Visual Abstract Collection

PROCEEDINGS FROM THE ROYSTER GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2023

CHAPEL HILL, NC

POWER & JUSTICE

EDITED BY VICTORIA A. E. KRATEL

UNC | THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
Royster Society of Fellows

EXPLORING POWER & JUSTICE:
Introduction to the Visual Abstract Collection
ROYSTER GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2023

This compilation of visual abstracts takes you on a journey through the intellectual landscapes of the Royster Global Conference 2023 participants, as they skillfully untangle the intricate tapestry of power and justice that shapes our world.

ROYSTER GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2023
Spanning from May 30th to June 2nd, 2023, the Royster Society of Fellows hosted the Royster Global Conference. Throughout the conference, vibrant discussions and interactive workshops fostered profound connections among participants representing the University of North Carolina, King's College London (UK), and the University of Tübingen (Germany).

The call was clear: "Irrespective of your research agenda, do you grapple with these questions and more relating to power and justice? If you said yes, then this year's Royster Global Conference is one you don't want to miss!" The Chapel Hill campus became a nexus of intellectual curiosity as attendees gathered to uncover new perspectives on these profound questions.

BRIDGING INSIGHTS AND ACCESSIBILIY
To immortalize the intellectual fervor that characterized the Royster Global Conference 2023, we proudly present a collection of seven visual abstracts. These abstracts artfully translate the presentations, thoughts, and dialogues that took center stage during the event. With contributions from 11 participants, these visual abstracts provide a snapshot of the conference's rich tapestry of ideas and discoveries.

WHAT IS A VISUAL ABSTRACT?
A visual abstract, also known as a graphical abstract, is a succinct representation of the pivotal findings and core aspects of a research paper, presentation, or discussion. This fusion of images and text is designed to convey the crux of research quickly and effectively to readers. As a medium of communication, visual abstracts transcend the boundaries of traditional academic discourse, making complex ideas comprehensible and intriguing to a broader audience.

EXPLORING POWER & JUSTICE:
The Visual Abstracts of this Collection
ROYSTER GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2023

A Tale of a Story Generator: Incorporating Narratology into Natural Language Generation & Analysis
Anneliese Brei (UNC)

Conceptualizing, Defining, and Mapping Power: Strategies for Effective Resistance and Lasting Impact
Sandip Kana (KCL) and Joshua Miller (UNC)

Contextualizing Black Youth Activist Health
Kierra Peak (UNC)

Counter-Securitization of the Securitized Threats and the Audience Engagement Towards
Securitization in the Landscape of Social Media
Yingtao Li (KCL)

Power & Agency as Graduate Workers
Nina Altmaier (UT), Joshua Miller (UNC), Vignesh Karthik (KCL), Aashka Dave (UNC), Assanatou Bamogo (UNC), Jaweria Sarfraz Cheema (UT)

Understanding the Development of Agency and Health Information Seeking Behaviors Among Pakistani Women Migrants: A
Qualitative Study
Jaweria Sarfraz Cheema (UT)

Women (Dis)connected: About Being a Woman in the Digital Age
Victoria A. E. Kratel (formerly UT)

AFFILIATIONS
KCL   King's College London, UK
UNC   University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
UT   University of Tübingen, Germany

A Tale of a Story Generator: Incorporating Narratology into Natural Language Generation & Analysis
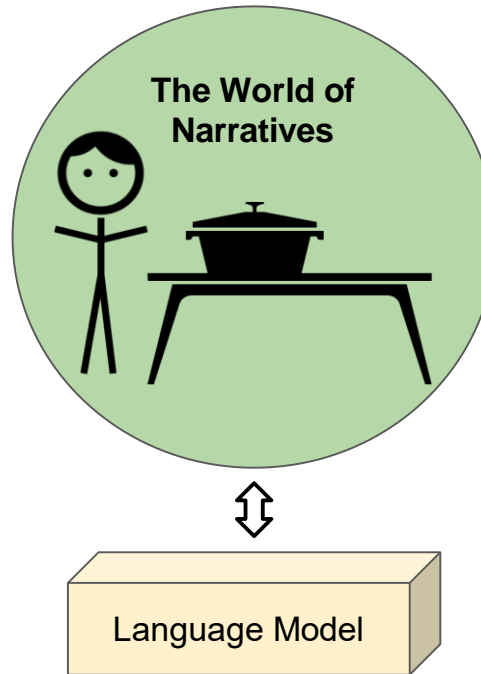
Today, research in Natural Language Processing is accelerating automatic text generation and computational text evaluation. For these tasks, we explore the role of narratology, the study of narrative theory and structure.

Key Theories of Narratology

- Genette's Narratology
- Russian Formalism
- Structuralism
- Post-structuralism & Postmodernism
- Feminist & Postcolonial Narratology
- Cognitive Narratology

Key Elements of Narratology

- Plot
- Character
- Point of View
- Narrative Time
- Setting
- Theme
- Mood

The World of Narratives

Language Model

Automatic Narrative Generation:
Just as narratology improves human-written stories, it has strong potential to improve automatic generation of narratives and text with story-like structure (e.g., journalism, history).

Automatic Narrative Evaluation:
Narratology may be used to analyze text to better understand elements such as *point of view* (who the narrator is), *narrative time* (the order and characteristics of events), and *setting* (location and contextual backdrop).

A Few Potential Use Cases:

1. Generate better narratives and stories that may be tailored for specific audiences. In particular, we hope to help disadvantaged readers who struggle with finding appropriate stories for their ages and conditions.
2. Introduce new narrative-based evaluation measures.

ROYSTER GLOBAL

UNC NLP

Anneliese Brei | https://adbrei.com/
Advisor: Snigdha Chaturvedi

Conceptualizing, Defining, and Mapping Power:
Strategies for Effective Resistance and Lasting Impact

Power is a fundamental concept and central force that shapes all relationships and actions, yet is difficult to define despite its ubiquity.

A shared definition of power is required to discuss and analyze how it influences behaviors and attitudes, social relations and ideologies, political action, and forms of resistance.

Workshop attendees identified three distinguishing features of "power"

- Power is not an inherent quality that one possesses – it is productive, relational, and fluid.
- Actors and institutions have power *relative* to other actors and institutions.
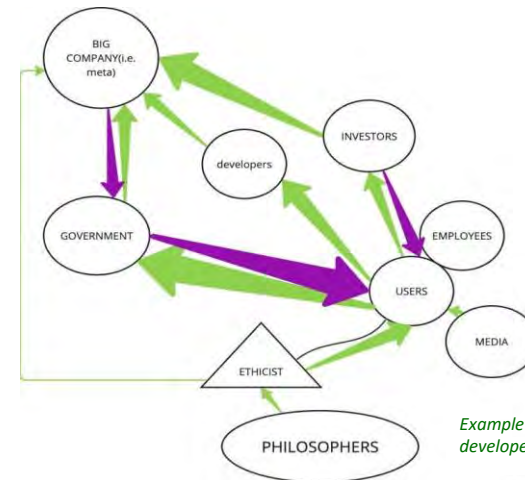
- Power is legitimate only if other individuals recognize and accept the relation.
- Resistance thus involves refusing to adhere to or recognize particular relations.

- Power takes many forms: as a social force it influences individuals, actions, agendas, and beliefs across societies and communities.
- Related to agency and ability to promote interests or goals.

Power mapping is an exercise that is used to identify actions and actors required for change

Example power map of social media developed during the workshop.

Multiple strategies exist for mapping power and determining which key relationships to target:

- Rank how supportive actors are of your proposed mission, from active allies to active opposers.

- Add an additional axis to the above to demonstrate the power each identified actor has to affect your cause.

- Create a power web that demonstrates different power relations; can use width of arrows to demonstrate magnitude of power.

Authors

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Resources

Defining power   *Mapping power*

Contextualizing Black Youth Activist Health

Kierra Peak
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Black Undergraduate student activists struggle with maintaining their roles as students and activists

Intersectional narrative inquiry study

9 Black undergraduate UNC students
Involved in various activism interests

Findings

Students feels strongly compelled to engaged in activism
Conflict between responsibilities and interests
High Instances of Burnout
Love a key to the future they seek

Yingtao Li; King's College London; yingtao.li@kcl.ac.uk

Research Background

My research starts with a situation in which the widening security agendas, specifically in the technological sector, have manifested political rivalry.

TOSHIBA	• Was accused of damaging Western national security by selling high-technology machinery to the former Soviet Union(Wrubel, 2011), and was restricted to export to 14 Communist countries for a year (The New York Times, 1987).
HUAWEI	• Being added to the Entity List, which restricts the transaction with US companies, for posing a national security threat to the US (National Archives, 2020).
TikTok	• Being suspected of being used as a tool of espionage (The Washington Post, 2023), and is confronted with an outright ban in the US during Biden's administration (The Washington Post, 2023).

Securitization theory can elucidate how security agendas have broadened to the non-military sector and why the widening security agendas demonstrate political rivalry by inquiring into the construction of security threats, the implication of the construction, and its ramifications.

What is securitization theory?	Security threats are products of social and discourse construction rather than objectively given. The purpose of depicting an agenda as a threat is to level up the political agenda to the abnormal realm for legitimizing exceptional policies. (Buzan et al., 1998)

Research Questions & Contributions

My research explores how the securitized threats themselves and the audience can counteract securitization discourses and discursive practices in the spatial space of social media.
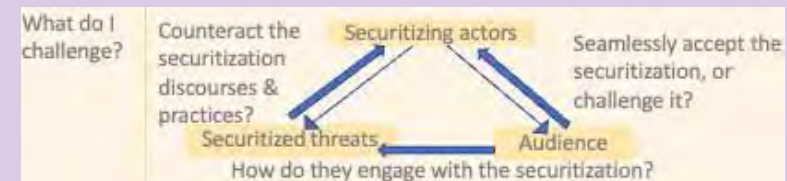
How can the securitized threat themselves counteract securitized discourses and discursive practices?
How does the audience engage with (counter-)securitization discourses? What roles do they play in the dynamics of (counter-)securitization?
To what extent does social media facilitate the process of counter-securitization?

Until now, empirical research on securitization theory mainly overlooks more proactive roles of the securitized threats themselves and the audience. Through the lens of communication studies, the classical securitization theory implies a linear and simplified 'sender-receiver' model of communication. This implication is confronted with the challenges of social media when receivers are more empowered compared with the age of traditional media.

So what?
• Unpacks the power-relation nexus among the securitizing actors, securitized threats, and the audience.
• Provides a more sophisticated communication model for comprehending the dynamics of (counter-)securitization.
• Offers strategies for resistance to securitization discourses and discursive practices.

POWER & AGENCY AS GRADUATE WORKERS

PANEL DISCUSSION | ROYSTER GLOBAL 2023

How might we we learn from and with each other?

Graduate students have limited institutional power within a university but provide essential services, labor, and knowledge for its function. Strategies , such as collective organizing, can be used to consolidate power among graduate workers to achieve livable wages, safer working conditions, and protection of academic freedoms. This panel organized graduate students from three different universities to share experiences with and strategies for negotiating power, understanding the multiplicities of diversity within power, and generating cross-institutional insights.

CHALLENGES	NEEDS	ORGANIZING
• Stagnation in academic systems reduces student empowerment and engagement • Systemic limitations on advocacy and organizing • Repercussions of bad advisor-advisee dynamics • Lack of engagement from previous generations of graduate students	• Student involvement in decisions concerning students • Increased funding opportunities/resources for international students • Protected right to work on dissertation/research work • Increased transparency within/about the academic system	• Students need to be involved despite the slow pace of change • Pushback from student involvement can take shapes including fear of an advisor's reaction and prohibitions on striking • Students should build on pre-existing systems and infrastructures

Next Steps

We are creating a publicly-available resource for graduate students that gathers our combined insights and techniques for student advocacy. We hope that this can be a source of support for other students going forward.

Panel Team

Panelists: Nina Altmaier (University of Tübingen), Josh Miller (UNC Chapel Hill), Vignesh Karthik (King's College London), Aashka Dave (Moderator, UNC Chapel Hill)

Panel Team: Assanatou Bamogo (UNC Chapel Hill), Jaweria Cheema Sarfraz (University of Tübingen)

Please contact aashkad@email.unc.edu for updates.

Understanding the Development of Agency and Health Information Seeking Behaviors Among Pakistani Women Migrants: A Qualitative Study

Photo credit: Google Image (creative commons license)

Background

Previous research has shown that international migrants face barriers in accessing credible sources of health information, which negatively impacts their knowledge, use of healthcare services, and overall health outcomes (Ahmadinia et al., 2022; Oh et al., 2012; Zimmerman & Beam, 2020). This study builds upon prior research by examining Albert Bandura's concept of agency (Bandura, 2001, 2006) and how it may influence health information seeking behaviors among Pakistani women migrants.

Research Questions

Following are the research questions

RQ1: When and how do Pakistani women migrants develop agency to consult doctors as sources of health information?

RQ2: What factors influence Pakistani women migrants' choice and use of doctors as sources of health information?

RQ3: What strategies do Pakistani women migrants use to overcome barriers in accessing and obtaining health information from doctors?

RQ4: How can Pakistani women migrants' health information seeking behaviors be improved?

Why women?

Women as surrogate seekers
(Ramirez et al., 2015); (NÆSS & MOEN, 2015); (Reifegerste et al., 2017)

They are caregivers and care takers of their family's health
(Pharr et al., 2014); (Arora et al., 2020)

Method

Data will be collected through biographical narrative interviews (Wengraf, 2020) and analyzed using grounded theory approach (Strauss & Corbin, 1990).

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ABOUT BEING A WOMAN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

WOMEN (DIS)CONNECTED

DIGITAL DISCONNECTION

Digital disconnection encompasses a range of practices that involve media (non) use.

Alternative terms for digital disconnection include digital detox, unplugging, disengagement, disentangling, media abstention, media non-use, and media refusal. Motivations for digital disconnection vary from involuntary disconnection to managing usage behavior, driven by cultural, political, religious reasons, lifestyle choices, and displays of wealth.

A MATTER OF TIME

The use of digital media is intricately linked to time.
Time allocation: Digital disconnection can serve as a strategy to save and effectively manage time.
Chronoception: Engaging with digital media can disturb our perception of time, but disconnecting can restore our sense of control.
Chronology: The presence of digital media is a defining characteristic of our era, often referred to as the "digital age."

INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM

Girls and women face severe challenges in the patriarchal system, where they predominantly perform unpaid care work. Given that social media are crucial for care work, girls and women often lack autonomy in their use of digital media. Yet simultaneously, digital media also present opportunities for education and empowerment. Therefore, it is essential to provide girls and women with digital literacy skills to navigate and shape digital spaces. Let us advocate for change and strive for equal opportunities.

Victoria A. E. Kratel.
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