Module 1: A Brief Introduction to Critical Data Studies

NSF Center for the Science of Information Learning Hub

Instructors:

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COURSE/MODULE DESCRIPTION
Critical Data Studies (CDS) is an interdisciplinary field that addresses the ethical, legal, socio-cultural, epistemological and political aspects of data science, big data and digital infrastructure. This course focuses on current topics in critical data studies scholarship. Students will develop tools and methods to think critically and engage the public in conversation about data and society.

The overall course and module are designed for asynchronous independent or group learning experience. Instructors and students are encouraged to use the module as a whole or incorporate individual videos, discussion, writing and/or reading assignments into their course of study as desired.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Engage in current debates surrounding data science, big data and digital infrastructure.
- Acquire tools and methods to analyze societal impact of emergent technologies.
- Practice scholarly communication skills that will lead to public engagement.

PARTICIPATION
Discussion questions related to video content and/or reading assignment are provided for each video segment of a module. These are suggested or starting points for discussion. If working in a group we would encourage students to not only engage with provided discussion questions, but to generate their own questions and topics of interest.

REFLECTION & ENGAGEMENT ASSIGNMENTS
One or more 250-500 word short writing written reflection assignment prompts will be provided per module. These assignments are designed to be self or peer-graded.