

Algorithms as Pets and Politicians

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



Digital Humanities and Social Engagement



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.

February 25//201 Bartlett

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

> 5:00 – 6:00//
**Machine Learning +
Art Mixer --- stop by!**

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