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TARA ZEPPEL

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EDUCATION

PHD • JAN 2018
UC SAN DIEGO
Art History, Theory & Criticism
(Contemporary Data Visualization)

BA • MAY 2016
DUKE UNIVERSITY
Literature, Summa Cum Laude

SKILLS

LANGUAGES: Python, SQL, HTML/CSS

TOOLS: Agile, Adobe Creative Suite, Excel, Data Analytics, Data Visualization, Project Management, Scientific Writing, Practical Communication, Digital Education

VALUES: Critical thinking, communication, collaboration

EXPERIENCE

POST DOCTORAL FELLOW • UBC HEIN LAB • NOV 2018 – PRESENT
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

- Developed computer vision capabilities of autonomous lab assistant designed to work at the intersection of robotics and chemistry.
- Worked with cross disciplinary team in agile setting to research new materials as potential energy sources.

FELLOW • INSIGHT DATA SCIENCE • JAN 2018 – MAY 2018
PALO ALTO, CA

- Consulted for a start-up mobile app that allows users to aggregate and save beauty products in custom collections.
- Identified trends in sparse user and product data to drive product development and marketing strategy.
- Translated observations in data to simple UI recommendations for A/B Testing.
- Worked with CEO to strategized future data collection and cleaning.

RESEARCHER • UCSD SOFTWARE STUDIES LAB • SEP 2009 – DEC 2014
SAN DIEGO, CA

- Collaboratively developed an open source software for analyzing and visualizing large collections of image-based cultural data (ImagePlot).
- Gathered/cleaned data on image sets ranging in size from 12 to 1 million.
- Measured visual style and metrics of paintings, video, and advertisements.
- Communicated insights to challenge traditional humanities categorizations.

ADJUNCT FACULTY • CAL POLY • SEP 2015 – JUN 2016
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

- Designed project material and syllabi for undergraduate media arts & technology courses.
- Instructed and held the attention of groups of 30+ students.
- Mentored 90+ students to develop and complete projects spanning diverse topics.

SENIOR WRITING INSTRUCTOR • UCSD • SEPT 2009 – DEC 2014
SAN DIEGO, CA

- Taught writing and practical communication to 250+ undergraduate students.
- Collaborated with administration to develop strategic planning, assess material and identify strengths and weaknesses in 10+ classes.
- Oversaw evaluation and teaching feedback for 30+ graduate students.