Cultural Analytics, Information Aesthetics (Lüneburg, 4-5 Jul 14)

Lüneburg, Germany, Jul 4–05, 2014
Deadline: Apr 21, 2014

Martin Warnke

Cultural Analytics, Information Aesthetics, and Distant Readings
Workshop with Lev Manovich and Frieder Nake

Institute for Advanced Study on Media Cultures of Computer Simulation (mecs) Leuphana University Lüneburg
Organized by Martin Warnke, Anneke Janssen & Isabell Schrickel

What can we learn from Information Aesthetics to understand today's condition and potentials of media analytics? What could Max Bense's mathematical philosophy of critical rationalism tell us about the objective reign of information and algorithms of nowadays? Are there filiations between the filigree vector graphics of the sixties and seventies to the exuberant image aggregates after the iconic turn? And: how could connections look like between methods of distant readings of abundant piles of pictures with very close investigations of their details? What would ultimately be a simulation of the art historian's gaze by the means of digital computers? Could even art history become a branch of computer science? And: how will aesthetical questions be answered in the age of Big Data?

Cultural Analytics as proposed by Lev Manovich is a contemporary attempt to address such questions. Departing from the problem that digital image media brought about in the last decades – the impossibility to view all or at least a significant fraction of all of the images that circulate in the net – Cultural Analytics aims to offer methodologies for dealing with this torrent of images by creating visualizations and thus even more images extracting chrominance, size, creation date, information, redundancy etc. A similarity to the historical efforts of Information Aesthetics is obvious: analyzing and generating images by algorithms that inform about order, complexity, redundancy and entropy. Images become data, data becomes image. Such datafication takes place even with images genuinely created as such.

We want to confront and compare Cultural Analytics with historical

predecessors of negotiating the relation between data and images, between facts and imagination, between immersion into singular images and abstraction into visualizations.

We invite scholars from all relevant fields to submit abstracts of no more than 300 words (for a max. 30 min talk) together with a short CV (up to two pages) before 22nd April 2014 to mecs@leuphana.de. A publication is intended. Acceptance notification will be sent out on May 12th 2014.

mecs is the Institute for Advanced Study on Media Cultures of Computer Simulation, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), at Leuphana University Lüneburg.
http://mecs.leuphana.de

Reference:
CFP: Cultural Analytics, Information Aesthetics (Lüneburg, 4-5 Jul 14). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 14, 2014 (accessed Nov 14, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/7214>.