

# “Big Data for Justice” Summer Institute

Sponsored by UCLA CityLab, UCLA Digital and Urban Humanities Programs, and the UCLA Bunche Center for African American Studies

July 6-July 31, 2020  
University of California Los Angeles

## **Schedule:**

- > Morning seminars: 10 AM - 12 PM, followed by lunch.
- > Studio or lab work: 1 PM - 4 PM
- > Site visits/fieldwork are on Fridays
- > Periodic evening activities (workshops, film screening): approx. 5 PM-7:30 PM

Note: Once a week we have a field trip or fieldwork. On these days, you should plan to depart from Westwood in the morning (9am) and return by approximately 5 PM. If you live off campus, you may also meet us on-site at the specified time.

## **Classroom spaces:**

- TBD

## **Primary Instructors :**

- > Prof. Todd Presner (Digital Humanities): [presner@ucla.edu](mailto:presner@ucla.edu)
- > [Danielle Dupuy](#) (Bunche Center for African American Studies)
- > Albert Kochaphum (GIS specialist, Institute for Digital Research and Education): [albertkun@idre.ucla.edu](mailto:albertkun@idre.ucla.edu)

## **Program Coordinator:**

- > Tabia Shawel [tshawel@bunche.ucla.edu](mailto:tshawel@bunche.ucla.edu)

## **Course Objectives**

- Learn to use and critically assess a suite of digital tools, spatial and quantitative datasets, and mapping/visualization/data analysis software technologies for studying criminal justice in Los Angeles.
- Combine urban, social, computational, statistical and humanist perspectives to investigate data related to criminal justice.
- Understand how the history of Los Angeles is intimately and unevenly linked with race, policing, and power; learn how this is manifest in built spaces, urban infrastructures, and communities.

- Learn transferable technology skills through collaborative, project-based research, while engaging in multidisciplinary inquiry.
- Learn to work in research teams in order to conceptualize, design, carry out, and deliver persuasive arguments through writing, data analysis, mapping, and data visualization.

### **Course Description:**

“Big Data for Justice” is an interdisciplinary study of urbanism, data science, and critical concepts related to race and criminal justice in the context of Los Angeles. The course focuses on critical data analysis, visualization, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to research and map urban experiences. Students will gain familiarization with a wide-range of digital tools and methods used to study and analyze the criminal legal system and will participate in the collection, curation, and presentation of digital data related to Los Angeles. Tools include Tableau, ESRI Storymaps, Google Earth, as well as statistical methods, critical GIS, and data visualization. The course involves fieldwork in Los Angeles and allows students to develop knowledge of key neighborhoods, the people living there, and data technologies related to contextualizing the metropolis.

### **Requirements and Evaluation:**

Students are required to attend all seminars, studios, workshops, and fieldwork sessions each week. Projects will be team based, collaborative undertakings. Students will be asked to upload the material they create to a digital portfolio website that will document the learning process and serve as a research archive. Note: **All assignments are in red font in the syllabus.**

10% = **Digital data project** (due Thursday of week 2)

10% = **Thick mapping project** (due Thursday of week 3)

30% = **Final project presentation consisting of digital data/visualizations in StoryMaps (Thursday of week 4) and a 6-page report in Google Docs** (due Friday of week 4, 4 pm): send the link!

25% = **Web portfolio** of all digital work, book reviews, field notes, research methodologies, documentation of skills/research interests, individually written analyses, professional ambitions (due on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4pm): send the link directly to us!

25% = Preparation and participation in class, fieldwork, and studios

Note: The projects are intended to build on one another in sequence, leading to a final project and report.

### **Readings:**

There are four required books for the class (TBD). These books will be provided to you on the first day of the Institute. During the Summer Institute, we will discuss the books, as noted on the syllabus.

## **WEEK 1: BIG DATA & CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM IN LOS ANGELES**

Monday: Introduction

Tuesday: Data, Data Visualization, and Race

Wednesday: Introducing Los Angeles Urbanism

Thursday: Mass Incarceration, Policing, and the Power of Place in Los Angeles

Friday: Fieldwork

## **WEEK 2: MAPPING AND JUSTICE**

Monday: Introduction to Mapping and Demographics

Tuesday: Working with Spatial Data

Wednesday: Book Discussion

Thursday: Data Presentations and Introduction to South LA

Friday: Fieldwork

## **WEEK 3: MAKING DATA MEANINGFUL THROUGH “THICK MAPPING”**

Monday: Introduction to Critical Cartography and Thick Mapping

Tuesday: Mapping for Justice: Digital Activism

Wednesday: All-day Mapping Studio

Thursday: Presentations of “Thick Maps”

Friday: Fieldwork

## **WEEK 4: ENVISIONING JUSTICE**

Monday: Data to Narrative and lab/studio time for final projects

Tuesday: Guest Speaker(Book discussion) and lab/studio time for final projects

Wednesday: Lab/Digital Studio

Thursday: Presentations

Friday: Debrief and Closing Celebration