

The Profound Sociological and Statistical Journey of W.E.B. DuBois, His Visualizations, and His Compassion.

There were so many instances in which Du Bois... strategically walk[ed] the line between social justice and science– where he had to figure out how to say what couldn’t be said and still be heard... Du Bois revolutionized sociology... He took a field of study that quite literally enabled systemic racism and flipped it on its head to confront and document inequalities—emancipatory social science, a connection of humanity and data.

- Reflection 1

Portraits that engage with you as much as you engage with them.

While Du Bois is very clear in his mission to create an exhibit that will challenge the world’s perception of the Black people in America, these notions are not to hide the truths of the cultural conditions and institutional inequities, but rather to reclaim those narratives... Du Bois creates an honest perspective of history– a fight for this growth from a place of forced disadvantage... in a candid manner that balances confronting societal misconceptions and holding a conscious, intentional assessment of the “Plague of the American [black person].”

- Reflection 2

I can’t help but feel this call to action for curiosity... When you pull quotes or snippets from the climax or turning point of the arranged story within that work, you interrupt the viewer’s ow with a highlight of the most dominant position of that art piece. It was Du Bois pulling his biggest ‘hook’ and saying, “this is the piece that gets it all. If you look at nothing else, look at this.”

- Discussion Reflection

The past augments and coalesces into the future, meaning the privileges and injustices within generational knowledge do as well. Wealth is the accumulation of the histories of families, communities, and nations constructing, composing, and compounding into our materiality of today. Data literacy, to me, is the tool to disrupt that history, and engender a new era of generational wealth, knowledge, and equity.

- Reflecting on Data Literacy

[E]ven 100 plus years later, Du Bois was still executing exactly what he had set out to do at the World’s Fair in Paris– he was changing perspectives and opening conversations. I want to acknowledge that moment of change and reflection on both sides. It was really special to sit down for an honest conversation at a meeting point of opposite majors, world views, and discussion points.

- A Class Reflection

It’s like we’re re-learning everything [our position in this world and its concepts] all over again, something Du Bois would have loved.

- A Friday Reflection

[T]he use of eight extraordinarily singular scripts evokes a personhood behind the piece, and allows a diversification of voices that you don’t see in many of the other portraits. There is a realism in this plate, that is different from just confronting data. To me, this is the plate that reveals a softness to DuBois, as well as a testament to his comprehension of intersectionality and his recognition of the ingrained relationships between categories of social oppression.

- Reflection 6

In a world of data, telling an honest, complete story is a feat of concentrated eort... Du Bois’ data surrounding labor trends across national, state, and racial lines reflects a veracious, nuanced historical perspective, prophesying impacts beyond its time.

- DuBois 3 Minute Story

[O]ne of the most perceptive and thought provoking charts reviewed was the “Number of Black Teachers in Public Schools of the United States” and the “ghost data” [and utilization of] blank space to demonstrate the completely missing [numbers] around the scarce, under-educated, and overwhelmed teachers... this idea of data art and pushing the viewer into a new perception of the world of the American Black person feels spot on.

- A Friday Discussion

[A]lot more subjectivity and interpretation comes into play when dealing with anthropocentric data [emotional data]. The numbers remain raw, but which angle you take– how you portray– becomes [much] less streamlined. And as I dipped my toe into the robustness of learning how to tell a story– a human story– with data, I gained so much appreciation for the level of thought that DuBois and his students and colleges placed into their work.

- Reflection 3

I was mostly frustrated that I hadn’t thought to ask more questions around the story of the graph. It’s hard to know how to make the most effective graph if you don’t know the audience or the goals of the graph. How am I supposed to pull a fox news if I don’t know the motive? Just kidding.

- Data Sketch Reflection

The drastic change in economic autonomy in connection with the historic high in educational levels of women in all states within India presents an immediate threat to the domestic, cultural, and economic capacity of the nation and its future.

- Big Idea and Storytelling of Modern Issues

[DuBois] pulls the audience into this constructive confrontation.. a piece documenting the double consciousness, the conflict facing Black Americans as they navigate their identity in a society that marginalizes them– in a world that does. And yet, this... stood on a global platform, confronting millions of viewers with the intellect, capacity, autonomy, solidarity, and power of the Black community [in America].

- Reflection 7