

non-algorithmic inquiry in the digital age

Christopher Gilman and Jacob Alden Sargent

Occidental College

Oberlin Digital Scholarship Conference 2016



Occidental College, Johnson Hall, Global Crossroads "Media Wall" display

Global Crossroads

Global Crossroads is Occidental College's public forum for sharing ideas and media on matters of global relevance.

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<https://twitter.com/TEDTalks/status/701921874218000384>

Featured Projects

Show More

South Africa: Anti-Apartheid Movement
Created by Haarika Reddy

The movement in South Africa was a total revolution because it was a multifaceted and multi-voiced fight against the crime of Apartheid.


Black Paris
Created by Lauren Brown

Paris of the 1920s and 30s served as a node and turning point for expressions of black identity and self-definition on a global scale.

Black, Blanc, Beur: Soccer and the French Identity
Created by Valdair Martins Lopes

Soccer is a window to France's lack of social integration in a global world.

Dispatches



View of the unique and beautiful architecture of Matsumoto Castle in Nagano, ...
Matsumoto Nagano, Japan — Michael Ozaki



A man took his bunnies for a walk outside of Matsumoto Castle.
Japan — Amber Roman



Mother Japanese macaque holds its scared infant as spectators surround them
Jigokudani Yaen Koen, Nagano, Japan — Marjorie Morales



The famous Hachiko statue at Shibuya Station serves as a testament to loyalty...
Shibuya, Japan — Chelsea Blankenchip



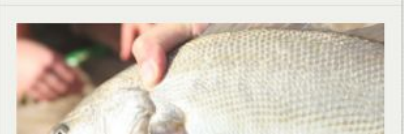
Generosity spans across cultures
Japan — Danica Gressel

Courses & Events



Liberal Arts at the Brink? Navigating the Crisis in Higher Education

At this tumultuous moment in higher education, this course asks students to reflect on the fate of liberal arts education.
Carey Sargent, 11:45am-12:40pm MWF



Feeds

Stoke pays maths teachers' tuition fees
BBC UK News

"The heat is on!" Inside one of the most exciting, modern adventure stories:
<https://t.co/vKNNnoMTYdB> <https://t.co/Qk45IghixB>
@TEDTalks

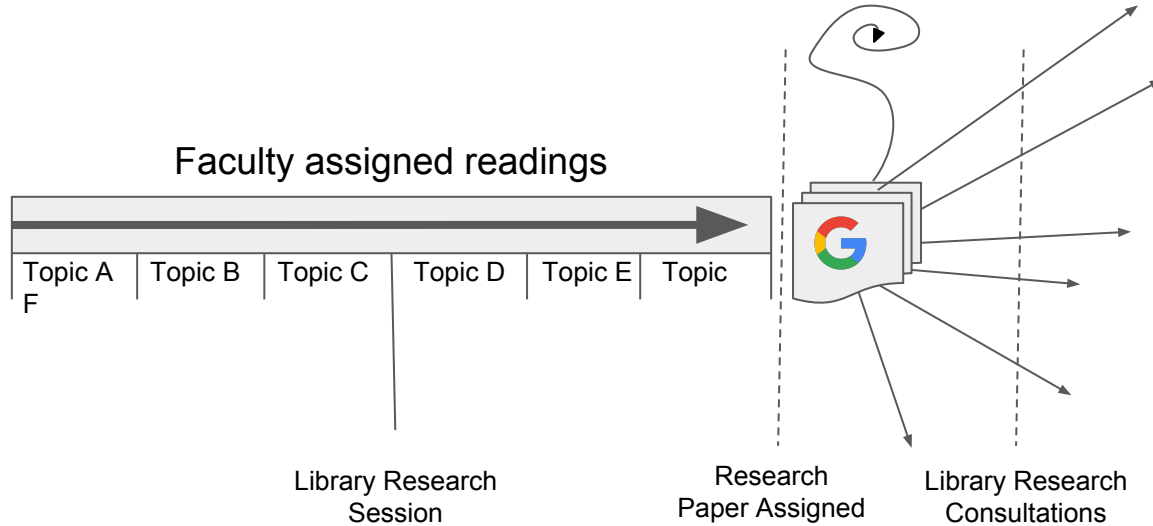
Women offered £3,000 'birth budgets'
BBC UK News

'Limited role' for gas in UK future
BBC UK News

Refugees spend an average of 17 years in exile. Stories of lives in limbo:
<https://t.co/8prGMz2hps> <https://t.co/rEPZgzWdV>
@TEDTalks

Gloves off in referendum debate
BBC UK News

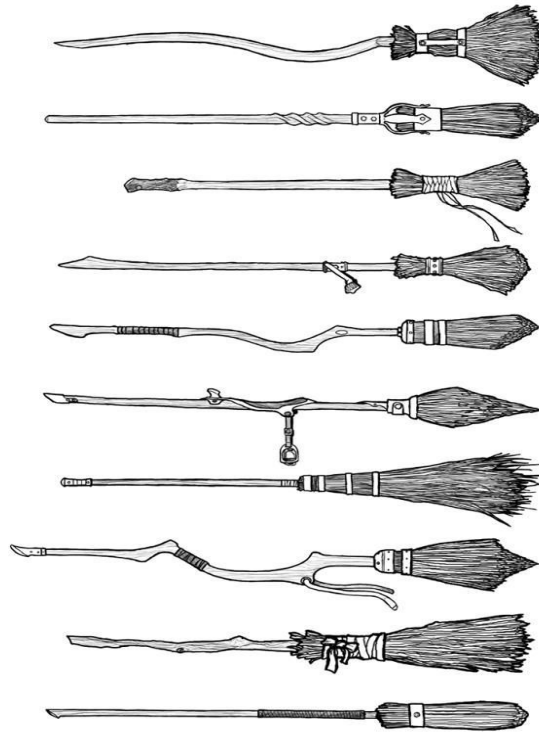
The standard model: syllabus + algorithmic research



Syllabus \approx Reading List

Research \approx Google Search

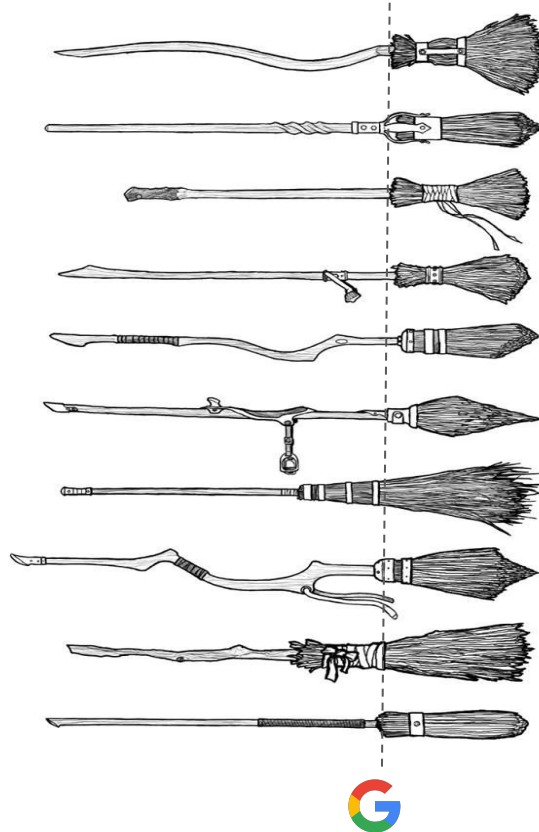
Conceptual models for course design: the flying broom



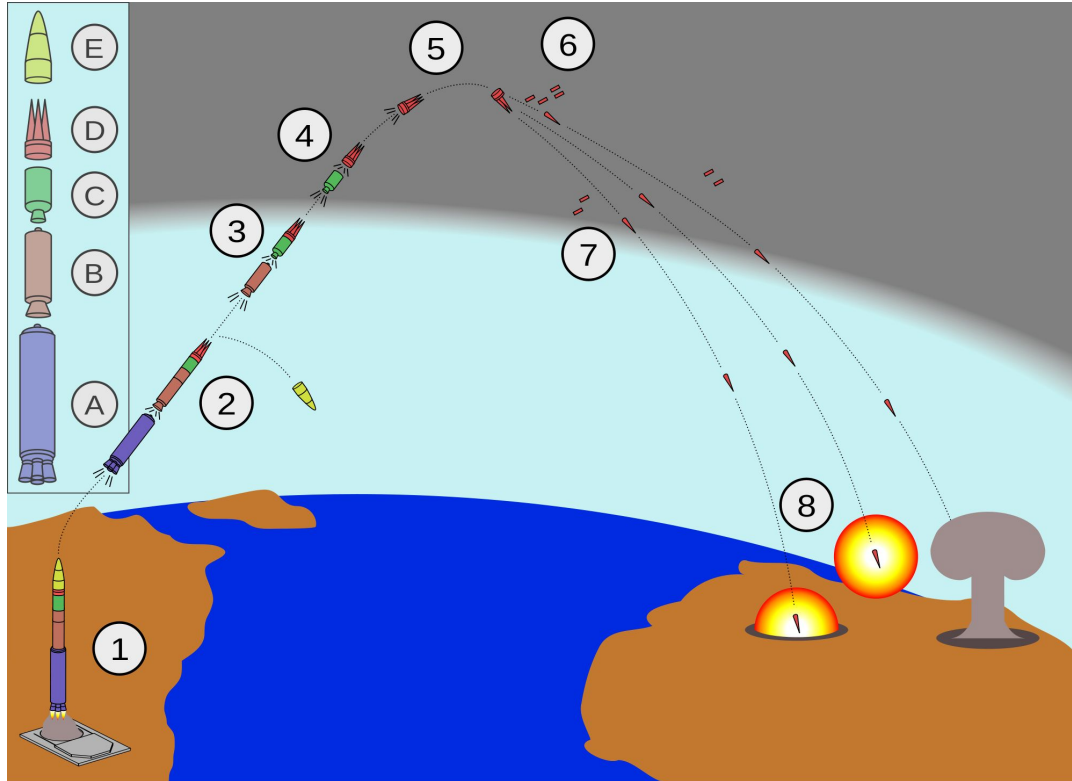
Conceptual models for course design: the flying broom



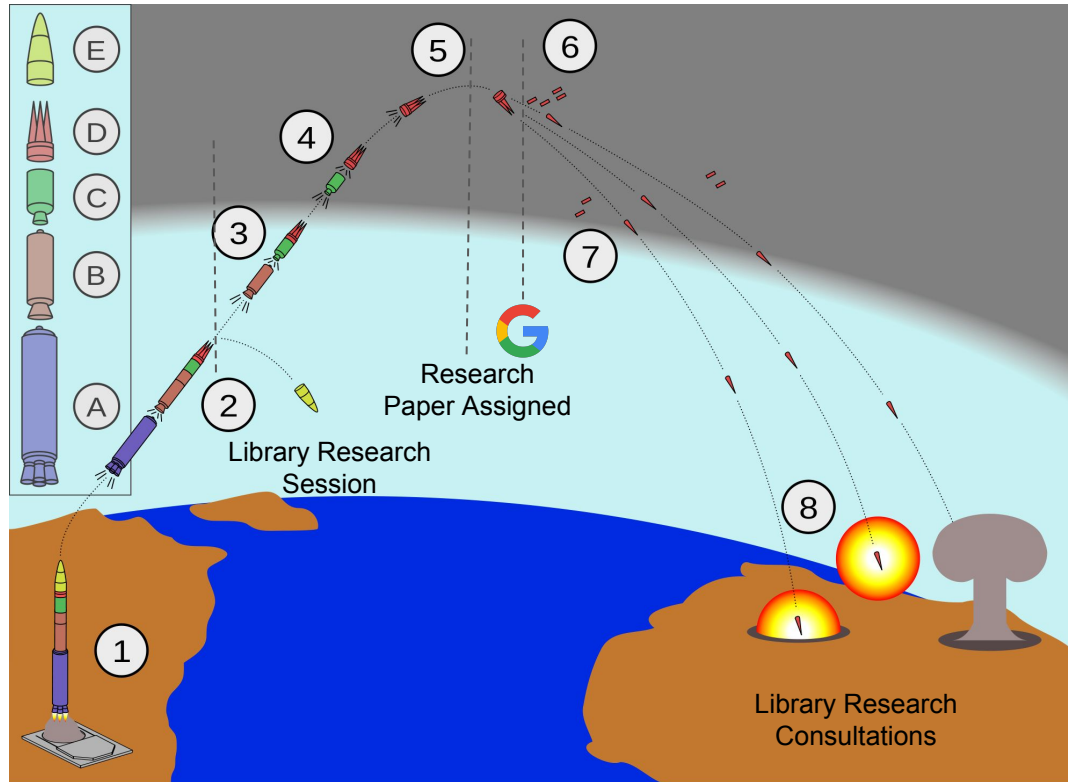
Conceptual models for course design: the flying broom



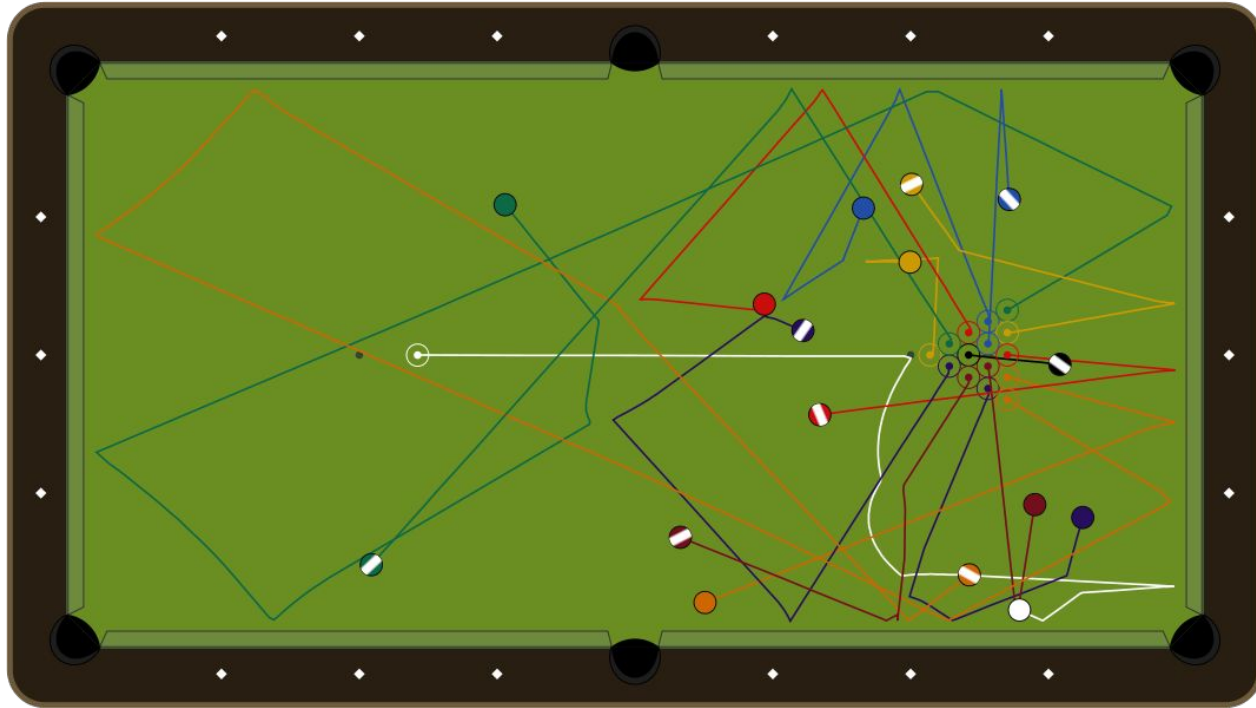
Conceptual models for course design: M.I.R.V.'s



Conceptual models for course design: M.I.R.V.'s

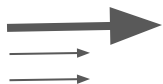


Conceptual models for course design: games

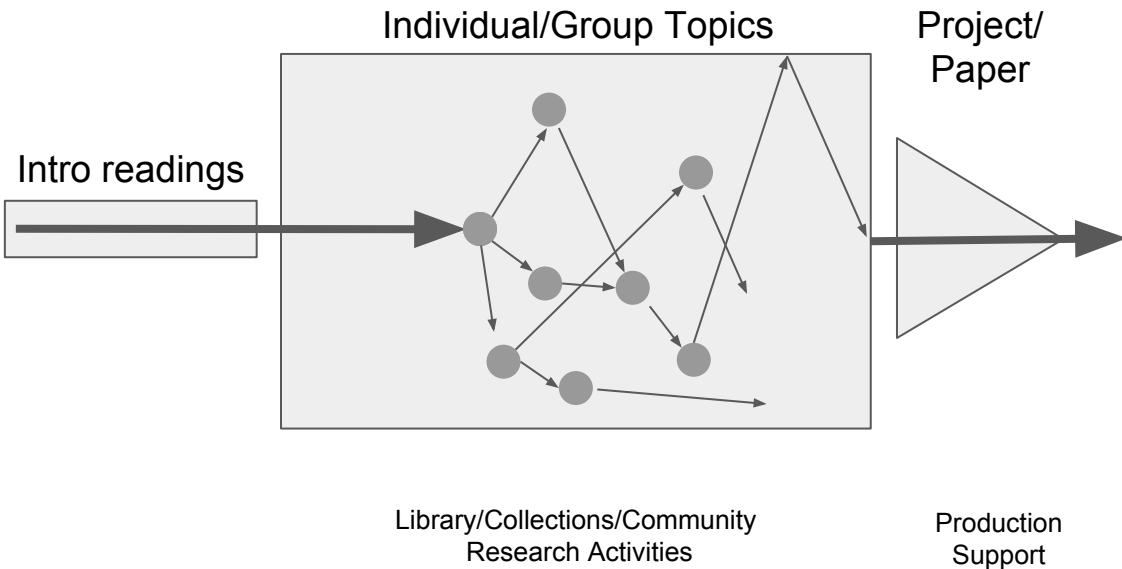


The emergent model: non-algorithmic inquiry

Kit of Parts



Faculty Curriculum Design /
Research Consultations



Syllabus \approx Curated, Designed Activities

Research \approx Knowledge Production

Conceptual models for course design: games

Pieces



Field



Rules



Play



Materials

Constraints

Methods

Process

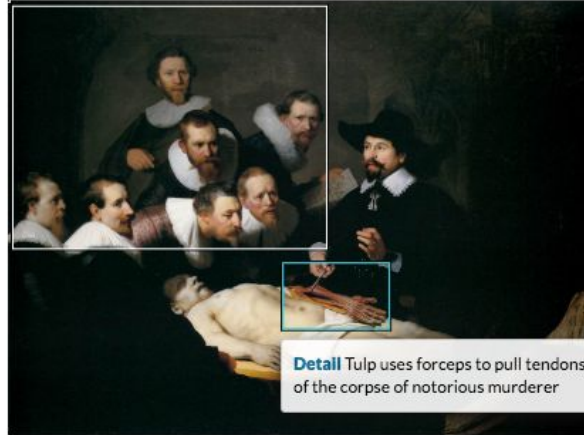


Undergraduate research in the curriculum: examples



CSP 57: Liberal Arts at the Brink (Sargent)
Students dating items from the College Archives, Special Collections

“Autoptic reading”



Detail Tulp uses forceps to pull tendons free of the hand of the corpse of notorious murderer

DESCRIPTION ANNOTATIONS DETAILS CITATIONS

SOURCE

Rembrandt van der Rijn. "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp," 1632

Oil painting on canvas by Rembrandt housed in the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, the Netherlands. Input by Gilman

CSLC 233 / RUSN 333: Codes, Cultures, and Killing (Gilman)

Semantics of Killing: Analysis of Babel's "A Letter"

In Babel's *A Letter*, he makes use of the Russian verb *rezat'* (to cut). In Peter Constantine's English translation, he interprets it as both "to slice" and "to hack." (Look for "Semantics of Killing" on the right) The verb "to cut" sees use in non-violent situations in both Russian and English. A simple example of such is "to cut one's hair." On the other hand, "to hack" is often reserved for violence that is described as passionate and brutal. From the first clause, the audience understands that the father is committing violence on his son, but with the phrase, "hacked away until sundown," the depravity and horror of the act is unleashed. Nothing about the

In these second lines of this letter I hasten to write you about Papa, that he hacked my brother Fyodor Timofeyich Kurdyukov to pieces a year ago now. Our Comrade Pavlichenko's Red Brigade attacked the town of Rostov, when there was a betrayal in our ranks. And Papa was with the Whites back then as commander of one of Denikin's companies. All the folks that saw Papa says he was covered in medals like with the old regime. And as we were betrayed, the Whites captured us and threw us all in irons, and Papa caught sight of my brother Fyodor Timofeyich. And Papa began hacking away at Fyodor, saying: you filth you, red dog, son of a bitch, you killed things, and hacked away at him until sundown until Fyodor Timofeyich died. I had started writing you about how your Fyodor is lying buried without a cross, but Papa caught me and said: you are your mother's bastards, the roots of that whore, I've plowed your mother and I'll keep on plowing her my whole damn life till I don't have a drop of juice left in me, and other things. I had to bear suffering like our Savior Jesus Christ. I managed

Semantics of Killing The Russian verb used is "to cut" (*rezat'*). It is not a verb that is inherently violent in both languages. Constantine's translation immediately highlights the horror of the situation.

THE SEMANTICS OF KILLING AND ITS PARADOXICAL NATURE (5/10)

Semantics of Killing: Analysis of Babel's "A Letter"

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Synchronic Verbal and Physical Hacking Via their simultaneous actions, the verbal and physical hacking of Fyodor Timofeyich link a procedural act of killing to the procedures of language.

DESCRIPTION ANNOTATIONS DETAILS CITATIONS SOURCE

38 slides

Slideshow

4



Primary [Professor Lisa Sousa: History Department](#)

Secondary [Jessie Salter \[Los Angeles, CA, USA\]](#)

HIST 355: Indians of Mexico (Sousa)

38 slides

Slideshow

5



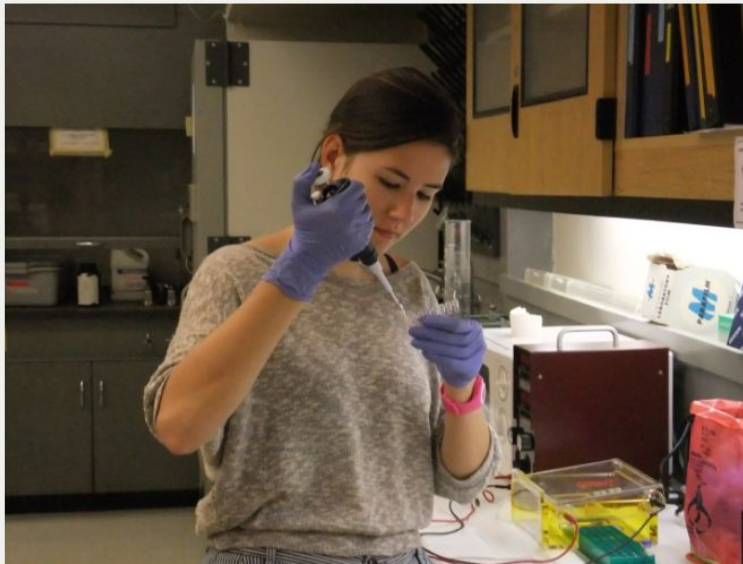
Primary [Professor John McCormack: Curator of the MLZ](#)
Secondary [Marc Campos, Occidental College \[Los Angeles, C...](#)

HIST 355: Indians of Mexico (Sousa)

38 slides

Slideshow

7



Primary [Jessie Salter '14: Student Researcher](#)

Secondary [Alex Broad \[Los Angeles, CA, USA\]](#)

HIST 355: Indians of Mexico (Sousa)

38 slides

Slideshow



Primary [Mountain Trogon Specimens in the Moore Lab](#)
Secondary [Alex Broad Los Angeles, CA USA1](#)

HIST 355: Indians of Mexico (Sousa)

History 355 collaboration with Moore Lab

What can we learn about Nahua ("Aztec") knowledge, culture, society, and economy using ethnohistorical and biological evidence?

Location
Mexico

Authors (5)
Lisa Sousa **OWNER**
and 4 more

Branched Projects
Birds and Feathers in the Economy
Birds of a feather: an interdisciplinary collaboration
Nahua Natural History
The Art of Featherworking in Pre-Conquest & Colonial Mexico

Find Related Projects

Flag Project

QUESTION
What can we learn about Nahua ("Aztec") knowledge, culture, society, and economy using ethnohistorical and biological evidence?

Encyclopedia: Botany and Agriculture, Guerrero

The Degree of Correspondence to Scientific Biological Classification

Book 8 - Kings and Lords, Florentine Codex

Birds and Feathers in the Economy

The Art of Featherworking

Ritual Uses of Feathers

HIST 355: Indians of Mexico (Sousa)



Black Paris

Paris of the 1920s and 30s served as a node and turning point for expressions of black identity and self-definition on a global scale

Location

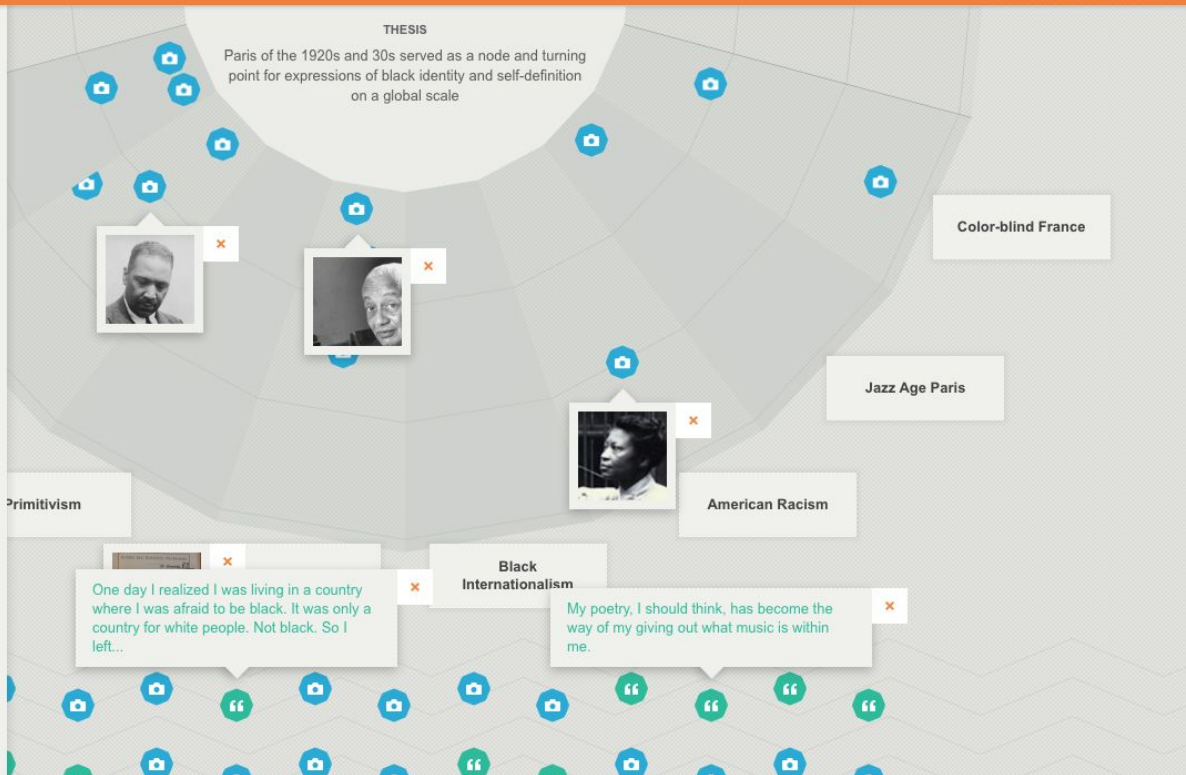
Paris, France

Authors (2)

Lauren Brown OWNER
WALL-i

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Scenarios and protocol

<http://tiny.cc/researchcurriculum>