

NXTGEN SUMMER ACADEMY

# Data Science for Good

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July 27, 2021



# Presentation Outline

## Today's Discussion

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What is data science for good?

How do we get involved?

Open discussion - get to know us!



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES



## Recognize

societal and community-driven issues  
that can benefit from data-driven support



## Demonstrate

knowledge of how data science is  
applied to real-world problems



## Gain

practical experience with problem  
analysis and decision making



## Understand

your communities and your potential  
roles as data for good advocates





# Why Data for Good?

## A Brief Background

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Volunteering your time for the good of others can take many forms

Just like Teach for America or Doctors without Borders, data scientists can donate their time and skills in meaningful ways

Non-profit organizations and humanitarian causes, for example, can benefit from answering data-driven questions



# Data Science for Good

## Why it Matters

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Community organizations can use data to better share their resources, connect with the people they serve, and improve their goals

Causes can use data to define key problems, determine how to answer important questions, and understand how their impact changes over time

Researchers can use data to test hypotheses, predict outcomes, and uncover relationships between the things they study



# CONSIDER...

*How to...*

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Determine the best routes and parking places for mobile food pantries in low-income areas, to reach the most people in need?

*How to...*

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Predict whether a given imported shipment that contains wildlife or wildlife products is illicit or not, to assist local and global government agencies stop wildlife trafficking?

*How to...*

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Improve election polling and survey methodology for presidential elections using social media data?

*How to...*

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Computationally identify racial stereotypes and biases in written text to mitigate health consequences for people of color in a digital world?



”

**THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A  
[DATA SCIENTIST] IS THAT YOU GET  
TO PLAY IN EVERYONE'S BACKYARD.**

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*- John Tukey*



# Stephen Salerno



**salernos@umich.edu**

## *Who am I?*

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I am a PhD student in biostatistics at UM, studying patient survival and how measures of healthcare quality are publicly reported

## *What was my spark?*

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First research project developing methods / analyzing data on how tuberculosis can be detected in endemic areas

## *How do I get involved?*

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Volunteer with Statistics in the Community (STATCOM), a community outreach program for data science consulting

# Ani Madurkar



**amadurka@umich.edu**

## *Who am I?*

---

Data Scientist/Engineer at Jackson and Applied Data Science Masters graduate from UM. I build robust, automated systems and tell stories of insights for business leaders to take action on.

## *What was my spark?*

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Conducting data analysis on brain scans for psychiatric patients in a neuroscience research lab in undergrad at Wayne State.

## *How do I get involved?*

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Partner with researchers to work on data for good projects and write stories on Medium

# Katie Nicholson



**knich@umich.edu**

## *Who am I?*

---

I am an undergraduate student in Data Science Engineering at UM, hoping to work in industry after graduation

## *What was my spark?*

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Autonomous drones class freshman year introduced me to data and how it can be used to make driving safer

## *How do I get involved?*

---

Research in election polling and survey methodology to make presidential election polls more accurate and accessible



# Gauri Kambhatla



**gkambhat@umich.edu**

## *Who am I?*

---

I am a PhD student in artificial intelligence (NLP) at UT, and just finished my undergraduate and Master's at UM.

## *What was my spark?*

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Cognitive Science undergrad course, learning about the human mind and the complexities of how we learn language

## *How do I get involved?*

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Research in the AI lab at UM, specifically the Language and Information Technologies (LIT) lab

# Data Science for Good

## Example Projects



Food for Thought,  
Toledo



Global Wildlife  
Trafficking



Improving Election  
Polling



Surfacing Racial  
Stereotypes

# Food for Thought, Toledo

## Optimizing Mobile Food Pantry Locations

### *Background*

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FFT is a non-profit that serves 400+ families experiencing food insecurity in Toledo, Ohio each month through a mobile pantry service

### *Goal*

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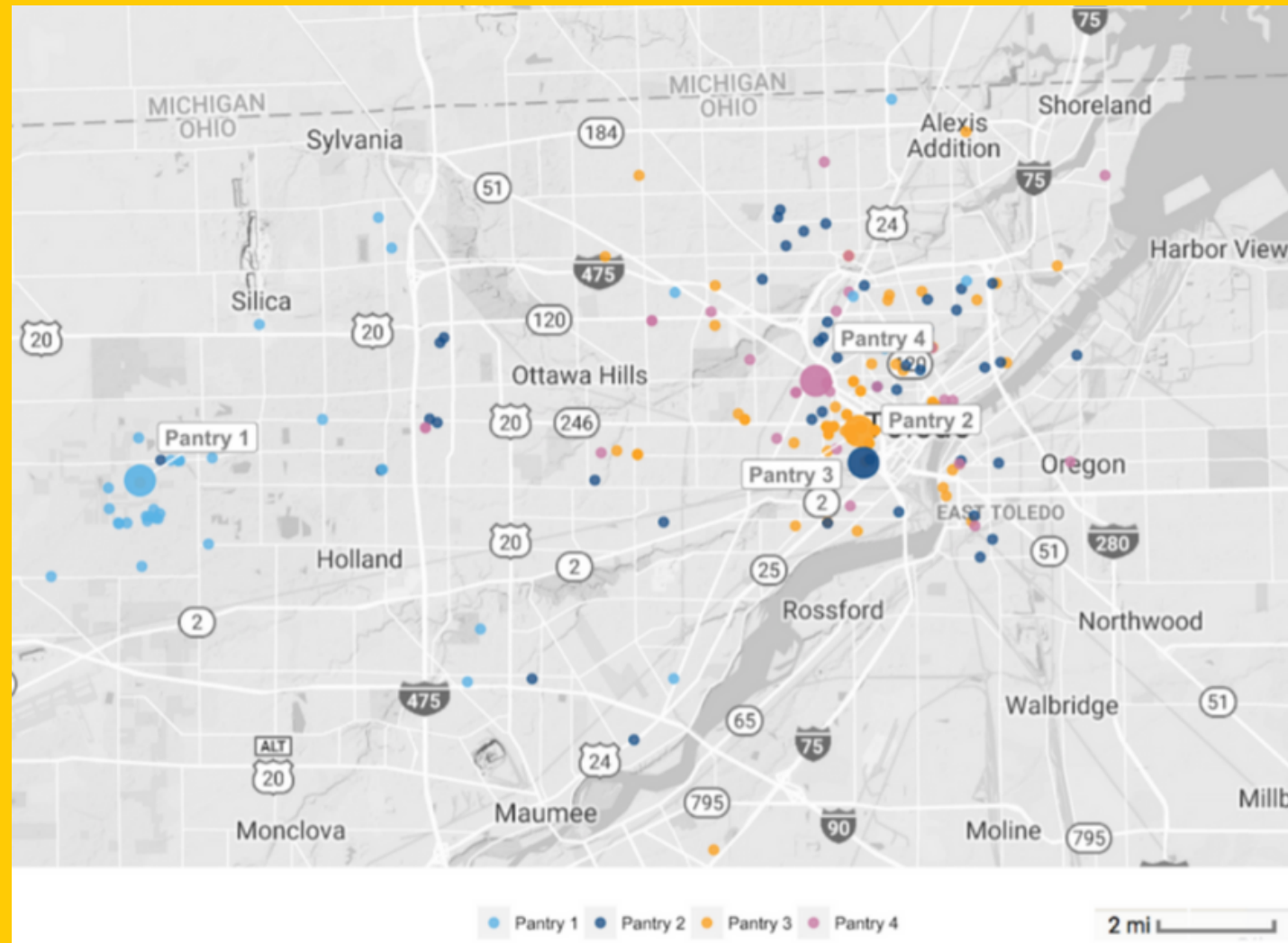
Find the optimal pantry locations and order they should be visited to best allocate resources to households across the city within a given month

### *Result*

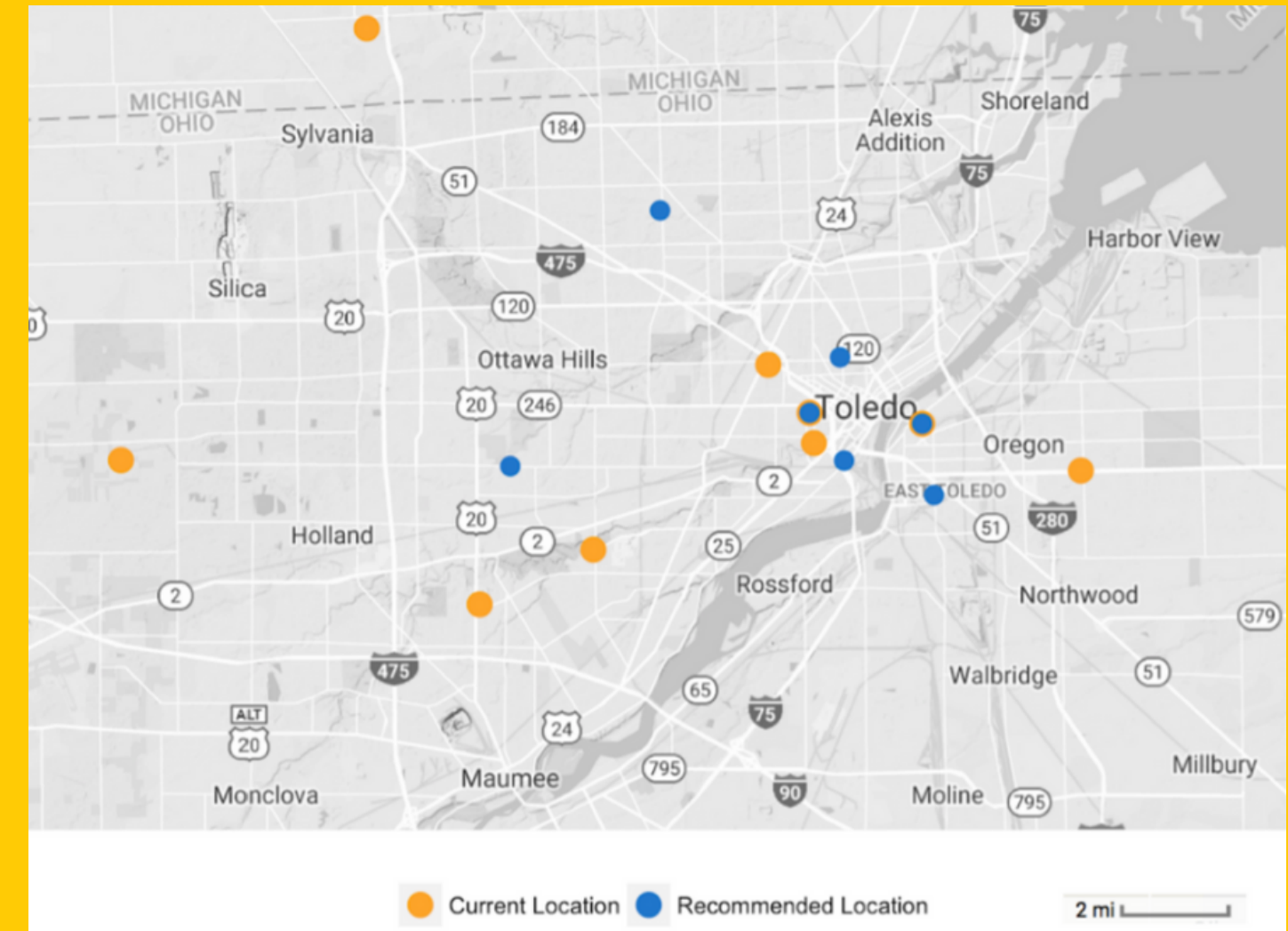
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Food for Thought, Toledo is now scheduling routes for their mobile pantries based on our recommendations and is now reaching more people than ever before





*Previous Pantry Locations*



*Current and Optimal Locations*

# Analyzing Global Wildlife Trafficking

Using Graph-Based Methods and Machine Learning to Assist Researchers & Officers Detect Patterns in Data

## *Background*

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Wildlife Trafficking is a multi-million dollar problem that undermines security problems across nations. Even so, researchers and officers don't have a systematic way of targeting & preventing illicit activity

## *Goal*

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Create a dashboard that automatically reads in new data of wildlife/wildlife product shipments and provides insight into the 'riskiest' shipments that need to be checked

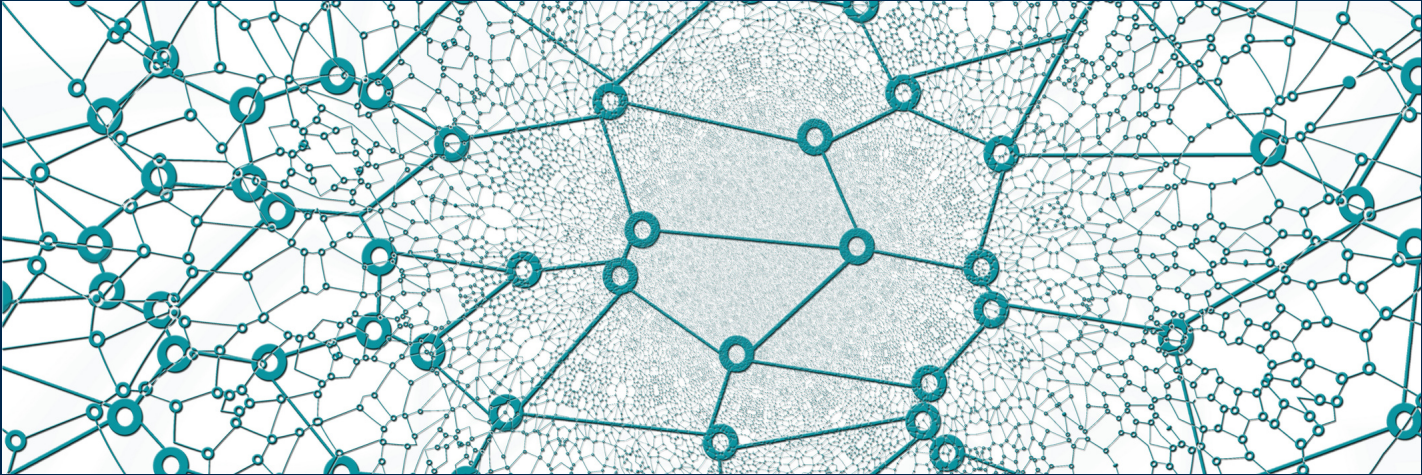
## *Result*

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Currently still in progress!



Date	Matching Fields	Consignee	Consignee Address	Consignee City	Consignee State/Region
2021-06-10	HS Code (8-digit)	Hages Hans G.E. Sievers Gmb H Co K	6 Ferdinandstraße	Hamburg	Hamburg
2021-06-10	HS Code (8-digit)	Nutraceutical	1400 Kearns Boulevard	Park City	Utah
2021-06-07	HS Code (8-digit)				
2021-06-06	HS Code (8-digit)	United Shipping Lines Inc.			
2021-06-06	HS Code (8-digit)	Mustang Mfg. Co./Ip.	Oil Mill Road	Van Alstyne	Texas
2021-05-31	HS Code (8-digit)	Roth Products Of Texas Inc.	12700 Warehouse Road No 4	Amarillo	Texas
2021-05-31	HS Code (8-digit)	Eckkind Llc	Hill Road		Virginia
2021-05-28	HS Code (8-digit)	Prairie Dog Pet Products	907 Avenue R	Grand Prairie	Texas
2021-05-28	HS Code (8-digit)	Tdbbs Llc	5701 Eastport Boulevard	Richmond	Virginia
2021-05-26	HS Code (8-digit)				
2021-05-25	HS Code (8-digit)	Zodax	14040 Aminia Street	Los Angeles	California
2021-05-25	HS Code (8-digit)				
2021-05-25	HS Code (8-digit)				
2021-05-19	HS Code (8-digit)	Eckkind Llc	Hill Road		Virginia





# Media Mood

## Improving Election Polling

### *Background*

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Public opinion polls are collected through phone surveys, which are not always accurate

### *Goal*

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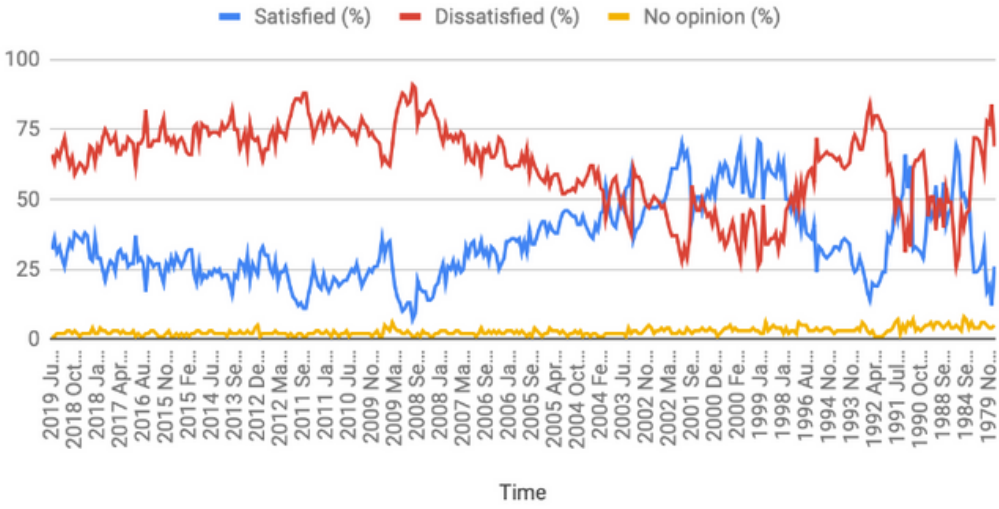
This project models previous data from past phone surveys and attempts to use other forms of media to replace phone surveys

### *Result*

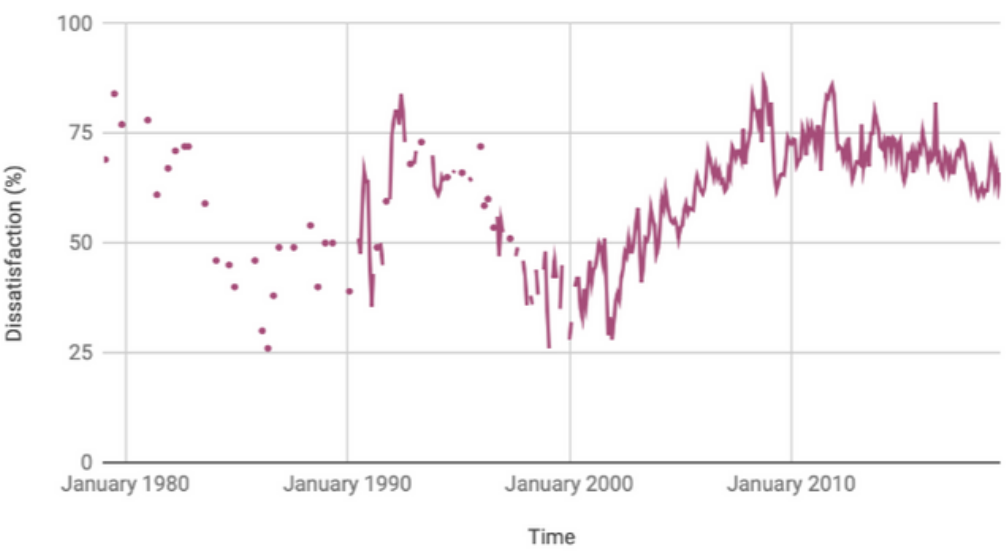
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There are statistical trends in newspaper and social media data that indicate general mood indicators, which can be used to predict polls

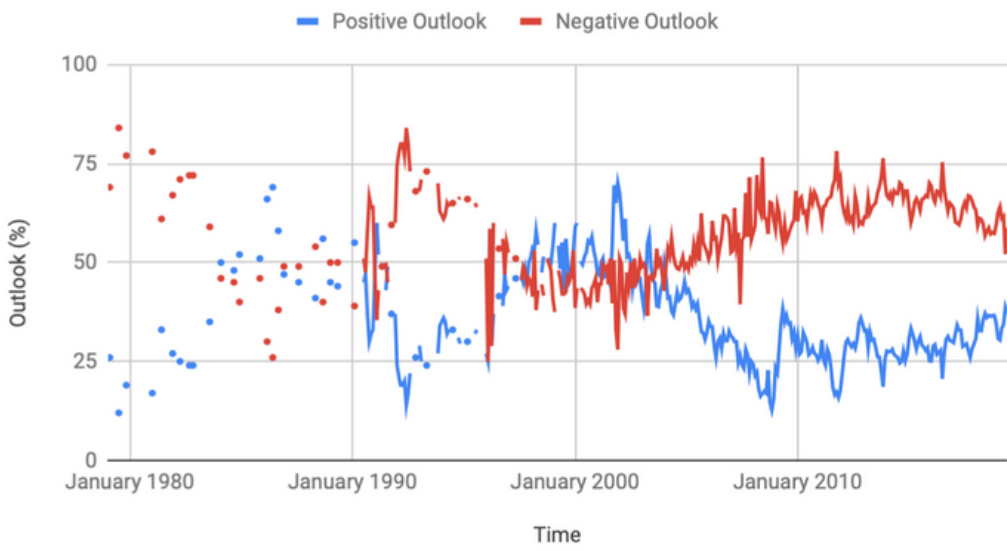
In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?



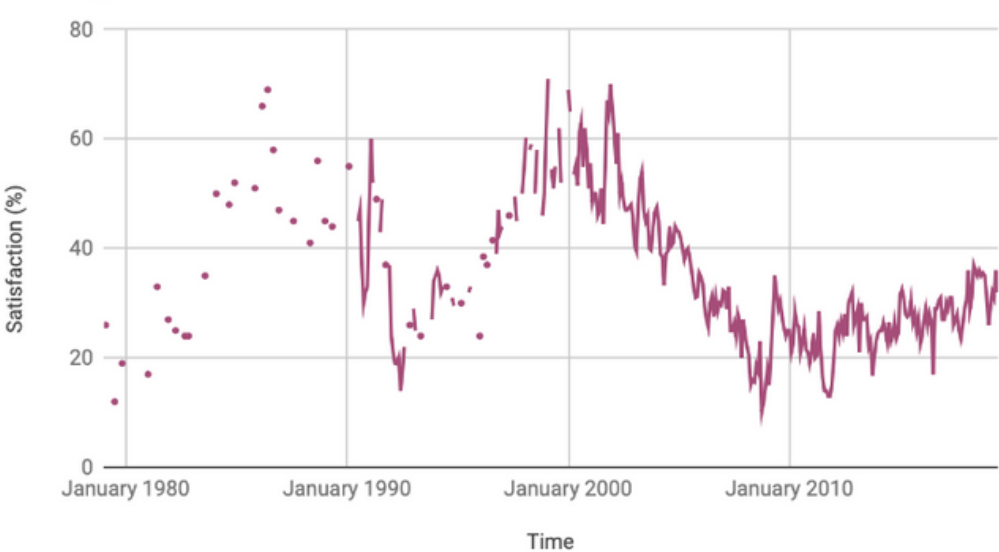
Average Dissatisfaction Data



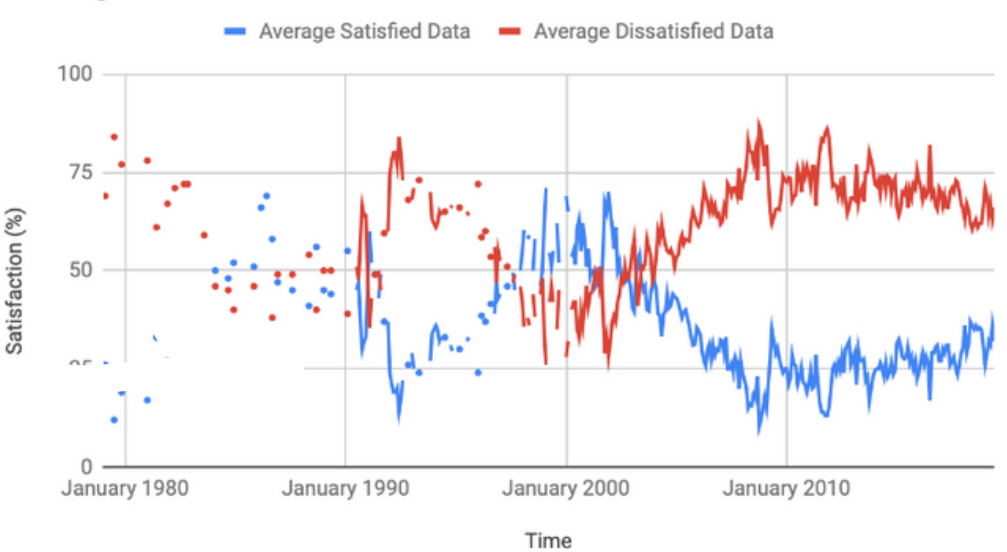
General Outlook of Americans



Average Satisfied Data



Average Satisfied and Dissatisfied Data



# Surfacing Racial Stereotypes

How can we computationally identify racial stereotypes and biases?

## *Background*

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People of color deal with the consequences of implicit racial bias all the time, much of which is now online due to the vast amounts of digital interactions

## *Goal*

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Long term:  
Computationally identify racial stereotypes in text

This project:  
explore how we can do the above through racial identity portrayal  
[Black/White women/men]

## *Result*

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Easier to classify portrayed Black identities than portrayed White identities, predictive linguistic features (words) reveal stereotypes / generalizations!

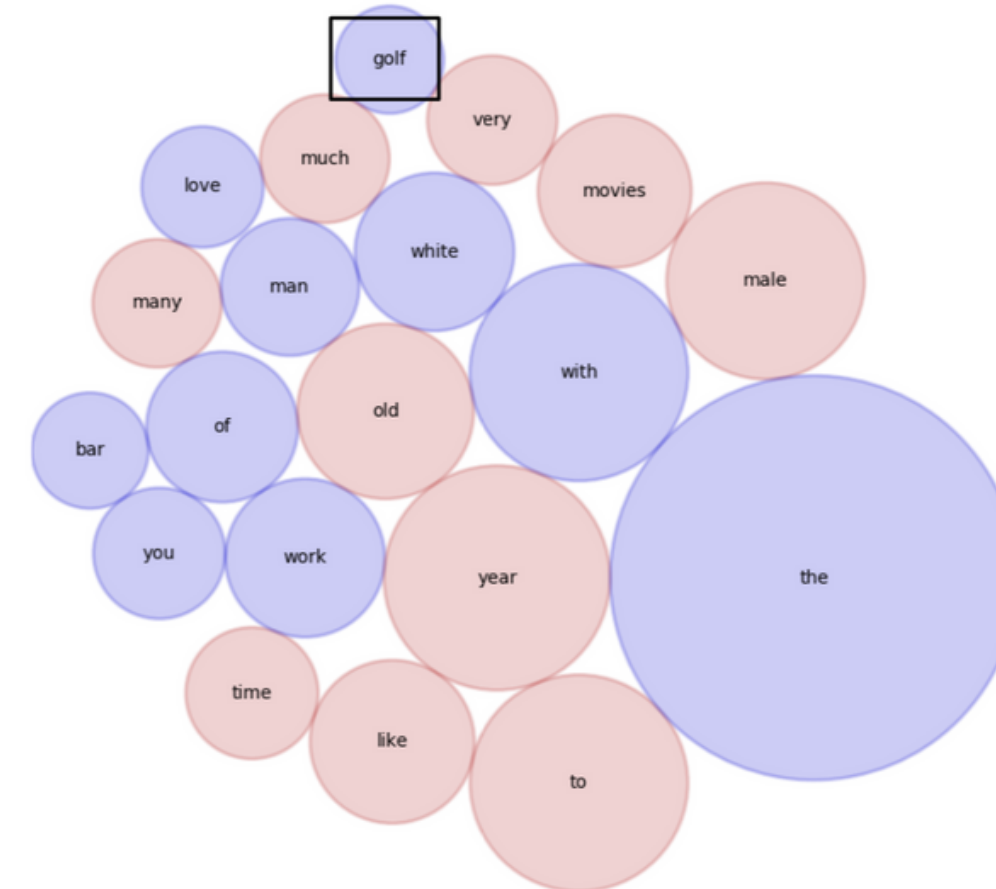
\*work in progress!



Portrayed\_White\_Women Top Predictive Features



Portrayed\_White\_Men Top Predictive Features







# Time For Open Discussion

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*Get to know us!*

# OPEN DISCUSSION



## What

has been one of the most rewarding project you have worked on?



## How

can you get involved with data science for good initiatives as a student?



## Do

you have any advice for new students in data science or related majors?



## Can

data science for good be a part of your life outside of school?

# MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR DATA SCIENCE



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# Reach Us

For questions or more info:

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# THANK YOU!



# Additional Slides

## More Project Information



*Food for Thought,  
Toledo*



*Global Wildlife  
Trafficking*



*Improving Election  
Polling*



*Surfacing Racial  
Stereotypes*



# Food for Thought

## *Background*

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FFT is a non-profit that serves 400+ families experiencing food insecurity in Toledo, Ohio each month through a mobile pantry

## *Goal*

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Having collected data on the performance of 35 different locations for several years, they sought to identify optimal pantry locations

## *The Data*

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When receiving food, families were asked to report an address and other demographic data such as how many people in the household



# THE DATA



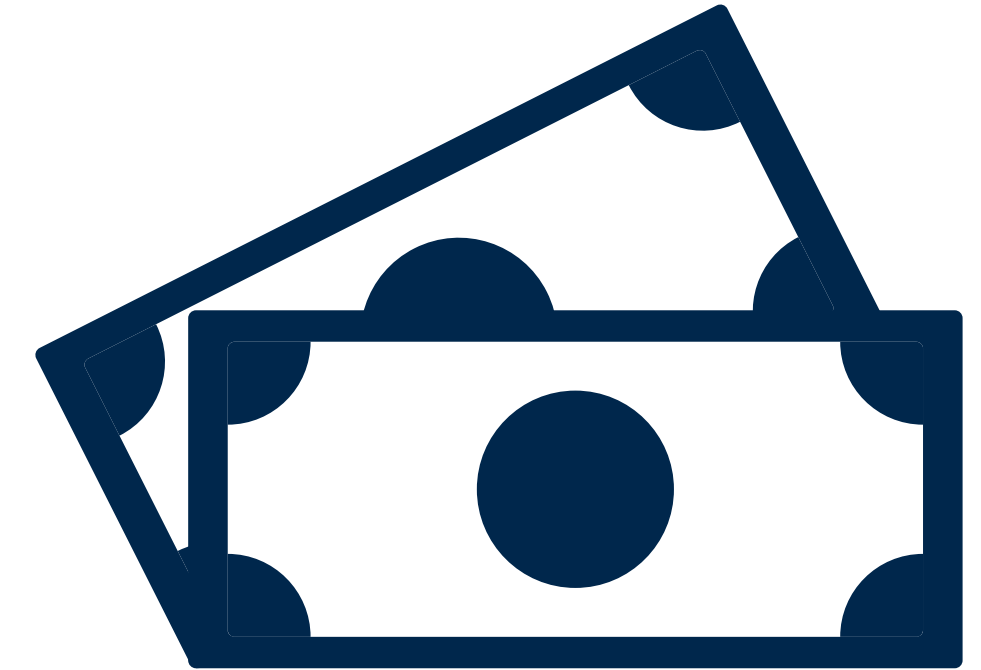
## *Demographics*

Families were asked to report an address, and other demographic data such as how many people in their household



## *Health Outcomes*

Several health characteristics and food preferences were also surveyed to better gauge the needs of those being served



## *SES*

Neighborhood socioeconomic data were also collected using community surveys and governmental/census resources



## Understanding the Data

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Clustering analysis used to group/rank areas with similar characteristics into need categories; based on regional poverty, unemployment, and health characteristics. Distances traveled to a pantry used to minimize total distance traveled, constrained to higher priority neighborhoods and other limiting factors



## Optimizing Pantry Locations

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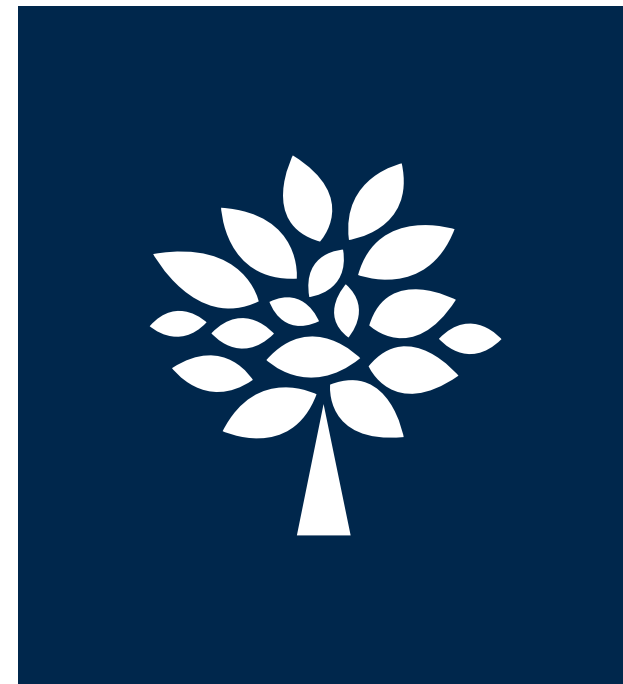
Location modeling used to create network of demand nodes, optimized locations of accruing unmet demand with constraints related to the number of visits per month and the needs of the households covered by a candidate location



# A Good Project

## Reasons Why

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Oversaw from conception to interpretation

Findings used to inform decisions

Leveraged many partnerships

Students directly impacted this population





# Surfacing Racial Stereotypes

*Additional Details*

## *Prompts*

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- Please describe yourself.
- Please describe your typical evening on a workday, after a day at work or school.
- Imagine you are a [fake identity], the same age as you. Please write from the first-person perspective of a [fake identity]. Others will read what you wrote; your goal is to convince them it was written from the perspective of a [fake identity] without saying so explicitly. For example, do not write a sentence like "I am a [fake identity]" as this is an explicit statement.

## *Real Black Woman*

---

I am a Black woman born and raised in Alabama. I have been married for 5 years to my husband and we have a 2 year old daughter and 1 year old son. I am a stay at home mom. I am also disabled. I have two autoimmune disorders. My dimpled smile is my favorite thing about me...

## *Real White Woman*

---

My name is Rachell. I'm a 33 year old white female and I live in Missouri. I am the first time mother to a 4 month old baby boy named Jax. I am a recovering addict. I start college on March 22nd. I've come a long way in my recovery. I'm in drug court. I like to listen to Christian music...

# EXAMPLES

## *Fake White Woman*

---

I'm a southern soccer mom who loves to live, laugh, love! I have a wonderful husband and a dear son and daughter. I'm a blond little thing with a big smile and bigger hugs. I am the life of the party after a few glasses of wine. I go to yoga every morning to keep in shape...

## *Fake Black Woman*

---

I am a strong, independent woman. I advocate for my culture. I stand up for other women like me. I believe that all lives matter. I've overcome a lot of prejudice in my life. I have strong ties to my community. I am very family oriented. I'm raising my children to know that they are equal...

## *Real Black Man*

---

I am Reginald and I am a proud black American. I am very much in love with who I am and though due o many negative things that happen to me die to my race, I still love being a black man I have a loving wife and two amazing kids. I am a christian and a catholic at that...

## *Fake White Man*

---

I am Gregory Greene. I am the second born of five kids. My parents hail from the south and are truly loving but also disciplinarians. I was raised to uphold hard work, dedication and trustworthiness. I am married to a beautiful lady with three kids. I am a Methodist as well...

# EXAMPLES

## *Real White Man*

---

Born in Iowa, raised in las Vegas, lives in Minneapolis. Only child, not much family. 37 years of age, body feels more like 50. Married for 5 years. Home owner, no kids, steady full time job. Interests are record collecting and Tiki culture. My wife has 2 cats so u guess I have 2 cats...

## *Fake Black Man*

---

Ight, check it. I finna roll up on this couch with my kicks up high. Da f\*\*\* the remote at? Who be calling my phone, dats my girl, yo. Lemme spit this out. My girl be hungry, but I'm like naw. I ate and s\*\*\*. Yo check it, these cats is hungry. Then Simpsons be playing while I trip out and s\*\*\*...





## Experiment: Classification of Racial Identities

- Linear SVM
- Leave one out cross validation
- Features: ngrams, POS tags, LIWC categories, lexical diversity, readability, word2vec (gensim), combined
- TF-IDF feature vectors
- BERT pre-trained embeddings (Bert for sequence classification)
- Predict true racial identity given a response



Model & Feature	Portrayed Black			Portrayed White		
	Total	Woman	Man	Total	Woman	Man
Baseline	50.41	50.33	51.13	50.41	50.33	51.13
Ngrams	<b>86.34</b>	<b>83.01</b>	<b>88.03</b>	81.46	80.72	76.70
Ngrams + POS	<b>86.50</b>	<b>83.01</b>	<b>85.11</b>	80.49	79.08	76.70
LIWC	<b>71.87</b>	<b>69.61</b>	<b>72.49</b>	65.53	67.65	59.22
Word2Vec	<b>77.07</b>	<b>75.16</b>	<b>75.40</b>	73.17	68.95	69.26
Lex Div	47.64	<b>50.00</b>	<b>53.07</b>	53.82	47.39	49.84
Readability	<b>51.54</b>	<b>52.94</b>	51.46	51.38	51.96	55.34
All above features	<b>86.18</b>	<b>83.01</b>	<b>86.41</b>	78.54	79.08	72.17
TF-IDF	<b>88.94</b>	<b>84.64</b>	<b>90.61</b>	84.72	86.60	79.29
BERT	79.41	—	—	79.73	—	—

*Accuracy values for classification*

Real Black		White as Black		Real White		Black as White	
Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man
DOWN	CERTAIN	SLEEP	SEXUAL	ANX	FAMILY	FAMILY	SIMILES
TV	YOU	GROOM	POSFEEL	TV	INHIB	SPACE	OTHER
SLEEP	MONEY	MUSIC	SAD	INHIB	SIMILES	SPORTS	NUMBER
NUMBER	JOB	HOME	SIMILES	EATING	SEXUAL	JOB	PAST
BODY	FEEL	LEISURE	POSEMO	DOWN	POSFEEL	MOTION	OTHREF
SEE	TIME	TV	AFFECT	OTHER	JOB	EXCL	INSIGHT
PHYSICAL	FUTURE	SPACE	FAMILY	NEGEMO	HOME	LEISURE	HUMANS
EATING	ACHIEVE	OPTIM	NEGEMO	FAMILY	TV	ACHIEVE	WE
SPACE	OCCUP	DISCREP	OTHER	HOME	MONEY	CERTAIN	POSFEEL
FEEL	HUMANS	PAST	MONEY	OTHREF	POSEMO	OTHER	NEGATE

*Word usage (top LIWC classes)*



## Word Usage Similarities (LIWC Classes)

