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PLACE (Program for Liberal Arts and Civic Engagement)

5-2017

PLACE Events 2016-2017

PLACE

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PLACE Events 2016 - 2017 PLACE 2016-17 Kickoff Speaker: Tony Salvador, Intel

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m., Ice Auditorium Organizer: Susan Currie Sivek, PLACE/Mass Communication

- We will launch our 2016-17 PLACE programming with a talk by **Dr. Tony**Salvador of Intel, titled "What to Think About." A good education, the argument goes, offers you the choice of what to spend your time thinking about. Salvador has spent 20 years thinking about the interplay of people and technology, based on his research and work in dozens of countries. With stories and analysis, Salvador will offer a few thoughts about what we might choose to think about during our lives as we enter an increasingly digital world. Dr. Tony Salvador, Senior Principal Engineer, currently directs research in the Experience Insights Lab within Intel Corporation. His team's role is to identify new, strategic opportunities for technology based on an understanding of global socio-cultural values. Salvador received his bachelor's degree in Experimental Psychology from Franklin & Marshall College. He earned a Ph.D. in Human Factors and Experimental Psychology at Tufts University.
 - Articles and resources:
 - Tony's <u>reflection</u> on 20 years of ethnographic work for Intel
 - "The Digocene: Intel's Salvador Uses Social Science to Explore Frontiers of Hyperconnected World"
 - <u>TED Institute talk on "The Listening Bias"</u> (video)

Media and the 2016 campaign: Are we all participating in the same election?

Part of the Pre-Election Interdisciplinary Discussion Series Wednesday, Sept. 14, 4:30 p.m.; Riley 201 Organizers: Pat Cottrell and Dimitri Kelly, Political Science

The news media play a vital mediating function in a democracy, during elections most of all. The exact nature of the media's role, however, is changing. The proliferation of choice on the Internet and the rise of social media have both contributed to the disruption of the news media's historic gatekeeping role. Stripped of their monopoly, traditional news media must compete online for clicks, alongside cat videos and a rich banquet of niche

alternatives. Did the news media's thirst for ratings contribute to the public transformation of Donald Trump from novelty to viable candidate? Who decides what stories trend on social media? In today's media environment it is more important than ever to ask these kinds of questions, to critically examine how and what citizens learn about politics, where they turn for political information, and the consequences of these choices.

While people today have access to more political news and information than ever before, literally at their fingertips, political disagreements persist over basic facts. Has the budget deficit gone up or down during the last 7 years? Is global warming real? Do vaccines cause autism? Was President Obama born in Kenya? While the answers to these questions are clear (down, yes, no, and no, respectively), they are nonetheless contested. Are we living in a post-fact world in politics?

What people believe is true about the political world depends on where and how they receive their information. Given today's fractured media environment, are we all even participating in the same election?

Please join our expert panel -- Dimitri Kelly, Susan Currie Sivek, and David Sumner -- for a community discussion of these and other questions about how the media is shaping the 2016 election cycle. This event will take shape around audience interests and questions, and will be interactive!

Linfield Theatre Performances

Sept. 22, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m.

- Performances of two short plays, back to back, immediately followed by audience discussion. Directed by recent Linfield alumni.
 - Simulation, by <u>Carrie Vaughn</u>, commissioned especially for PLACE
 - The Internet is Distract--OH LOOK A KITTEN!, by Ian McWethy

Coding For All: Hands-On Workshops

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Renshaw main computer lab

• Only 15 seats will be available at this session. Students should arrive early.

Organizer: Michael Huntsberger, Mass Communication

- This coding workshop will give our first-year students an hourlong opportunity to gain their first exposure to writing simple computer code. Activities may include constructing simple web pages, games, stories or other online content. This hands-on experience for beginners will introduce a variety of students to coding concepts and encourage critical thinking about the nature of code as a human-constructed, deliberately designed object. (The first session took place on Tuesday, Sept. 20. The two sessions are identical; students need not have attended the first session to attend the second session.)
 - Articles and resources:
 - Hour of Code website (a model for these workshops)
 - Codecademy's free, interactive <u>coding courses</u> for all levels of coders
 - "What you don't know about Internet algorithms is hurting you": an argument for understanding more about the digital media we use

Wendy Red Star and Kaj-anne Pepper: "Alterations"

October 5 to November 18
Artists' reception on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 5-7 p.m.
Organizer: Linfield Gallery

• Multimedia artists Wendy Red Star, a Crow artist, and Kaj-anne Pepper, a transgender artist, will collaborate on a performance and installation. While formally and stylistically very different, the work of Wendy Red Star and Kaj-anne Pepper each address the ways in which costume and ritual can create, reinforce, or subvert cultural identity. Red Star's costumes are inspired by traditional Crow men's "hot dance" outfits, but are re-imagined as women's fashion. Pepper's work as a performance artist in the drag community exposes and interrogates the trauma and artifice of gender. Shown together for the first time, these two artists each illuminate different aspects of how cultural identity is performed, in ways both large and small, intentionally and unintentionally, for better and for worse. This exhibition is sponsored by the Lacroute Art Series and the Department of Art and Visual Culture.

The Digital Self Film Series and Discussions

First screening on Wednesday, Oct. 26: *Blade Runner* Ice Auditorium at 6 p.m.

Faculty discussion panelists: Leonard Finkelman, Jamie Friedman, Joelle Murray, Chad Tillberg, Yanna Weisberg, and Jenn Williams
Organizers: Leonard Finkelman, Philosophy, and Yanna Weisberg, Psychology

• Everything is more fun with robots! Taking this principle to heart, professors Yanna Weisberg (Psychology) and Leonard Finkelman (Philosophy) will host a series of films that explore the potential and peril of human interaction with artificial intelligences. Each screening will be followed by a panel discussion that includes experts in topics related to that evening's film. What role do purely digital selves have in society? Should we see them as persons? Are they dangerous or helpful? Do they have real emotions, wants, or needs? Do we owe them respect? Join us as we consider the answers!

Media Literacy Week

October 31 to November 4

Organizer: Susan Currie Sivek, Mass Communication/PLACE

 This week will feature a variety of activities that connect to the nationwide Media Literacy Week, which is designed to bring attention and visibility to media literacy education in the United States.

Pay No Attention to the Algorithm Behind the Curtain!

Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Riley 201

Organizer: Patrick Wohlmut, Nicholson Library

Systems that help us find and obtain information - whether they are search engines like Google, or databases provided by a library - often appear to us to be neutral entities. The assumption is that you put information into a little box, and you get relevant information back. The process appears at first glance to be mechanical, transparent, and devoid of bias. We think that the system is simply showing us what's there, and if it doesn't show us something then either

it's not relevant or it doesn't exist.

The problem with this view is that search systems are not passive. They are made of mathematical procedures - algorithms - that make all sorts of choices, in the blink of an eye, about what's relevant and what's not, based on how those algorithms interact with the language you use to frame your search. Furthermore, these systems are programmed by human beings, and human beings have opinions and viewpoints about what constitutes relevance that leave an imprint on the system.

Given this, can search systems like Google really be considered neutral? What about scholarly databases? Or online library catalogs? And what happens to us when we start to treat Google, not as a tool, but as a teacher? Or even as an authoritative research partner?

Please join Teaching and Research Librarian Patrick Wohlmut for a presentation about these issues, and a discussion of ways that we can be more savvy and conscious users of search technology.

Articles and resources:

- Google's documentation on How Search Works: Algorithms
- Eli Pariser's now-classic <u>TED talk on "Beware Online Filter Bubbles"</u>, related to his book The Filter Bubble
- Google's use of machine learning and artificial intelligence for web search, and its new system RankBrain
- <u>"Repeat After Me: Humans Run the Internet, Not Algorithms"</u> from WIRED Magazine
- "Search Epistemology: Teaching Students about Information Discovery," by Andrew D. Asher, in <u>Not Just Where To Click: Teaching Students How To</u> <u>Think About Information</u>, edited by Troy A. Swanson and Heather Jagman (Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries, pp. 139-154)

Telling the Story of Your Digital Self

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 12:15-1:00 p.m.

Jonasson Hall in Melrose

Organizer: Kelsey Bruce, PLACE Student Fellow

• Students are often warned to be cautious when posting personal information and photos online so that they don't damage their academic or employment

prospects. But what can students do to share their personalities, skills, abilities, and portfolios productively and positively online? This short workshop will offer students the opportunity to evaluate their online presences and consider ways they might tell their own stories online effectively and authentically. Michael Hampton from Career Development and Susan Currie Sivek from Mass Communication will guide the interactive discussion.

• Students should bring their own devices for use during the session, preferably laptop or tablet computers.

Screenagers Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

Thursday, Nov. 3 in Ice Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Organizer: Jen Linder, Psychology

Discussion panelists TBA

- Synopsis from film website: Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time—friction she knew all too well. In Screenagers, as with her award-winning documentaries on mental health, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, *Screenagers* reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.
 - Articles and resources:
 - Trailer on YouTube
 - Official website
 - Facebook page and Twitter account
 - New York Times "Well" blog post with director Q&A
 - Discussion moderator's toolkit (from film website)

Cryptology and the Enigma Machine: Dr. David Perry, National Security Agency

Talk 1: "Coming of Enigma," Wednesday, Nov. 9, 4:30 p.m., Riley 201 Talk 2: "Cracking of Enigma," Thursday, Nov. 10, 4:30 p.m., Riley 201 Organizer: Christian Millichap, Mathematics

- Dr. David Perry is a cryptologic mathematician at the National Security Agency. He received degrees at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working in abstract algebra under Dr. Nigel Boston. He taught at Ripon College for two years before joining the Agency. Dr. Perry has taught for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth program for 20 summers. He was co-architect of their Cryptology and their Advanced Cryptology classes, the former which he taught four months ago for the twelfth time. Dr. Perry lives in Baltimore, Maryland. In his spare time he reads voraciously and enjoys drawing and writing. He is currently working on the second novel of a trilogy, a work of historical fantasy purporting to tell the true story of David and Goliath.
 - Talk 1: Coming of Enigma: The Enigma was a cryptodevice used by the Germans before and during World War II. It was thought to be unbreakable by the Germans and by the cryptanalysts who first faced it. We will learn how the machine worked and why it was thought to be so secure by taking a whirlwind journey through the history of code making and breaking that informed the machine's design.
 - Talk 2: Cracking of Enigma: The Enigma was a cryptodevice used by the Germans before and during World War II. We will learn how the Polish cipher bureau cracked the "uncrackable" Enigma by employing mathematics in a way that had no precedent at the time. After this story, cryptology moved into the purview of mathematicians, which remains true in this day and age.

Articles and resources:

- The journal <u>Cryptologia</u> (library sign-in required), which contains tons
 of articles about the history of cryptology and on the Enigma
- The Code Book by Simon Singh, available via Summit from Nicholson Library
- How Did the Enigma Machine Work?

• The series of short videos titled <u>Journey into Cryptography</u> from Khan Academy offers a brief introduction to basic ideas in cryptography.

Mass Communication History Interactive Timeline

Students in the MSCM 330 Mass Communication History course have created an interactive multimedia timeline of mass media history. The 24 students in the class used course readings, media materials, assignments, and additional research to construct an interactive multimedia timeline using cloud-based software. Three students in the class served as coordinators and editors for the project. The students have prepared at least 150 items for the timeline, including text posts, photos, and videos, which will soon be available on a video display in the Nicholson Library. Visitors can interact with the timeline to explore and learn about the history of mass media. The course is taught by Dr. Michael Huntsberger, a PLACE Faculty Fellow for fall 2016.

When: November 14-18 Where: Nicholson Library

Linfield for Standing Rock

Thursday, February 23, 6 p.m., Pioneer Reading Room
Join fellow Linfield students to discuss the current events unfolding in Standing Rock, North Dakota, involving the Dakota Access Pipeline and the opposition from environmental, social, cultural and economic perspectives. Members from Pacific Northwest Stands with Standing Rock and Linfield students who traveled to Standing Rock in November 2016 will be present to host a discussion.

- Articles and resources:
 - Social Media Made the World Care About Standing Rock—and Helped It Forget
 - How Media Did and Did Not Report on Standing Rock
 - For the Protestors at Standing Rock, It's Back to Pipeline Purgatory
 - Journalist Faces Charges After Arrest While Covering Dakota Access
 Pipeline Protest

Digital Literature, Literary Selves

Monday, March 6, 4 p.m., TJ Day 222 (please note changed day/time and updated location!)

Organizer: Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, English

Eric LeMay (Ohio University) is an accomplished non-fiction writer and is developing a theory of the digital essay—that is, online writing that incorporates digital storytelling elements, like audio, video, hypertext, and collaboration with readers—a genre he calls "electronic nonfiction." This presentation will focus on writing digital essays and is open to all students.

- Articles and resources:
 - Taking Up Montaigne: The Essay in the Digital Age
 - Binary Truths: Creative Nonfiction in Our Electronic Age

Artificial Intelligence Film Screening: "Her"

Monday, March 13, 6 p.m., Ice Auditorium Organizers: Yanna Weisberg, Psychology, and Leonard Finkelman, Philosophy

Everything is more fun with robots! Taking this principle to heart, professors Yanna Weisberg (Psychology) and Leonard Finkelman (Philosophy) will host films that explore the potential and peril of human interaction with artificial intelligences. Each screening will be followed by a panel discussion that includes experts in topics related to that evening's film. What role do purely digital selves have in society? Should we see them as persons? Are they dangerous or helpful? Do they have real emotions, wants, or needs? Do we owe them respect? Join us as we consider the answers!

Our spring film will be *Her*, the 2013 movie featuring Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, and Scarlett Johansson, and an Academy Award winner for Best Original Screenplay. In the film, "a lonely writer develops an unlikely relationship with an operating system designed to meet his every need."

Students only; student ID required.

- Articles and resources:
 - NPR review of "Her"
 - From The Guardian: "What Black Mirror, Her and the near-future genre tell us about tomorrow"

From Wired: "Can We Build 'Her'?: What Samantha Tells Us About the Future of Al"

Fake News: What Is It, and Why Should We Care? A Panel Discussion

Monday, March 20, 6 p.m., Riley 201

Organizer: Micaela Lueders, PLACE Student Fellow

What is fake news? It's at the forefront of national discussion. It seems like the president is accusing a different news source every day of being fake news. But at the end of the day, what is fake news? How do we, as informed citizens, decipher fake news from real news? How does the information we read influence our digital selves? Join us for an interdisciplinary panel discussion about fake news and how it influences all professions.

Articles and resources:

- From The Guardian: "What is fake news? How to spot it and what you can do to stop it"
- From FactCheck.org: "How to Spot Fake News"
- From Wired: "The Internet Made 'Fake News' a Thing—Then Made It Nothing"
- Margaret Sullivan, Washington Post: "It's time to retire the tainted term 'fake news'"
- From Media Matters for America: "Why We Should Keep Using The Term 'Fake News"

The Quantified Self: Wearable Technology and Fitness Tracking Lecture by Evan Hilberg '11

Monday, April 3, 4 p.m., Jonasson Hall Organizer: Janet Peterson, HHPA

New technologies have led to the quantification of movement among individuals and populations, and this development has created a new subfield of research in physical activity and health. Consumer-grade activity trackers (e.g. FitBit, Apple Watch) are a popular way for people to quantify and assess their daily physical activity levels. What do these devices actually measure? Are they accurate? How should we be using these trackers for individual and population health? These questions, among others, will be addressed in this talk about quantifying physical activity with wearable technologies.

Evan Hilberg is a Linfield alumnus ('11) who is currently a doctoral student at Oregon State University, studying Kinesiology with a focus in Physical Activity and Public Health. He earned his B.S. in Exercise Science from Linfield while competing as a pitcher for the baseball team. He then went on to earn an M.S. in Exercise Science from Eastern Washington University before enrolling in the doctoral program at OSU. While working on his doctorate, he also earned a master's degree in Public Health in Biostatistics. His research interests are focused on objectively measuring physical activity in children, as well as interand intra-device comparisons of physical activity monitors.

- Articles and resources:
 - From the New York Times: "Just How Accurate Are Fitbits? The Jury Is Out"
 - From a different disciplinary viewpoint: <u>"The quantified self movement: some sociological perspectives"</u>
 - From The Guardian: "Fitness trackers: healthy little helpers or no-good gadgets?"

Crypto Escape: A Cryptology Workshop

Saturday, April 8, in the afternoon (tentatively 2:10-3:10 pm) in T.J. Day (room TBD)

Organizer: Christian Millichap, Mathematics

As part of the Northwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium, Stuart Boersma (Central Washington University) and Cheryl Beaver (Western Oregon University) will provide a quick workshop on how to break classical codes and ciphers. Students will then decipher secret messages in a race against time to find the key to escape the session. This interactive, hands-on workshop is open to all students, including those with a minimal mathematics background. Students MUST register online to participate in this workshop through the conference website, which will be posted in the near future. This event will

also help prepare students for Kryptos, an annual online cryptology challenge to be held April 13-17, 2017.

- Articles and resources:
 - The journal <u>Cryptologia</u> (library sign-in required), which contains tons of articles about the history of cryptology and on the Enigma
 - The Code Book by Simon Singh, available via Summit from Nicholson Library
 - The series of short videos titled <u>Journey into Cryptography</u> from Khan Academy offers a brief introduction to basic ideas in cryptography

"The E-Waste Tragedy" Documentary Screening and Discussion

Thursday, April 13, 6 p.m., Ice Auditorium Organizer: Kelsey Bruce, PLACE Student Fellow

We will watch and discuss "The E-Waste Tragedy," a documentary about the significant problems created by our consumption and recycling of electronics. Every year millions of tons of discarded electronic waste - computers, television sets, mobile phones, household appliances - are shipped illegally to India, China or Africa. This film spans the world to reveal how greed and corruption are ruining the globe's legal recycling systems, damaging the environment, creating security risks and endangering human health. Can the toxic tide be stemmed, or are too many people willingly turning a blind eye?

Collaborations in Language: From Documentation to Resurgence Lecture by Dr. Mark Turin, Anthropologist and Linguist

Monday, April 17, 7 p.m., Riley 201

Organizer: Hillary Crane, Sociology and Anthropology

This talk focuses on several key partnerships in which Dr. Turin has been involved over the last two decades, with members of historically marginalized, Indigenous communities in the Himalayan region, and increasingly with a committed global community of scholars in print, on air, and online. Dr. Turin

will draw on long-term fieldwork in Nepal and India with speakers of Thangmi, a community whose language has long been effaced from the national record in the states where it is spoken, while also reflecting critically on the decade that he has spent directing two international, interdisciplinary collaborative research initiatives—the Digital Himalaya and World Oral Literature Projects. The presentation explores issues of orality, orthography and representation. All those interested in learning more about the responsibilities and challenges of long-term community collaboration, co-authorship and advocacy are invited to attend.

Mark Turin (PhD, Linguistics, Leiden University, 2006) is an anthropologist, linguist and radio presenter. At the University of British Columbia, Mark serves as Chair of the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program, Acting Co-Director of the University's new Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies and Associate Professor of Anthropology. Dr. Turin writes and teaches on ethnolinguistics, language endangerment, visual anthropology, digital archives and fieldwork methodology. He is the author or co-author of four books, three travel guides, the editor of eight volumes, and the co-editor of the journal *Himalaya*, and he edits a series on oral literature. Dr. Turin's recent work has been funded by SSHRC, NSF and NASA, and he serves on the Advisory Board of SAPIENS.

Dr. Turin will also speak at a Voices session on Tuesday, April 18, during the lunchtime common hour, in the President's Dining Room in Dillin. His topic will be "Community Mobilization of Digital Tools following the 2015 Earthquakes in Nepal."

- Articles and resources:
 - o Dr. Mark Turin's website and Twitter profile
 - Report on "Digital Access for Language and Culture in First Nations Communities"
 - Details of the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program at the University of British Columbia

"The Digital Sports Fan" Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m., Riley 201

Organizer: Lisa Weidman, Mass Communication

What does it mean to be a sports fan in the digital era? Digital technologies

have changed the experience of being a sports fan. Significant changes have included social media; live Web streaming of sporting events (often with a chat feature allowing fans to communicate with each other during the game); smart-phone applications such as MLB.com and ESPN Tournament Challenge that allow fans to follow the progress of their favorite teams and compete with other fans to predict outcomes; and online fantasy sports leagues. These technologies have made it possible for fans to communicate with professional athletes, teams and other fans from a distance. These technologies are also being used by sports organizations to encourage deeper involvement and loyalty of fans.

An expert panel will discuss these changes and other digital issues. Panelists include Dr. Andrew Billings, director of the Alabama Program in Sports Communication and Ronald Reagan Chair of Broadcasting in the Department of Journalism and Creative Media at the University of Alabama; Rob Moseley, Editor-in-Chief of GoDucks.com and official Twitter voice of Ducks athletics at the University of Oregon; Lindsay Schnell, staff writer for Sports Illustrated; and Travis McGuire of Linfield's Communications Office. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Lisa Weidman of Linfield's Mass Communication department. Besides PLACE, the event is sponsored by Mass Communication, HHPA, and Sport Management.

Articles and resources:

- How Apps are Being Used to Engage Sports Fans with Live Events
- Super Bowl Lures Rush Hour Crowd as NFL Seeks China Touchdown
- Whole New Game: How fantasy football's explosion during Roger Goodell's 10 years as commissioner has changed the way we cover, follow and consume NFL
- FanDuel and DraftKings, Leaders in Daily Fantasy Sports, Are Quickly Gaining Clout
- Scholarly research by Dr. Andrew Billings and co-authors: <u>Exploring the Change in Motivations for Fantasy Sport Participation During the Life Cycle of a Sports Fan</u> (Linfield Libraries article permalink)

Music and Technology Student Composition Installation

Thursday, May 4, 5-7 p.m., Vivian Bull Music Center Lobby

Organizer: Andrea Reinkemeyer, Music

Students enrolled in the MUSC 225 Music Technology and MUSC 203/403 Composition courses have composed short electroacoustic pieces this semester. Through varied listening and reading assignments, students have gained a deeper understanding of the history and tools of electronic music composition. Visitors can listen to their projects, which will be on looped playback in the VBMC from 5-7 p.m. These courses are taught by Dr. Andrea Reinkemeyer, a PLACE Faculty Fellow.

- Articles and resources:
- TEDxIndianapolis Talk: <u>The difference between hearing and listening</u> by Pauline Oliveros
- Wonderland Podcast with Steven Johnson: <u>Strange Loops and Circuit</u> <u>Benders</u> (Or, How New Music Comes from Broken Machines)

PLACE Talks: Students Speak on Symposium Day

Friday, May 5, 12-1:30 p.m., Delkin Recital Hall in the Vivian Bull Music Center

Organizer: Susan Currie Sivek, PLACE/Mass Communication

Have you been changed by technology? Do you have a digital self? What does it mean to live our lives in constant contact with digital technology?

PLACE's theme this year, The Digital Self, has explored our increasingly digital lives from lots of different angles. From politics to algorithms to cryptology to sustainability, we've examined myriad ways technology shapes us as individuals and as a culture.

Students will share their thoughts at this year's inaugural PLACE Talks event on Symposium Day, May 5! They'll compete for cash prizes and campus-wide fame at this thought-provoking, fast-paced exploration of perspectives on The Digital Self.

Three winners will take home cash prizes: \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for the Audience Choice award.

Lunch will be provided -- first come, first served!