Proximity and Authenticity Working Group

Outline:

This working group will examine the relationship between proximity and authenticity, attempting to tease out how authenticity relies on various modes of proximity (to the self, to technological objects, to others). Bringing together ideas from the project streams *Beyond Verification* and *Desegregating Network Neighbourhoods*, we will ask how technologies of authentication such as passwords, social media verification, geofencing, etc. act as proximity engines, proxying those technologies for who or what ‘belongs’ to (particular) regimes of authenticity.

Our readings will sketch theories of proximity and authenticity, and pair these with technical literature on case study technologies to identify the proxies through which authentication operates.

**Meeting times/location:** Thursday, 10 30 am PST, fortnightly (starting February 2022) // on Zoom (links will be sent out in advance of the session)

1. **What is proximity, what is authenticity (1)? (February 17th, 2022)**

2. **What is proximity, what is authenticity (2)? (March 3rd, 2022)**
   - *Ch 1: Sincerity: Its Origin and Rise* and *Ch 5: Society and Authenticity* from *Sincerity and Authenticity,* Lionel Trilling
   - *Ch 3. Algorithmic Authenticity* from *Discriminating Data,* Wendy Hui Kyong Chun

3. **Proxying (data) subjects**
   - *Ch 1. Samples of the World Out There: The Surrogate Logic of Proxies* from *Proxies,* Dylan Mulvin
   - *Proxies, or Reconstructing the Unknown* from *Discriminating Data,* Wendy Hui Kyong Chun
4. **Password and access:**

- Preface and Ch 1. Passwords: Philology, Security, Authentication from *Passwords* by Brian Lennon
- *Postscript on Societies of Control*, Giles Deleuze
- *Introduction: Access as an Act of Perception* from *The Question of Access: Disability, Space, Meaning* by Tanya Titchkosky

5. **Proximity and Anonymity**

- *User unknown: 4chan, anonymity and contingency*, Lee Knuttila

6. **Biometrics and identification:**


7. **Authorship and social media verification**

8. **Knowing neighbors**
   - Cover, Tom, and Hart, Peter. 1967. *Nearest Neighbor Pattern Classification*
   - Ch 2. *Homophily, or the Swarming of the Segregated Neighborhood* from *Discriminating Data*, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun

9. **Geofencing and bordering:**

10. **RFID and proximity to body**

11. **MFA and possession**
Additional/future reads:

- Design Justice, A.I., and Escape from the Matrix of Domination, Sasha Costanza-Chock