From “My Block” to “Born on the Rez”

Presented at Indigenous Interventions: Indigenous Narratives
March 31, 2016 Nativo Hotel, Albuquerque, NM

The researchers undertook a project to see if Native American rappers were rapping about what went on in their communities, on reservations and pueblos, 20 years after Shakur’s death. The researchers will share their experience identifying Native American lyricists/musicians, creating a dataset from commercially available rap music, selecting digital humanities software, and analyzing the data.

Software

Visualization:

- Wordle – wordle.net
  - Generates word clouds from user provided text

Text Analysis:

- Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) 2015 – liwc.wpengine.com
  - Computerized text analysis that uses everyday words to reveal “thoughts, feelings, personality, and motivations.” Categories used: Function Words, Perceptual Processes, Biological Processes, Drives, Other Grammar, Time Orientation, Relativity, Affect, Social, Personal Concerns, Cognitive Processes, Informal Language

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