(Digital) Colonialism

@noraalbadri

(Digital) Colonialism

- What is colonialism?
  - What is coloniality and postcolonialism?
  - What is decolonization?
  - Where and who is… the „Global South“?
  - What is epistemic violence and epistemicide?

- What is digital colonialism?
  - Ghost labour and infrastructures
  - (Auto) Essentialization

- Outlook

NO

name ten philosophers

Certainly! Here are ten notable philosophers from various periods of history:

1. Socrates (469-399 BCE) - A foundational figure in Western philosophy, known for his contributions to ethics and the Socratic method of inquiry.
2. Plato (427-347 BCE) - A student of Socrates and the founder of the Academy in Athens, he wrote extensively on various topics, including metaphysics, ethics, and politics.
3. Aristotle (384-322 BCE) - A student of Plato and one of the most influential philosophers in Western thought, known for his work in ethics, politics, and natural philosophy.
4. Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) - A German philosopher who made significant

Regenerate

Send a message

Free Research Preview. ChatGPT may produce inaccurate information about people, places, or facts. ChatGPT September 25 Version

We're using AI instead of biased humans
What did you train the AI on?
What did you train the AI on?
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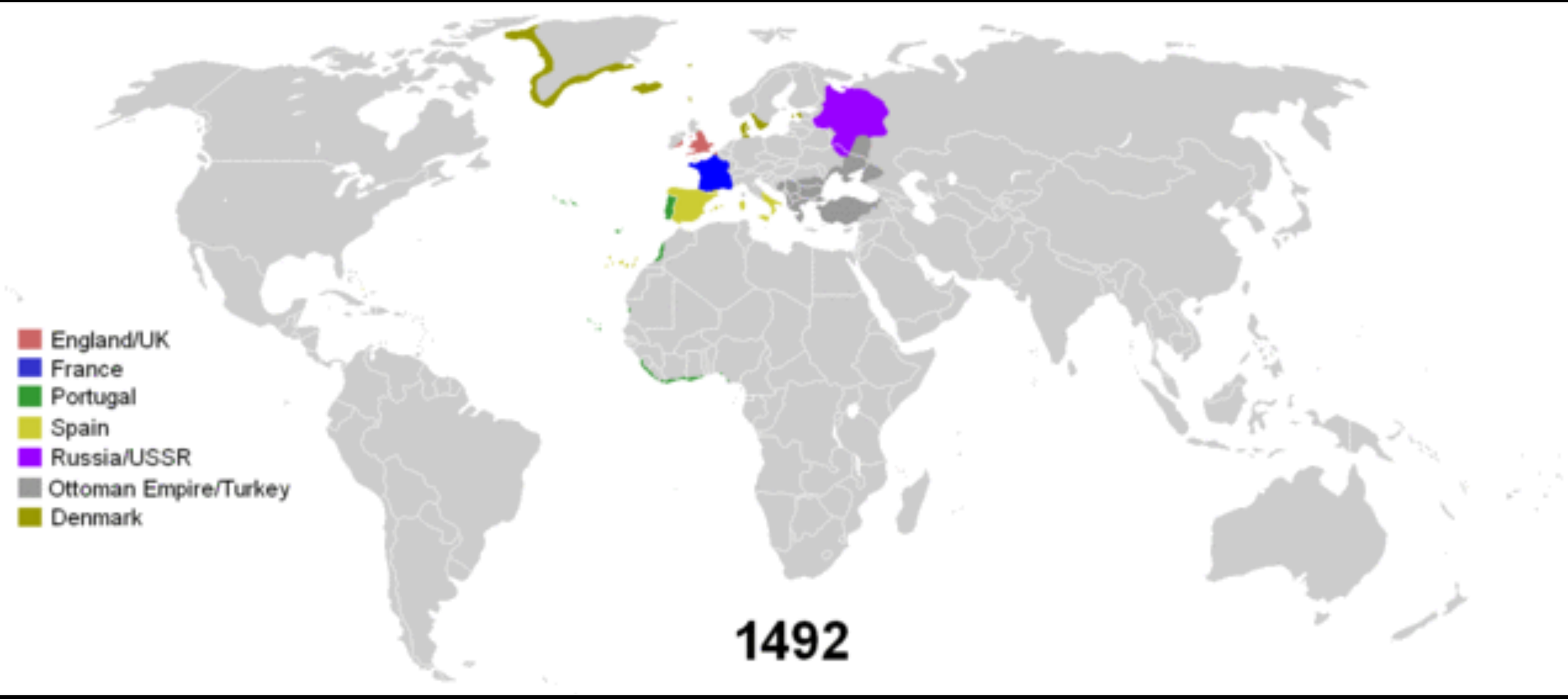
Colonialism



By Wikimedia: World map showing Colonialism from 1492-2008

Colonialism

“Ideas, cultures, and histories cannot seriously be understood or studied without their force, or more precisely their configurations of power, also being studied.”
Edward Said, Palestinian-American academic, literary critic, activist

“Colonialism and slavery were the foundations of capitalism.”
Angela Davis, author, professor, and activist

“For a colonized people the most essential value, because the most concrete, is first and foremost the land: the land which will bring them bread and, above all, dignity.”
Franz Fanon, political philosopher from Martinique

“The most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed”
Steve Biko, South African anti-apartheid activist

Colonialism

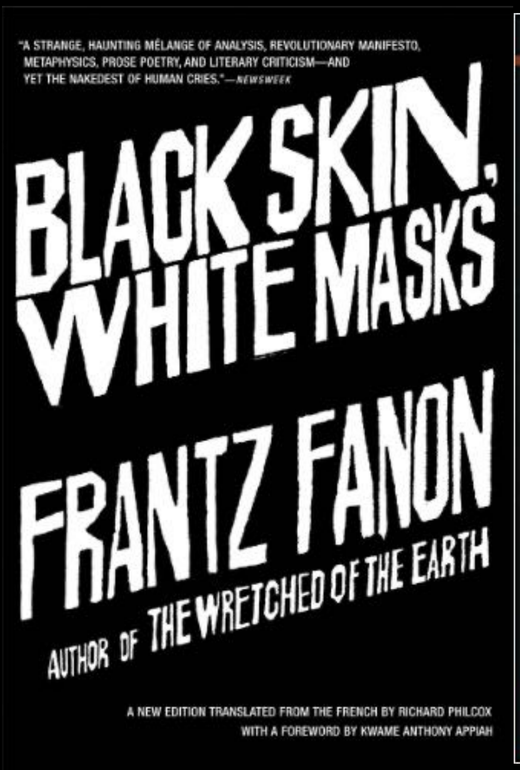
Power Structures

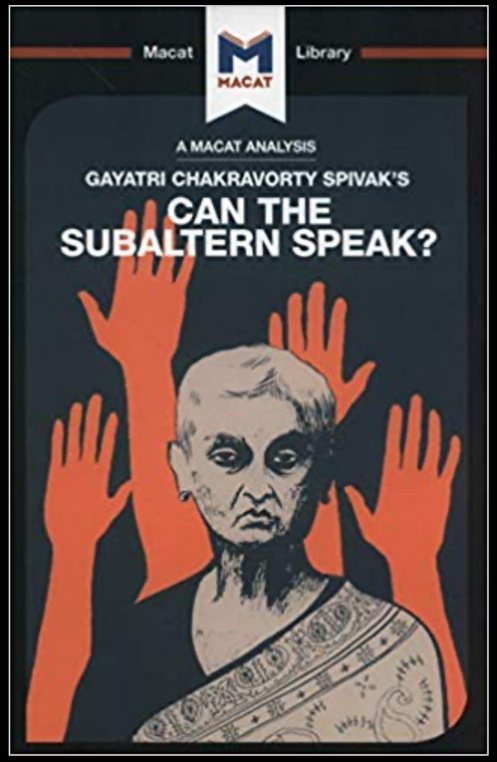
Capitalism / Extraction

Land

Mind

...


"A STRANGE, HAUNTING MÉLANGE OF ANALYSIS, REVOLUTIONARY MANIFESTO, METAPHYSICS, PROSE POETRY, AND LITERARY CRITICISM—AND YET THE NAKEDEST OF HUMAN CRIES."—NEWSWEEK
BLACK SKIN, WHITE MASKS
FRANTZ FANON
AUTHOR OF THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH
A NEW EDITION TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY RICHARD PHILCOX
WITH A FOREWORD BY KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH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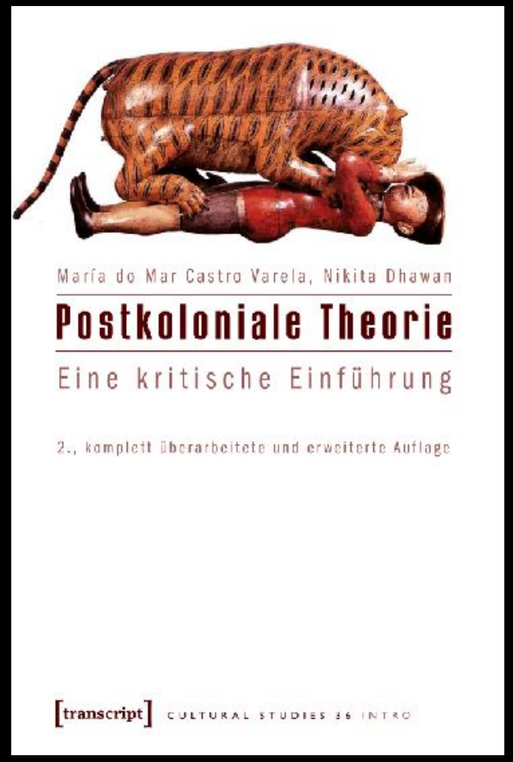
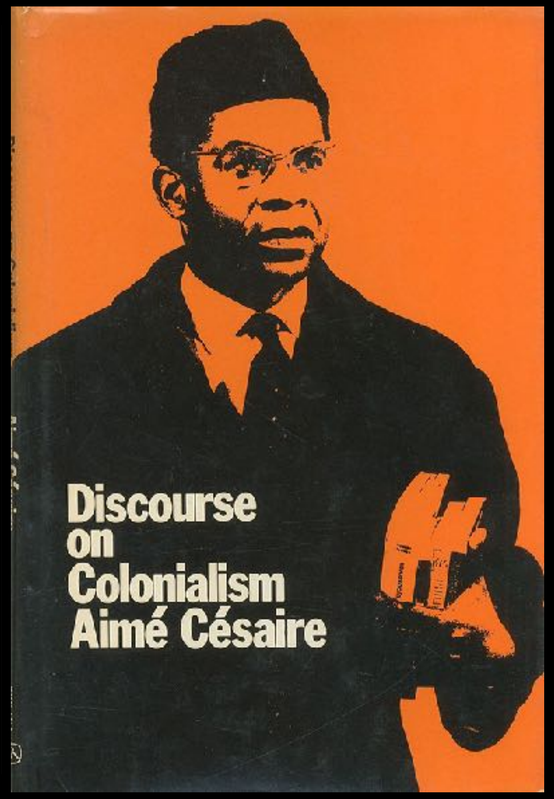
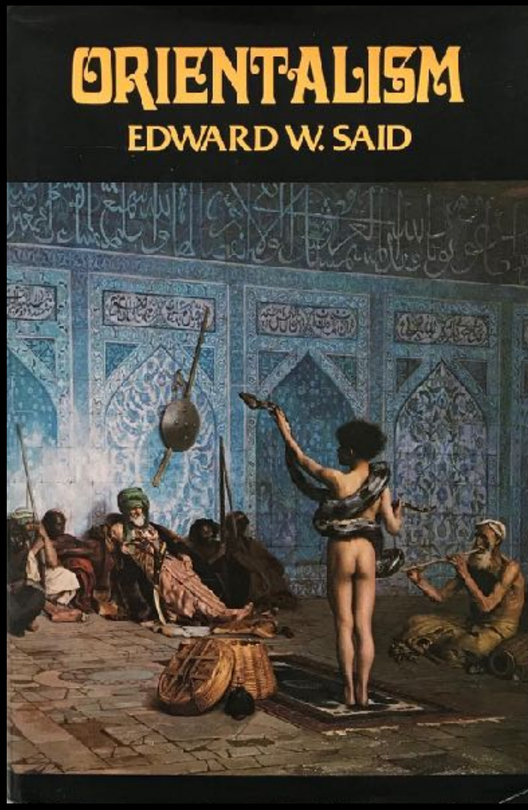
MACAT
Library
A MACAT ANALYSIS
GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK'S
CAN THE SUBALTERN SPEAK?


María do Mar Castro Varela, Nikita Dhawan
Postkoloniale Theorie
Eine kritische Einführung
2., komplett überarbeitete und erweiterte Auflage
[transcript] CULTURAL STUDIES 36 INTRO


Discourse on Colonialism
Aimé Césaire


ORIENTALISM
EDWARD W. SAID

Colonialism // Coloniality // Postcolonialism

Pieter Hugo, Permanent Error, 2010

Epistemic violence // Epistemicide // Many Global Souths

Mimi Ọnụọha, The Library of Missing Datasets, 2016

? Global South ?

NETFLIX
FILM CLUB
OFFICIAL
CLIP

Decolonization (is not a metaphor)

Aimée Césaire animated with Kling AI

“It is not a dead society that we want to revive. We leave that to those who go in for exoticism. Nor is it the present colonial society that we wish to prolong, the most putrid carrion that ever rotted under the sun. It is a new society that we must create.”

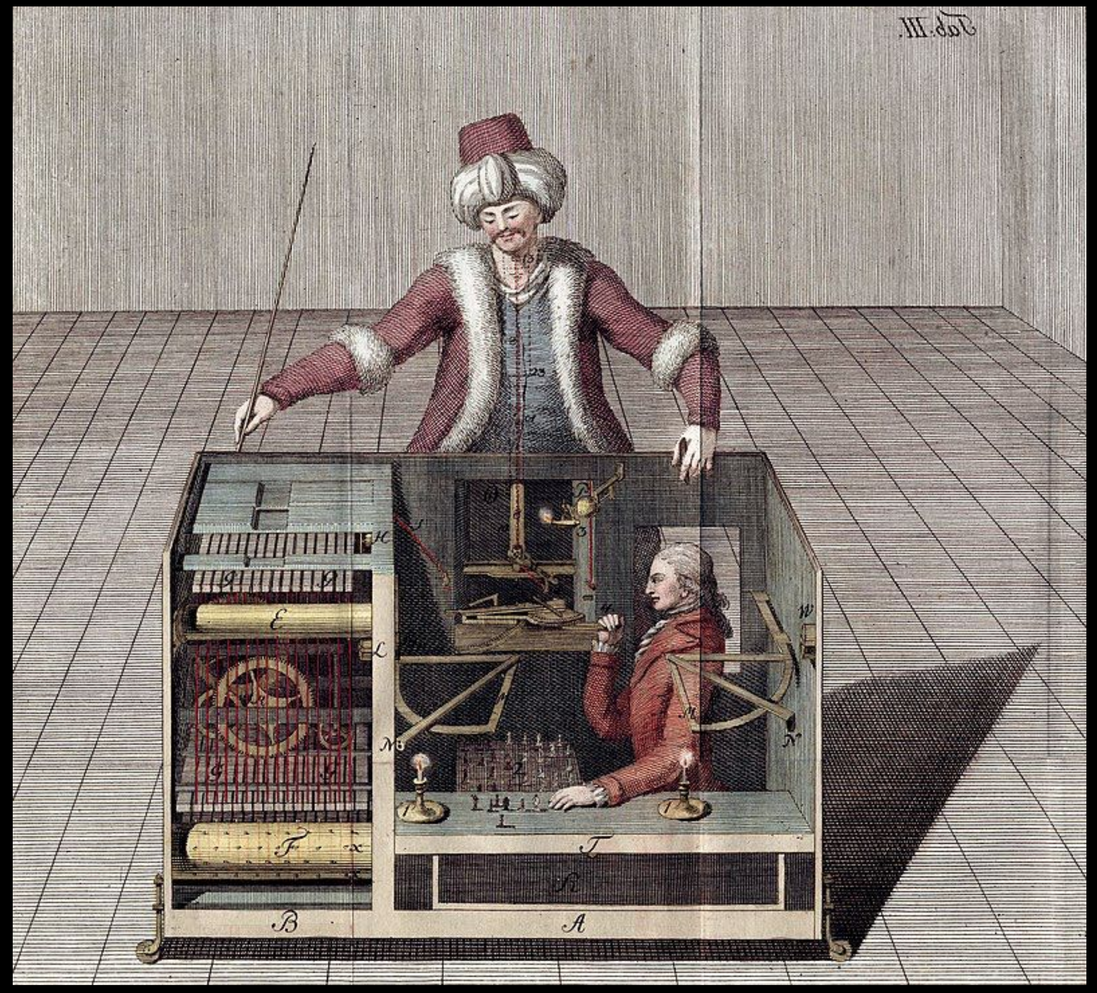
Digital Colonialism

algorithmic coloniality

Digital colonialism is the use of technology for the political, economic, social domination of another territory.

examples:

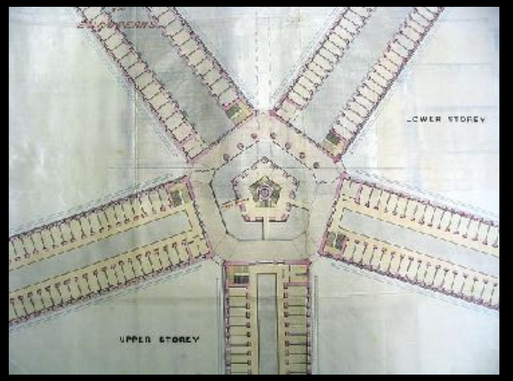
- ghost workers
- beta-testing



TIME
SUBS
BUSINESS + TECHNOLOGY
Exclusive: OpenAI Used Kenyan Workers on Less Than $2 Per Hour to Make ChatGPT Less Toxic
via Dall-e

algorithmic coloniality

- ghost workers
- beta-testing



"This discourse of 'mining' people for data is reminiscent of the colonizer attitude that declares humans as raw material free for the taking."

Abeba Birhane

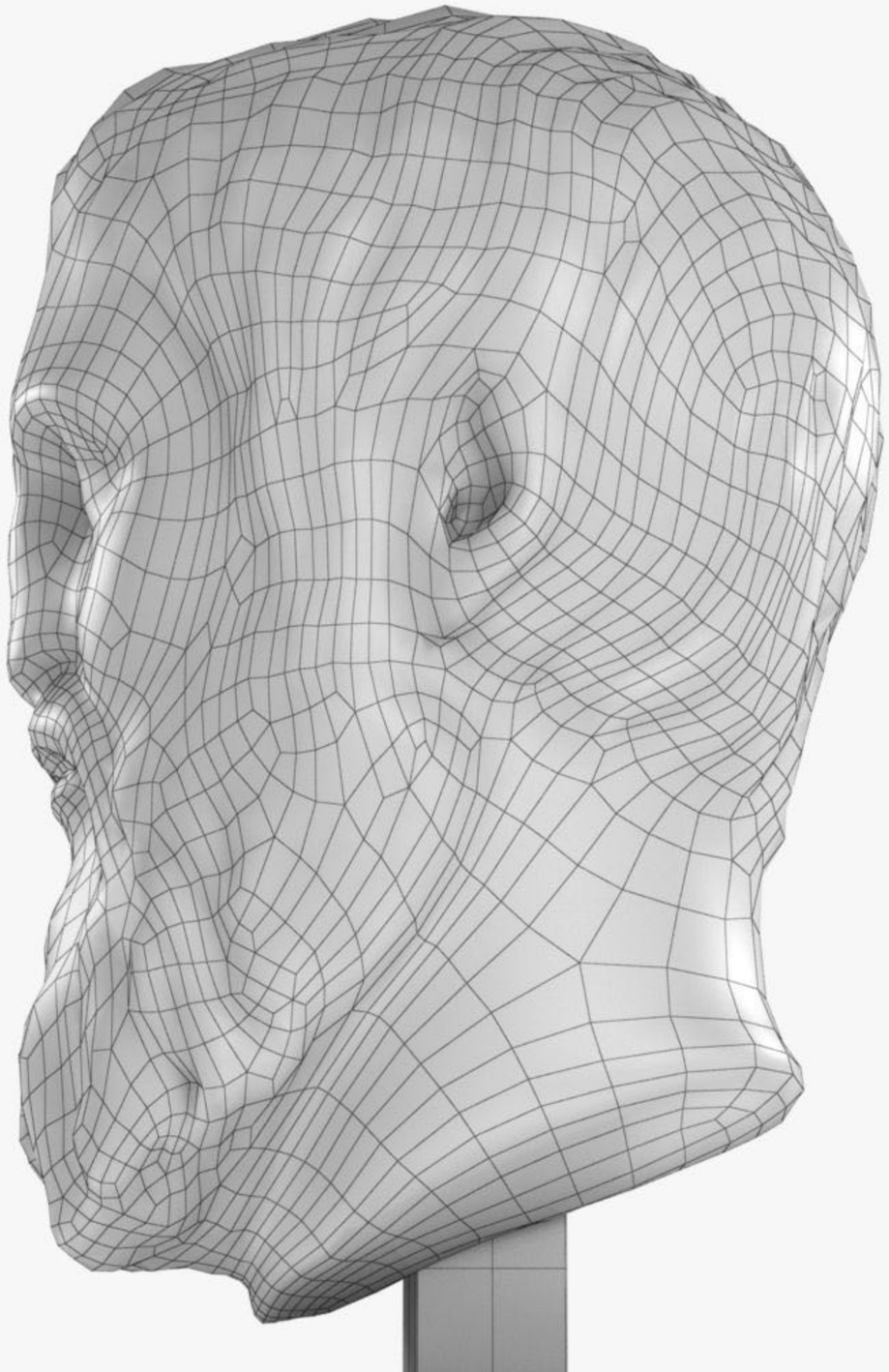
AGE
of
INTERNET
EMPIRES
Top Sites
Google - 62 countries
Facebook - 50 countries
Baidu - 2 countries
Yahoo! - 2 countries
AlWatan Voice - 1 country
Mail.ru - 1 country
VK - 1 country
Yandex - 1 country
data incognita
NORTH AMERICA
EUROPE
ASIA
AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA
AUSTRALIA
GREENLAND
NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
INDIAN OCEAN
NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
ARCTIC OCEAN
by Mark Graham (@geoplace) and Stefano De Sabbata (@maps4thought)
Internet Geographies at the Oxford Internet Institute
August 2013 • geography.oii.ox.ac.uk
data source: Alexa, www.alexa.com • made with Natural Earth
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
Miles

Trevor Paglen, Undersea Cables, 2015

Figure 4a: Laying an undersea cable in Cape Town, South Africa, 1889 (E2E Consulting, 2015).

Figure 4b: Black laborers hauling an undersea cable pipe in Blaauwberg, South Africa, 1944 (MyBroadband, 2015).

Figure 4: Laying of the undersea cable connecting Africa to Europe that served as the predecessor for the route of Google's undersea cables connection to Africa was mostly done by Black labourers and financed using mineral resources from the continent.



amazon

Microsoft

IBM

Face++ 旷视

Google

Essentialism

„is most commonly understood as a belief in the real, true essence of things, the invariable and fixed properties which define the ‘whatness’ of a given entity … Importantly, essentialism is typically defined in opposition to difference … The opposition is a helpful one in that it reminds us that a complex system of cultural, social, psychical, and historical differences, and not a set of pre-existent human essences, position and constitute the subject. However, the binary articulation of essentialism and difference can also be restrictive, even obfuscating, in that it allows us to ignore or deny the differences within essentialism“
Diana Fuss, Essentially Speaking: Feminism, Nature and Difference. 1989

“the respectable child of old-fashioned exoticism. It demands that sources, forms, style, language and symbol all derive from a supposedly homogeneous and unbroken tradition. Or else”
Salman Rushdie, Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism 1981-1991

„Strategic Essentialism“
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography.1988

Essentialism

Kappe foto einfügen

Essentialism // Auto - essentialization

Postcolonial responses:

„Every path I/i take is edged with thorns. On the one hand, i play into the Savior's hands by concentrating on authenticity, for my attention is numbed by it and diverted from other important issues; on the other hand,i do feel the necessity to return to my so-called roots, since they are the fount of my strength, the guiding arrow to which i constantly refer before heading for a new direction
Trinh T. Minh-Ha. Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism. 1995

„Strategic essentialism

! It's complicated !

Face as Medium

Abeba Birhane and Zeerak Talat in: Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence

Face as Medium

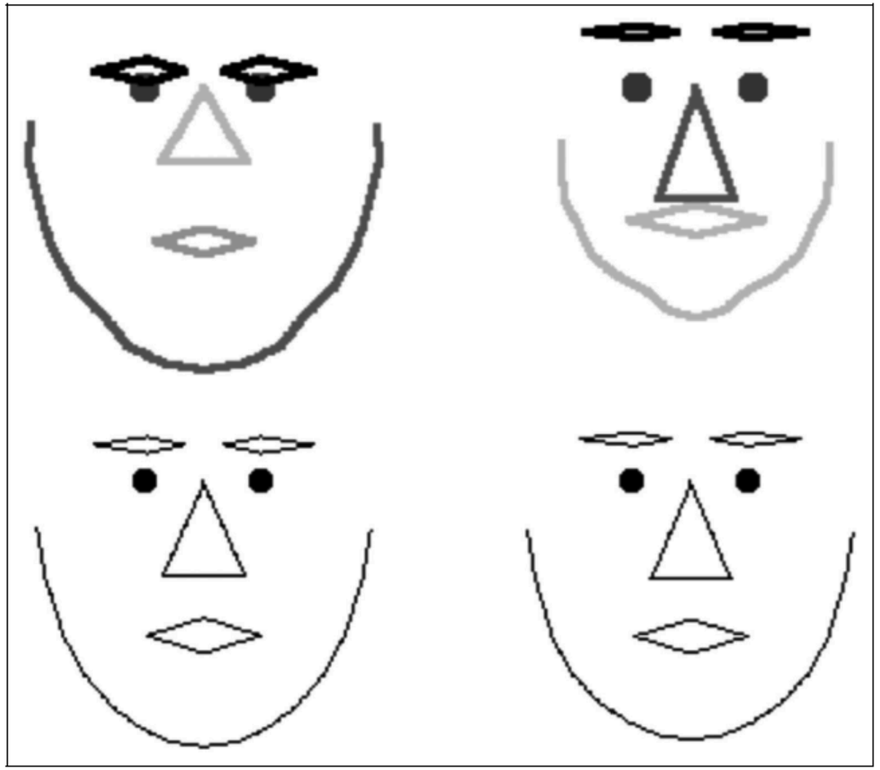


Figure 1. Feature weights for gender classification from Brunelli and Poggio (1992).

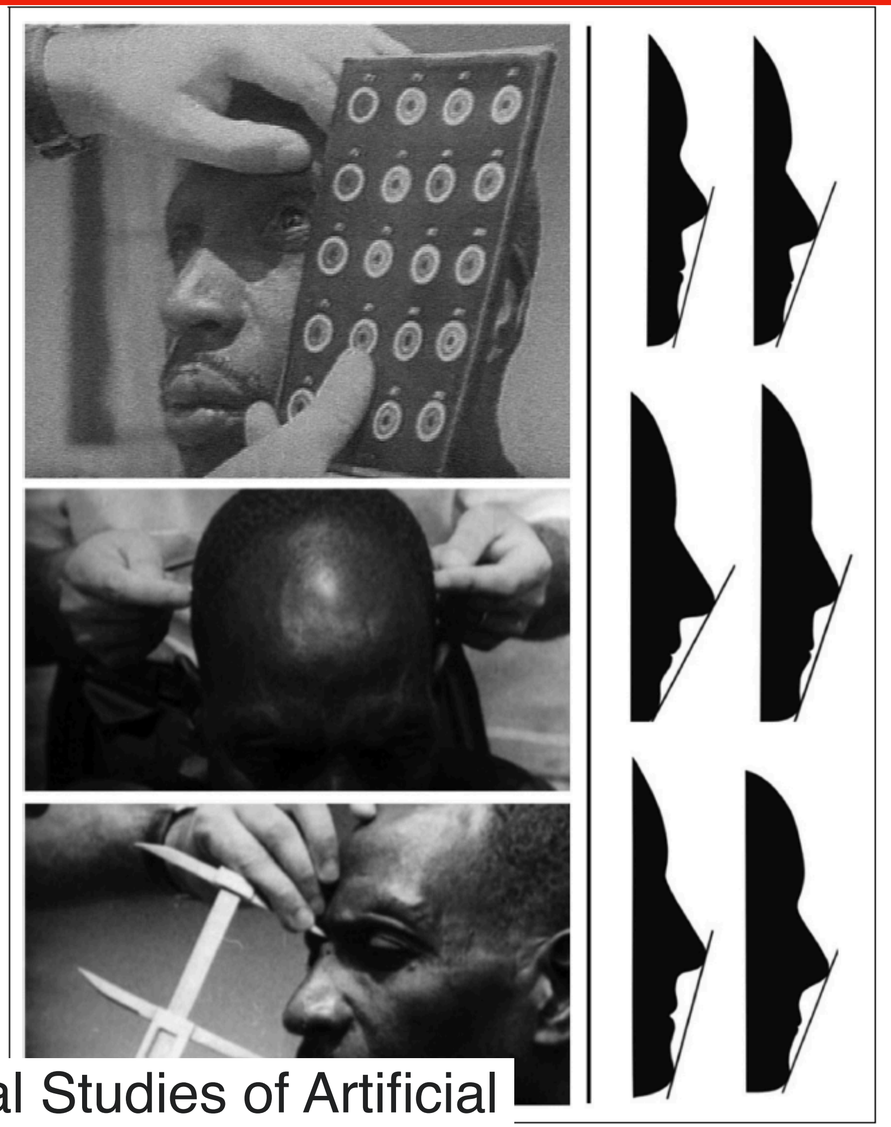


Figure 3. Left: Belgium scientists taking physiological measurements. Photos from Curtis (2011). Right: Silhouettes of racial profiles from Fu et al. (2014), stating: *"From left to right: African-American (Male/Female), Asian (Male/Female), Caucasian American (Male/Female)."* The figure originally published in Davidenko (2007).

Abeba Birhane and Zeerak Talat in: Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence

Decolonial AI - example: Te Hiku NLP

310 hours of speech-text pairs from 200,000 recordings made by 2,500 people

the world in visual data

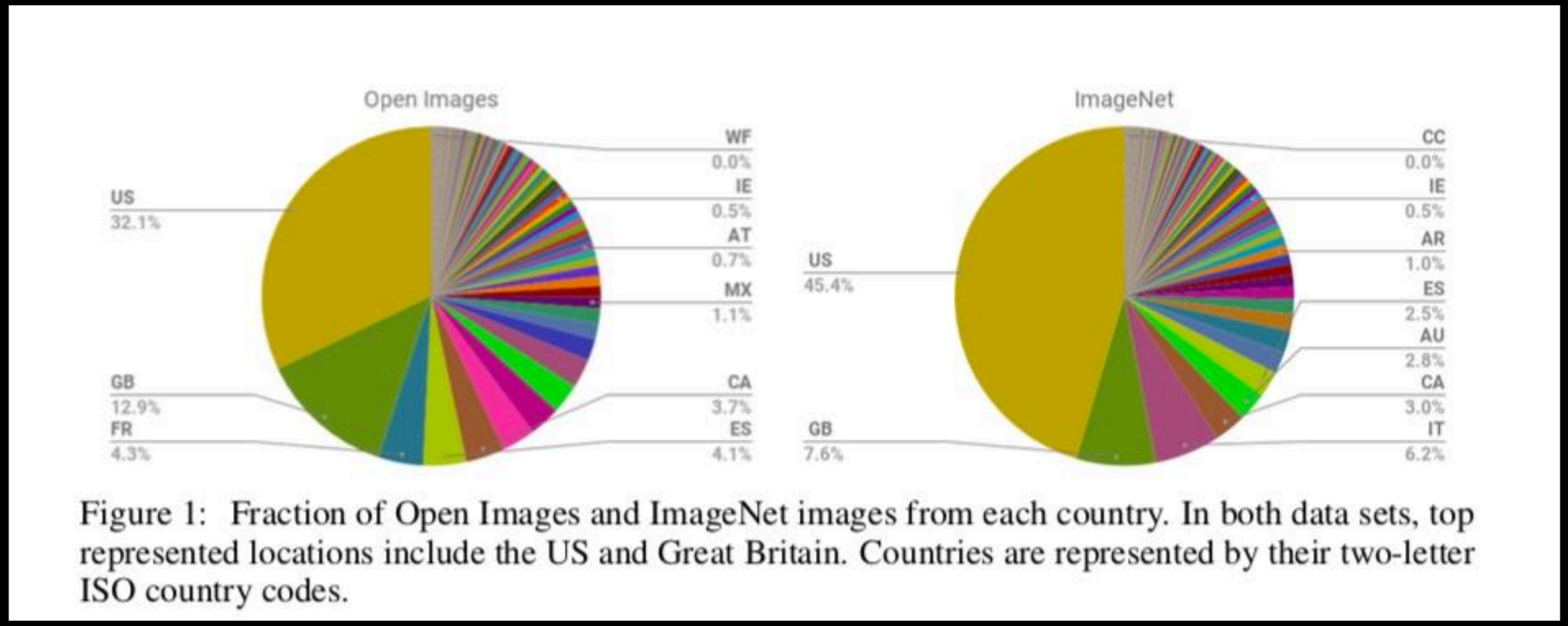


Figure 1: Fraction of Open Images and ImageNet images from each country. In both data sets, top represented locations include the US and Great Britain. Countries are represented by their two-letter ISO country codes.

Paper: No Classification without Representation: Assessing Geodiversity Issues in Open Data Sets for the DevelopingWorld.
By Shreya Shankar, Yoni Halpern, Eric Breck, James Atwood, JimboWilson, D. Sculley

Decolonial AI

- created, owned and managed by indigenous/ community groups (content and infrastructure)

- indigenous protocols

THANK YOU