

'All in all, we're just another brick in the wall' -Pink Floyd.

The feeling of being a speckle of sand in an infinite desert, the feeling of mattering less than nothing to others, is something we are all accustomed to feel. And yet, in our small world, we destroy our well-being in the hopes of being so perfect, that we will be remembered positively. But why do we do so?

Trough design I always want to dig up and show all the issues that society tried to hide in its crevasses. Today, the major concepts running western society all stem from data science, a field focused on extracting knowledge from large combinations of data. It has been used to expose injustices but also to discriminate, to topple governments but also to survey.

I want to stray away from data science as it is, and hug the concept formulated by Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren Klein of Data Feminism, as a form of data gathering that underlines the heterogeneity of the latter. Data are the products of unequal social relations, and this context is essential for conducting accurate, ethical analysis.

Like they do, for this project I used multiple forms of knowledge, knowledge that comes from people as living, feeling bodies in the world and that needs to be viewed by the same eyes of who has divulged such data. With gathering data and making it effective to understand I want to create a strong message, give voice to everyone who cannot speak for themselves.

I want to pinpoint the weakness in the education system towards mental welfare of the students, which avoids facing the complexity of the problem and would rather invest budget into less urgent matters. This is due to the way society has shaped the view on mental illnesses and how they are taught, or rather the lack of, to us. My project wants to break the pressure of this specific weakness through the concept of 'Infrapuncture', which is the ability to discern a weak point, or a critical point, in an infrastructure and acting locally in that in a way to either release the 'pressure' or to completely overthrow the system itself.

My work, 'The price of Good' consists into a in depth Data Gathering about mental health issues in WDKA through interviews with teachers, coaches, and counselors, but also with the students themselves, to obtain both sides of the coin.

Like Mark Fisher explains, we are stuck in a single capitalist path view with no alternative that encloses the pivotal point of the western society mental and psychological decay. We are not the makers of our fragile psychophysical conditions, and it is the fault of the system, an infrastructure that is not natural. There are fractures that the system cannot manage to solve.

I focused on the depression fracture. The pain of the people is redirected towards themselves only, instead of focusing on a faulty structure. There's a "privatization of stress" (Fisher, 55), which is also a main cause of people refusing to ask for help. To further confirm my theory, we can observe in the study of the rise of perfectionism how students feel such social pressure in study and work environments: in the analysis we can observe that socially-oriented perfectionism increased at twice the rate of self-oriented and other-oriented perfectionism. It is also the form of perfectionism that exhibits the largest association of all the dimensions with a host of mental health issues including anxiety, depression, social phobia, and suicidal thoughts.

'The price of Good' is the final steppingstone of the whole research. My starting point was 'happy ghost town': it was data mapping of suicide rates worldwide but had various problems that I refined in the final project. Rather than using ready-made sources to make an abstract visualization, I chose to focus on data gathering in depth myself. I also decided to switch the focus from suicides to mental health issues of students, as it focuses on the root of the problem rather than the consequence.

Following up with the data feminism approach, I started interviewing people to gather data. Data Feminism insists that the most complete knowledge comes from synthesizing multiple perspectives and experiential ways of knowing. (D'Ignazio & Klein 32) This process gives data a more personal view, from a specific insight to a more structured and full knowledge.

However, it was extremely hard to gather data through interviews, as many people were unavailable or didn't feel confident in their knowledge of the topic, that's why I switch from a pure data showcase to data tracing of research, showcasing how the system makes it so difficult to reach answers. I also changed from pure visualization to a more visceral way of perceiving information: data visceralization, which is the representation of data through touch, smell or sound that allows to whomever observes such data to have a concrete sense of quantity and a more intimate approach, having a bigger impact and making it harder to forget.

In addition to the paper trail, I will make a metal bucket full of coins, 40-50% full, as gathered by two of the interviews I did with the SCC coaches, which is the amount of student with mental issues in WDKA. I will then ask the people seeing the project to hold such bucket for a minute, to show the weight that the students with mental issues have to carry and the hardship of the research.

Reading Data Feminism was truly a fundamental factor for my research. It allowed a radical shift in the project: it helped me understand and appreciate a new way of approaching data and information, giving it an essential context to conduct an accurate and most of all ethical analysis. (D'Ignazio & Klein 100)

It allowed to efficiently challenge an unfair business-driven power infrastructure and to strive towards a more just treatment for the people.

My final objective is to create a solid base of facts that may convince the education department to add at least once a week a lesson on mental health in the school curriculum and hopefully create a different approach in all study-work environments.

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