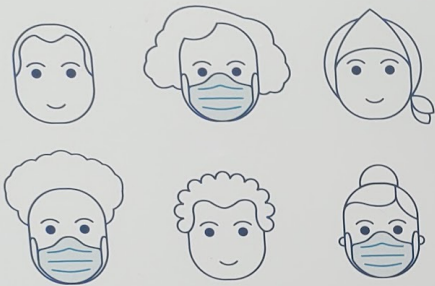


# Platforms and Knowledge Production in the Age of A.I.

Leslie Chan  
Director, Knowledge Equity Lab  
Department of Global Development Studies  
University of Toronto Scarborough  
[@lesliekwchan](#)  
[@knowequitylab](#)

## WE RESPECT YOUR CHOICE



For specific work/activity mask requirements, please contact your supervisor.

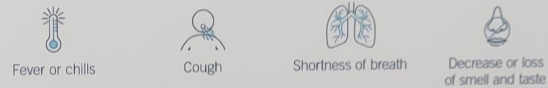


The University of Toronto is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Please visit [utoronto.ca](http://utoronto.ca) for the latest updates.

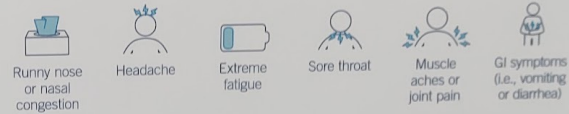
## READ BEFORE ENTERING

Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms as new and worsening and not related to other known causes or conditions you already have?

Do you have any of these symptoms?



Do you have 2 or more of these symptoms?



If so, STOP. Do not enter the premises.  
STAY HOME IF YOU ARE ILL.



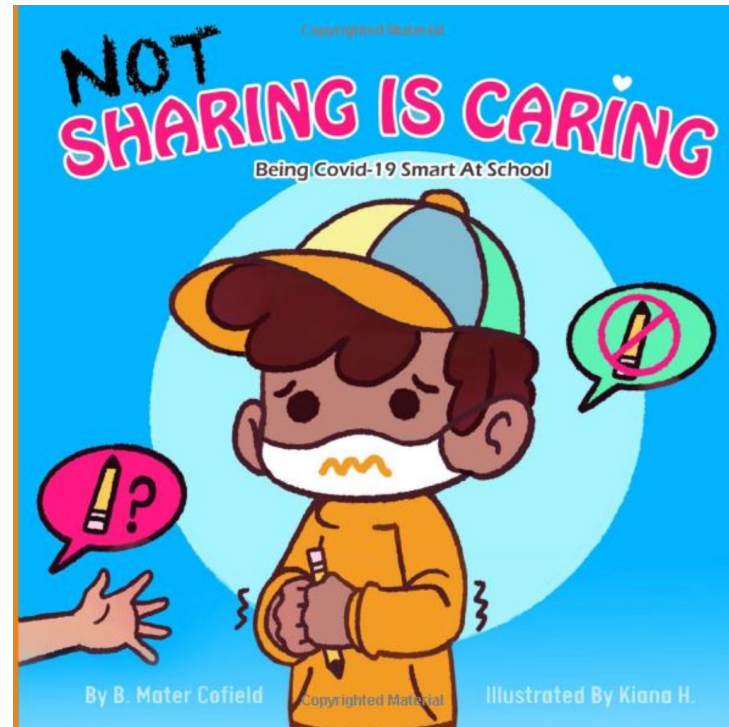
- Physical distancing is recommended (keep 2 metres/6 feet away from others).
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or sleeve/arm if necessary. Wash your hands afterwards.
- Wearing a medical-grade mask is recommended.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surface.

For the most updated list of symptoms please go to: [covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed#symptoms](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed#symptoms)



The University of Toronto is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Please visit [utoronto.ca](http://utoronto.ca) for the latest updates.

Openness and Closure are  
Relational  
Not Binary



What kind of values and relationships do we want our  
technology and infrastructure to nourish?

# Other questions I have been pondering

How are large-scale digital platforms constructed by corporate publishers shape and reconfigure knowledge production and circulation?

How do these platforms prescribe the governance of academic labor in powerful but invisible ways through AI and datafication?

How can new imaginaries and narratives of open scholarship be developed to address the structural inequities in knowledge production and labour precarity perpetuated by these platforms?

As infrastructure are inherently relational, what kind of values and relationships do we want our infrastructure to nourish?

These are socio-political questions, not strictly technical. But they are foundational.

# Scholarship in a Clopen World



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...rather than identifying “one-size fits all” checklists that define open scholarship we could rather see scholarship as engaged in dynamic processes of “clopenness”.

image: <https://twitter.com/CursedArchitect>

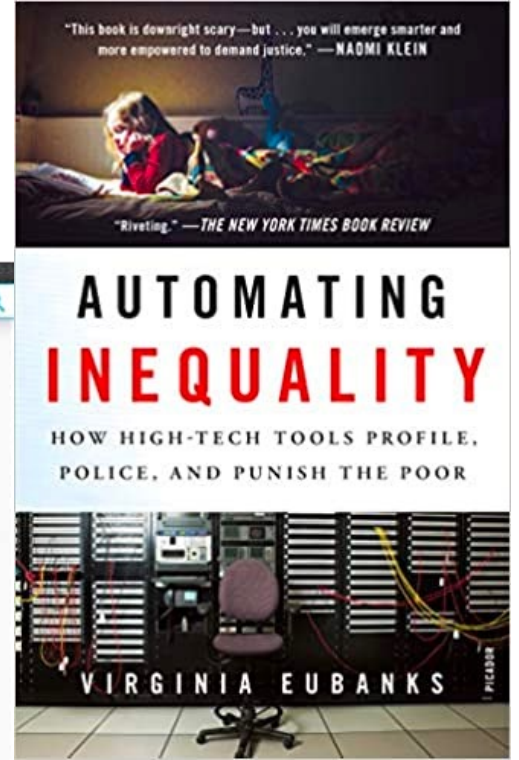
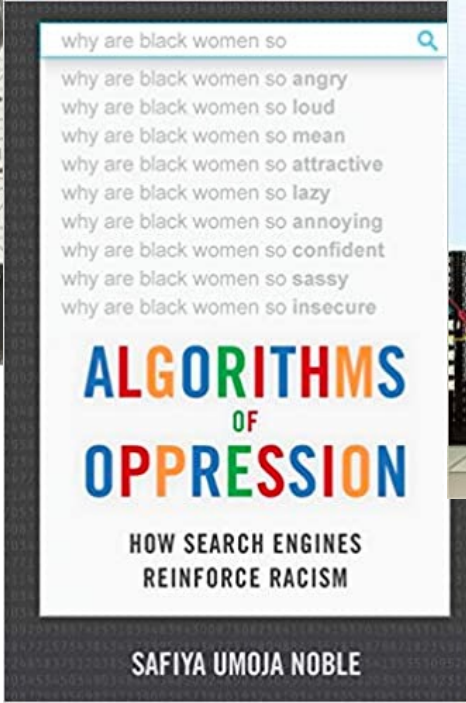
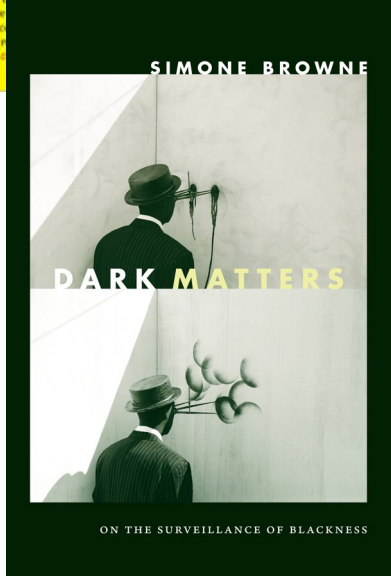
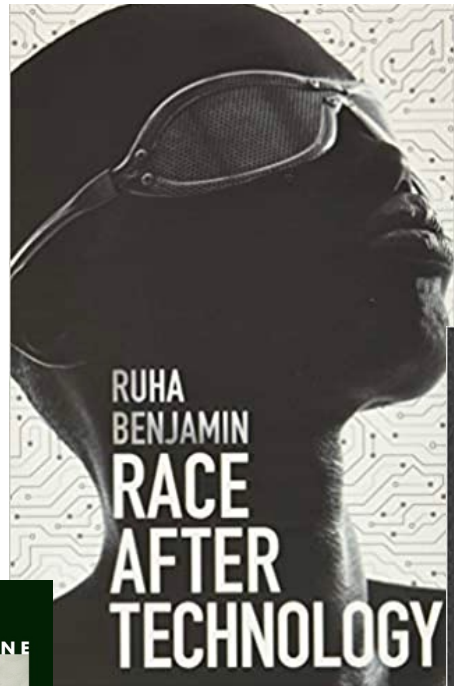
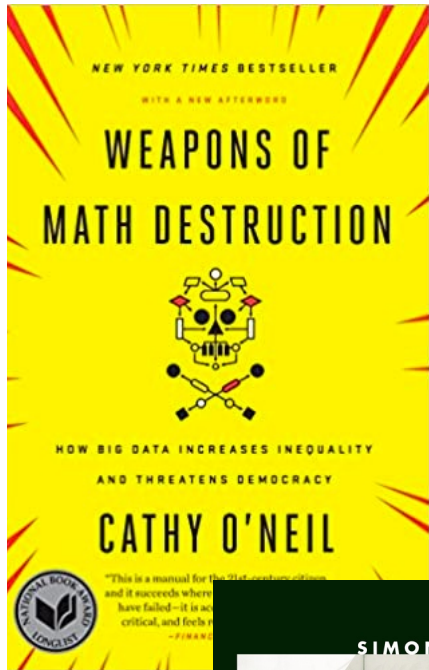
[Deb Verhoeven](#), 2022. "Scholarship in a Clopen World ." *Pop! Public. Open. Participatory.* no. 4. <https://doi.org/10.54590/pop.2022.002>.

## *Relationship* between Openness and Closure

1. there are social risks to both being either fully open and/or closed,
2. closure and openness are not mutually exclusive or opposite states,
3. there are uneven social consequences and overlooked human costs to managing processes of opening and closing, and
4. existing systems (technical, political, moral) for regulating acts of opening and closing serve to bolster privileged commercial, individual, institutional and social beneficiaries.

Who benefits from unfettered openness, and who suffers the harms?

[Deb Verhoeven](https://doi.org/10.54590/pop.2022.002), 2022. "Scholarship in a Clopen World ." *Pop! Public. Open. Participatory.* no. 4. <https://doi.org/10.54590/pop.2022.002>.





Timnit Gebru (she/her)  
Founder and Executive Director

<https://www.dair-institute.org/>

SEASON 3 EPISODE 1

## AI and Automating Knowledge Inequity

In our third season, we continue our goal of interrogating the politics of knowledge production, exchange and circulation – but with a special focus on exploring the implications of the widespread and often uncritical use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies. In particular we will examine how the use of these technologies by corporate publishers and data analytics companies can replicate and exacerbate existing structural and other forms of inequities in societies and in academia.

In this first episode, we are joined by colleagues from the [Distributed AI Research Institute](#) – **Dr. Alex Hannah, Dylan Baker, and Dr. Milagros Miceli.**

DAIR is an interdisciplinary and globally distributed organization rooted in the belief that AI is not inevitable, its harms are preventable, and when its production and deployment include more diverse perspectives and more deliberate processes, it can be

Episode 1

### AI and Automating Knowledge Inequity

Alex Hanna  
Dylan Baker  
Milagros Miceli

Knowledge Equity Lab  
Unsettling Knowledge Inequities Podcast  
SPARC\*

## Digital Redlining, Friction-Free Racism and Luxury Surveillance in the Academy

For the final episode of our third season, we are joined by Chris Gilliard, a professor and scholar who is highly regarded for his critiques of surveillance technology, privacy, and the invisible but problematic ways that digital technologies intersect with race, social class and marginalized communities.

In particular, Chris' work highlights the discriminatory practices that algorithmic decision-making enables – especially as these apply in the higher education context.

We discuss the various problems that surveillance technology and AI pose for higher education and the future of research, scholarship and academic publishing.

Ep 05

### DIGITAL REDLINING, FRICTION-FREE RACISM AND LUXURY SURVEILLANCE IN THE ACADEMY

CHRIS GILLIARD  
Unsettling Knowledge Inequities  
Podcast  
Knowledge Equity Lab  
SPARC\*

SEASON 3 EPISODE 3

## The High Cost of Knowledge Monopoly

Over the past 20 years, the academic publishing market has undergone changes that have led us to a juncture where power is concentrated in the hands of a handful of big companies.

To help us understand how this came to be and its implications, we are joined today by Claudio Aspesi, a leading market analyst for the academic publishing market. Claudio is a consultant at [SPARC](#), and has authored several reports about the market power and consolidation of the largest commercial players in this space.

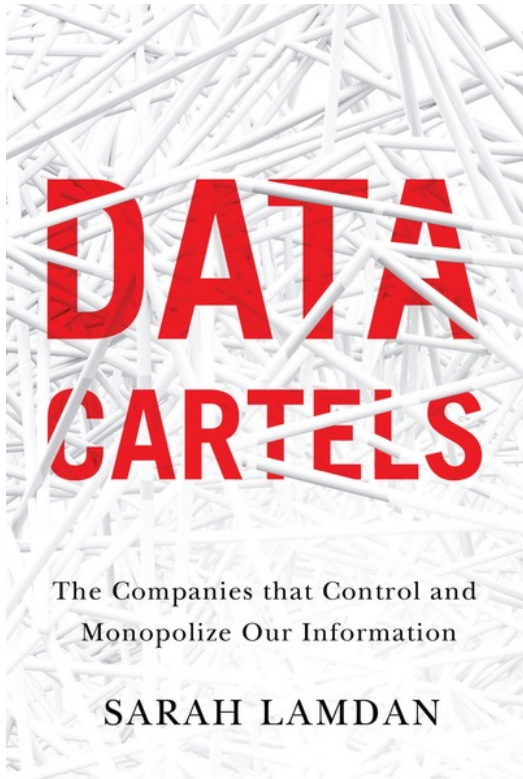
Ep 03

### THE HIGH COST OF KNOWLEDGE MONOPOLY

CLAUDIO ASPESI  
Unsettling Knowledge Inequities  
Podcast  
Knowledge Equity Lab  
SPARC\*

<https://knowledgeequitylab.ca/podcast/>





SEASON 3 EPISODE 2

## Data Cartels and Surveillance Publishing

Over the last years, as the process of conducting research and scholarship has moved more and more online, it has become clear that user surveillance and data extraction has crept into academic infrastructure in multiple ways.

For those committed to preserving academic freedom and knowledge equity, it's important to interrogate the practices and structures of the companies that are collecting and selling this data, and the impacts of this business model on academic infrastructure – and particularly on already marginalized and underfunded scholars and students.

To help us understand this landscape and its implications, today we are in conversation with [Sarah Lamdan](#), author of the forthcoming book [Data Cartels: The Companies That Control and Monopolize Our Information](#).



<https://knowledgeequitylab.ca/podcast/s3-e2/>



## How Digital Infrastructure Exclude

- Protocols
- Standard setting
- Vertical and Horizontal Integration
- Platformitization
- Algorithmic Governance

## “Surveillance Publishing” and Algorithmic Governance

“a form of social ordering that relies on coordination between actors, [which] is based on rules and incorporates particularly complex computer-based epistemic procedures,” but are not transparent to those whose behavior is being shaped (Katzenbach and Ulbricht, 2019).

Katzenbach, C., & Ulbricht, L. (2019). Algorithmic governance. *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4).  
<https://policyreview.info/concepts/algorithmic-governance>

SEASON 3 EPISODE 4

# The Perils of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Publishing

One of the key themes that intersects across all of our episodes this season is the surveillance and highly extractive and harmful economic practices of big corporations in the academic publishing sector, whose artificial intelligence tools are creating new forms of control and governance over our daily and professional activities.

In this episode, we are joined by **Christine Cooper, Yves Gendron, and Jane Andrew** – co-editors of the *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* journal and co-authors of the article: "[The perils of artificial intelligence in academic publishing.](#)"

We reflect on how automated decision-making algorithms are deployed in academic publishing, particularly for peer review and related editorial decision-making.

We explore the implications of these technologies on research practices, scholarly expertise and autonomy, and the struggle for control over the future of "sustainability, creativity, and critical values of the academic world."

Episode 4

## The Perils of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Publishing

Christine Cooper

Jane Andrew

Yves Gendron

Knowledge Equity Lab Unsettling Knowledge Inequities Podcast SPARC\*

<https://knowledgeequitylab.ca/podcast/s3-ep-4/>

# The Myth of Endless Growth



Metrics

Rankings

Openness

The lure of increasing speed, discovery efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness

## “FAIR” is not CARE

- Data as detached, free flowing, devoid of social contexts, ready to be extracted, refined, and transformed
- Why prioritizing “machine readability”?
- Who owns and controls the extractive machineries?
- What roles for AI?





**Craig Calhoun**  
@craigjcalhoun

I have just used the profoundly anti-intellectual, Interfolio-supported Academic Personnel Actions Reporting System to update my officially mandated CV. The spread of such systems tracks the decline of education and knowledge as real values in universities.

9:57 PM · Jan 14, 2023 · 9,595 Views

<https://twitter.com/craigjcalhoun/status/1614456636311240710>

The screenshot shows the Interfolio website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Interfolio logo and links for Products, Services, About Us, Resources, and News & Events. A 'Get a Demo' button and 'Log In' link are also present. The main heading is 'Advance Faculty Work', followed by the text: 'Interfolio's products free up vital time for scholars and institutions—and enable visibility for university leaders throughout all academic career stages.' Below this is a 'Get a Demo for Your College or University' button. A sub-heading reads: 'Or learn more about Interfolio's products and the challenges they solve below:'. Three product cards are displayed: 1. 'Interfolio Faculty Information System' with the sub-heading 'Improve Faculty Career Processes at Your Institution' and a 'Learn More' button. 2. 'Researchfish by Interfolio' with the sub-heading 'Track the Impact of Funded Research' and a 'Learn More' button. 3. 'Interfolio Dossier' with the sub-heading 'Streamline Applying to Academic Career Opportunities' and a 'Learn More' button.

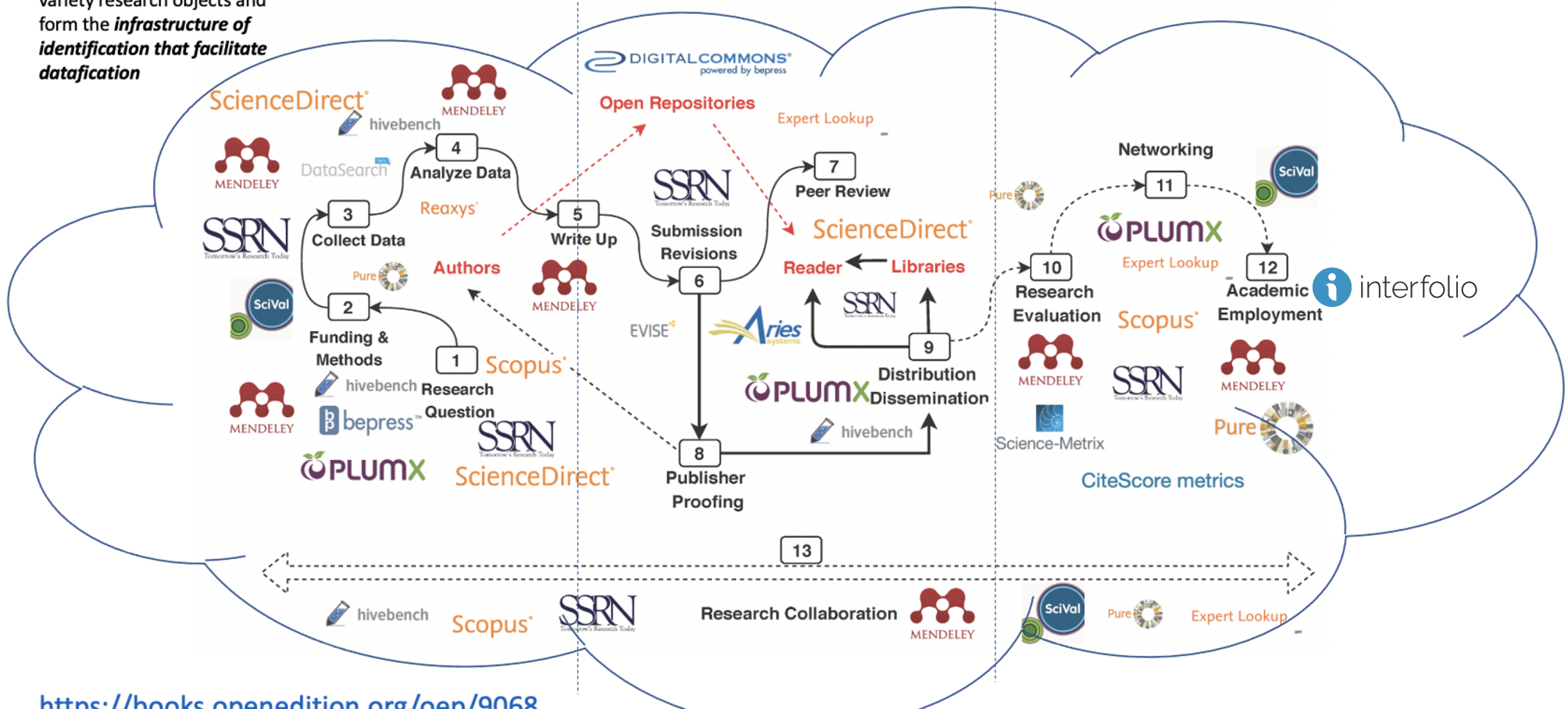
# An Enclosed System of Knowledge Production

DOI and other identifiers (e.g. ORCID, Scopus IDs, various metadata) are embedded into a variety research objects and form the *infrastructure of identification that facilitate datafication*

## The Research Process

## The Publishing Process

## The Evaluation Process





“most research rhetoric waxes the poetics of empire: to discover, to chart new terrain, to seek new frontiers, to explore, and so on. The academy’s unrelenting need to produce ‘original research’ is what makes the inquiry an invading structure, not an event.”

(E.Tuck and K.W.Yang, ‘Unbecoming Claims: Pedagogies of Refusal in Qualitative Research’, *Qualitative Inquiry*, 20, 2014, pp. 811–8)

“the act of extraction removes all of the relationships that give whatever is being extracted meaning . . . extracting is stealing – it is taking without consent, without thought, care or even knowledge of the impacts that extraction has on the other living things in that environment. That’s always been a part of colonialism and conquest.”

(L.B.Simpson, *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017), p. 75.

“... the extractivist mindset isn’t about having a conversation and having a dialogue and bringing in indigenous [sic] knowledge on the terms of indigenous [sic] peoples . . . . Because I think when people extract things, they’re taking and they’re running and they’re using it for just their own good . . . . ***The alternative is deep reciprocity. It’s respect, it’s relationship, it’s responsibility, and it’s local.***”

(L.B.Simpson, *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017), p. 75.



CARE principles for Indigenous data governance emphasize

Collective Benefit,  
 Authority to Control,  
 Responsibility and  
 Ethics

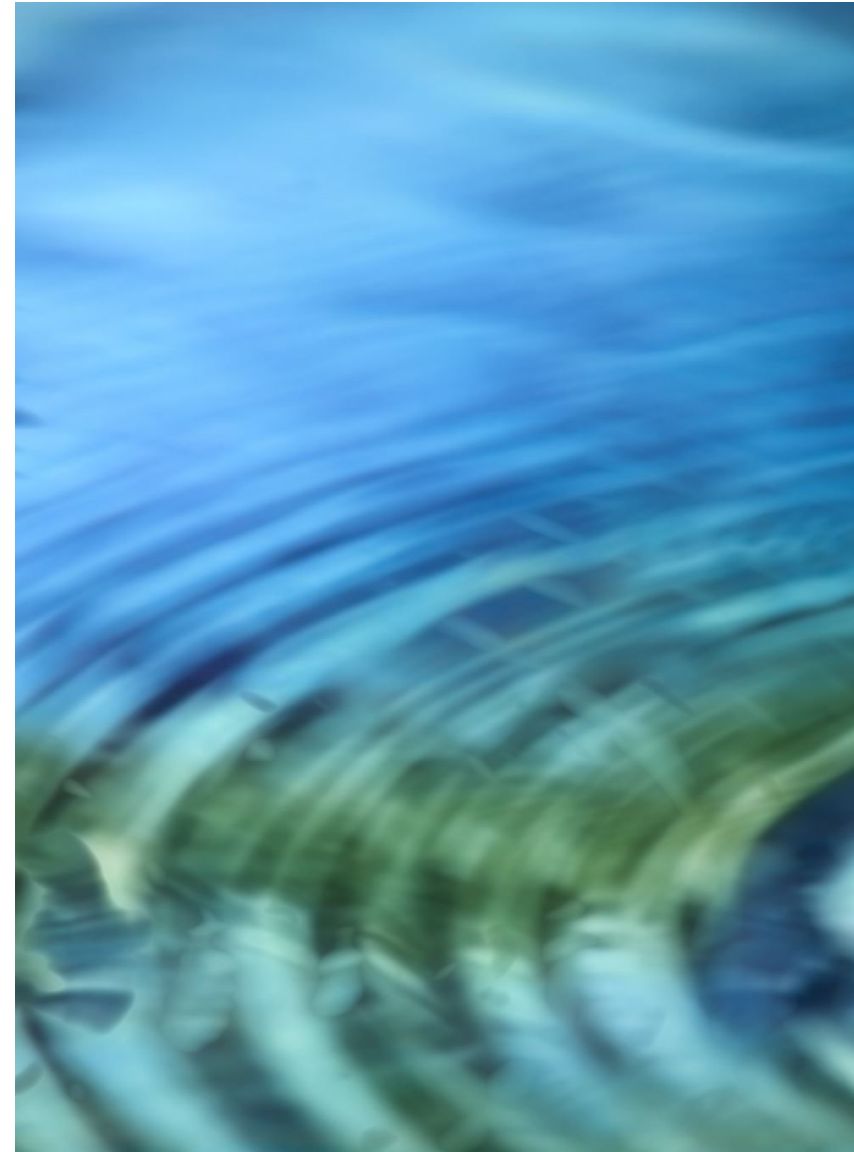
It is a reminder of the long historical injustice of extractivism and colonialism and why they need to be redressed

# Sustainability

“ ... we might think about it as an epistemological issue. Sustainability is a complex system, but also, a complex epistemological object, one that cannot be contained in mechanistic, deterministic, and models.” (Drucker 2021:91)

“The issue that remains is not simply, how do we work computationally, but instead, how do we expose the ideological stakes in pitting an approach to knowledge as a complex system against one that imagines it to be instrumental and deterministic.” (Drucker 2021:92)

Drucker, J. (2021). Sustainability and complexity: Knowledge and authority in the digital humanities. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, 36(Supplement\_2), ii86–ii94. <https://doi.org/10.1093/lhc/fqab025>



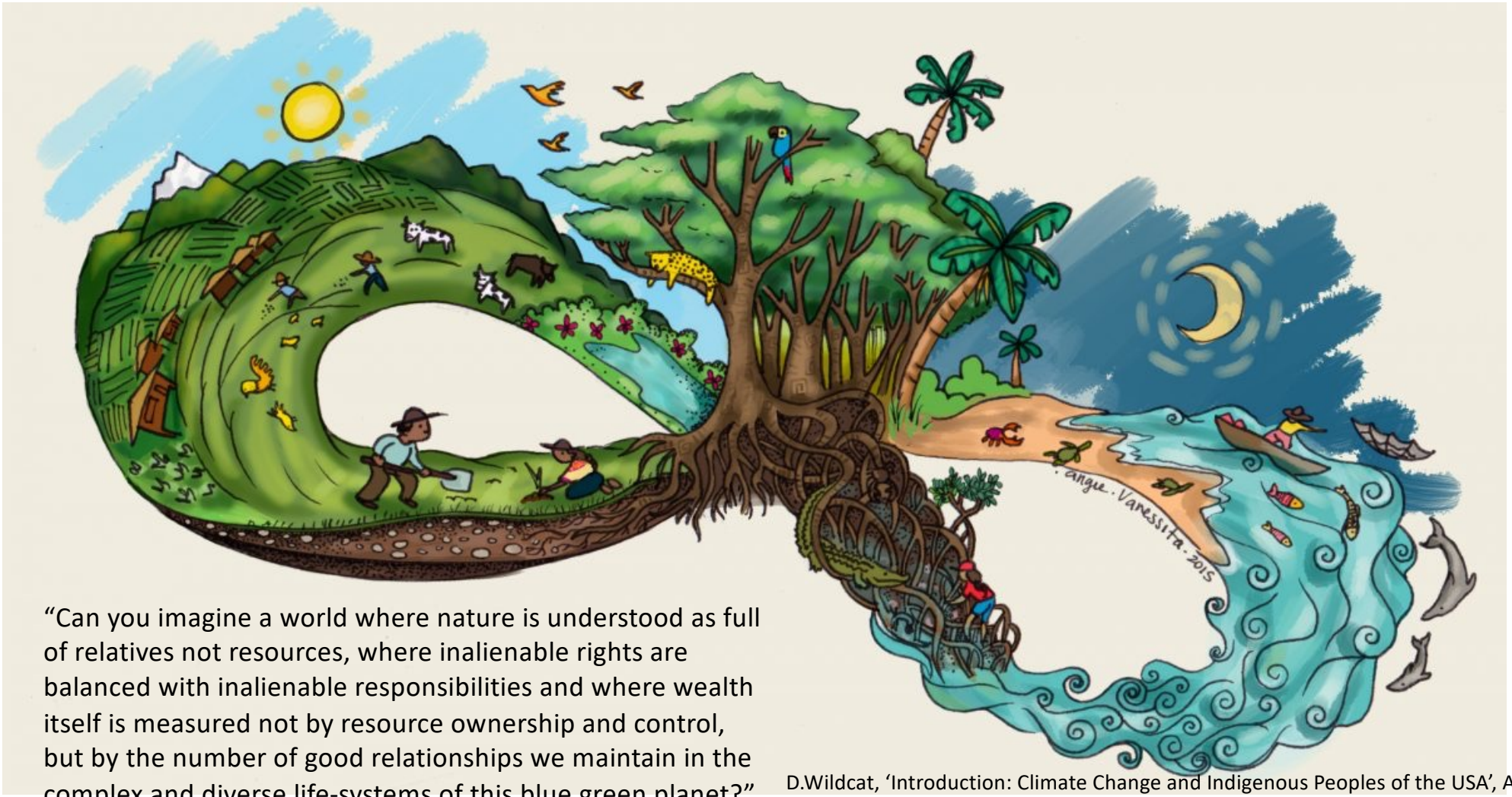
## Openness is Relational, not Binary

- Relationality requires mutual care, trust building, time, intention, patience, understanding, respect, reciprocity

### Post-Covid world?

- **Degrowth – scaling small, centering local, resilience, regeneration, convivial thinking**
- Embrace slowness and collective care – a different operating system





“Can you imagine a world where nature is understood as full of relatives not resources, where inalienable rights are balanced with inalienable responsibilities and where wealth itself is measured not by resource ownership and control, but by the number of good relationships we maintain in the complex and diverse life-systems of this blue green planet?”

D.Wildcat, 'Introduction: Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples of the USA', An Interdisciplinary, International Journal Devoted to the Description, Causes and Implications of Climatic Change, 120, 2013, p. 515.

Open Scholarship as Praxis of Making Good Relations



## Welcome to the Collaborative Indigenous Research Digital Garden!

Our aim in creating the CIR Digital Garden is to promote and expand the field of Collaborative Indigenous Research. We wish to highlight the methods, ethics, theories of change, and forms of knowledge mobilization present in Collaborative Indigenous Research methodologies.

### The Digital Garden

We have created the Digital Garden to share with you how researchers are bringing together two methodological streams: Indigenous methodologies and participatory methodologies.

[Learn More About The Project](#)

### Research

Explore profiles highlighting collaborative Indigenous research projects. Use the search filters to find projects based on specific regions, tags, and categories.

[View The Research](#)

### Contribute

We invite you to add to the collection of profiles to further contribute to understandings, writings and theories concerning Collaborative Indigenous Research.

[Contribute To The Project](#)

<https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/collaborativeindigenousresearch> (Prof. Eve Tuck)





Questions?