Programme Thursday 31 May 2018

The Centre for Internet Studies, AU, and NetLab/DIGHUMLAB are very pleased to welcome
Dr. Anat Ben-David, senior lecturer in the department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication at
The Open University of Israel and co-founder of the Open University's Open Media and Information Lab
(OMILab). Dr. Ben-David will give the following talks:

09.00 – 10.00: Open lecture, Incuba, Small Auditorium (building 5520, Åbogade 15, room 104)

The Internet Archive and the Socio-Technical Construction of Historical Facts

After years of stabilisation in the reputation of the web as a reliable source of knowledge, recent events
around the 2016 presidential elections in the United States have brought with them new questions about the
epistemology and ontology of online materials: how do we know how to trust an online source? What tools
do we have to distinguish between fact and fake? What are the knowledge processes behind the generation
of what we see on the screen? Among the various knowledge-devices of the world wide Web, the Internet
Archive's Wayback Machine is considered one of the last reliable non-commercial initiatives, committed to
providing universal access to archived snapshots of historical websites, as they were captured in real time.
Yet what are the epistemic processes behind the generation of archived snapshots as facts? This talk aims
to strengthen the ontological status of archived websites as evidence, by debunking the Wayback Machine
as a monolithic device. Its argues that rather than an arbitrary capturing of snapshots by bots and crawlers,
historical knowledge on the Wayback Machine is generated by an entangled and iterative system comprised
of proactive human contributions, routinely operated crawls and a reification of external, crowd-sourced
knowledge devices. These turn the IAWM into a repository whose knowing of the past is potentially surplus –
harboring information which was unknown to each of the contributing actors at the time and place of
archiving.

The event is hosted by Centre for Internet Studies, AU.

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10.00 – 13.00: Workshop, Ada 333 (building 5342, Åbogade 34, room 333)

Archive vs. Newsfeed: A proposition for building alternative knowledge spaces from Facebook data

This workshop puts forward the notion of the searchable archive as a competing knowledge paradigm and a
means for circumventing Facebook's algorithmic mediation of social and political on Facebook. It makes a
theoretical and methodological proposition for re-introducing archival logic to the study of ephemeral and
algorithmic social media. Such proposition attempts to replace Facebook's personalized and generative
knowledge regime with principles of universal knowledge and fixed data. Using examples from
Polibook.online, a research tool for analyzing politicians' discourse on Facebook, the workshop aims both to
illustrate the utility of such attempts to archive, re-organize and re-mediate Facebook data, as well as to
discuss their limits in "democratizing methods" or "liberating" users from the platform's constraints on what it
lets them 'know'.

This event is hosted by Centre for Internet Studies, AU. Please sign up for the workshop by sending an e-mail to Janne Nielsen (janne@cc.au.dk) no later than 22 May (seats are limited).

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14.00 – 16.00: NetLab Forum meeting, Ada 333 (building 5342, Åbogade 34, room 333)

Historical network analysis with the archived web

This presentation offers a critical reflection on the potential and limits of network analysis for web historical
research, using archived web data.

*The event is hosted by NetLab/DIGHUMLAB, AU, and the presentation will be part of a NetLab Forum
meeting, which will also feature one of two other presentations (TBA) relating to research use of archived
web. Please sign up by sending an e-mail to Janne Nielsen (janne@cc.au.dk) no later than 22 May.*