

# Acknowledgements

In 2021 we had a clear task at hand: to develop two new critical data studies tracks for the teaching programs offered by the Department of Media and Culture Studies within the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University. Many of our colleagues are working on questions regarding the impact of datafication and algorithmization on our culture from various disciplinary fields within media and culture studies, but this had not yet included a shared conversation about the common ground of these approaches as specific to, as well as for, cultural inquiry. Indeed, what is the unique contribution of media and culture studies to the emerging field of critical data studies? But also, the other way around: what role do these cultural transformations of datafication and algorithmization play in the theoretical and methodological development of cultural inquiry itself? This sparked the ambition for a book that positions this double perspective and that showcases the richness, diversity, and productivity of situating data *in* cultural inquiry.

First and foremost, we want to thank our inspiring colleagues who enthusiastically participated in brainstorming and discussions that helped shape the collection before you. We are very thankful for the support of the Centre for Digital Humanities, the Research Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICON), and the Utrecht University Library's Open Access Fund. The financial support of the latter enabled us to publish this book in open access.

We want to thank Maryse Elliott and the editorial board of Amsterdam University Press's *MediaMatters* book series for their support. A special thanks to the anonymous reviewers of our manuscript, and to Eggo Müller, Eef Masson, and Iris van der Tuin for providing feedback on the collection as a whole and on the introduction in particular. The book would not have been possible without the support and efforts of our editorial assistant Chris van der Vegt, who provided invaluable feedback and helped lighten the administrative burden.

We dedicate this book to past, present, and future students. Their inquisitive and critical minds keep the field of cultural inquiry looking sideways and forward.

Karin van Es & Nanna Verhoeff  
Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam, July 2022

