoke in a series of exemplary texts. Our analysis of these texts is grounded in a discussion of narrative theory and semiotics that builds on the work of Algirdas Julien Greimas and Jean-Marie Floch. We demonstrate how this framework can be used to analyze networks that are presented in journalistic texts. We conclude by discussing the implications of our findings for the use of network visualizations in digital storytelling and for the development of tools for narrative network analysis.

Download the pre-print version

November 15
Contropedia, and the question of socially sustainable ways of separating the medium and the message
Conference / Controversy mapping / Digital Methods

My presentation of the Contropedia project at the Berlin Wikipedia Academy. Academy of Arts and Sciences, at the Conference on Open Knowledge Spaces. See the video of the lecture

See the video of the lecture
See the video of the lecture

November 15
Contrasting medium and genre on Wikipedia to open up Geocognition
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Marmasse, Nilo, Tommaso Venturini, Jonathan Gray, and Richard Rogers. "Contrasting Medium and Genre on Wikipedia to Open up Geocognizing." Big Data & Society (2016).

An investigation of the place of geography in Wikipedia through the study of networks of Wikipedia pages.

Download the paper

May 13
How to Tell Stories with Networks: Exploring the Narrative Affordances of Graphs with the Iliad
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Bounegru, L., Venturini, T., Gray, J., Jacomy, M. (2016). How to Tell Stories with Networks: Exploring the Narrative Affordances of Graphs with the Iliad. Digital Humanities Quarterly. Alliance for Digital Humanities Oganizations (ADHO). Pennsylvania State University Press (forthcoming).

The preview of the paper we've written of a chapter for the Dangerfield Society book that I wrote with Liliana Bounegru, Mathieu Jacomy and Jonathan Gray.

It can be consulted on the Pressbooks platform of the Digital Humanities Quarterly.

Happy to announce that the project has been funded by the Web Observatory of Sciences Po.

Thanks to Clemence, the platform has been developed.

Read an interview about the project

May 13
Contropedia, the analysis and visualization of controversies
Conference / Controversy mapping / Digital Methods

Leonardi, S., Jensen, P., Tanelli, D., Grassetta, S., & Venturini, T. (2013). Of Bodies and Machines: Can Sociology Ever Escape the Human Gaze? Paris: Proceedings of the 2013 Conference of the European Sociological Association.

The presentation I gave at the Digital Methods Conference in Amsterdam. The presentation is a report of the work that the Médialab has done with the Contropedia tool.

See the video of the lecture

May 13
Actor-Network VS Network Analysis VS Digital Networks Are We Talking About the Same Networks?
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., Munk, A., & Jacomy, M. (2015). Actor-Network VS Network Analysis VS Digital Networks Are We Talking About the Same Networks? In Sybille Bauriedl & Antonia Strüver (Eds.), Big Data and Urban Governmentality. Bielefeld: Transcript. (forthcoming).

A post I published on the blog of the Sciences Po médialab to present the forthcoming publication of a paper that we are using to present the results of the different meanings of CSA for the Politics of the Anthropocene.

In the last decades, a horrible chemical monster has been haunting the imagination of artists and scientists alike. Carbon dioxide, or CO_2, is increasingly seen as the main factor for politics and economics both at the local and the global scale. Governments, industries and scientists are calling for different meanings according to who is speaking: Kyoto, Copenhagen, geologists, civil scientists, physicists, chemists, etc. Each of these groups of actors and each of these fields differs from those of the economists, who are increasingly critical and probably even more from the different environmentalist groups. Despite the many efforts of the Médialab, instead of trying to average these definitions, we have tried to make them all visible and comparable, using advanced techniques of controversy analysis to disaggregate the CSA cycle and to highlight the points of "CO2 geo-political" issue.

Read the post on the médialab website

March 13
Méthodes digitales: approches quantitatives et données numériques
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

January 14
Course of Data Journalism
Digital Methods / Teaching

Venturini, T., Cardon, D., & Colonni, J.-P. (2013). Méthodes digitales: Approches quali/quanti des données massives. Présentation du numéro spécial.

December 14
Highlights from the year

2014

September 14
Escaping the Great Divide
Conference / Digital Methods

September 14
Politiques de la Terre – Politics of the Earth
Digital Methods / Projects / Science and Technology Studies / Publications

Since the industrial revolutions, the Earth may have entered the Anthropocene epoch, a new geological era in which humans are the main actors of the planet changes. The term Anthropocene is used to designate the interactions between a planet governed by its own laws and a human species that, for the first time in its history, is engaged in conflicting relations of dependence, whether economic, social or political ones – the World Wars, the Cold War, the nuclear threat, the ecological crisis, the growing dynamics of collective action, it is the whole history of the world and the Earth. Such is the general objective of the Politics of the Earth research and teaching program.

See the project website

May 14
Fabrique de la Loi
Digital Methods / Projects

Unfortunately, I have been involved only indirectly in this project (so far). But I am very much interested in the results of this project.

May 14
Gephi, the tool for exploring networks
Conference / Digital Methods

Gephi is a network visualization software used in various disciplines (social network analysis, biology, genomics) with a strong focus on exploration and interactivity. It is available on Windows, Linux and Mac OS X. Gephi is open-source and free.

May 14
Forcatlinux, a Continuous Graph Layout Algorithm for Handy Network Visualization
Digital Methods / Projects / Publications

Jacomy, M., Venturini, T., Heymann, S., & Bastian, M. (2014). ForceAtlas2, a Continuous Graph Layout Algorithm for Handy Network Visualization Designed for the Gephi Software. PloS One, 9(6).

Gephi is a network visualization software used in various disciplines (social network analysis, biology, genomics) with a strong focus on exploration and interactivity. It is available on Windows, Linux and Mac OS X. Gephi is open-source and free.

May 14
Gephi, the tool for exploring networks
Conference / Digital Methods

May 14
Contropedia, the analysis and visualization of controversies
Conference / Controversy mapping / Digital Methods

May 14
Groupes, Pr., Mortel, M., Martos, K., Venturini, T., Youngjoon, A., Jacomy, M., Bounegru, L., Gray, J. (2014). Forcedirected Layout Algorithm for Fast Visualization of Relational Networks. Network Science.

The ideal feature of a network visualization is the launch of the book Base Mapping Controversies by Richard Rogers, Tomiko Sanders and Tommaso Venturini.

May 13
Designing Controversies and their Publics
Conference / Controversy mapping / Publications

May 13
Actor-Network VS Network Analysis VS Digital Networks Are We Talking About the Same Networks?
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., Munk, A., & Jacomy, M. (2015). Actor-Network VS Network Analysis VS Digital Networks Are We Talking About the Same Networks? In Sybille Bauriedl & Antonia Strüver (Eds.), Big Data and Urban Governmentality. Bielefeld: Transcript. (forthcoming).

A post I published on the blog of the Sciences Po médialab to present the forthcoming publication of a paper that we are using to present the results of the different meanings of CSA for the Politics of the Anthropocene.

In the last decades, a horrible chemical monster has been haunting the imagination of artists and scientists alike. Carbon dioxide, or CO_2, is increasingly seen as the main factor for politics and economics both at the local and the global scale. Governments, industries and scientists are calling for different meanings according to who is speaking: Kyoto, Copenhagen, geologists, civil scientists, physicists, chemists, etc. Each of these groups of actors and each of these fields differs from those of the economists, who are increasingly critical and probably even more from the different environmentalist groups. Despite the many efforts of the Médialab, instead of trying to average these definitions, we have tried to make them all visible and comparable, using advanced techniques of controversy analysis to disaggregate the CSA cycle and to highlight the points of "CO2 geo-political" issue.

Read the post on the médialab website

March 13
Méthodes digitales: approches quantitatives et données numériques
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

January 13
Review of "An Aesthetics of Networks" by Anna Munster
Digital Methods / Publications

A reference I gave at the Kings's College dataset school with Jonathan Gray. Jacomy on the notion of social border and the data-driven practices of inclusion in social research through digital methods.

See the slides of the conference

December 13
Sciencesonge
Digital Methods / Science and Technology Studies / Publications

September 13
Politiques de la Terre – Politics of the Earth
Digital Methods / Projects / Science and Technology Studies / Publications

August 14
Three Maps and Three Misunderstandings: A Digital Mapping of Climate Diplomacy
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., Baya-Laffite, N., Colotti, J., Gray, J., Jacomy, M., & Pereira, D. C. (2014). Three Maps and Three Misunderstandings: A Digital Mapping of Climate Diplomacy. Big Data & Society.

This article proposes an original analysis of the international debate on climate change using digital methods. Its originality is twofold. First, it proposes a cartography of the main controversies in international climate negotiations, a dataset never explored before through digital techniques. Second, in this article we show how digital methods can help to overcome the limits of the extractivist and rascal selection of the issues that are usually considered as relevant by the actors and of our approach to controversies. Digital methods can help us to overcome some of the habits of digital research and to propose a new approach to controversies that we call "controversy mapping".

Download the full text
See the slides of the conference
See the images at hi-resolution

February 14
Climaps by EMAPS, A Visual Issue Guide to Climate Change Adaptation
Conference / Controversy mapping / Publications

Climaps are the publication of the ANR research project EMAPS, as well as the name of the visual issue guide to climate change adaptation that we have developed. The project has been funded by the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) and has involved the médialab of Sciences Po and the Centre Internet et Société of the CNRS. The project has been developed by Axel Meunier, Jonathan Gray, Tommaso Venturini and Mathieu Jacomy.

One of the best video of my students in the Data Journalism Course in 2014 (in French however).

Watch the video

January 14
Cartographia de Controverses
Conference / Controversy mapping / Teaching

January 14
Mapping Connections with Digital Methods
Conference / Digital Methods

July 13
Controversy Mapping Syllabus
Controversy mapping / Digital Methods

A conference I gave at the Aarsteiden Digital Methods Summer School. It introduces the notion of issue and the methodological principles behind the article "Intangible Cultural Heritage: Mapping controversies and practices with digital methods".

See the slides of the conference
Use the tool
Download the preprint of the article

March 13
Les Migrants et des Mots
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

An introduction to digital methods and their impacts on social sciences.

This lecture was given in the conference at the Bibliothèque nationale de France during the seminar "Cartographies de l'invisible Art. Science. Big data" (18/04/13)

See the slides of the conference

March 13
Forcatlinux
Conference / Controversy mapping / Projects

March 13
Course of Data Journalism
Digital Methods / Teaching

Venturini, T., Cardon, D., & Colonni, J.-P. (2013). Méthodes digitales: Approches quali/quanti des données massives. Présentation du numéro spécial.

December 13
Highlights from the year

2013

July 13
Contropedia (Controversy Mapping in Wikipedia)
Conference / Controversy mapping / Digital Methods / Publications

May 13
Fil in the Gap. A New Alliance for Social and Natural Sciences
Conference / Digital Methods / Publications

Venturini, T., Jensen, P., & Latour, B. (2015). Fill in Gap: A New Alliance for Social and Natural Sciences. Journal of the Artificial Societies and Social Simulation, 18(2), 11.

In the last few years, scientific media have been flooded by a wave of "big data" enthusiasm. In particular in a bubble chamber, social trajectories are being recorded, aggregated and exploited to gain a deeper understanding of human behavior. Many hope that this will become a renewed collaboration between social and natural scientists is in the making. In this paper, we claim that current research strategies based on digital traces are unable to live up to the unfulfilled complexity of collective existence and that the priority should be given instead to the development of formal tools to exploit the richness of digital data.

The paper has scored #1 in the most downloaded papers of the Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation

Read the paper in the Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation
Download the preprint

March 13
Les Migrants et des Mots
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

March 13
Project SOURCE
Digital Methods / Projects

The aim of the SOURCE project is to establish a virtual centre to support, stimulate and European cross-border research in the field of digital humanities and the development and implementation of e-infrastructures. The centre will thus form 15 partners from 10 countries, including key players in industry, and end-user communities as well as all levels and segments of academic research.

Transnational organizations appear today as a major driver of change in the way we live together. Yet the relationship between environment and migration remains elusive. Despite the many efforts made to exist to classify these laws in terms of "environmental migrants", the difficulty in providing a wide range of environmental conditions and the multiplicity of factors that can influence the decision to migrate, the relationship between the environment and migration is still difficult to grasp. The aim of the project is to study the relationship between the environment and migration in the context of the controversy mapping. The project has received a grant from the French Government and gathers a multidisciplinary team of 5 people in sociology, geography and computer science.

In the project FORCCAST, I am responsible for the development of the Axis 1, on the exploration of techno-environmental controversies.

See the project website

January 13
Journal of Digital Social Sciences

2012

December 12
Highlights from the year

2012

September 12
Great expectations: methodes quali-quantitative pour la sociologie
Digital Methods / Publications

Venturini, T. (2012). Great expectations: methodes quali-quantitative pour la sociologie. Revue Française de Sociologie, 53(4), 791-800.

This article discusses how digital traces can help us to overcome the false opposition between quantitative and qualitative methods. It proposes a new generation of quali-quantitative methods and illustrates it with the example of controversy mapping.

Download the pre-print

September 12
Open Open a Text: on ANT Tale in Text Analysis
Digital Methods / Highlight / Publications

Venturini, T., & Guido, D. (2012). Once upon a text: an ANT tale in text analysis. Sociologia, 3. doi: 10.4401/sj-3-2012

ANT is an Actor – Network Analysis is a method for text analysis. Despite this, ANT researchers rarely use digital methods and researchers using digital methods rarely take advantage of the theoretical framework of actor-network theory. Striving to fill this gap, this paper proposes a new approach to actor-network theory in text analysis, we have learned much about how to follow actors in order to describe their associations.

Download the pre-print

December 11
Highlights from the year

2011

November 11
Welcome to Flatland
Conference / Digital Methods / Highlight

One of the most intriguing artifacts developed by Bruno Latour as a part of his research program is undoubtedly the idea of second-degree objectivity. Second-degree objectivity is the idea of the possibility to compare different viewpoints. Second-degree objectivity does not derive rather from uniformity; on the contrary, it is based on exploring a multitude of partial bias, rather than on avoiding them.

We are thrilled to give this conference at the Visualizing Knowledge Conference at the University of Oxford (21/11/11) and at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (6/04/12).

See the slides of the conference

August 11
The Social Fabric: Digital Traces and Quali-quantitative Methods
Conference / Digital Methods / Publications

Venturini, T. & Latour, B. (2011) "The Social Fabric: Digital Traces and Quali-quantitative Methods". Proceedings of Future Es Soiso.

An article I wrote with Bruno Latour on quali-quantitative methods and digital traces.

Download the preprint here

July 11
Building on Faults: How to Represent Controversies with Digital Methods
Conference / Digital Methods / Publications

Venturini, T. (2012). Building on faults: how to represent controversies with digital methods. Public Understanding

June 11
Global Licence Controversy
Controversy mapping / Teaching

Venturini, T. (2010). Diving in magma: how to explore controversies with actor-network theory. Public Understanding of Science, 19(3), 258-273. doi:10.1177/0963662509102694

The cartography of controversies is a

THANKS!
TOMMASOVENTURINI.IT