



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

DATA TIMES: IMMEDIACIES, LIFECYCLES, FORGETTINGS

FINAL CONFERENCE FOR THE 'DATA AS RELATION' RESEARCH PROJECT

IT University of Copenhagen, March 19–20, 2020

Rued Langgaards Vej 7, 2300 Copenhagen S

Keynote speakers:

Katherine Verdery (City University of New York)

Hannah Knox (UCL)

Kirsten Astrup and **Maria Bordorff** (visual artists)

Organizers:

Data as Relation Research Group

www.dar.itu.dk

Sponsored by the Velux Foundation

Big data's time is in the here and now, which is not to say that big data has no past. Collecting, archiving and storing data are acts that seek to hold on to elusive happenings of yesterday and yesteryear. Private businesses and public sector institutions are currently intensely busy with understanding and experimenting with data. More data (and more diverse data sources) make their ways into managers' meeting rooms, and are stared at like pie-shaped crystal balls in the hope that societal or company futures can somehow be predicted. Metadata about clients or citizens, previously considered a byproduct (Zuboff, 2019), have also made their way into this organized future gazing.

For four years members of the Data as Relation project have conducted research into the new roles given to data in Danish public sector institutions and related organizations. Tax administrations, NGOs, and municipalities expend a considerable amount of energy and effort ensuring that data can be put to good use in the future. These organisations share a desire for 'live' data, brand new analytical tools and the 'near future' (Guyer, 2007). They also share certain ambivalences and hesitations as they strive to become 'data-driven', but mostly they are determined that "this is the future towards which we are headed".



In this conference we call for papers that investigate practices, technologies, concepts, infrastructures and techniques of data times. We hope to develop a better understanding of different temporalities in data, and their relations to the public institutions and styles of management and governance. Of interest are the immediacies, lifecycles and forgettings imbricated in data work.

We ask:

What is made possible through specific temporal frames, frontiers and horizons?

Whose lives and whose knowledges are made more difficult or even impossible?

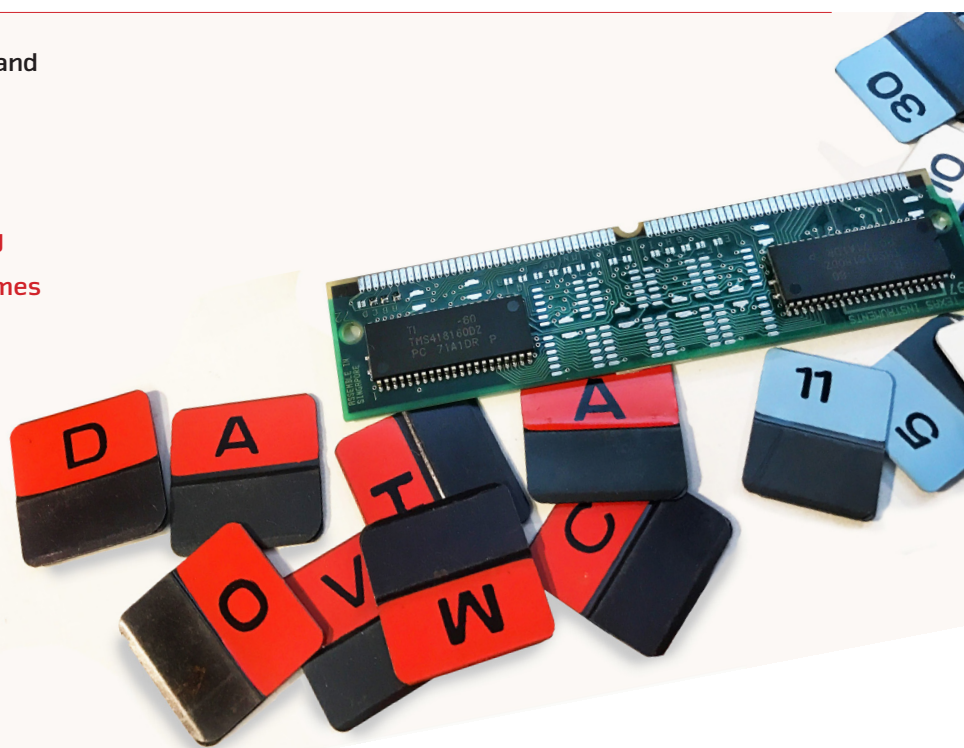
How to study, analyze and theorize 'live' data while we consider the archives that gave birth to them.

How to take into account the discourses and the logics that nurtured or hindered their circulation.

The conference is open to papers and talks by academics, public sector practitioners, artists, students and others with an interest in data temporalities.

We invite papers that consider the following and related themes:

- Expectations towards data
- Datadriven organizations
- Technologies of remembering and forgetting
- Immediate, endless and punctuated data times
- Layered and (dis)integrated infrastructures
- Data doubles and other identities
- Hopes and hypecycles
- Data work and its invisibilities
- 'State times' and 'user times'



Abstract deadline:

No later than ~~October 30, 2019~~ November 21, 2019
Abstracts of maximum 500 words must be sent to
Caroline Salling (csal@itu.dk)
along with author name(s) and affiliation.

Notification of acceptance:

Acceptance notes will be sent out by late November, 2019.

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