

Welcome to the Deviance Datathon of the Computational Social Science Summit 2015

Friday, 15 May 2015 | 10:00 AM

Chambers Hall, 600 Foster Street, Evanston, IL | Lower Level, NICO 231, 236

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<http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/news-events/conference/csss/2015.aspx>

#CSSS15

Dear Datathon participants:

We are excited to have you join us next week for the datathon part of the Computational Social Science Summit at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

****In case of impatience with long emails, skip down to the list of things to do.****

Thematic overview

In keeping with the larger goal of promoting research at the intersection of social science and data science, the datathon is asking whether and how 311 and crime data can investigate the theory that treats deviance as a social construction. Some acts of deviance are considered violations of social norms - like picking your nose or putting your feet on the table at a restaurant. Other acts of deviance are not just violations of social norms but also have legal frameworks built around them. These frameworks can either be seen as a reflection of the steeper social consequences of the act (e.g. murder) or the causal arrow may be flipped. Some acts become legally sanctionable - like smoking a joint - even though they may arguably be no more harmful than other acts - smoking a cigarette - that have no such legal consequences.

The interesting question we want our datathon teams to explore next week is whether or not we can use 311 and crime data to detect a relationship between socially defined deviance (311 data) and legal acts of deviance (crime data).

Each team's first order of business is to craft a solid research question that fits within this social construction of deviance framework. We will start the datathon with an overview of some useful literature in criminology with a special focus on Chicago.

Things to do before you arrive:

1. Prepare to bring a computer and a way to connect to a power supply.
2. Find the public repo for this datathon [deviance-data link](#) which will be populated Saturday, May 9th at 9:00 AM CDT.
3. Download or otherwise move copies of the datasets if they look like something you will want to access locally. We want to prevent the situation in which 30 people try to download 900 MB files at the same time, on the same network.
4. We are not exclusive about data. If you want to use something I didn't put on the google drive, please do! We ask that any new datasets be made available to the entire datathon (about 30 people) for the sake of reproducibility, transparency, and goodwill.
5. Let me know if you can no longer make it.
6. Let me know if you want to bring a friend or colleague. Depending on cancellations, we might have space.
7. If you have questions about the datathon, please email me at laura.noren@nyu.edu

Prize Money

The first place prize is \$1000.

Second place is \$500.

Judges

Our judges are Gueorgi Kossinets of Google X, Susan Parker of the Crime Lab at the University of Chicago, and Matt Gee who has been instrumental in getting the "Data Science for Social Good" program off the ground. Longer bios for each of them are on the Computational Social Science Summit [here](#).

Inclusivity matters

The datathon is an event at which we strive to maintain a practice of inclusivity. We won't tolerate stinky language, stink eyes, maltreatment of others, derogatory comments, harassment, scapegoating, or any of the -isms (racism, sexism, (neo)colonialism, egotism) at the event or in the social media spaces around the event. We like it this way and hope you will, too. Report any social errors to me and we will work to patch them.