

Disembodied Machine Learning

The lives of data in the machine learning pipeline

03 11 2020

Nanna Bonde Thylstrup & Zeerak Talat

CBS | University of Sheffield | Digital Democracies Institute, SFU

“No one ever accused the God of monotheism of objectivity, only of indifference”

Donna Harraway (1988),
Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective.

Embodiment in machine learning pipelines

Designer

- Disassociated from data, model, and outcomes
- “Lack of diversity” cited as reason for biased models

Data

- Collected from embodied humans, adjudicated on and disentangled from those contexts
- Subjectivity always finds its way
- Annotation == truth (to the model)
- Encode dominant discourses on objects