

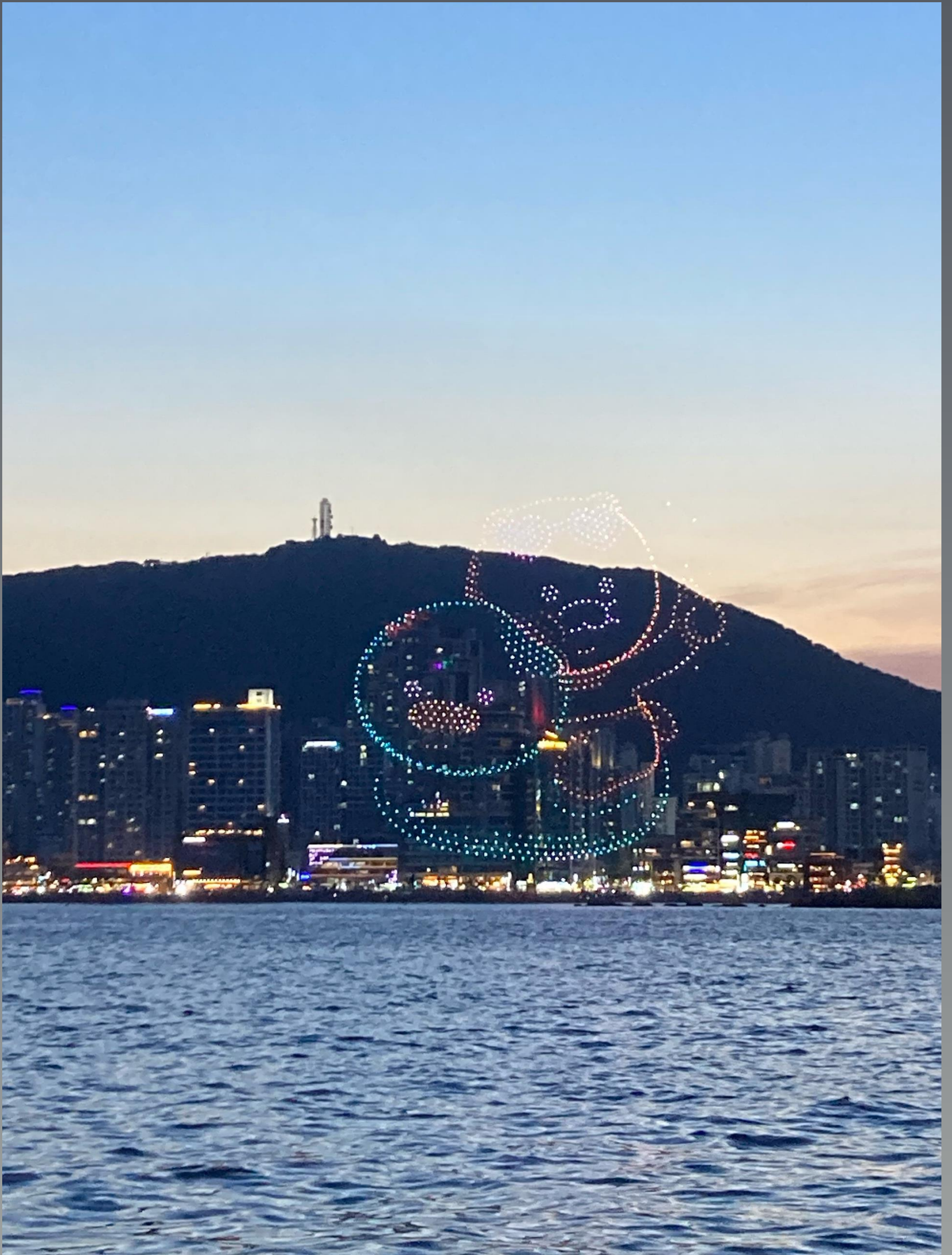
On Smart Engagement: Questions About Techno-Social Praxis on Inclusive Place-Based Smart City Planning Process

EUGEO Vienna 2025

September 11th, 2025

Jin-Kyu Jung

School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
University of Washington



Gwangalli Beach, Busan, Korea (July, 2025)



Gwangalli Beach, Busan, Korea (July, 2025)

Structure of This Talk

- I. Some Reflections from University of Washington's Study Abroad Program in S. Korea, Summer 2025
- II. Framing of Smart Cities and Smart Urbanism
- III. (Un)Mapping the CHOP (Capitol Hill Organized Protest) Project
- IV. Aspects of and Aspirations for "Smart Engagement"

I. Some Reflections from University of Washington's Study Abroad Program in S. Korea, Summer 2025

Key Objectives

- Learning about the possibilities and challenges of smart urbanism and smart city planning
- Exploring to (re-)work with smart technologies and infrastructure in urban planning and community-building processes
- Having a structured transnational engaged learning and research opportunity to work with students, communities, and various institutes in Korea
- Practicing digital story mapping to capture and represent the experiences of various urban expeditions and community engagement
- Learning basic Korean language and communication skills through interactive sessions, cultural presentations, and activities.





Sejong City 5-1 Living Area



Busan Eco-Delta City (EDC)

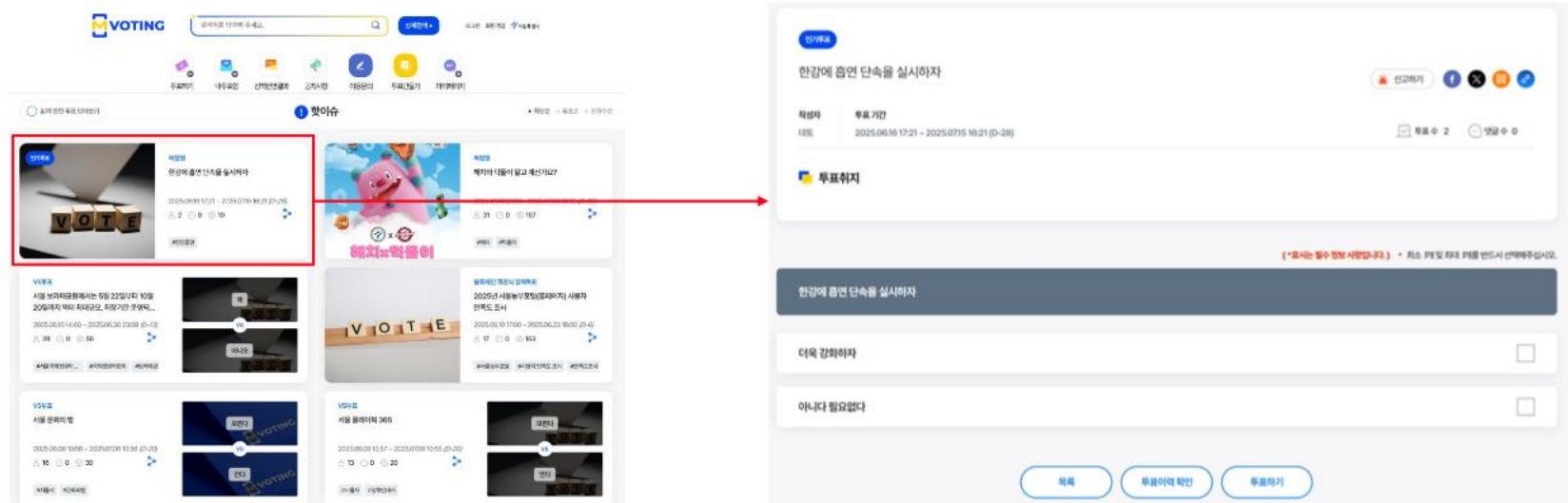


Seoul: Smart City Initiatives

Flagship Projects and Governance Approaches

◆ mVoting (2019-)

- Mobile app for real-time citizen participation in city decisions.
- Blockchain-secured platform used in budgeting, urban projects, and policy polling.
- Strengthens inclusive, transparent governance via smartphones.



새창열기

주인이 제안하고, 주민이 투표하고, 주민이 바꿉니다!

2026년 예산편성을 위한
성북구 주민참여예산
온라인 주민투표

내 손으로 뽑는 우리 동네 사업!
성북구에 꼭 필요한 사업에 투표해주세요!

☆투표 완료 후, 성북구 공식SNS (인스타그램 or 카카오톡) 구독 화면을 캡처하여
네이버 폼 제출시 추첨을 통해 커피(스타벅스) 기프티콘을 드려요!

투표기간 | 2025. 9. 9.(화) 09시 ~ 9. 14.(일) 18시

참여대상 | 성북구민, 관내 직장인 또는 사업장을 둔 주민

참여방법 | ① "서울시 엠보팅" 접속
② "2025성북구 주민참여예산 투표" 선택
③ 8개 사업 투표(4개분야, 분야무관)

투표 바로가기

문의 성북구청 자치행정과 02-2241-2208

Camera 1:11 PM
mvoting.seoul.go.kr

서울특별시 서울소식 응답소 정보공개 분야별정보

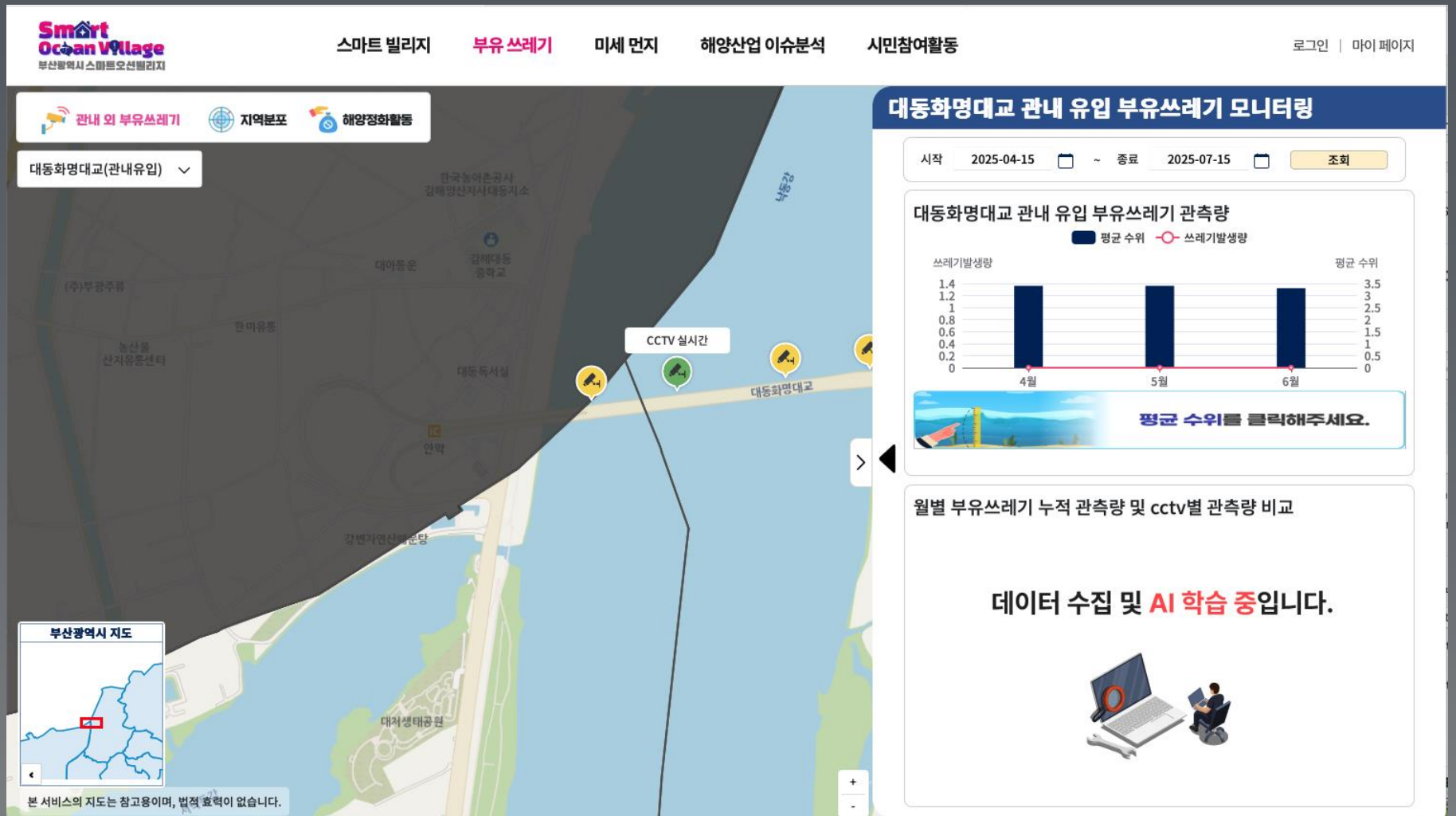
검색어를 입력해 주세요. 상세검색

성북동 경사로 미끄럼방지 페인트 도색

성북동 경사로 미끄럼방지 페인트 도색

사업위치: 성북동 주민센터 인근
사업내용: 기존 미끄럼방지 페인트 마모로 인해 보행 시
안전사고 발생가능성이 높으므로 재도색으로 보수
소요예산: 41,000천원

Seoul Smart City Initiative: mVoting
(<https://mvoting.seoul.go.kr/>)



Smart Ocean Village Platform: Floating Marine Debris Monitoring,
Mobile Application for Citizen Reporting and Community Activities
(<https://sov-busan.co.kr>)

(Still) Remaining Questions

- How are innovations bounded, produced, and organized [spatialized] by individuals, communities, and institutions in the cities?
- How does the production of new digital technology and new forms/formations of innovative (economic, social, cultural, and environmental) activities blend into the existing urban fabrics?
- What would be forms of collaborative democracy and inclusive citizen participation in smart cities?
- How can we re-imagine the connections between cities, innovation, technologies, and new visions and practices for enabling smart cities and urbanism grounded in (already existing) place-based resources, priorities, and knowledge?



Visit to Ami-Dong Neighborhood, Busan, Korea



II. Framing Smart Cities and Smart Urbanism

Framing Smart Cities and Smart Urbanism

- Various conceptualizations: A system of systems (Kitchin et al. 2019), intelligent city (Cardullo 2021), virtual cities (Castells 1996), digital city (Aurigi 2017), abstract urbanism (Fuller 2017), coded city, etc.
- “Smart cities are promoted as places where citizens are informed about, networked and engaged in—via technology—the relationship between their activities and the broader urban environment.” (Hall and Dávila 2023, p.159)
- It may be too clichéd or oversimplified to define it in this way; however, we can identify two predominant and contrasting orientations to smart city concepts and practices: techno-centric and community-centric approaches and orientations.



Google-Affiliate Alphabet's Sidewalk Labs Planned for its Internet-based Toronto Smart City



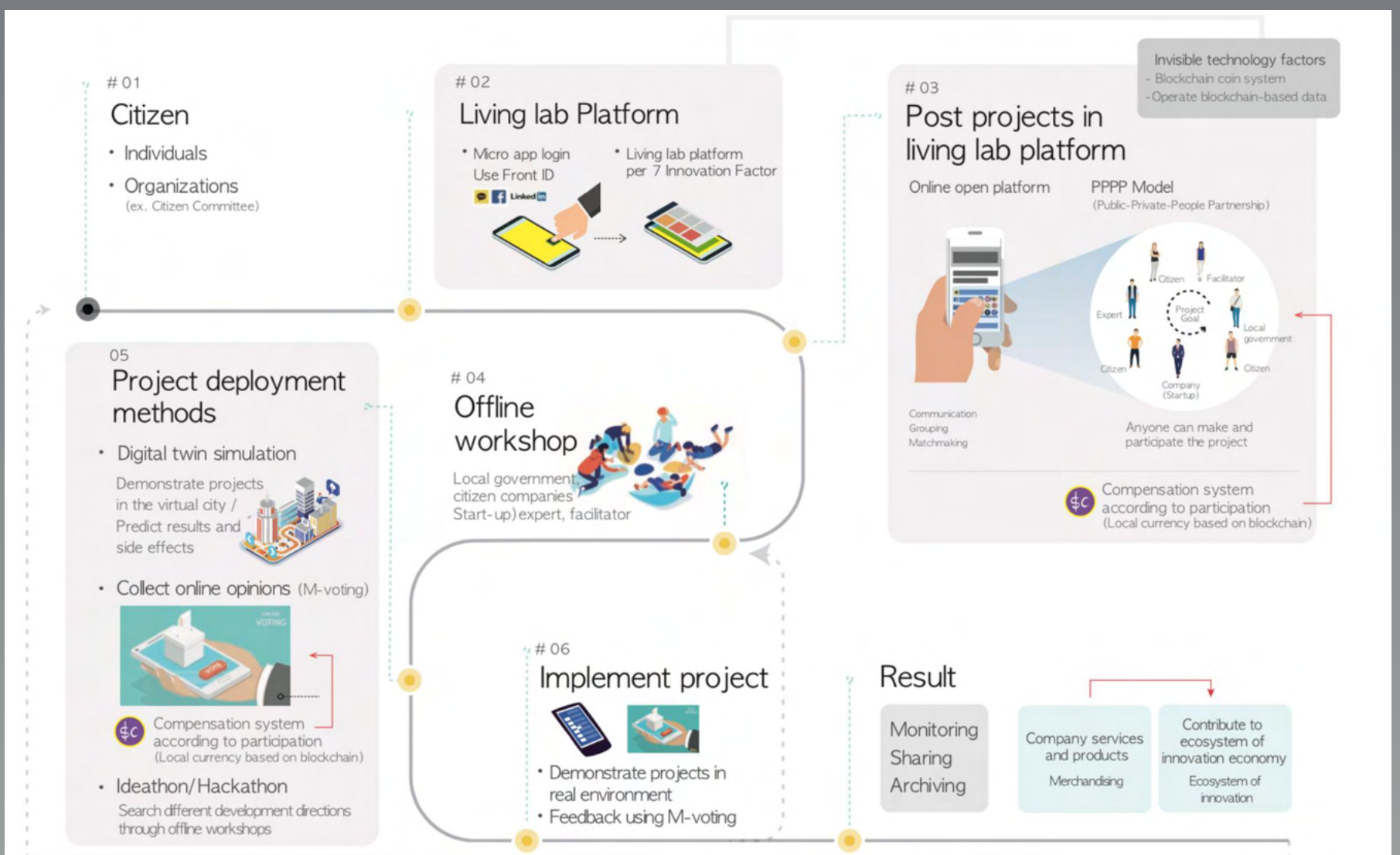
📷 The BIG U proposal was designed to protect Lower Manhattan from the impacts of a changing climate. Photograph: Rebuild by Design

The Big U: The Rebuild by Design Project, a \$930 million flood barrier plan for lower Manhattan



A City of Design Oriented Toward People

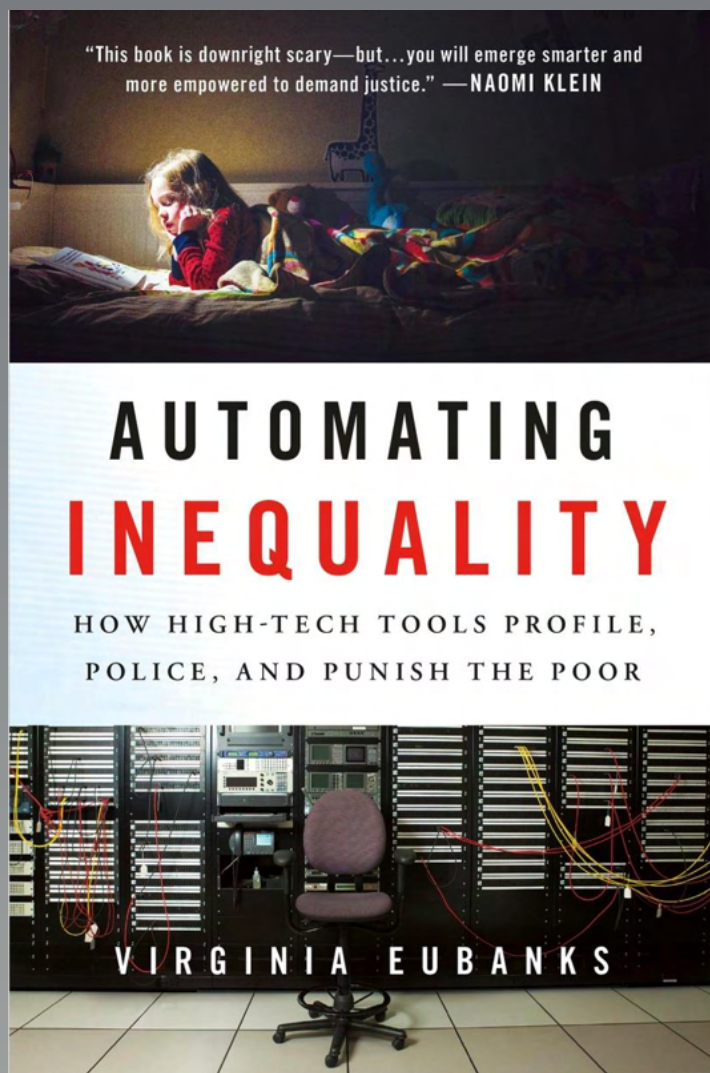
We are designing a harmonious city,
based on a new paradigm by taking into consideration
the beauty and charms of the city and people's lives.



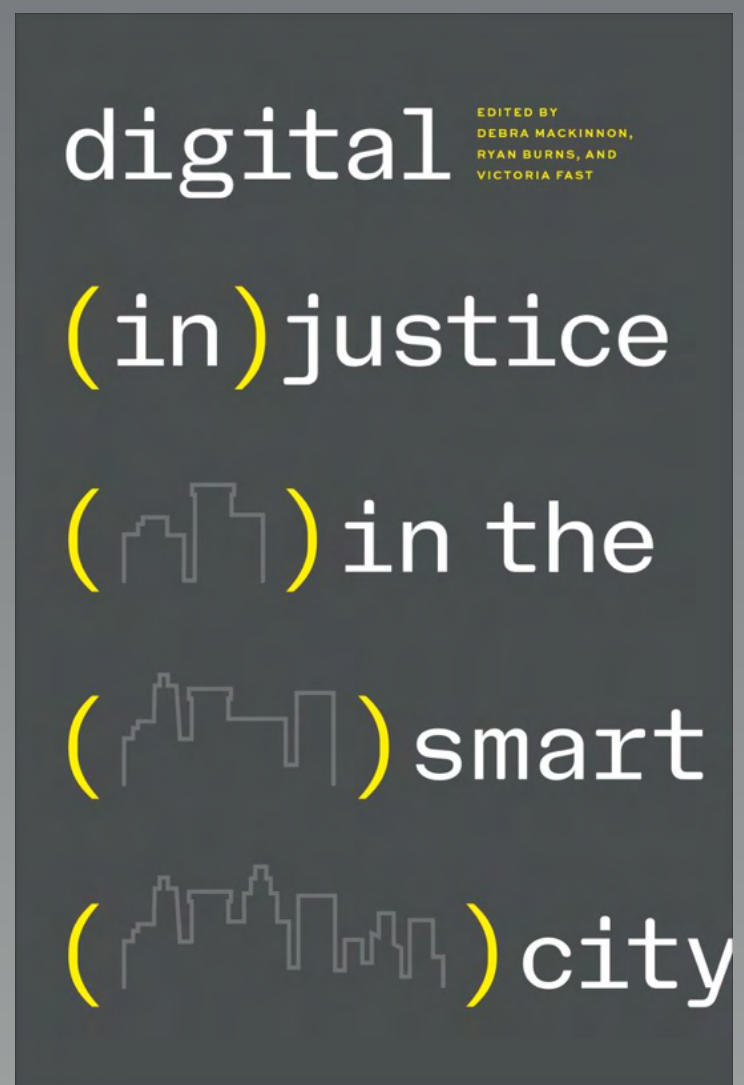
“Living Lab” as a user-driven smart city platform,
Sejong Smart City, Korea

Framing Smart Cities and Smart Urbanism

- Data power is an important intervention; however, increasing concern about the political economy of the data (e.g., data redlining, data colonialism, digital poorhouse).
- The political economy of data and data politics.
- Two words on smart cities—prosperity and precarity.



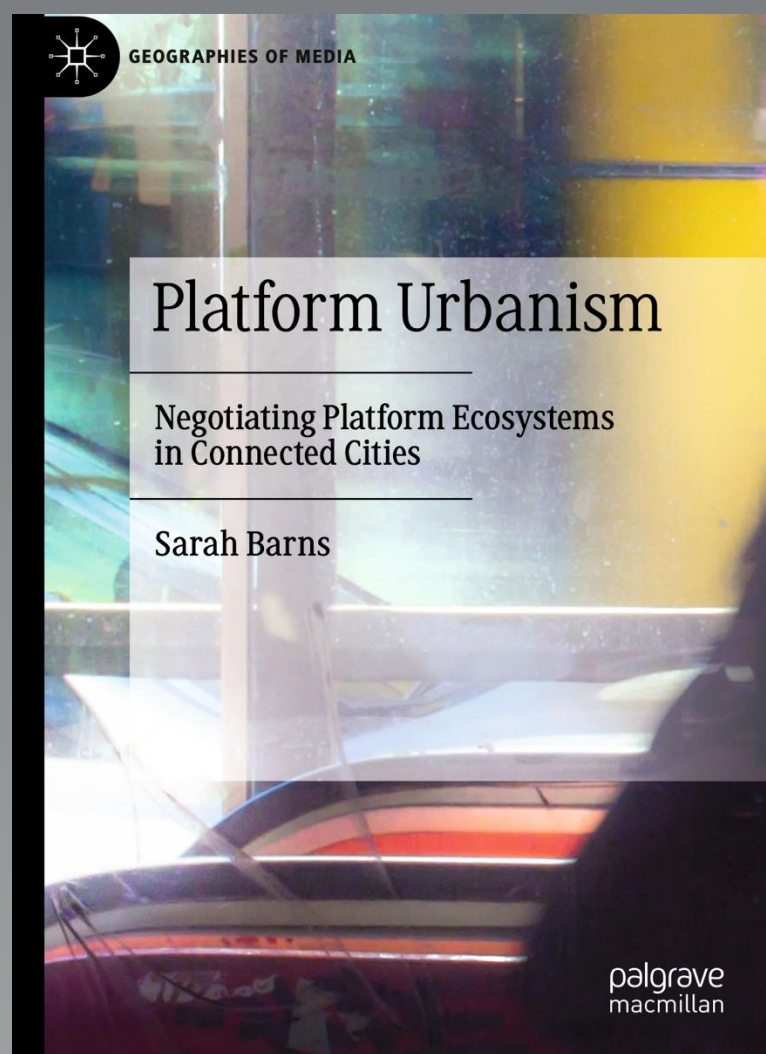
2018



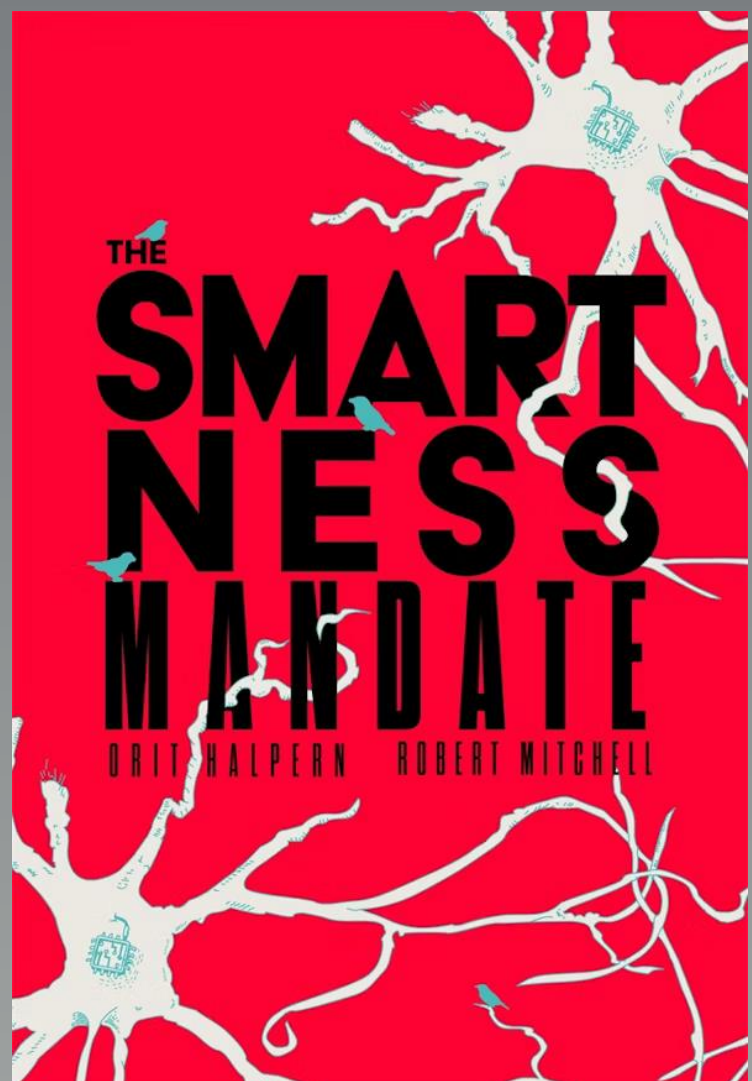
2022

Framing Smart Cities and Smart Urbanism

- Smartness becomes the organizing concept for an emerging form of technical/technological rationality (Halpern and Mitchell 2023).
- Urban platforms enable all manner of monitoring, reporting, analyzing, and visualizing the spaces and flows of urban life (Mattern 2017).



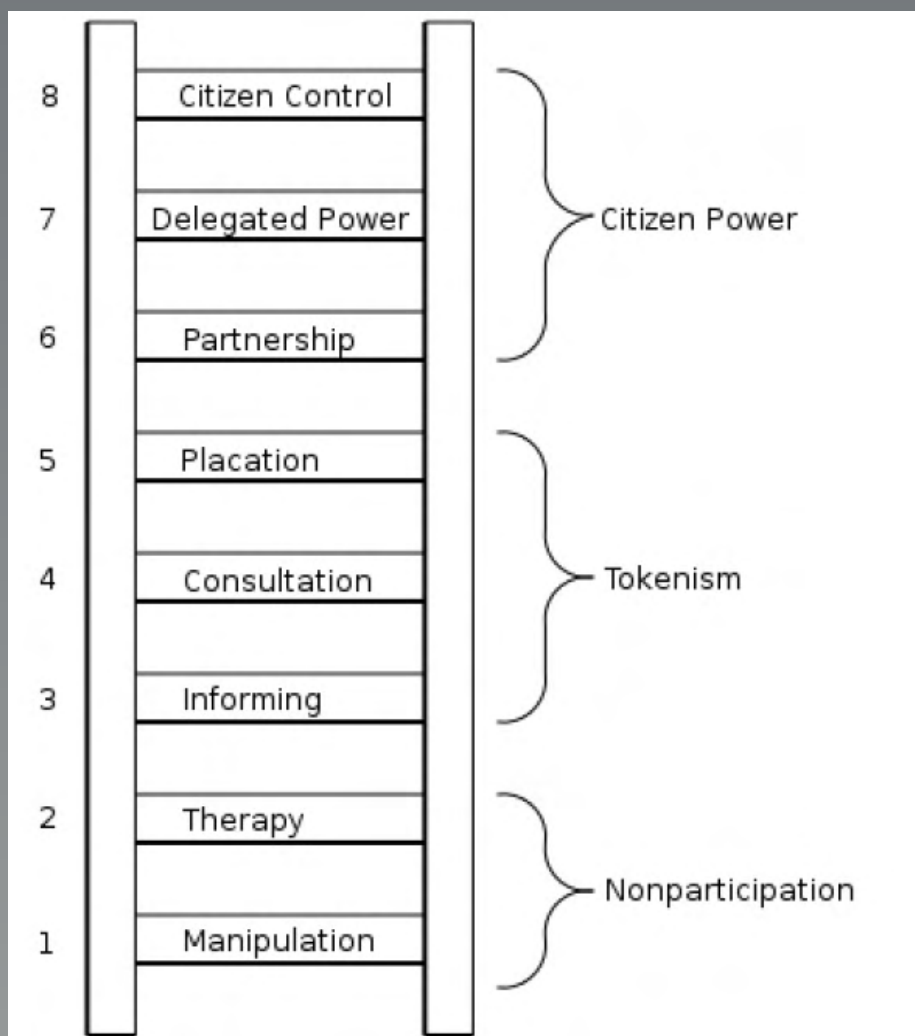
2020



2023

Framing Smart Cities and Smart Urbanism

- How can we create a smart engagement process, with the aspiration of participation/engagement close to the top of Arnstein's (1969) ladder, 'empowerment,' in/with smart and digital technology?



in/with



Sherry Arnstein (1969). *A Ladder of Citizen Participation*. Journal of American Planning Association 35(4): 216-224

III. (Un)Mapping the CHOP (Capitol Hill Organized Protest) Project



Brenette Ward prepares to interview Drago Little



Equipment workshop at Wanawari



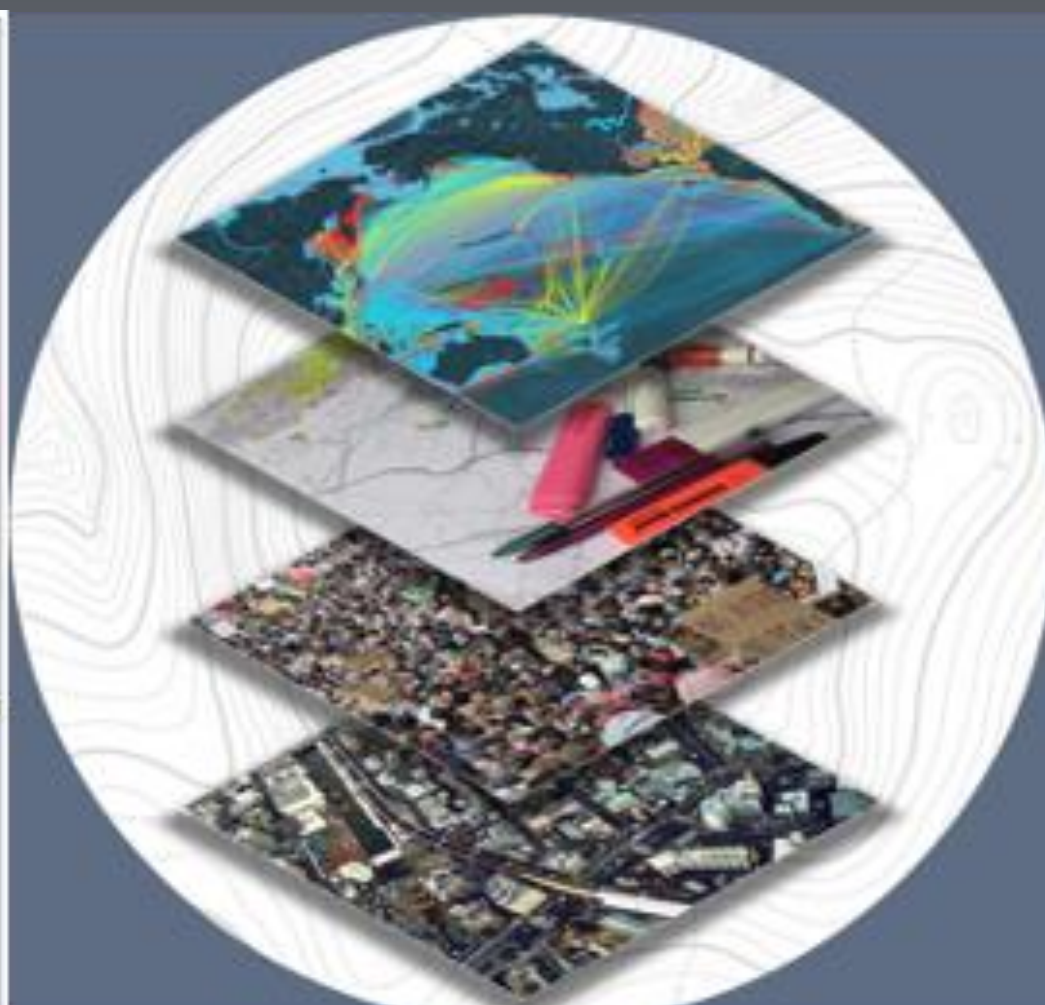
Sierra Parsons interviews Kim Farouk



Ricky Davis interviews Greg Davis



The Seattle Black Spatial Histories Institute (SBSHI)
www.wanawari.org/oral-history



Socially-Engaged Mapping and Technologies



Voluntarily captured drone imagery of the CHOP

(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project

- CHOP, also known as the CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone)
- Emerged as a unique social experiment in Seattle, WA, as a response to ongoing protests against police brutality and racial injustice in 2020.
- CHOP began on June 8th, 2020, when the police moved out of the East Precinct, and lasted until July 1st., 2020.
- Organizing the space to be managed collectively without police (See Green 2021, Holden 2023)
- It included a resident encampment, medical and communications tents, a kitchen, a canteen, a community garden, a mediation and deliberation space, public art installation, etc.



Seattle's activist-occupied zone is the latest in a long history of movements and protests. The Guardian. 6/21/2020





CHOP, June 19, 2020



A Community Garden, CHOP

(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

...

Radical Left Governor [@JayInslee](#) and the Mayor of Seattle are being taunted and played at a level that our great Country has never seen before. Take back your city NOW. If you don't do it, I will. This is not a game. These ugly Anarchists must be stopped IMMEDIATELY. MOVE FAST!

3:08 AM · Jun 12, 2020

15K Reposts 2,568 Quotes 70.9K Likes 158 Bookmarks



Seattle Police and Washington National Guard personnel take control of an intersection near the East Precinct on June 8. | David Ryder/Getty Images

The violent end of the Capitol Hills Organized Protest,
explained . Vox. 7/2/2020

(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project

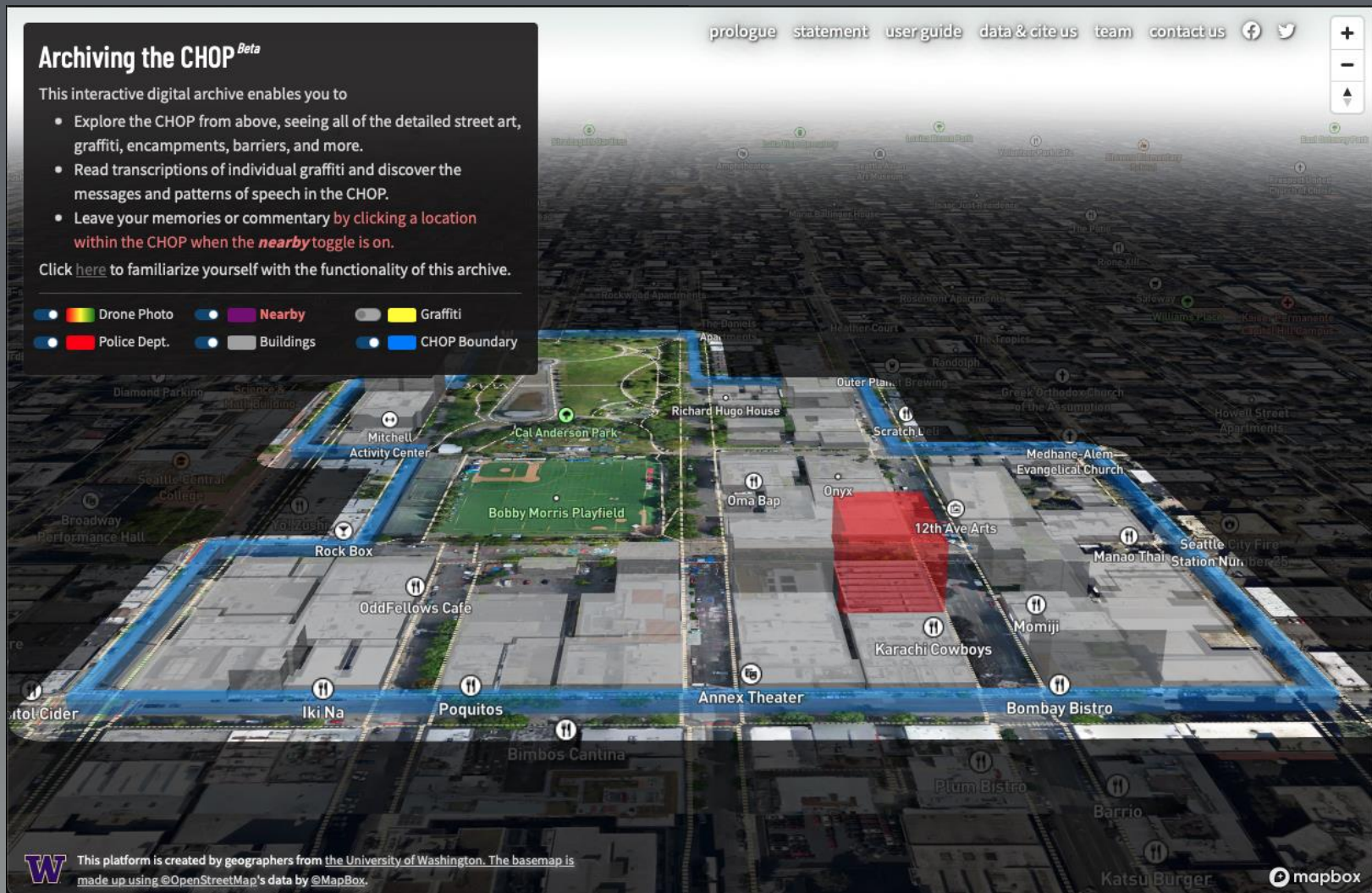


Whether it might be possible to use the drone images as an invitation for a participatory process of interactive digital engagement through which members of the public—particularly people who had directly organized, participated in, and/or experienced it—might offer, share, view and think across different accounts and memories of the space?

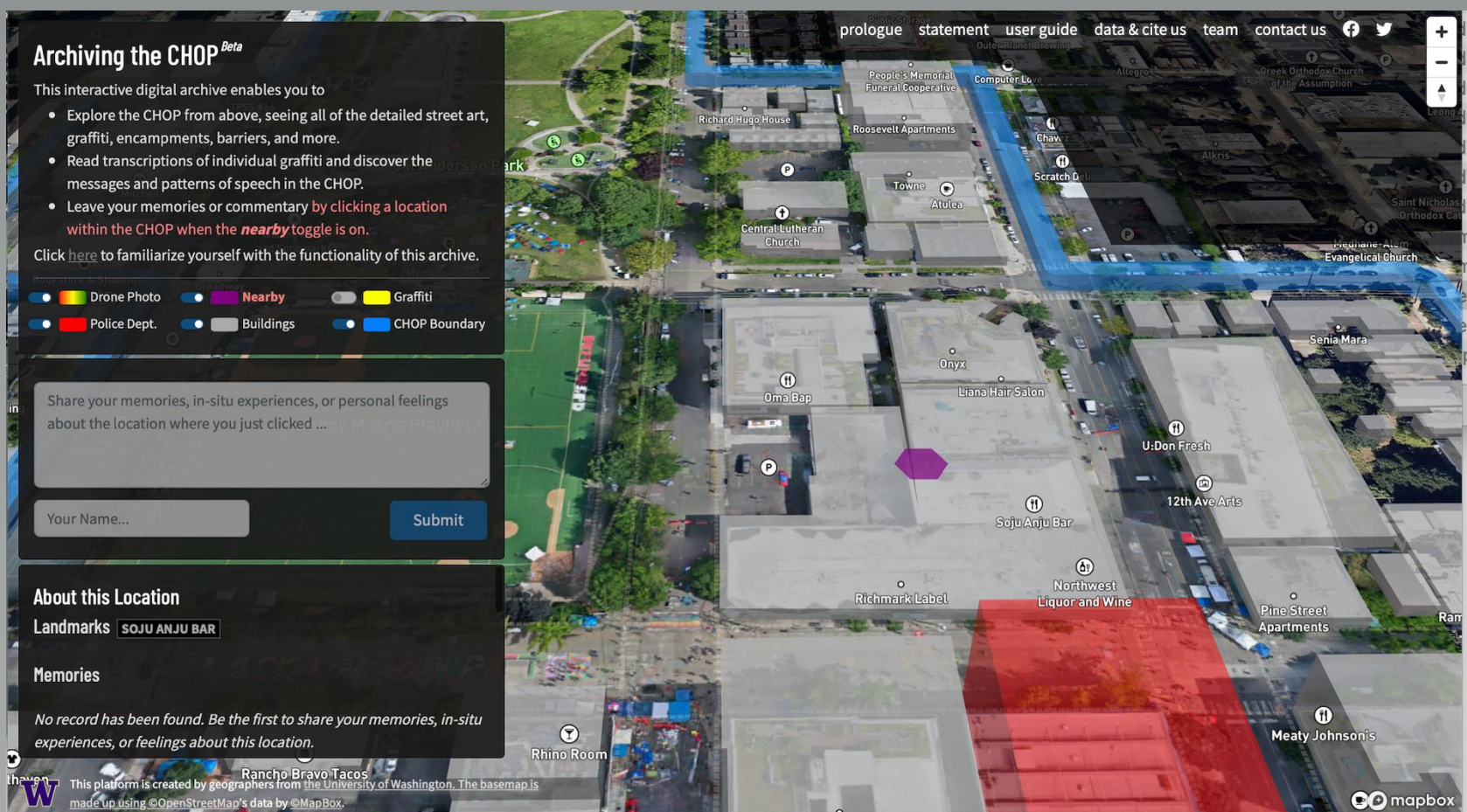
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(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project



<https://hgis.uw.edu/chop/#>



(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project

Public Online Event

ARCHIVING THE CHOP



JUNE 8

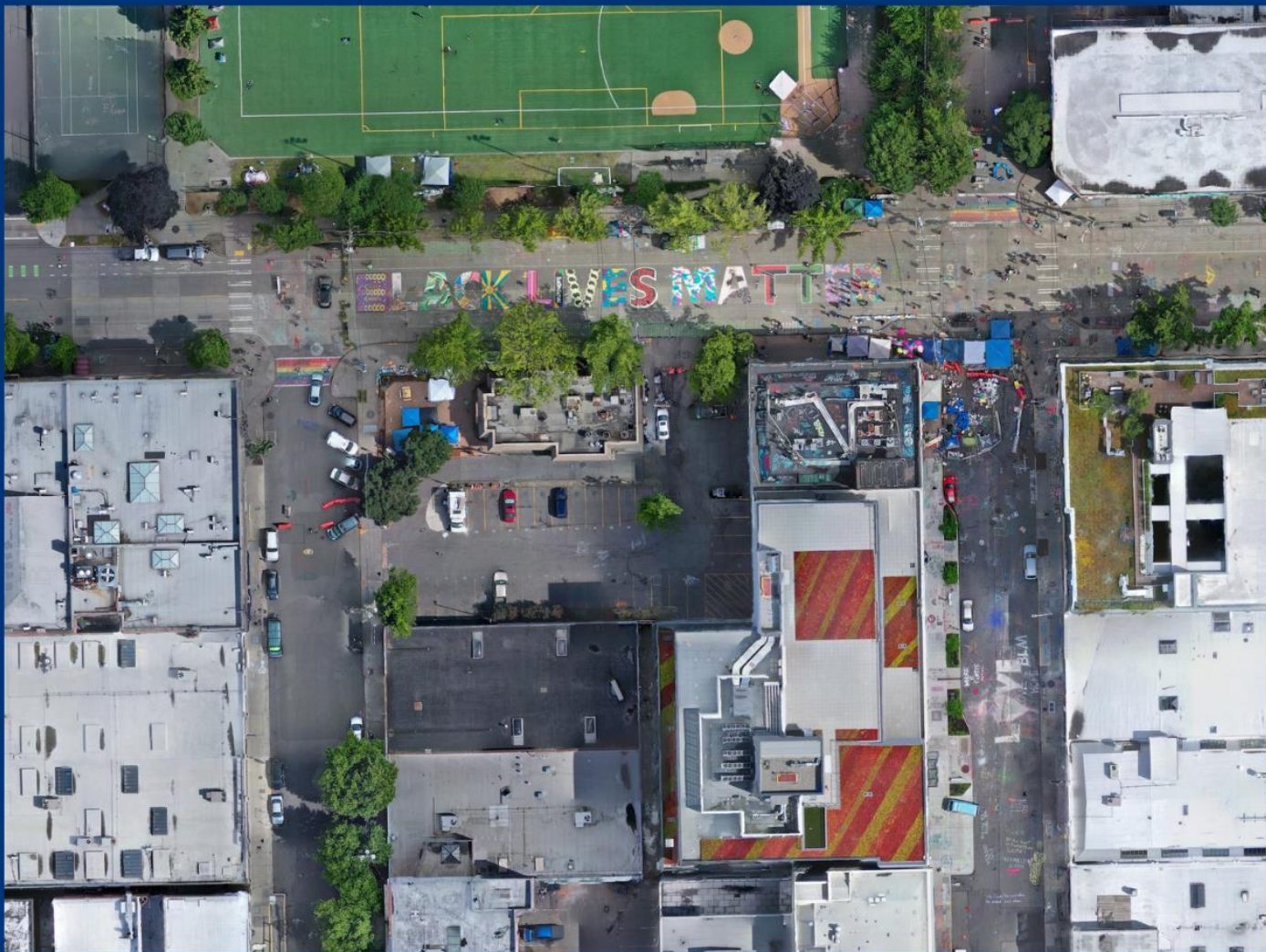
Time: 10:00 AM PST

Map Link: <https://hgis.uw.edu/chop>

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/archivingchop>

SEEKING INPUT AND POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS !

The Capitol Hill Occupied Protest (CHOP) which took place in Seattle in 2020 was a complex event, embodying many different things to many different publics. How might it be possible to create a digital archive that frames these matters as questions for continued—and urgent—public engagement, study, and analysis, rather than treating them as concluded? As geographers, we ask especially, how could careful engagement with the CHOP as a space facilitate such an archival process? Join us for a conversation about an ongoing effort to address these questions and possibilities.



Bo Zhao | Dan Koopman | Jin-Kyu Jing | Christian Anderson
University of Washington at Seattle and Bothell

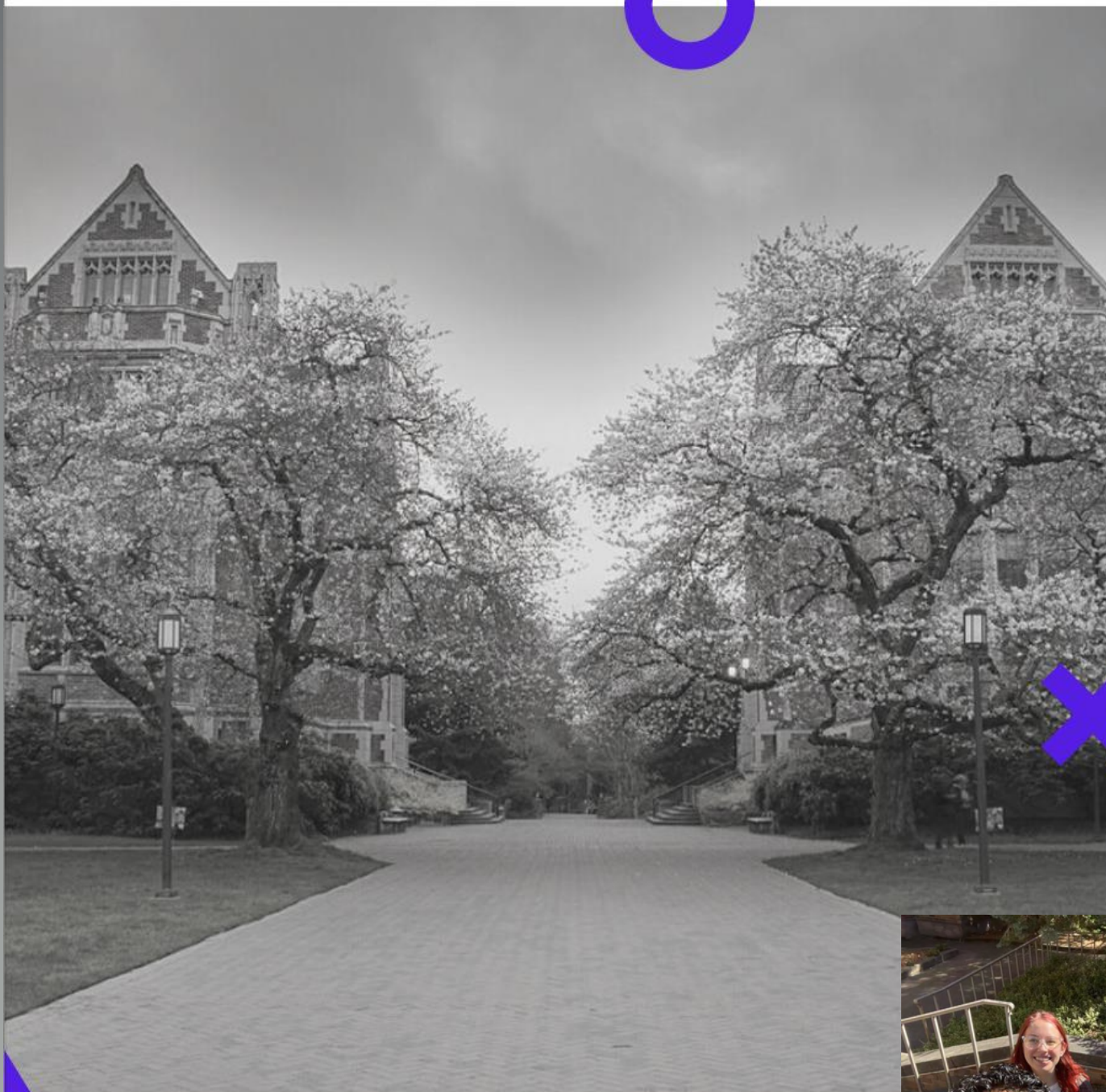
Spring 2023

(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project

Humanities Data Science Summer Institute 2023

Organized by the Interdisciplinary Minor in Data Science

HUMANITIES DATA LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



Welcome Event | June 20th at 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Studio Meeting Room, eScience Institute

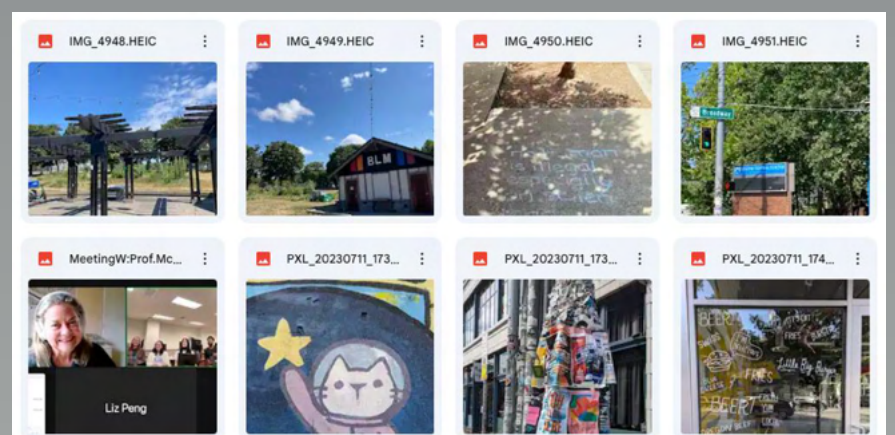
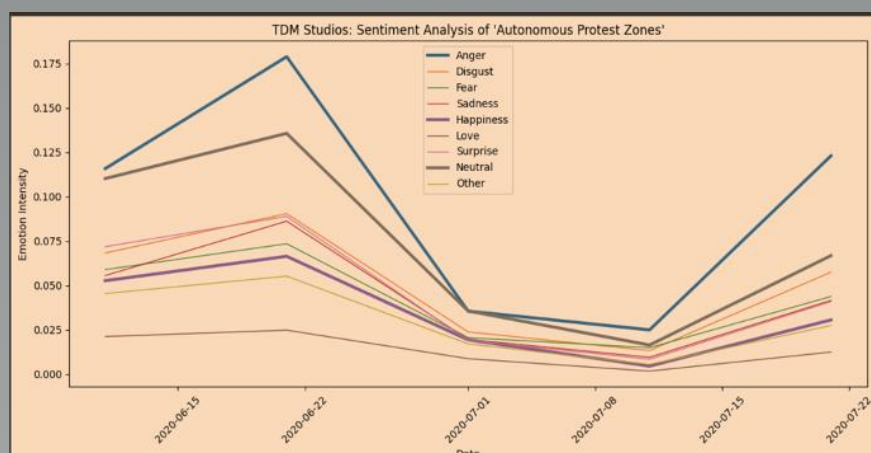
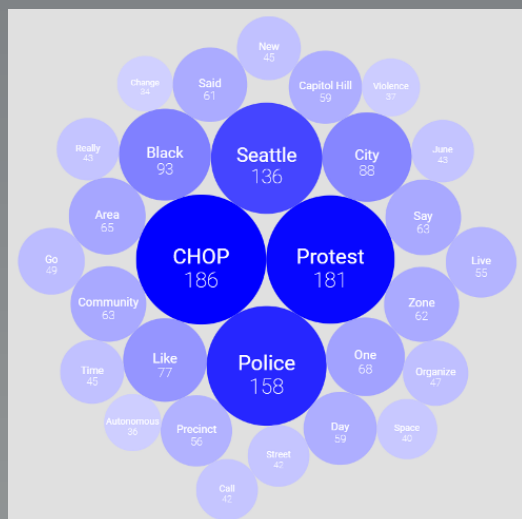


Summer 2023

Communities We Reached Out

- HDSSI 2023 Project Groups
- Black Star Farmers
- Seattle Emerald, Marcus Green
- The City of Seattle
- Joseph Elebbaas, Seattle Police Dept.
- UW Libraries in Digital Humanities, Asian Library (Hyokyong Yi, Verletta Kern, etc.)
- UWB Office of Connected Learning
- Classes: Dr. Bo Zhao's & Dr. Oh's
- Seattle University, Kent Koth, Director of Community Engagement
- UW Graduate Students (Cameron Dunlop, Noah Carpenter)
- UW Geography Department. Lounge
- Moari/Chuckundi Salisbury (CHOP participants)
- Kun (Omari's older brother)
- Prof. Frances McCue. English. Co-founder of Hugo House

(Un)Mapping the CHOP Project



IV. Aspects of and Aspirations for “Smart Engagement”

On Smart Engagement

- How could smart approaches be reworked and repurposed to enliven, support, and sustain organizing and participatory processes of cooperative analysis with already existing communities/citizens—collective human (counter) intelligence?
- Critical insights from the participatory process and citizen science point us toward an inclusive place-based smart city planning process.
- I admit that this is a big question about techno-social relational praxis, and an aspiration of and for the smart engagement
- A placeholder for building critical, mutually reciprocal relations with smartness.



Thank you!