

# Algorithms as Pets and Politicians

*Using Art Practice to Reconsider the Politics of Machine Learning*



Still from Clinton and Sanders Looking at the World and Naming Things for the First Time (Orr Menirom, 2018)

*Machine learning algorithms play an increasingly important and dangerous role in contemporary politics, making decisions about what political messages we see, fueling clickbait culture, and spreading fake news. In this workshop, participants will consider the design of machine learning systems as an artistic question. In a hands-on activity, they will interact with a web-based “pet” algorithm, training it to embody certain political or philosophical views.*

*No programming experience is necessary; in fact, this workshop is imagined as an opportunity for non-programmers to gain critical literacy in how to care for a machine learning system. Other activities will include responding to a video installation about algorithmic logic and discussing the influence of machine learning on both contemporary aesthetics and politics.*

**Monday, May 20 // ISCP's 2nd Floor Lounge**

- > 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM // Politics and Algorithmic Logic
- > 12:30 – 2:00 // Training an Algopet
- > 2:00 – 3:00 // The Tamagotchi Effect

**> Bring your own Brown Bag Lunch**

- > Alex Juhasz (Brooklyn College)
- > Kyle Booten (Neukom Institute)
- > Orr Menirom (Independent Artist)