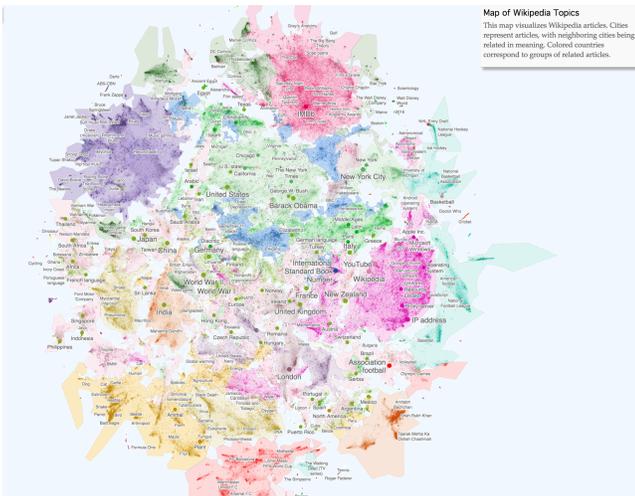


MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057
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Next Monday's Colloquium

Title: Harnessing Wikipedia for Computational Good
Speaker: Shilad Sen
Time: 3:30 PM
Date: March 4
Place: RNS 310



About the talk: Algorithms rely on Wikipedia to reason about the world. However, Wikipedia exhibits gender bias and geographic inequalities. How does this affect the algorithms that learn from Wikipedia? In this talk, Shilad will identify inequalities in Wikipedia content, describe a new map-based visualization that reveals pattern in bias, and explore how these dynamics affect the algorithms that learn from Wikipedia. I will close by talking about threats to Wikipedia's sustain-

ability, and recent research that points to effective collective action campaigns that protect the site.

About the Speaker: Professor Sen studies member-maintained websites that empower Internet users to contribute information we find valuable. He is also an avid squash player and plays the saxophone in jazz groups around Minneapolis.

Oles Take Second at MinneWIC!

In February, MinneWIC gathered at the University of Minnesota - Duluth for its 5th meeting. MinneWIC brings together students, faculty, and computing professionals from around Minnesota and its neighboring states to share experiences and strategies for recruiting and retaining women in computing fields and explore related issues. The event includes poster sessions for undergraduate and graduate-level research. Oles Cory Kieras and Jessica Petersen placed second in the undergraduate division with their research "Algorithmic Bias in Modified Naive Bayes Implementation", which looks at bias in spam filters.

Summer Registration Open

Want to get ahead or catch up on your coursework? Or keep up your learning over the summer? Summer term registration is now open! Courses include Statistics for Science, Forensic Science, and many more.

To submit an article, event, or anything else for publication in the mess, email jadkow1@stolaf.edu; to receive the Mess digitally each Friday, email habero1@stolaf.edu; visit <http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mcs-mess/> for a digital archive of previous MSCS Mess issues.

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