

(archived ETHERPAD)

## Images in Social Media Research: Digital Tools and Methodological Challenges

Online-Workshop, 10th February 2023, 9.00-16.30 (CET)

From memes on Twitter and Reddit to Instagram posts and TikTok videos: Images are taking on increasingly important roles in social media communication. While social media research can draw on established tools in the field of text analysis, researching visual content still presents particular methodological challenges. How can images be systematically searched and scraped from the web? What qualitative and quantitative possibilities are there for structuring, visualising, and evaluating big image corpora and their metadata? How can a sustainable and critical approach to sensitive images look like?

This one-day workshop aims to bring together image researchers from different disciplines. On a very hands-on level, we want to explore digital tools that might offer pragmatic solutions for researching images on the web. Furthermore, the academic (re)use of images from social media raises particular ethical and legal issues. Digital media researchers, legal scholars and art historians will provide insight into their method designs and open up critical perspectives on how to deal with visual content online.

Programme (see PDF and some slides at <https://nfdi4culture.de/go/ImagesInSocialMediaResearch>)

9.00 Verena Straub & Christoph Eggersglüß: Welcome and Introduction

### 9.15-11.15 Tools

- Bernhard Rieder: Analysing YouTube through data extraction – Introducing the YouTube data tools
  - <https://tools.digitalmethods.net/netvizz/youtube/>
  - <https://github.com/strohne/Facepager>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiIbKv5b5rz-6LPTLQgVGug> (Facepager YT channel)
- Stijn Peeters: Quali-quantitative internet research with 4CAT
  - <https://4cat.nl/>
  - <https://mastodon.digitalmethods.net/@4cat>
  - PixPlot: <https://dhlabs.yale.edu/projects/pixplot/>
  - Google Vision API: <https://cloud.google.com/vision>
  - Clarifai API: <https://www.clarifai.com/>
- Jason Chao: Enriching image data with AI using Memespector-GUI
  - <https://github.com/jason-chao/memespector-gui>
  - Digital methods gadgets by Jason Chao --> <https://github.com/jason-chao/dm-gadgets>
  - <https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/drag-and-drop?hl=pt-br>
- Jens-Martin Loebel: Exploring Yenda and HyperImage – A scientific approach to networked digital image annotation and hypermedia publication
  - <https://hyperimage.ws>
    - new version coming soon, also available on GitHub, open source
  - Yenda: <https://bitgilde.de/de/konzepte/>
    - <http://yenda.eu>
  - TIMAAT (Tool for collaborative video annotation): <https://github.com/bitgilde/TIMAAT>

### OPEN DISCUSSION

- ◦ Tools for Video analysis:
  - VFrame by artist Adam Harvey <https://vframe.io/> and
  - Sam Lavigne's Videogrep: <https://antiboredom.github.io/videogrep/>
- <https://tracking.exposed/>
- and for YouTube specifically: <https://youtube.tracking.exposed/>
- <https://github.com/ProjectAdA/public>
- TIMAAT (Tool for collaborative video annotation): <https://github.com/bitgilde/TIMAAT>
- Facebook und FB Shorts: <https://www.crowdtangle.com/>

lunch break (11.15-12.30)

## 12.30-14.30 Methods

- Sabine Niederer: Visual methodologies for networked images
  - Link to slides: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1OQrjo0mZfvNqgGS91nWG5fkGjTXyL8GBRxeGzkC4pQY/edit?usp=sharing>
  - Project report for Visual Vernaculars of Climate Change: <https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/MakingClimateVisible>
  - Paper Pearce, W., & De Gaetano, C. (2021). Google Images, Climate Change, and the Disappearance of Humans. *Diseña*, (19), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.7764/disen.19.Article.3>
  - Website of the Urban Belonging project: [www.urbanbelonging.com](http://www.urbanbelonging.com)
  - Visual Methodologies Collective: [www.visualmethodologies.org](http://www.visualmethodologies.org)
  - *Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision*: <https://www.beeldengeluid.nl/en> - mentioned as example in Q&A for they have created tools for collaborative annotation of (audiovisual) collections.
- Elena Pilipets: Deep TikTok – Three methods for tracing video memes
  - the link to google slides with some potentially interesting links and vis walkthroughs (see also in the speaker notes): [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa0S2ziF1CqLzn2mQWRsUHGTx4Q9PvdregUTpEFG0Aw/edit#slide=id.g206e03d362b\\_0\\_859](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa0S2ziF1CqLzn2mQWRsUHGTx4Q9PvdregUTpEFG0Aw/edit#slide=id.g206e03d362b_0_859)
  - Video intelligence API: <https://zackakil.github.io/video-intelligence-api-visualiser/>
  - on the Z symbol in the invasion to the Ukraine: <https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/WinterSchool2023ZSpacesTikTokTacticsRussianPropaganda>

other useful tools:

- - *RAWGRAPHS*: <https://rawgraphs.io/>
  - *AOIR INTERNET RESEARCH GUIDELINES*: <https://aoir.org/ethics/>
  - *TIKTOK CULTURES RESEARCH NETWORK*: <https://tiktokcultures.com/>
  - *IMAGEMONTAGE DOCUMENTATION*: [http://softwarestudies.com/cultural\\_analytics/Visualizing-image-and-video-collections.pdf](http://softwarestudies.com/cultural_analytics/Visualizing-image-and-video-collections.pdf)
  - *MEMESPECTOR GUI DOCUMENTATION*: <https://github.com/jason-chao/memespector-gui/releases/>
  - *DOWNTHEMALL!*: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/downthemall/nljkbhlpncnanjgblnbjccgicbjkge?hl=en>
  - *ZEESCHUIMER*: <https://github.com/digitalmethodsinitiative/zeeschuimer>
  - Links for ImageJ and other tools by Software Studies Initiative -- > <http://lab.softwarestudies.com/p/software-for-digital-humanities.html>
  - ImagePlot: <https://github.com/culturevis/imageplot>
- Janna Joceli Omena & Richard Rogers: Analysing image collections with the computer vision network approach
  - Slides: <https://www.slideshare.net/jannajoceli/analysing-image-collections-with-the-computer-vision-network-approach>
  - Links for ImageJ and other tools by Software Studies Initiative -- > <http://lab.softwarestudies.com/p/software-for-digital-humanities.html>
  - 2022 DMI Winter School <https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/WinterSchool2022WhatIsAMeme>
  - Omena, J.J. (2021). A digital methodology for building and reading computer vision networks (second draft version). <http://bit.ly/ComputerVisionNetworks-method-recipe>
  - For the Summer and Winter Schools at the Digital Methods Initiative in Amsterdam, see [www.digitalmethods.net](http://www.digitalmethods.net)
- Lev Manovich: Protests, cities, selfies – How we visualise millions of social media images
  - <http://manovich.net/>
  - Artificial Aesthetics: A Critical Guide to AI, Media, and Design <http://manovich.net/index.php/projects/artificial-aesthetics>
  - Image montage: [http://softwarestudies.com/cultural\\_analytics/Visualizing-image-and-video-collections.pdf](http://softwarestudies.com/cultural_analytics/Visualizing-image-and-video-collections.pdf)
  - In the following paper Richard Rogers introduces some methods for image collections analysis: Rogers, R. (2021). Visual media analysis for Instagram and other online platforms. *Big Data & Society*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517211022370>

coffee break (until about 15:10)

### **15.00-16.30 Ethical and Legal Issues**

- Grischka Petri: Private, social, public? Images on social media and some of their legal conditions
- Tanja-Bianca Schmidt: How can violence be appropriately addressed? Some thoughts on images and their ethical dilemma
- Evelyn Runge: Wandering images across platforms. Tracking alterations – An exploration

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The workshop is organised by the research project Image Protests on Social Media at TU Dresden, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), in collaboration with NFDI4Culture, Consortium for Research Data on Material and Immaterial Cultural Heritage within the Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (NFDI).

<https://nfdi4culture.de/go/ImagesInSocialMediaResearch>

<https://tu-dresden.de/gsw/bildproteste>

<https://nfdi4culture.de/>

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<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/10849330900493-Zoom-error-message-This-meeting-is-for-authorized-participants-only->