

Data Horizons: Some Thoughts on the Future of Data

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Event Horizon Singularity









Data, data everywhere...

- Dramatic changes in the type and scope of data available for social research
- New types of data and new controllers/archives
 - Social media data growth
 - Commercial data



Data, data everywhere...

- Dramatic changes in the type and scope of data available for social research
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 - Social media data growth
 - Commercial data
- New data linkage developments
 - New data being linked.
 - New forms of Combining, enhancing, fusing, linking, merging data

















irritable and	I felt so uncomfortable and insecure. CHIN Mainland & Hong Ko	UA: were growing. I could	Music keeps me focused, like my ADD medication, and I had neither.	I went into absolute panic mode USA	It felt as though I was heinn tortur	In short, I believe	ted. ARGENTINA	I feel empty. I feel isolated.
I feit so knely I could not sleep well without sharing or connecting to	I feel like a	I sat in my bed and stared blankly. I	l began going crazy.	I felt like a drug addict.	I feit a compu as if ce	lt 'dea	d.' tin I hours.	I'm addicted to technology.
others. had nothing to do. I feit so 'urged' to go online I could barely practice self-control. The feeling of nothing passed into my hea a slight tension enveloped me. I feit like I had lost something important.		had nothing to do. thing passed into my heart, inveloped me.	My anxiety took over me and I caved in.	I suffered 'withdrawais' and even unconsciously reached out for a calculator which is slightly shaped like my phone.	d even unconsciously ached out for a iculator which is ghtly shaped like my on Eacebook		ion uno ielplessness of iot ommunicating.	I find it necessary to be connected and updated all the time.
I realized my addition to leverything I knew I hope that I never analytication to me I panicked. Jish.			I had the feeling that my cell was vibrating I begi and fc The c going mind		- almost handicapped in my ability to	Emptiness. Emptiness overwhelms me.	Unplugging my ethernet cable feit like turning off a life support system.	
							Media is my drug. Without it I was lost.	
Mr tl wit it. I saying and feeling, where they are, and what's happening. broke the promise again.			mind psyct Face Twith			went numb ra and I felt ar	had a raised heart ite, increased nxiety and was anicking.	I am addicted to social media – in particular Twitter.
I went to sleep at 8 pm so that I was not tempted to watch TV or listen to music. UGANDA		word that sticks in my mind	the media is absolutely sickening.	I kept hearing the sound of my Blackberry messenger ringing	I felt desperate and felt some kind of anguish.	My nerves were overwheimed. CHILE	Even in my dreams I see myself chatting, using Skype, Twitter, adding people on	
I was tempted.	I felt so lonely.	and the second sec	when I think of this whole thing: Isolated.	I am an addict of Blackberry	over and over in my ears it was haunting me!	i felt uncomfortable, disconnected.	The silence was killing me.	Facebook.
could not handle	how life can be without using	Conference of the Contents of the Conference of the Content of the	rouidn't not listened to almost 40 seconds of a song and then I	Messenger. As soon as I left my phone I kept looking back. I felt that I needed it at that second.	I didn't realize it would be so isolating.	I went on a walk	It was a horrible day. WITHOUT MEDIA! I i network, my cell phon always!	need my social

Ethical Conundrum

• Is privacy even possible?











The Social Science of Data

- Our Data Our Selves:
 - How does data impact on how we view our selves, our identity, our society?
 - How does ubiquitous data impact on our norms, attitudes and values?
 - How far and where will the investment of ourselves in the digital take us?

The Social Science of Data

- Our Data Our Society:
 - How do the control processes for data reflect and affect existing social structures and how does data disrupt the social structures?
 - How are data shaped by the institutions and objectives that produce them how are institutions and wider cultural processes affected by data about/within them?
 - (How) can social science affect the direction of travel?

The Social Science of Data

- Our Data Our Research:
 - How do we define 'data' in the social sciences?
 - Can social science adapt to use any form of social data?
 - Can a meaningful data ontology be developed?
 - Which intentional data sources do we still need?
 - How does ubiquitous data affect the centrality of theory?

 "There is a growth of under theorised empiricism in social science...Uncritical use of data with limitations in coverage or definitions and the steering of research to things that happened to be measured". Survey respondent (Elliot, Purdam and Mackey 2013)

An Socio-ethical step change?



Privacy is a significant concern for most mobile users



Most mobile internet users have agreed to a privacy statement without reading it



of these said it is because privacy statements are too long



of these said it is because they don't have time to read them



of mobile users believe that companies will carry on collecting their personal information even when they ask them to stop

100	
ond information oversits without perm	People value apps a services but want m control and choice o their information
their per	

history and be able to

57% People who think consistent rules should apply to any company with access to their location via their mobile

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ore

over

Privacy and Disclosure

"There is a close connection between our ability to control of who has access to our information and our ability to create and maintain different sorts of social relationships with different people"; Rachels(1970)





Disclosure and Identity

- Social Philosophy:
 - Identity is represented to others through self disclosure; Goffman
 - OTOH our identity is in part formed through our interactions with others and their representations to us; Mead

So Disclosure is:

- The mechanism by which we operate our privacy.
 - Non-consensual disclosure subverts the psychologically critical process of self-disclosure.
 - This rather than the information itself is why non-consensual disclosure is problematic.

And so information privacy is....

- Critical to our the formation of our identities
- "Personhood" rather "ownership".
 - My data is not just about me it is me
- To understand the meaning of privacy in a cultural context one must refer to processes of
 - Autonomy
 - Locus of Control
- An "Information Society" presupposes "information Citizens".

The Information Society

- Has always existed
- Informational relations are isomorphic the societal structures and processes.
- An "Information Society" presupposes "information Citizens".
 - What sort of society/citizens do we want?
 - What sort of privacy do we want?

Resolutions

- Technical
 - Real time consent is a possibility









Resolutions

- Technical
 - Real time consent is a possibility
 - An economic model is one potential element
- Legal
 - New legal framework required
 - Data Abuse not Data Protection

To Sum up

- New technologies over the next 10 years will produce ever increasing types and quantities of data.
- New data change what we know about ourselves but also change *our selves*.
- Ethics in this **age of data** will a significant challenge.
- There is a pressing need for both a social science of data and a social data science.

- Salganik, M.J. (2017) Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age Princeton University Press, 448pp, £27.95
- Purdam K and Elliot M. J. (2015) 'The Changing Social Data Landscape' in Halfpenny, P. and Procter, R. (eds.) Innovation in Digital Research Methods. 25-58 London: Sage