RETOOLING UNDERGRADS: DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, ON CAMPUS, & BEYOND

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HOW I CAME TO #DH

It's a great time to be a novice (making connections: #dhpoco #dhist #twitterstorians etc.)

Mandate for undergrad education. Impetus behind, and shape of, IIT's new undergrad DH curriculum

Getting out from under the weight of Blackboard's clunky, secretive content management

Why digital humanities for undergrads? Examples of what I've done

Bonus: something you can add to your syllabus *this* semester, in 5 minutes.

"JUSTIFYING" THE HUMANITIES AT A TECH SCHOOL

"Digital Humanities is the interdisciplinary study of traditional humanities subjects and concerns using digital technologies. The Digital Humanities major at IIT offers students a unique opportunity to combine humanistic inquiry in areas such as communication, history, language and linguistics, literature, and philosophy with a sophisticated skill set that is readily applicable to professional fields. Students majoring in Digital Humanities complete required courses that include training in research and writing skills as well as web and interactive design. Additionally, all students choose a traditional humanities specialization in history, literature, or philosophy; an in-major interdisciplinary specialization; and a minor concentration, enabling them to develop deeper topical knowledge while pursuing the subjects they find most interesting. The Digital Humanities curriculum at IIT cultivates critical thinking and communication skills along with a host of technical proficiencies."

"Specialization options include: ~~Data and Analytics, Feminist Analysis,~~ Information Architecture, Policy & Ethics, Science and Technology Studies. Digital Humanities majors complete 5 courses in one of these areas as part of their degree requirements. "

WHAT MAKES A DIGITAL HUMANIST?

Can we make
digital humanists
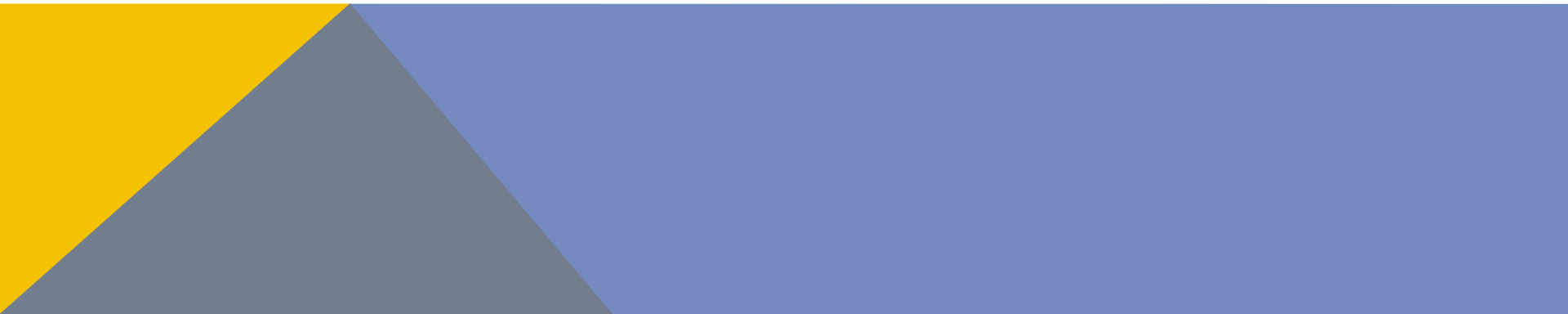of our undergrads?

Should we?
(Is it worthwhile?)

YES.

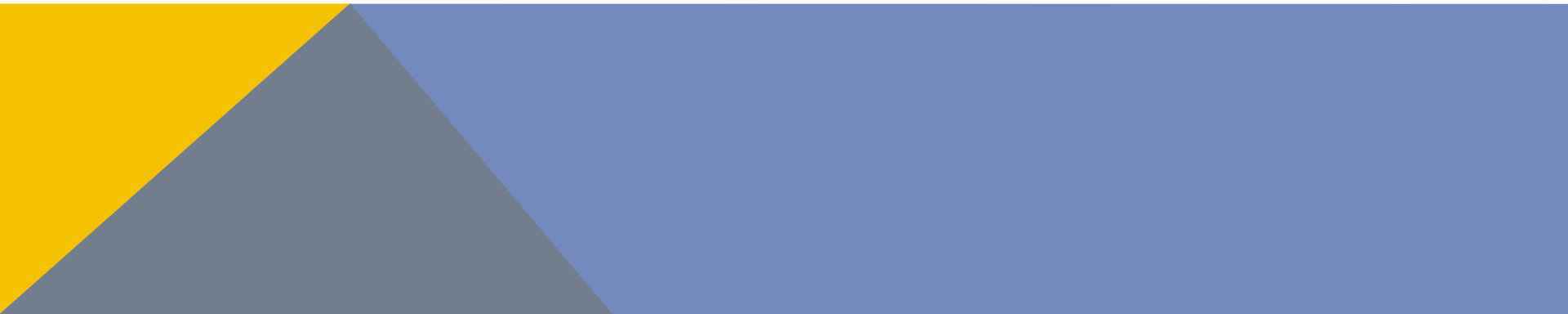# WHAT MAKES A DIGITAL HUMANIST?

What's the line
between a humanist
who uses digital tools
(as we all do)

And a Digital
Humanist?

TOOL DESIGN VS. TOOL USE: CHANGES IN DH

- *Tool use* (for cultural production) as end goal

- Paradox of privileging tool designers/coders as "real" DH
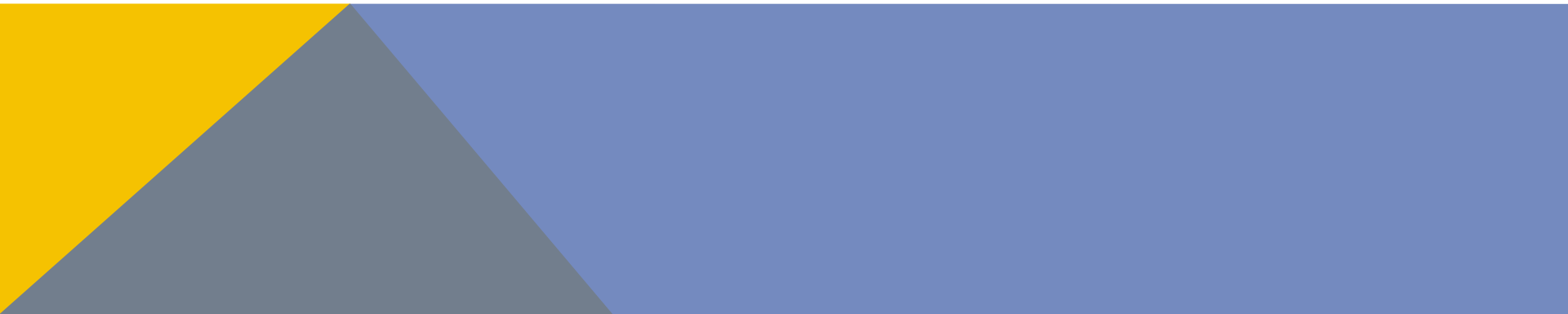
- Problems with above

- Changing?

I'D LIKE TO ARGUE:

Critical, informed users are becoming ever more central to the mission of DH (as opposed to designers)

and

teaching undergraduates with digital humanities tools can be approached in this spirit, particularly if you are integrating DH techniques into a course on a different topic.
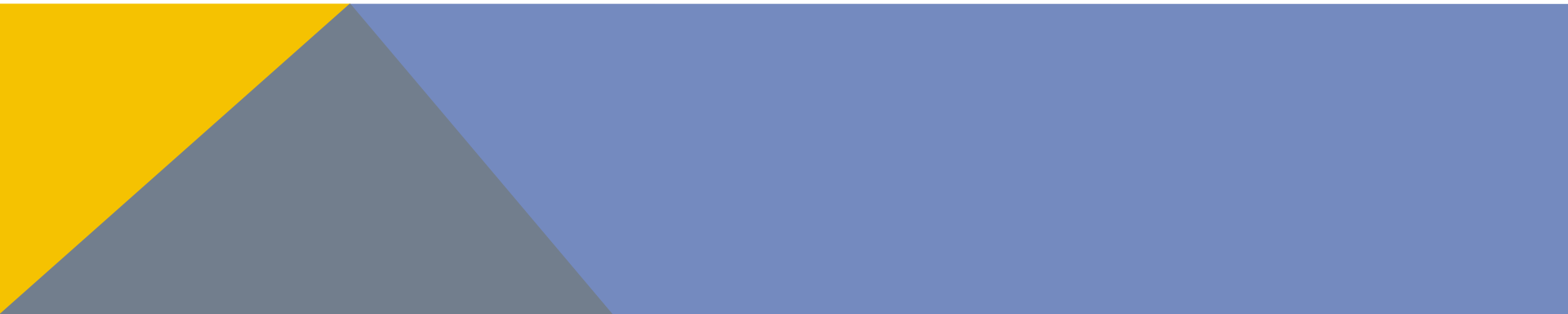
IF YOU ONLY HAVE A HAMMER...

S.C.O.T.

Social

Construction

Of

Technology

User-centric set of theories and explanations for technological change both today and in historical contexts. Not equally applicable to all situations! Works best with more modern, consumer-centric technologies, from the Model T to the PC.

BAMBOO DiRT
PLANT SEEDS. GROW IDEAS. DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOLS.

Welcome //

Bamboo DiRT is a registry of digital research tools for scholarly use. Developed by Project Bamboo, Bamboo DiRT makes it easy for digital humanists and others conducting digital research to find and compare resources ranging from content management systems to music OCR, statistical analysis packages to mindmapping software.

New feature: tool wishlist

I need a digital research tool to . . .

Analyze data   Manage bibliographic information

Analyze texts   Manage tasks

Search

WIKIPEDIA'S "AMERICAN WOMEN NOVELISTS"

1 Terrible choice

2 How about "American female novelists" rather than "American women novelists"?

3 I really hope this category doesn't get merged or deleted

4 This is a non-diffusing subcategory

5 the brouhaha seems to have died down

Terrible choice [edit source]

The following discussion is closed. **Please do not modify it.** *Subsequent comments should be made on the appropriate discussion page. No further edits should be made to this discussion.*

This discussion continued at CFD, which has since closed and **Merge** --Obi-Wan Kenobi (talk) 22:10, 2 May 2013 (UT

Not sure if it was intentional or not, but by separating this subcategory out, someone has effectively taken all female novelists off of the main list of American Novelists. This is insane. Please, someone with a better knowledge of wikipedia, fix this immediately. — Preceding unsigned comment added by 71.193.217.171 (talk April 2013 (UTC)

As pointed out in the *New York Times* op-ed www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/opinion/sunday/wikipedias-sexism-toward-female-novelists.html ⧉, removing women (bur not men) t category of "American Novelists" on the basis that women (but not men) should be in a subcategory is rather blatantly sexist. I suggest going through the **Category:American novelists** files and putting every writer on this list back into the **Category: American novelists**. Geoffrey.landis (talk) 02:31, 25 April 2013 (UTC)

This makes the assumption that the American Novelists list wouldnt be renamed "american male novelists" once the seperation (due to the list being too long, also stated i Tyles article). its not sexisim. and theres allready lists like this for other categories! just give the girl power stuff a rest for 5 minuites so you can see what happens instead Knee-jerk reacting to everything. look. THEN leap. 216.57.96.1 (talk) 18:45, 25 April 2013 (UTC)

Gee, if this segregation is happening because the list is too long, then why not make the sub-categories even smaller by splitting it up by race? Then, 'List of American journalists' could default to white folks instead of men! Of course, that would be racist, just like removing women from the main category to a sub-category is sexist. Wh hard for some people to understand about this? Vegemarmalade (talk) 02:13, 2 May 2013 (UTC)

One other thing, where do you plan on putting intersex, transgender, and genderqueer writers? Vegemarmalade (talk) 02:17, 2 May 2013 (UTC)

Agreed. A nonsense, pointless category with (intentional or otherwise) very sexist overtones. Euchrid (talk) 07:06, 25 April 2013 (UTC)

#FBRAPE

INCLUSIVITY THROUGH DESIGN & CRITIQUE (not mutually exclusive)
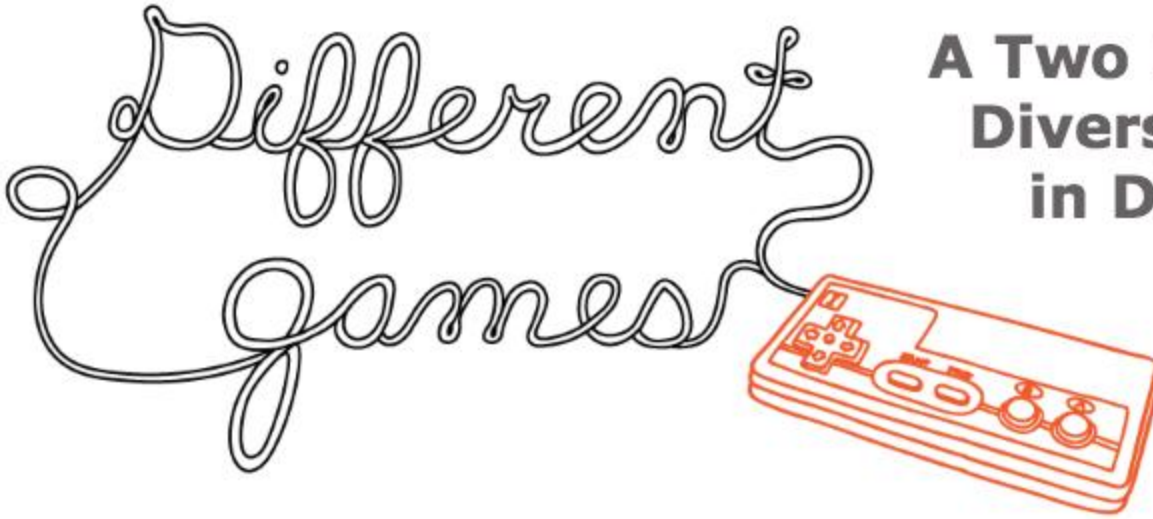
Different games

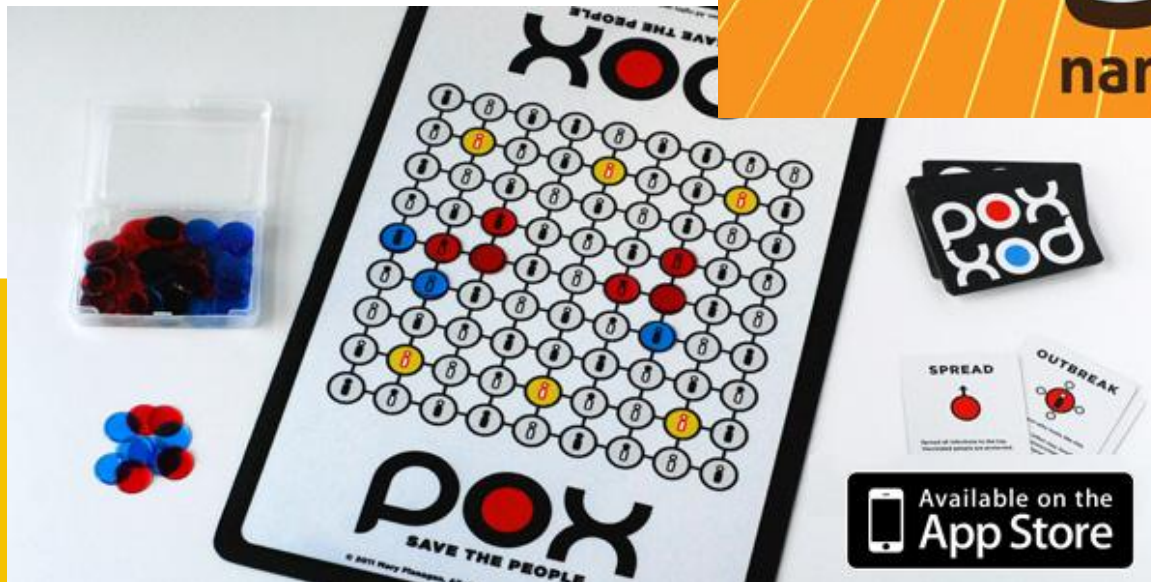A Two Day Conference on
Diversity and Inclusiveness
in Digital Games

Friday, April 26th
Saturday, April 27th 2013,
At NYU's Polytechnic Institute
in Brooklyn, New York

Free live-streamed archive of the conference is available
at www.differentgames.org

CONGRUENT CONTENT MANAGEMNT: FROM BLACKBOARD TO WORDPRESS

-Getting out from behind the "Great Wall of Blackboard"

-Giving students more of a voice, and a stake, in public discourse (pros v. cons)

-Lasting resource after semester ends

-Room to collaborate (with other students in class, as well as faculty, staff, and interested parties outside the university)

-Easy to use (Con: can be insecure)

SAMPLE OF UNDERGRADUATE DH PROJECTS
FROM INTERACTION, TO DISPLAY, TO DEEP WEB USE, TO COLLABORATIVE PRODUCTION

Interaction (Let's talk): Blog post essays, STS Class, and History of Computing Class Response Paper or Essay

Display (What form will it take?): Cruz Tovar's Prezi and Cybernetic Revolutionaries Cartoon (got author's attention)

Deep Web Use (What new ideas will we talk about?): Carla Kundert's IIT History Essay

Collaborative Production/Reaching Out (What's all this talking good for anyway?):

Gender and Technological Change Class's Bathroom Mapping Project
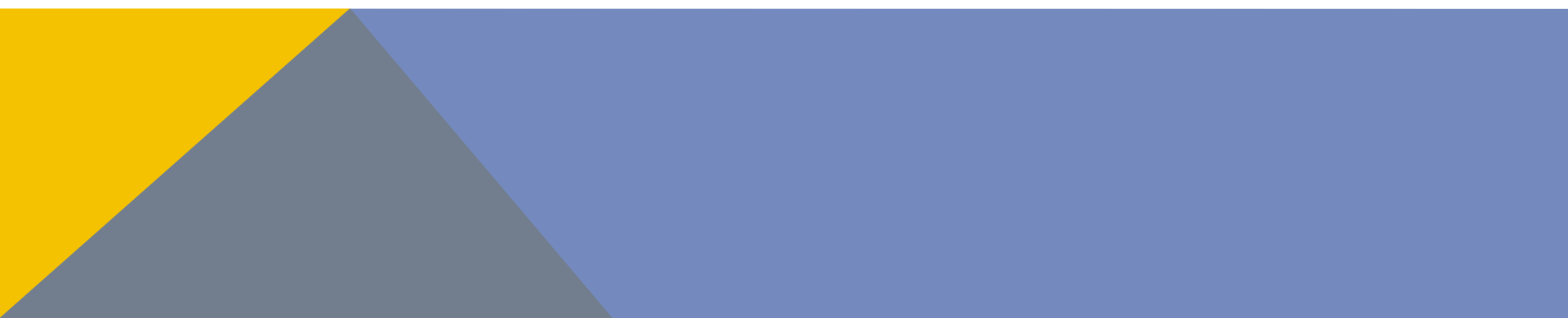
STS CLASS FIRST BLOG ASSIGNMENT: HOW TO RECONCILE FREEDOM AND ORDER?

Last class we discussed readings from Langdon Winner, Norman Balabanian, and others that showed us how technologies, and in particular technological systems, have embedded within them certain social values.

We saw how technologies often promote certain values, or require certain social, economic, and political landscapes and relationships, sometimes without our even fully realizing that they do. Through looking at examples of Amish technological choices, we got some appreciation of how difficult it can be to take control of technologies in the service of a larger social or moral goal.

Amish buggy sign photo from www.amishamerica.com

At the end of the class, I asked whether you thought there was some overarching social goal that Americans value as much as the Amish value fellowship, and whether that American social goal shapes, or can shape, our technological decisions. General class consensus was that Americans' highest social value might be "freedom." Balabanian and Winner, however, clearly show us how many technologies erode or deny freedom–particularly ones that have become part of our daily lives in industrial and postindustrial societies.

So, if Americans value freedom above all else, how does that square with our technologically-saturated society? Are these two things at odds? Or does it only seem so? Or perhaps, upon further reflection, you might come up with a different overarching social goal that seems to inform American technology? Write a concise blog comment of **no more than** 600 words that tries to answer these questions. Be sure that your response has an argument–in other words, make a clear, strong, and creative point in your essay that teaches us something new. After you're done writing, please read some of your classmates' responses and post a reply to at least one.

Your blog comments are **due by 5pm on Wednesday, 1/30**. Your comments will not show up immediately after you post them: I will approve the comments at 5pm 1/30 after everyone has had a chance to submit. *Note: please put an extra line of whitespace between paragraphs in your essay, otherwise the text will run together (WordPress doesn't recognize paragraph indentations).*

RECENT POSTS

A Bit of Press

Gender and Infrastructure: Part II

Applying STS Theories and Perspectives

RECENT COMMENTS

Development, Epidemiology, China; Reviews | Conflated Automatons on MOOCs are doing a head-fake on higher education

Matthew Otten on Applying STS Theories and Perspectives

Andy on Applying STS Theories and Perspectives

Dwayne Charp on Applying STS Theories and Perspectives

Pooja Agarwal on Applying STS Theories and Perspectives

ARCHIVES

August 2013

July 2013

WAVES COME TO IIT

Rose Narrowly Escapes Death In Apartment

Overflowing Water Jet Causes Old Soak to Swim for His Safety

Bob Rose, hydraulics laboratory instructor, narrowly escaped drowning while brushing his teeth.

Rose, affectionately known as the "old soak", told the grim details to a Tech News reporter while splashing about in his work.

"I arose bright and early as usual and proceeded to conduct the usual necessities," stated Rose. "After carefully adjusting the rate of flow of the faucet, I gently but firmly grasped my brush in hand and proceeded to polish my tooth—I mean teeth. However, my Bernoulli San-fran overbalanced the potential difference of flow between the What-he-tell, destroying steady epuilibrium of etc., etc., etc.

Contingent of Waves Arrive

Women Become V-12'er C. O. Is Annie Orcutt; New Liberty System!

Girls to Be Assigned to Respective Quarters Mueller Made Half-chief In Charge of Heads Swimming Classes Continue In Same Fashion

A detachment of 431 Navy Waves will report to IIT today, announc Admiral S. C. Uttlebutt, head of night operations in the twentieth Na District.

The admiral added that the new commanding officer of the Wave will be none other than our own Annie Orcutt, the former psychol teacher, who was recently commissioned a Lieutenant (f.o.) in the Wome Reverse.

The girls are to be assigned to the respective navy quarters and immediately take over such duties as swabbing the decks, making up sa etc. In addition to this the girls will follow about the same V-12 prog as the men are now taking. They will participate in the physical train program with the men. As yet no definite word has been rece concerning the swimming classes. It is thought that there will be change in procedure in this matter though.

Vice-Chief Mueller, the new executive head officer, stated that as today there will be no morning calisthenics and that the Waves personally serve the trainees their morning breakfast in bed.

Because of the addition of navy personnel, a new liberty system

Student assignment by Carla Kundert on transgender healthcare, Gender and Technological Change course
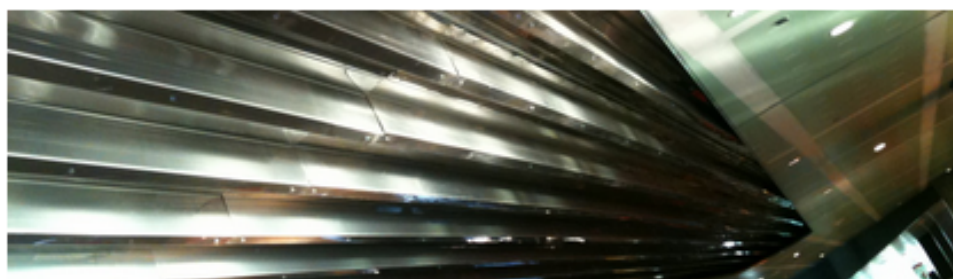
WHITE HEAT

posts on the history of technology by Marie Hicks, assistant professor at Illinois Institute of Technology

HOMEPAGE   ARTICLES   SYLLABI   ACADEMIC PROFILE

APRIL 10, 2013

GENDER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In my Gender and Technological Change course the students are currently looking at how gender and infrastructure shape each other, and in particular, how technological infrastructure disciplines our thinking, and our bodies, into specific patterns.

The class read a great historical article on the moral, political, and economic wranglings to try to get public bathrooms placed in major U.S. and European cities during the late 19th and early 20th century. The catch? Public bathrooms for women were seen as outside the pale by most men in charge at the time, leaving city women in an uncomfortable situation. Professor Maureen Flanagan, department head here at IIT in the Humanities, shows in "Private Needs, Public Spaces--Public Toilets in the Anglo-Atlantic Patriarchal City: London, Dublin, Toronto and Chicago" that attempts to keep public bathrooms for women out of cities were also attempts to shape women's behavior into "respectable" patterns-- namely to keep women out of public places and to keep their time out and about to a minimum.

We also looked at more recent bathroom projects: particularly ones designed to highlight or make more available genderqueer and trans-friendly bathroom spaces. In this regard, college and university campuses have often led the way, making specific policies to create gender-neutral and genderqueer-friendly bathroom spaces.

On a personal note, I still remember how my undergraduate institution lacked enough women's bathrooms in many buildings--including the undergraduate library--because women had only been allowed into the main parts of the campus as (almost) equals in the 1970s and 1980s. And even in the 1990s, when I was a college student, genderqueer-friendly bathrooms were barely even acknowledged

ABOUT ME:

I teach history at Illinois Tech in Chicago. I focus on the history of computing, labor, and gender. My current book project investigates the declining proportion of women in computer programming and operation, from computing's inception to the present, in the cradle of early computing advances--Great Britain. What lessons does this hold for us? You might be surprised...

I'm always up for talking about technology and its socioeconomic effects: send me e-mail at mhicks1 at iit dot edu, or follow me @histoftech on twitter. Press inquiries welcome.

🔍

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Development, Epidemiology, China:

Bathroom Facilities by Gender at Ilinois Tech (2013)

Gender Neutral Facilities 0.3%

Women's Facilities 27.4%

Men's Facilities 72.3%

chart by @histoftech

IIT STATS:

Roughly 7700 Students

Our student body is diverse: more than 20% of our undergraduates come from other countries (44% if you count graduate students).

We still struggle to attract and retain women students and faculty: overall we are 37% women, but our undergraduate student body is only 31% women, and less than 22% of our full-time faculty are women.
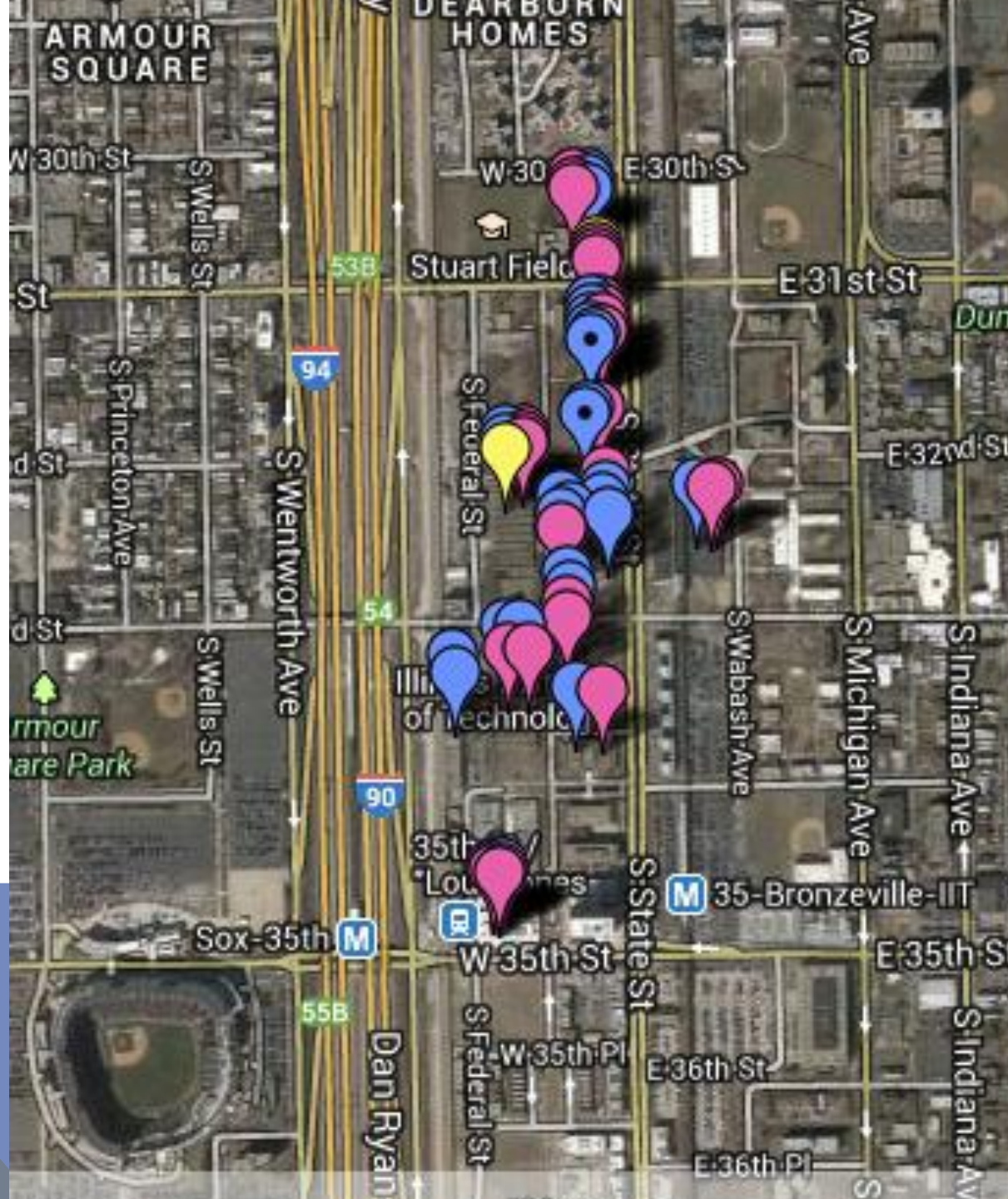

By The Numbers Fall 2012

- Undergraduate
- Graduate
- Business
- Law

1,034 14%

907 12%

2,801 36%

2,942 38%
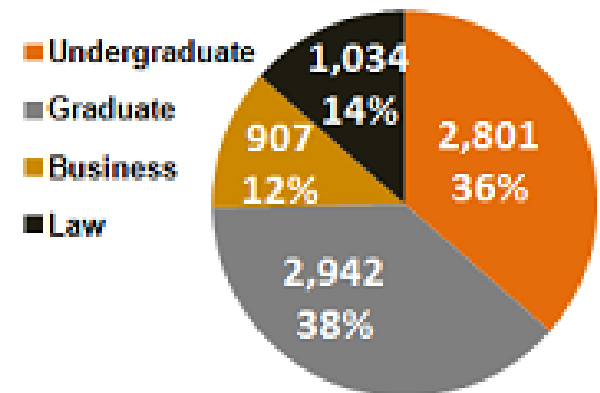
Space marginalizing women, trans, and
   genderqueer students, faculty, and staff

Discuss Gender and Infrastructure assignment

IIT CAMPUS MAP

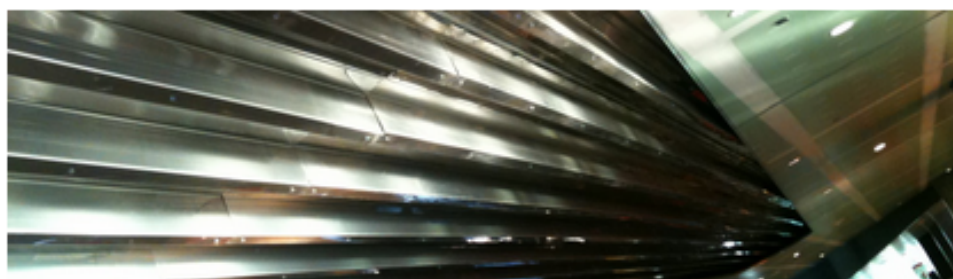# IIT GOOGLE MAP: CAMPUS BATHROOM FACILITIES BY GENDER

BATHROOM MAPPING PROJECT

In context of Gender and Technological Change (History) Class

→How do technologies create gender, and also the reverse?

We've studied the issues, what can we do?

-The personal is political

gender
-IIT gender imbalance, rigid infrastructure reinforces it and creates new problems

-Locate/Discuss problem and project, Research and Collect Data

-Display collaborative results which elucidate problem and offer possible
solution

-Make connections with people who can help (#satechchi)

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RECENT COMMENTS

Development, Epidemiology, China;

Tweet and ye shall receive

too.

💬 View conversation

Marie Hicks @histoftech   29 Jul
@Ryan_C_Miller @alexagcarlson Thanks! The students did a great
job.
💬 View conversation

Marie Hicks @histoftech   29 Jul
My class did!: mariehicks.net/blog/?p=321 "@AlexAGCarlson: Use a
Google map to share your campus gender neutral bathroom
locations. #satechCHI"
Expand

Alex Andrea Carlson @AlexAGCarlson   29 Jul
@histoftech that's awesome. I want to chat with you about this soon!
Expand

**Marie Hicks** @histoftech   29 Jul
@AlexAGCarlson I'd be delighted to--the students hoped it might act
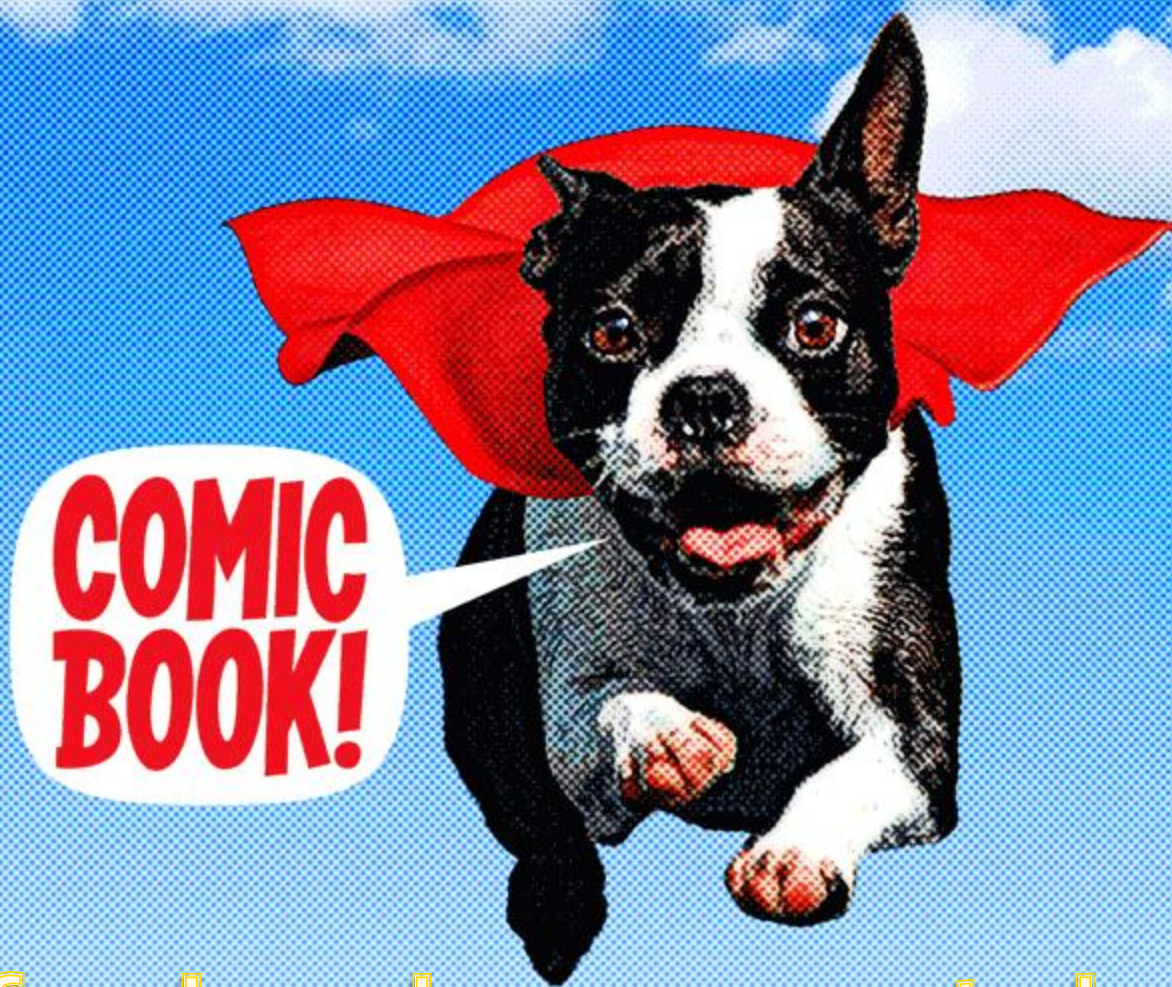as a "call to action" as well as a resource :)
💬 Hide conversation   ← Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite ••• More

12:19 PM - 29 Jul 13 · Details

A fun exercise you can add to your syllabus right now, to help your students synthesize and distill difficult ideas using a tool that can be repurposed for a beginner's "digital humanities" assignment:
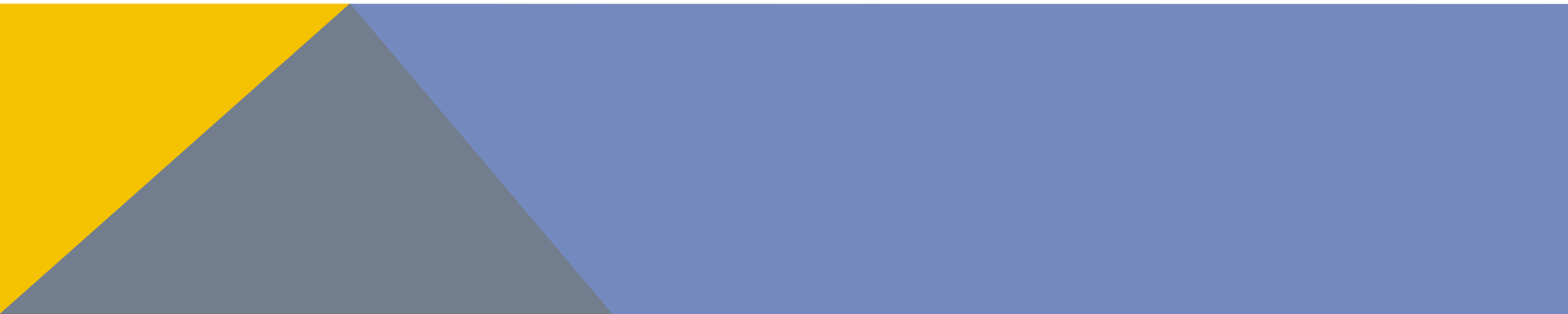
Comic by Pooja Agrawal, student in Science and Technology Studies (2013, IIT)

Cartoon by Anthony Ludlam, a student in HIST 380: Gender & Technological Change (2013, IIT)

WHAT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE DOING

Maureen Flanagan: class wikis as final projects (Collaboration)

Margaret Power: digitization project working with limited resources (money, labor, skills) of PR Cultural Center (Problem Solving)

Libby Hemphill: Twitter IPRO on political influence (Display and the Deep Web)

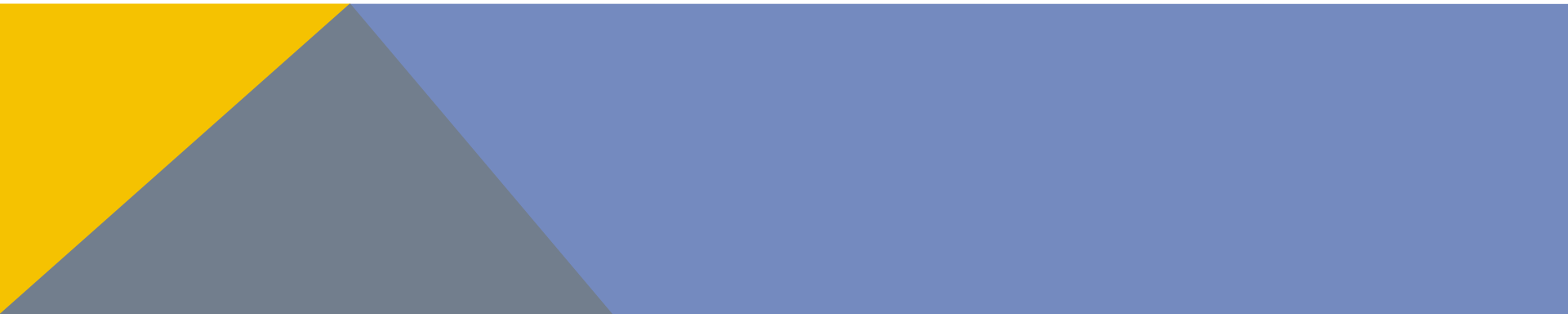Michael Davis: Ethics Center archive of Codes of Ethics in the Professions (Display)

IIT DIGITAL HUMANITIES SPEAKER SERIES: STATE OF THE PRACTICE

Fall lineup (open to the public)

September 11: Josh Honn (Northwestern)

October 23: Carly Kocurek (IIT)

November 20: Maureen Flanagan and Margaret Power (IIT)

Thanks!

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IIT College of Science and Letters
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY