

Assignment #2

In response to the question, “Why do you consider this data a valuable contribution to the field of STS?”

Nuanced strengths and limitations of “studying up” and “studying down” abound. STS has contributed widely on the politics of knowledge production, and especially regarding what an analysis of what is intentionally made to be *inaccessible* can reveal in terms of power (e.g. the diverse and generative portfolio of agnotology work). But hiding knowledge can also be an intentional decision that’s made by minoritized people (e.g. works on ethnographic refusal and opacity). This data is a direct response to the former rather than the latter. Industry knowledges is a curious space: archives are sometimes restricted, technologies intentionally black-boxed. But in other ways data can be made a little more accessible, such as through intentional spaces such as trade-shows and industrial newsletters. With the submission of my participant observations at agricultural industrial trade-shows, I invite collaborators interested in larger industrial networks that weave together agriculture, feed/waste, and pharmaceutical actors/places/knowledges. This dataset is a contribution to works that might further examine industrial technological spaces – and their concomitant affects, assumptions, and anticipations signal about power and social organization.

Assignment #3

Curating Borrowed Data
In this sketch, identify and describe already-existing data collections that you can draw into your research. Search for topical archives collections (like this Labor History Archives) and in more general archives (like the US Library of Congress’ Digital Collections , the Online Archive of California and the University of California’s Calisphere . Also search less centrally curated collections like the Omeka Showcase and Sites of Conscience .
BORROWED DATA 1 https://www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/ipd/frostonchickens/ National Agricultural Library (NAL) Digital Exhibition entitled “Frost on Chickens.” This exhibition focuses on the poet Robert Frost and his endeavors into what Susan Squier would call “poultry science and chicken culture.” I’m less focused on what Robert Frost as an individual said about chickens, and more so about the ways in which poultry science research (specifically around feed and maybe waste) was produced and how it traveled. This is a specifically digital collection, which is great for access. Even though this archive is ostensibly about Robert Frost’s experiences as a poultry farmer, it holds a wealth of information regarding pre-industrial levels of chicken farming, with carefully digitized information that’s taken from other materials at the NAL
BORROWED DATA 2 https://nationalaglawcenter.org/research-by-topic/afo/ The National Agricultural Law Center has an extensive and compiled list of law research and information. Of particular interest to me are the laws pertaining to animal feeding operations (AFOs), specifically in relation to the Clean Water Act (CWA).

BORROWED DATA 3

<https://eugenicsarchive.ca/> (Canada-specific, but not always exclusively because it does also delve more into transnational) and <http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/list3.pl> (archives on American Eugenics Movement)

The Eugenics Archive is one of the most remarkable online archives that I've stumbled onto. It presents interactive tools that allow users to read archives and a great visualization tool that allows users to understand connections between different actors and places involved in eugenics movement across so-called North America. The American-specific one holds numerous of photographs and personal correspondences primarily from Cold Spring Harbor Research Center from the 1910 to the 1940s. I am interested in the connections between animal breeding/husbandry and eugenics movements; given the centrality of Cold Spring Harbor in the American eugenics movement, this archive would be worthwhile in checking out. I've also used this archive for supporting materials on a guest lecture on eugenics