

# DATA FEMINISM: COMMUNITY, ALLYSHIP, AND ACTION IN THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES

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Digital Frontiers  
University of Kansas  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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@laurenfklein



ColoredConventions.org

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COLORED CONVENTIONS

BRINGING NINETEENTH-CENTURY BLACK ORGANIZING TO DIGITAL LIFE

ABOUT THE COLORED CONVENTIONS


From 1830 until the 1890s, already free and once captive Black people came together in state and national political meetings called "Colored Conventions." Before the War, they strategized about how to achieve educational, labor and legal justice at a moment when Black rights were constricting nationally and locally. After the War, their numbers swelled as they continued to mobilize to ensure that Black citizenship rights and safety, Black labor rights and land, Black education and institutions would be protected under the law.

The delegates to these meetings included the most well-known, if mostly male, writers, organizers, church leaders, newspaper editors, and entrepreneurs in the canon of early African-American leadership—and thousands whose names and histories have long been forgotten. What is left of this phenomenal effort are rare proceedings, newspaper coverage, and petitions that have never before been collected in one place.

This project seeks to not only learn about the lives of male delegates, the places where they met and the social networks that they created, but also to account for the crucial work done by Black women in the broader social networks that made these conventions possible.

ColoredConventions.org endeavors to transform teaching and learning about this historic collective organizing effort—and about the many leaders and places involved in it—bringing them to digital life for a new generation of students and scholars across disciplines and for community researchers interested in the history of activist church, civil rights, educational and entrepreneurial engagement.

TRANSCRIBE MINUTES




[Help transcribe](#) the minutes of the Colored Conventions!

- [Click here for minutes of Conventions held in A.M.E. Churches](#)
- [Click here for minutes of Conventions held in Baptist Churches](#)

FEATURED ITEMS

NEH: 50



Essentials List

The National Endowment for the Humanities is highlighting the Colored Conventions Project, founded and hosted at UD, as one of 50 important projects...

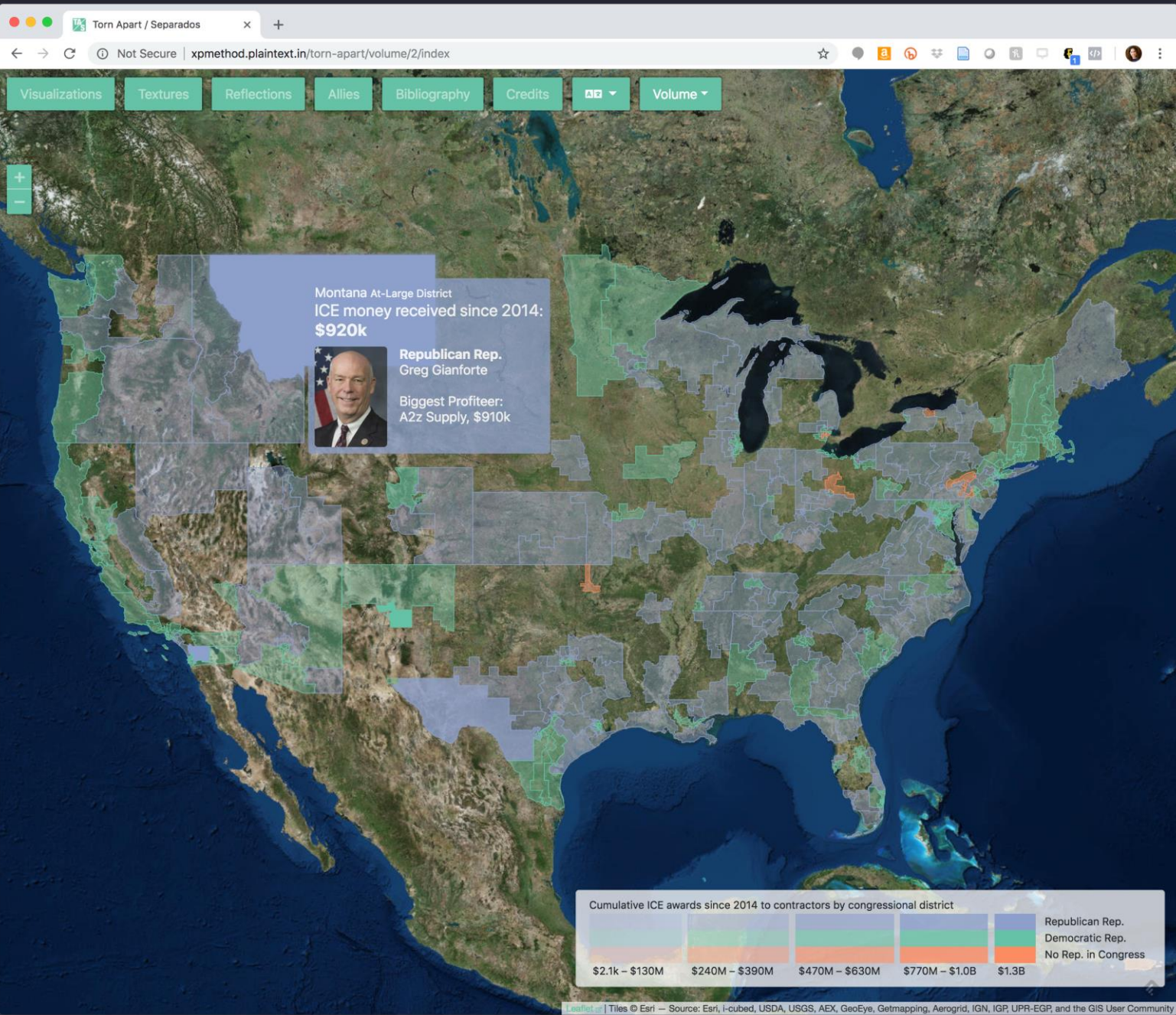
RECENTLY ADDED ITEMS

Illinois Colored Conventions of the 1880s

journal article

Media Backgrounder Douglass Day 2018 .docx





# Catherine D'Ignazio

- Assistant Professor of Data Visualization and Civic Media, Emerson College
- Faculty Director, Engagement Lab @ Emerson College
- Research Affiliate at the MIT Center for Civic Media
- Catherine makes research, art, software, classes, and babies



*@kanarinka and upside-down baby*

# Data Feminism

- What can the past several decades of intersectional feminist activism and critical thought tell the data scientists, analysts, designers, journalists, scholars, students, and teachers of today?





Instagram

Q Search

serenawilliams  • Following

serenawilliams Meet Alexis Olympia  
Ohanian Jr. You have to check out link in bio  
for her amazing journey. Also check out my  
IG stories 🥰🥰❤️❤️

Load more comments

finegirlsallday congrats she a beautiful lil girl

justpencilmein Love

**bharsen** I'm so glad you came through your delivery. You and the baby look beautiful. Much love.

**geraldinepatrono** Beautiful both of you!  
God Bless your family!

**klani.mcc** This will be your life's crowning achievement! Congratulations & be well. Blessings upon your family.

nishasinghangel Lovely..



1,125,597 likes

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Add a comment...

**Gyn Pelvis****C10-3v****47Hz****RS****2D**

54%

Dyn R 56

P Low

Gen



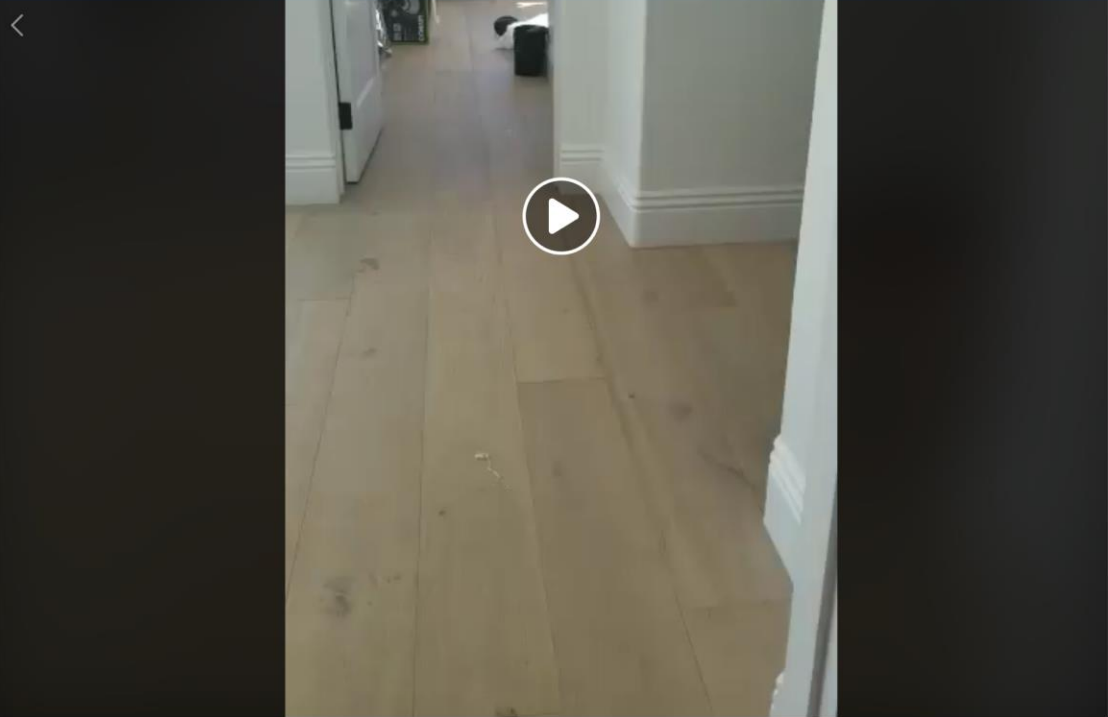



Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/SerenaWilliams/videos/10156086135726834/

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**Serena Williams**

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Like Comment Share

27K 1.4K Comments 1.4K Shares

823K Views · about 9 months ago · Facebook Creator ·


I didn't expect that sharing our family's story of Olympia's birth and all of complications after giving birth would start such an outpouring of discussion from women — especially black women — who have faced similar complications and women whose problems go unaddressed.

These aren't just stories: according to the CDC, (Center for Disease Control) black women are over 3 times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy- or childbirth-related causes. We have a lot of work to do as a nation and I hope my story can inspire a conversation that gets us to close this gap.

Let me be clear: EVERY mother, regardless of race, or background deserves to have a healthy pregnancy and childbirth. I personally want all women of all colors to have the best experience they can have. My personal experience was not great but it was MY experience and I'm happy it happened to me. It made me stronger and it made me appreciate women -- both women with and without kids -- even more. We are powerful!!!


I want to thank all of you who have opened up through online comments and other platforms to tell your story. I encourage you to continue to tell those stories. This helps. We can help others. Our voices are our power.


How People Reacted


**Serena Williams** I'm in tears with all these stories I have almost read every single one of them- and plan on doing so! I'm glad we can speak out about this. Let's continue to let our voices be heard. That's the only way to make change. ❤️❤️


See All Comments >


Up Next


**Everyday difficulties for pregnant women**  
Tips & Tricks  
14M Views  
1:24


**Incredible natural breech birth - at home and supported by a...**  
Mother Nurture Yoga  
175K Views

**Malia and Sasha Style Evolution**  
Seventeen  
9.3M Views  
1:33

**Fetal development month by month: Stages of Baby Growth...**  
SuperMom - No. 1 Largest...  
25K Views  
6:36

**'She's definitely not pregnant. Oh, wait...'**  
ITV News  
2.6M Views  
1:03

**This Groom's Bride Died Just Hours After They Exchanged Vows**  
BuzzFeed News  
7M Views  
1:49

**8-year-old witnesses birth of baby sister**  
FOX 10 Phoenix  
1.4M Views  
3:01

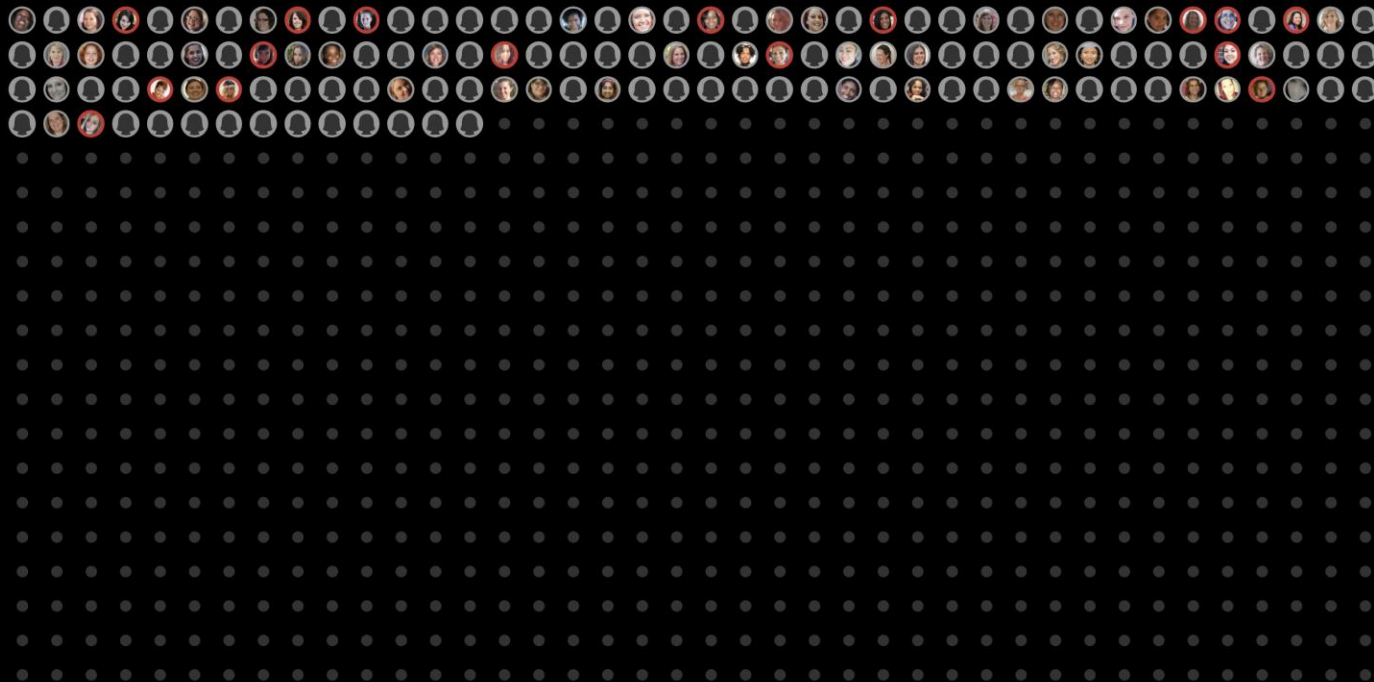
Chat (64)

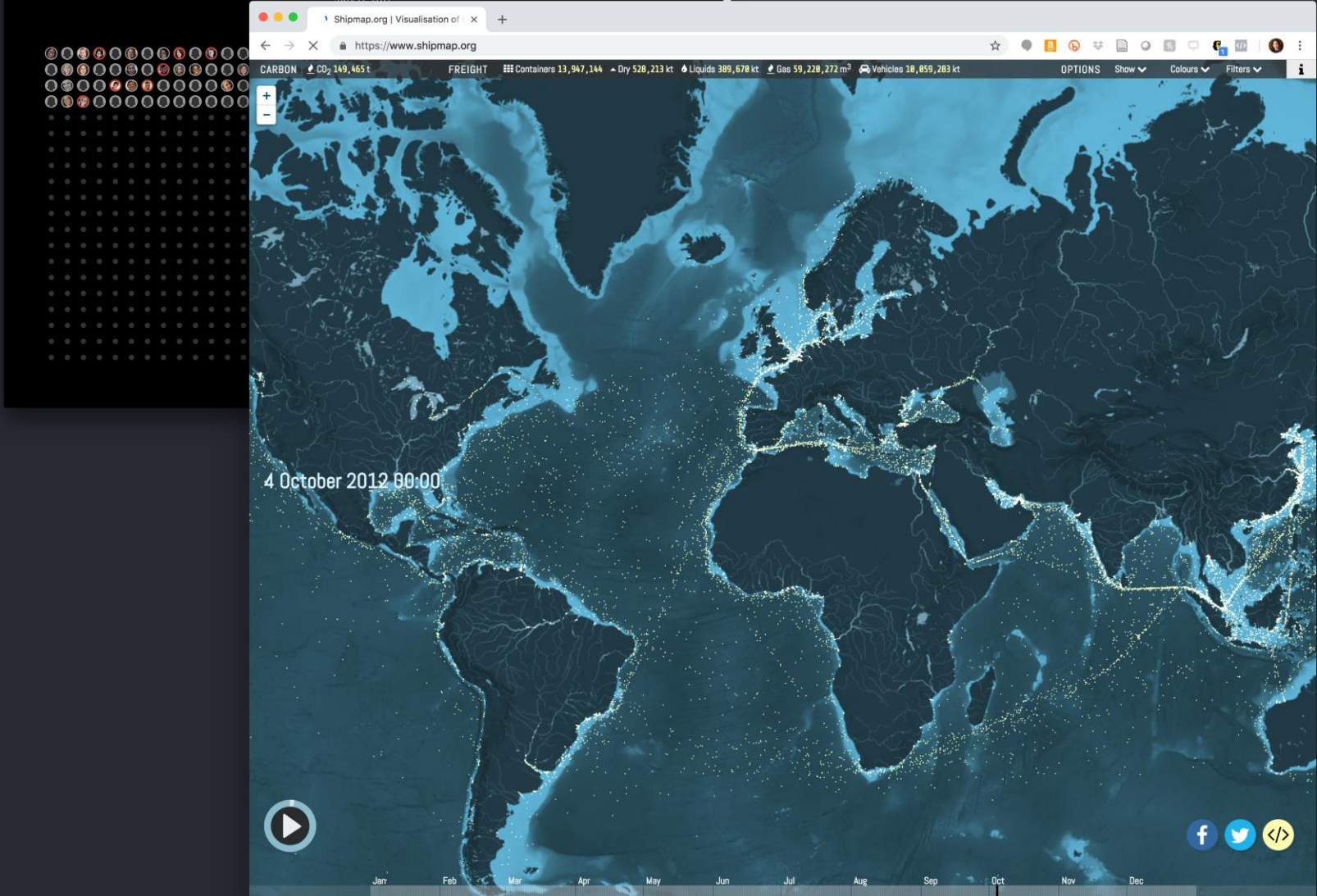
Write a comment...

# Lost Mothers

An estimated 700 to 900 women in the U.S. died from pregnancy-related causes in 2016. We have identified 134 of them so far.

*by Nina Martin, ProPublica, Emma Cillekens and Alessandra Freitas, special to ProPublica  
July 17, 2017*





# Principles of Data Feminism

- **Rethink binaries**
  - **Examine power and aspire to empowerment**
  - **Legitimize embodiment and affect**
  - **Consider context**
  - **Make labor visible**
  - **Embrace pluralism**
- 
- From D'Ignazio, C. & Klein, L.F. "Feminist Data Visualization." *Proceedings of the Workshop on Visualization for the Digital Humanities*, IEEE VIS Conference, 2016.



future tense

THE CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE FUTURE

FEB. 13 2014 3:03 PM

# Here Are All the Different Genders You Can Be on Facebook

By Will Oremus



Gender Custom

Gender Friends

Ge

- Gender Fluid
- Gender Variant
- Genderqueer
- Gender Questioning
- Gender Nonconforming
- Agender
- Bigender
- Cisgender
- Cisgender Female
- Cisgender Male

Birthday

Interested In ☐ Women ☐ Men

Facebook now offers more than 50 custom gender identifiers, but the only way to see the options is via a drop-down autocomplete menu.

Screenshot / Facebook

Facebook on Thursday **added more than 50 custom gender options** for users who don't identify simply as "male" or "female." While this was welcome news to LGBTQ advocates, the company did not publish a list of all the options, leaving users to begin typing into an empty text field in order to bring up a drop-down menu of autocomplete choices. (The site does not seem to allow users to simply leave the field blank, or to type in a gender identifier that is not among the preset options.)

ADVERTISING



## Facebook Now Allows Users to Define Custom Gender

Gender Custom

Gender

What pronoun do you prefer?

Male: "Wish him a happy birthday!"

Your preferred pronoun is Public. [Learn more.](#)

Save Changes Cancel

Trans advocates have lauded the social media site for empowering their trans and gender-nonconforming users, even as others continue to seek change in Facebook's "real name policy."

BY MITCH KELLAWAY  
FEBRUARY 27 2015 1:55 PM EST

490 SHARES

Facebook **announced Wednesday** that U.S. users will now be able to write in their own custom gender on personal profiles, in addition to being able to select from the 58 gender options that have been provided **since last February**.

The February update also allowed users to choose up to 10 gender terms to describe themselves, and customize who is able to see a user's gender identities. The list of selectable gender descriptors includes "trans woman," "trans man," "transsexual," "androgyne," "pangender," "bi-gender," "agender, and "cis woman," among many others. Yet many trans and gender-nonconforming users felt that their personal identities were not reflected in such labels, notes **GLAAD**.

### MOST POPULAR ON ADVOCATE



COMEDY  
SNL's Kate McKinnon  
Impersonates Lindsey Graham  
With Gay Jokes



PHOTOGRAPHY  
109 Mostly Nude Pics of Lewd  
Behavior at Folsom Street



FILM  
Keira Knightley Shares a Queer

FACTORS THAT DETERMINE SEX

## The Gender Spectrum

A transgender woman is a person who was assigned male at birth based on her anatomy but who identifies as a woman.

A cisgender woman is a person who was assigned female at birth based on her anatomy and who also identifies as a woman.

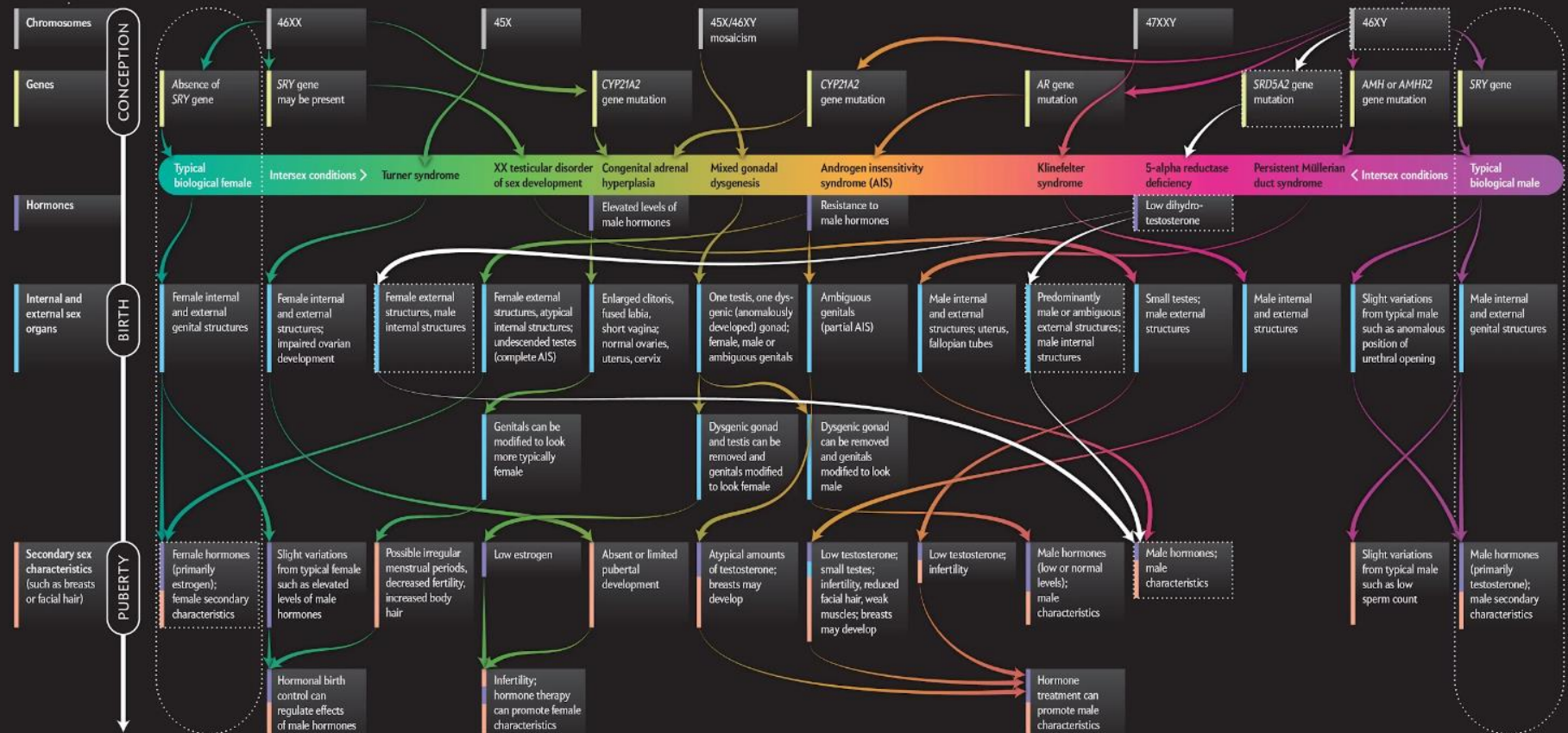
A nonbinary person is someone who identifies as neither completely female nor completely male. Such an individual may identify with both genders or neither gender, or they may be gender fluid, meaning their gender fluctuates between female and male.

A transgender man is a person who was assigned female at birth based on his anatomy but who identifies as a man.

A cisgender man is a person who was assigned male at birth based on his anatomy and who also identifies as a man.

Sexuality refers to an individual's sexual orientation or to the kind of person to whom they are attracted. Sexuality is also a spectrum but is separate from both sex and gender.

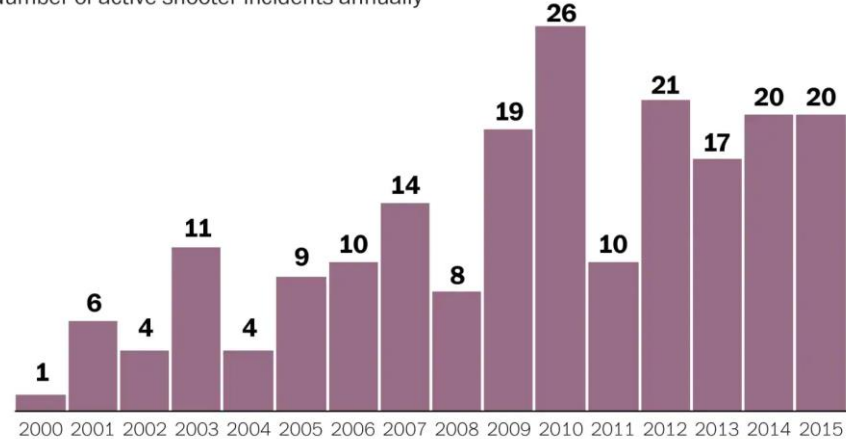
5-alpha reductase deficiency is an intersex condition that can follow multiple pathways throughout development. Affected individuals have a chromosomal makeup of 46XY, like a typical biological male, but a genetic mutation causes a deficiency of the hormone dihydrotestosterone. Patients' external anatomy can vary, so an individual might be assigned to either sex at birth, but at puberty a surge of testosterone promotes male characteristics. As a result, patients who are raised as girls often end up identifying as male.



Pitch Interactive and Amanda Montañez, "Visualizing Sex as a Spectrum" (2017) <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/sa-visual/visualizing-sex-as-a-spectrum/>

## The era of “active shooters”

Number of active shooter incidents annually



WAP0.ST/WONKBLOG

Source: FBI

U.S. GUN DEATHS IN

2013 2010

DECEMBER

**11,419**  
PEOPLE KILLED

**502,025**  
STOLEN YEARS

Latorria Westbrook, a 26 year-old woman, was killed on Friday, July 19th in Los Angeles, California.

She might have lived to be 99 and died of respiratory disease.

Top: “The era of ‘active shooters’,” *The Washington Post* (2016)  
Bottom: “U.S. Gun Deaths in 2013,” Periscopic (2014)





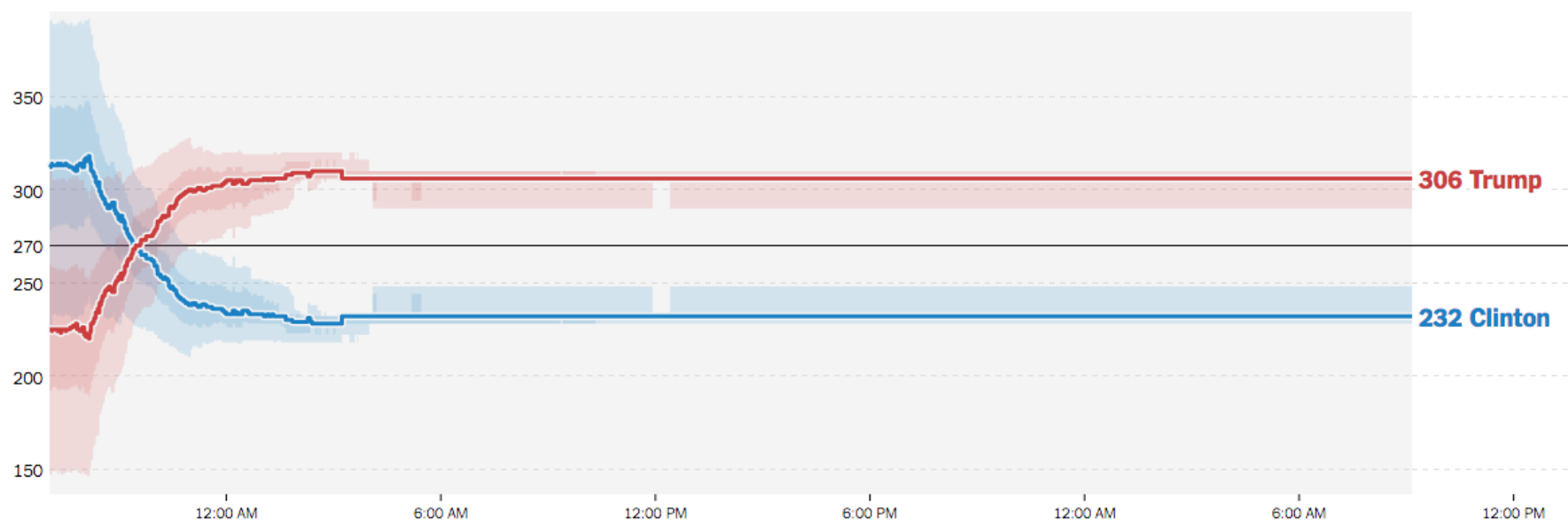
## Total Electoral Votes

The estimates below include an estimate of uncertainty. We expect the uncertainty around these estimates to narrow, especially after races are called.

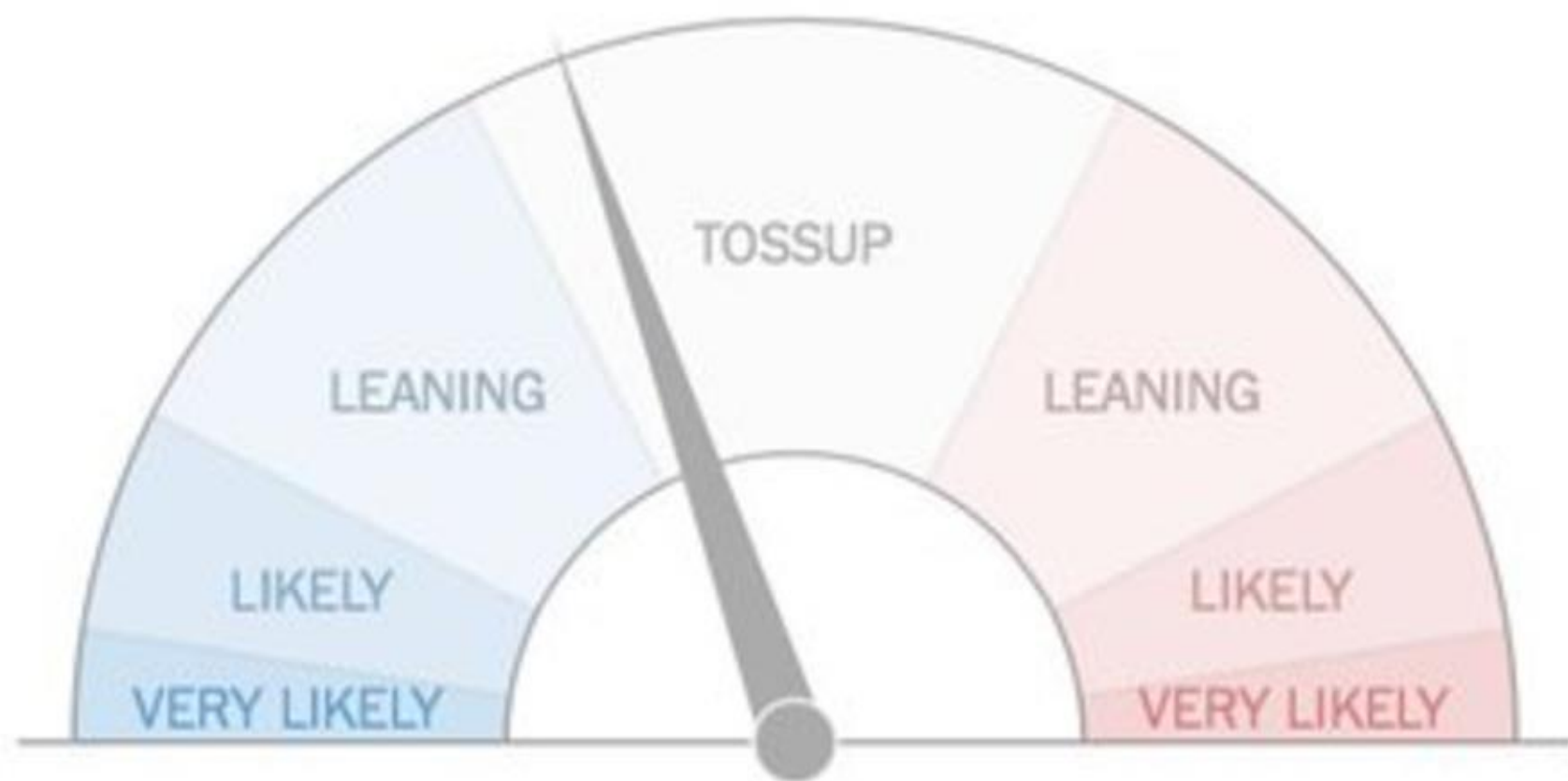
ESTIMATED  
ELECTORAL VOTES

Best guess — 50% of outcomes

95%  
5%



# Chance of Winning Presidency



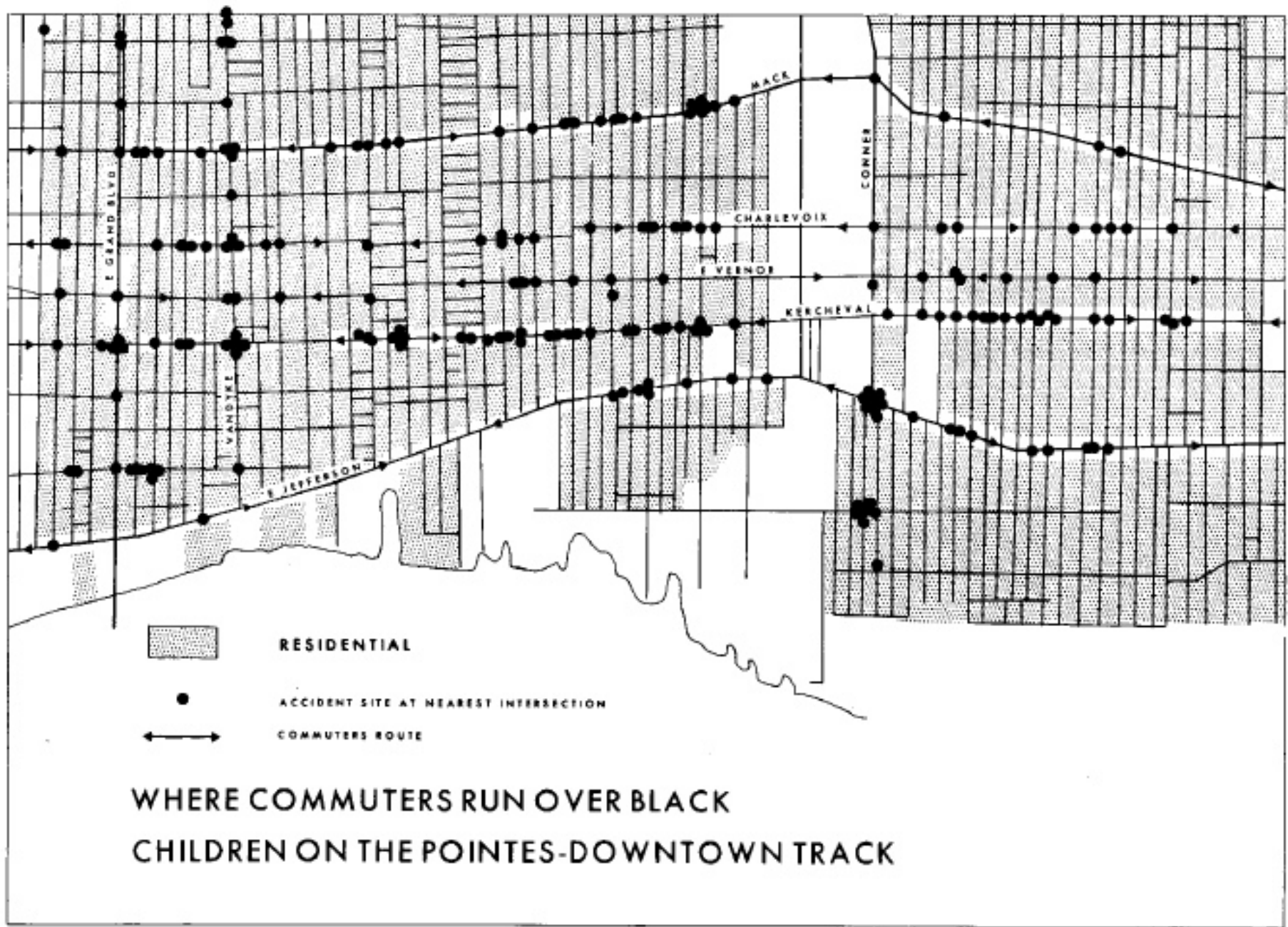
**60% Clinton**

FORECAST





TO DOWNTOWN



SCIENCE NEWS

# How Science Is Helping Stop Crime Before It Occurs

'Predictive policing' is a powerful new tool for law enforcement, but critics see big ethical problems.

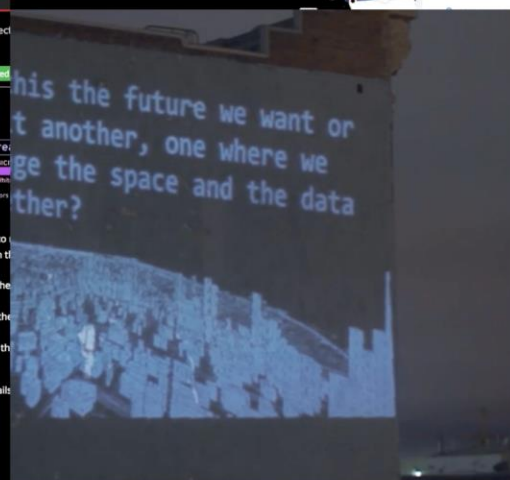
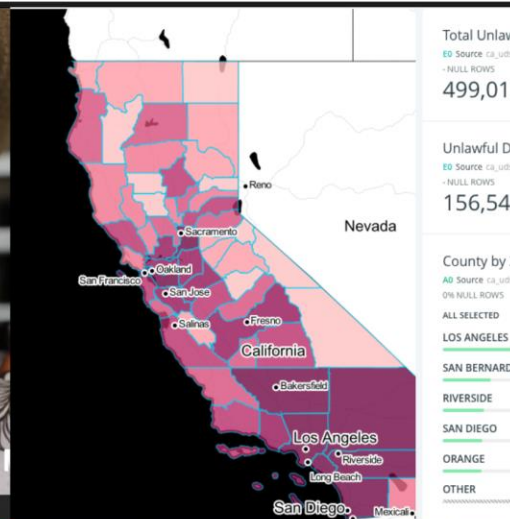
by Adam Mann / Oct. 06, 2017 / 12:12 PM EDT

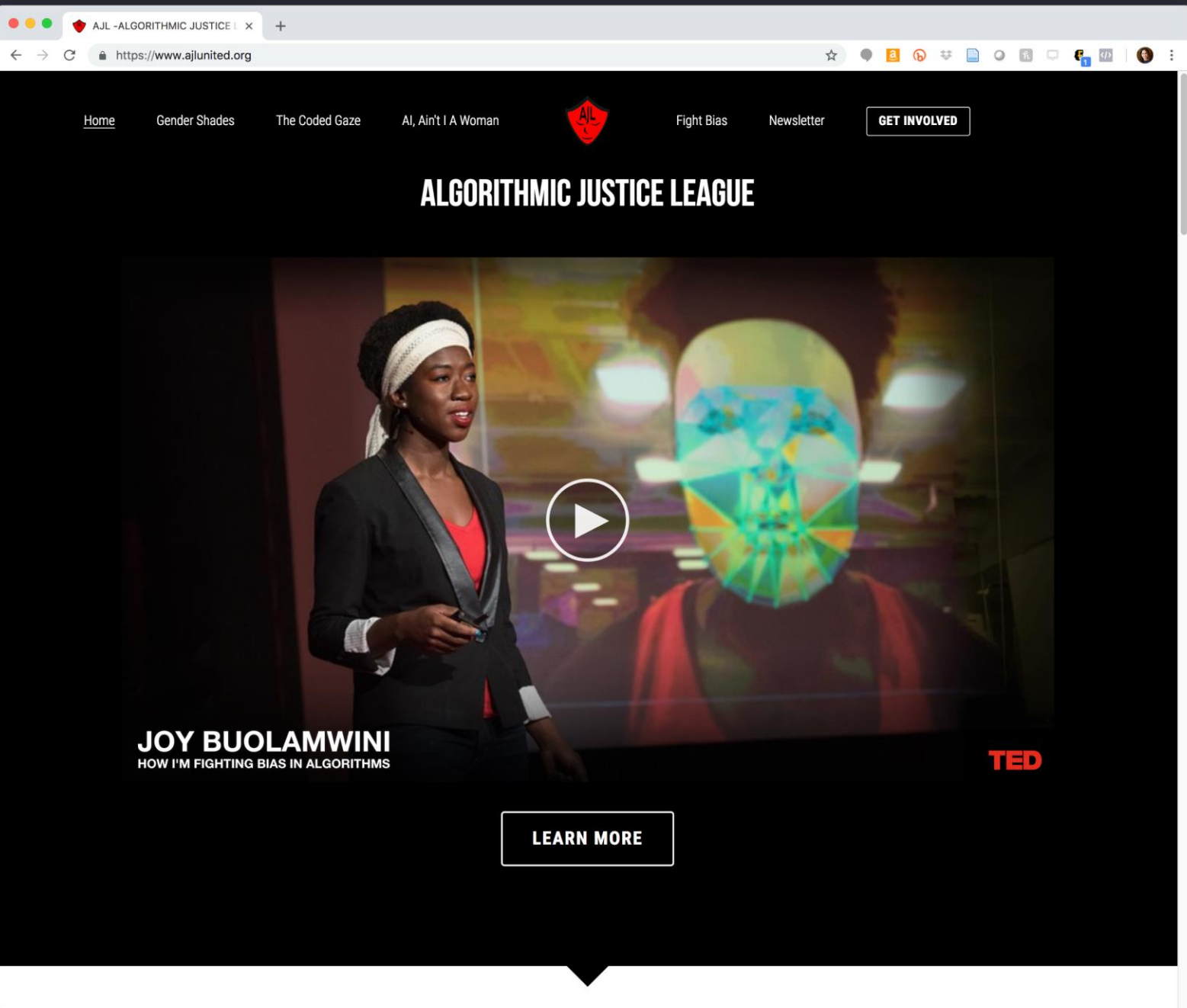


— LAPD Captain Elizabeth Morales speaks during an interview about using predictive policing zone maps with the Los Angeles Police Department in the LAPD Foothill Division on October 24, 2016 in the Pacoima neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Patrick T. Fallon / The Washington Post/Getty Images file









Debate in the Digital Humanities

Not Secure | dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/text/18

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## Where's the Beef? Does Digital Humanities Have to Answer Questions?

TOM SCHEINFELDT

The criticism most frequently leveled at digital humanities is what I like to call the "Where's the beef?" question—that is, what questions does digital humanities answer that can't be answered without it? What humanities arguments does digital humanities make?

Concern over the apparent lack of argument in digital humanities comes not only from outside our young discipline. Many practicing digital humanists are concerned about it as well. Rob Nelson of the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab, an accomplished digital humanist, recently ruminated, "While there have been some projects that have been developed to present arguments, they are few, and for the most part I sense that they haven't had a substantial impact among academics, at least in the field of history." A post on the *Humanist* listserv, which has covered humanities computing for over two decades, expresses one digital humanist's "dream" of "a way of interpreting with computing that would allow arguments, real arguments, to be conducted at the micro-level and their consequences made in effect instantly visible at the macro-level."<sup>1</sup>

These concerns are justified. Does digital humanities have to help answer questions and make arguments? Yes, of course. That's what the humanities are all about. Is it answering lots of questions currently? Probably not—hence the reason for worry.

But this suggests another, more difficult, more nuanced question: When? *When* does digital humanities have to produce new arguments? Does it have to produce new arguments now? Does it have to answer questions yet?

In 1703, the great instrument maker, mathematician, and experimenter Robert Hooke died, vacating the suggestively named position he occupied for more than forty years, curator of experiments to the Royal Society. In this role, it was Hooke's job to prepare public demonstrations of scientific phenomena for the fellows' meetings. Among Hooke's standbys in these scientific performances were animal dissections, demonstrations of the air pump (made famous by Robert Boyle but *made by Hooke*)

Where's the Beef? Does Digital Humanities Have to Answer Questions?

TOM SCHEINFELDT

2012 Print Edition

24

sentences marked as interesting

1

sentences indexed

126

total times marked or indexed

View social annotations

Opacity

Stacks

why are black women so

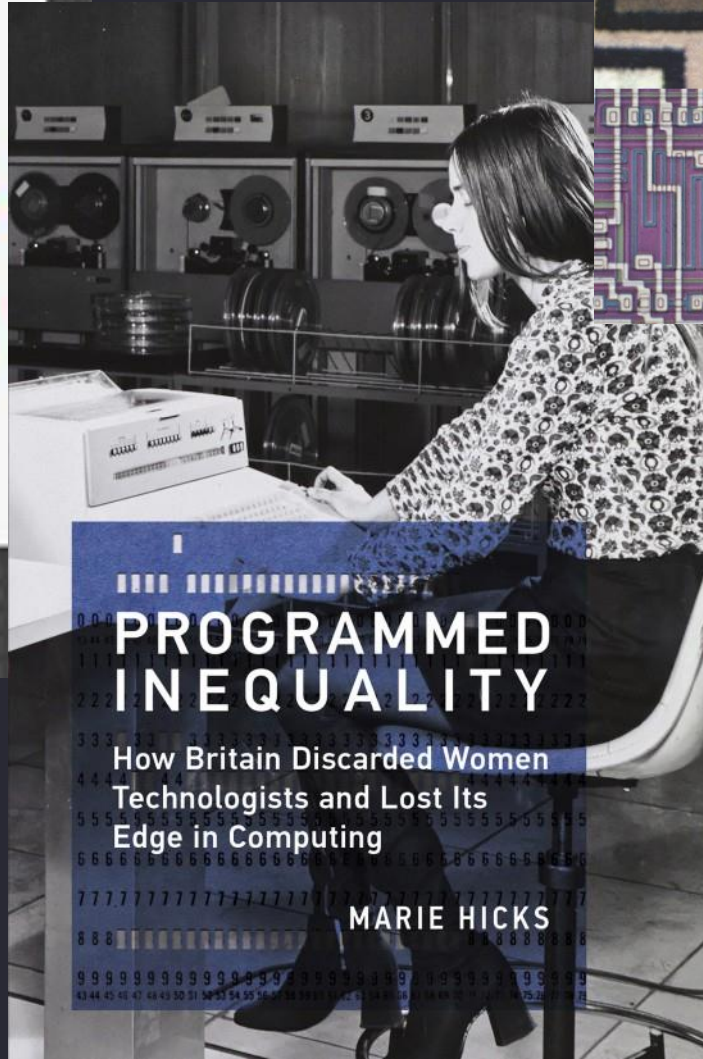


why are black women so angry  
why are black women so loud  
why are black women so mean  
why are black women so attractive  
why are black women so lazy  
why are black women so annoying  
why are black women so confident  
why are black women so sassy  
why are black women so insecure

# ALGORITHMS OF OPPRESSION

HOW SEARCH ENGINES  
REINFORCE RACISM

SAFIYA UMOJA NOBLE



## PROGRAMMED INEQUALITY

How Britain Discarded Women  
Technologists and Lost Its  
Edge in Computing

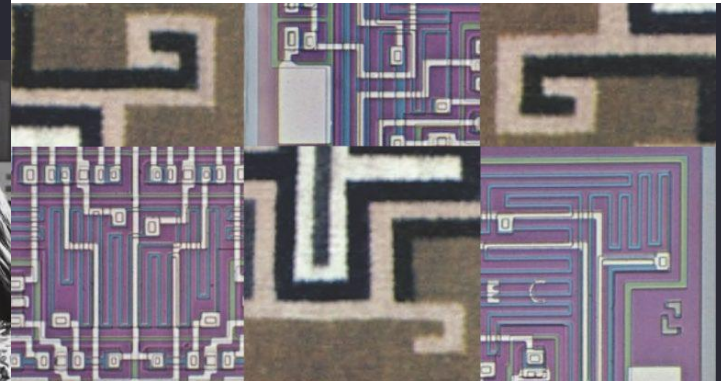
MARIE HICKS



### Indigenous Circuits:

Navajo Women and the Racialization of Early Electronic Manufactu

*Lisa Nakamura (bio)*





# THANK YOU!

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Questions?

Ideas?

Please get in touch:  
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