Networked Publics and Social Media
Topics

Context
Studies; datasets
Teams of collaborators

What we (think we) know
Findings and observations

Concerns and opportunities
Research methods [Ethics, Proliferation of studies without context data]
Design affordances for inclusion
Context: Occupy

Twitter dataset
300 million tweets
64 million processed, sampled
Context: Boston Marathon Bombing

Twitter datasets
10.6 million contemporaneous
25.6 million processed, sampled
What we (think we) know

Roles of social media
Internal: sense of community
External: outward facing; attention of traditional media
Practical: rapid communication and mobilization; logistics management

Place matters
Place ~ identity, not just geographic coordinates

Influence
Virality and memes persist and become part of the language
Movements contribute to the social discourse
Dysfunctional behavior and social inequities replicated through social media
Concerns; Opportunities

Research
Conceptual: metaphors; measures of participation and engagement
Ethics of research in this space
Misleading reports? Easy to collect/analyze data, but context missing
Signatures of events and types of rumors

Design
Affordances that encourage participation
Systems that reduce/eliminate dysfunctional behavior
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INSPIRE: Tools, Models, and Innovation Platforms for Research on Social Media
RAPID: Social Media: Learning from the Boston Marathon Bombing
Save the planet and return your name badge before you leave (on Tuesday)

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