

Manufacturing Criminals: NAFTA's Connection to The Mexican Drug Cartels

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Abstract:

This paper analyzes how the establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) led to the development of drug organizations in México. It utilizes a qualitative method to examine primary and secondary sources. The anticipated findings indicate how NAFTA disorganized the economy of the nation, which led to great levels of unemployment, inequality, and to the creation of an atmosphere of social competition over industrial jobs. The research examines the neoliberal policies in Mexico, resulting in NAFTA's negative affect on the Mexican economy. The development of drug cartels is a manifestation of a Mexico's unstable economic system.

Introduction:

- To understand the recent proliferation on the number of drug cartels in Mexico, the negative effects of NAFTA must be taken into consideration. This rise of the cartels points to a socioeconomic struggle that is forcing people to criminal activities.
- For Mexico, the new era of neoliberalism not only gave rise to the cartels but it also brought the war against drugs to new levels.

Literature review:

- Historical analysis of the Mexican drug organizations has been taking primarily two different approaches: examining the main organizations that operated and are still operating in Mexico; and writing about some of the main "actors" of this phenomenon.
- A comprehensive study on this topic should clarify the socioeconomic factors that have contributed to the proliferation of these organization during the last twenty years.



Methodology

The nature of these illegal groups touches different aspects of society, and it requires an interdisciplinary approach for a better interpretation. Throughout this research, the Commodity Chain Approach and Intersectionality theories proved most effective. Finally, This research contains a variety of different sources to support the main arguments: it examines archival material, newspaper publications from México and the United States, and governmental and institutional reports.

Key Findings:

- NAFTA created great levels of unemployment in the agriculture industry, which led to an increase in the number of people working for drug trafficking organizations.
- NAFTA also led to the modernization of the transportation system, which facilitated the movement of more illegal drugs to the United States and around Mexico.
- Competition over industrial jobs led to the migration of people to the northern region of the nation, which facilitated their exploitation by drug trafficking groups.

Conclusion:

NAFTA negatively affected the agriculture industry in México because it failed to recognize the significance and success of the *ejido* system. Consequently, millions of Mexican campesinos were forced to migrate out of their communities in search for jobs. A considerable number of these farm workers could not find a formal profession, so they joined drug trafficking organizations. The industrialization process that NAFTA started contributed to the spread of slums. These slums became valuable for drug cartels because of their close proximity to the Mexican-American border.

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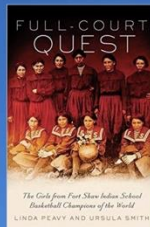


The Transformational Power of High School Girls Basketball in Native America

I. The First World Champions: Ft. Shaw Indian Boarding School Girls Basketball Team



Against the backdrop of late 19th century federal policies of assimilation and "civilizing" Natives, the Ft. Shaw Indian Boarding School forcibly enrolled indigenous peoples away from homes and families. One bright spot was Superintendent Fred Campbell's preferred instrument of educational revival: basketball



African American coach Jerry Richardson arrives to Shiprock for his first teaching and coaching job. Although a minority himself, he was viewed with great skepticism by the Navajo until key community members coopted several assistants to help him address the stereotypes of both himself and the players he coached



By 1897 they were the only school in Montana, for Indians or non-Indians, college, or high school, which incorporated basketball into its physical culture curriculum (F. Delsahut and Terret 985-986). The girls' team had incredible success and clinched the champion title of Montana and transformed girls' basketball from a game for physical culture classes to the most exciting spectator sport in Montana.

As a result, the Fort Shaw team was invited to the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The team paid its way to St. Louis by playing basketball games (and winning most) against all comers along their 1,500 mile train journey. At the World's Fair (formally called The Louisiana Purchase Exhibition) the team lived in a model Indian school and were considered a "live display" as they attended classes, performed concerts, wore native dress, and played sports. Concluding the event, the team played a local all-star team and won and was crowned 1904 World Champions.



High School basketball presents the best opportunity to understand the **transformational role Native American women may occupy inside their culture**. Secondary school athletics are vital as this is where the most participation takes place and the most local impact is felt.

Participation in basketball taps into **historic notions of equity and leadership for women in tribal cultures**. A majority of historical reports and testimonies about Native women's ball games state women participated seriously and with equal interest and respect as men and created unique social and recreational space compared to European of the same time (F. Delsahut and Terret 982).

An N.C.A.A. study indicated that during the 2011-12 academic year, only 21 women and 4 men identified as American Indian/Alaska Native participated among the 10,151 basketball players at the Division I level (Longman). This translates to **.002 percent of all players in major college athletics are Native American females**.

Tribal leaders are focused on building modern facilities for high school athletics to provide opportunities for youth, **especially females, to embrace different perspectives of power and socialization**.

Basketball serves a **passionate communal purpose** and provides an objective measure of success against the bleak statistics of failure on reservations (Longman).

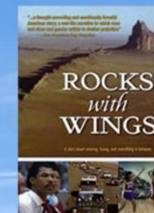
Paternal cultures and sexism limit the recognition of female accomplishments and empowerment: "Of the 94 athletes inducted into The American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame, set up in 1972, **only three are women athletes**" (F. Delsahut and Terret, 978).

Native American ownership of professional sports teams, particularly the WNBA's Connecticut Sun, **spotlights the importance and value tribal elders associate with women's basketball** ("Tribes Make Inroads in Sport Industry").

High school girls **basketball serves as a critical support system** for Native American females. Thompson et al. point out: "The importance of social support for Native American women is a critical factor that should not be ignored when physical activity programs are being developed...support from family members, friends, community members, and tribal leaders appears to be necessary to allow Native American women to give themselves permission to be physically active. Without such support, women in this population feel that they are abandoning their expected caretaker and gender roles, which they find unacceptable".

III. Building a Dynasty: Shiprock (NM) High School Lady Chieftains

After a couple years Richardson's ethos and message of empowerment and confidence went well beyond the basketball court as he states, "Basketball is just an avenue. You know the bottom line I think is all the other little things, being responsible, being dependable, making a commitment. My message to them is you can do anything you want to do. All you need is an opportunity" (O'Neil).



Documented in the film *Rocks With Wings* (2001), the success and legacy of the Lady Chieftains has endured through this film that took 13 years to complete (Horoshko). Through interviews, game footage, and numerous interactions between players, parents, friends, and rivals, Director Rick Derby documents how the success of the Lady Chieftains transcends tribal acrimony and elevates women to a rarified place.

IV. Heroic Struggle: Hardin High School (MT) Lady Bulldogs



In *Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on the Little Big Horn* (Warner Books, 2000), Sharon LaForge's story is sadly the most common and somber of all. Larry Colton uses an embedded perspective during Sharon's senior season and offers insight into the many factors working against LaForge and so many female Native American basketball players like her even today.

A star player returning for her senior year, LaForge suffers from the chronically low expectations and poor support systems available to her on the Crow Reservation in south central Montana. Sharon is raised by her grandmother whose pride and pressure on Sharon's basketball game rise each game



Basketball provides LaForge an escape and place to shine, yet her role as a strong and successful female is challenged by tribal paternalism, an abusive relationship with an older man, as well as the racial prejudice and discrimination she faces playing away games. The entrenched cycles of dependency, poverty, abuse, and in fighting, envelope Sharon's life on the rez from top to bottom. She has no role models to follow to a college education or path off the reservation

II. Shoni Shimmel: The Zenith of Native American Women's Basketball

As a basketball player her accomplishments are unmatched:
 -top ten high school recruit (Franklin High, Portland, OR, 2010)
 -NCAA Division I scholarship (Louisville 2010-2014)
 -2013 World University games (Gold Medal)
 -8th overall pick 2014 WNBA draft, and two time All Star



Shimmel's path to success departs from previous Native American basketball players as she and her family made the decision to "leave the rez" her junior year in high school to increase exposure for her basketball career. Her mother and father were also hired as coaches of Shimmel's new high school team.

Shoni played with her sister basketball talented sister, Jude, at Louisville for three years. Together, the two have become icons to many Native Americans. "I don't think these two realize the impact their example has on kids," says Marlin Fryberg, a tribal leader on the Tulalip Reservation, north of Seattle. "Potential is one thing, but actual success is quite another. That's why these girls are so important to the whole Indian nation. They're going to get degrees and come back and give back. For the adults here, they're our heroes too" (Anderson).



Artificial Intelligence and Extending the Reach of Contemporary Asian Canadian Arts

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Introduction: The aim of this study is to explore how artificial intelligence can help to promote Asian Canadian Arts, especially through the IBM Watson Platform.

Abstract

As Asian Heritage Month celebrated the achievements of Asian Canadian artists in 2017 marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation in Canada, the timely need to find new means to enable them to reach mainstream Canadian venues and audience was raised by many artists. They often face problems of inclusion when struggling to gain recognition. In our recent 2018 Asian Heritage Month Film Festival panel discussion, when Asian Canadian filmmakers were asked how digital strategies could help to promote themselves, their films, and to produce new arts fusion, they unanimously concluded there were no concerted digital efforts and platforms in Canada for Asian Canadian artists.

Furthermore, different kinds of artists with different backgrounds may need different strategies. Such backgrounds include country of origin, ethnicity, gender, age and languages. This poster explores whether the rise of digital infrastructure, especially artificial intelligence, can help Asian Canadian artists gain recognition, reach their potential spectators, and, subsequently, to help their target audience to interpret their artworks. Asian Canadian arts here is taken in the broad sense, covering literature, visual art, film and video, music and the performing arts, and photography.

In this poster, I explore how the functionalities on IBM Watson can contribute to Asian Canadian arts. Instead of featuring the artists in an ad hoc manner on websites, can the powerful artificial intelligence functionalities offer solutions that can work across digital platforms, such as on mobile devices, tablets and streaming? How can these inform marketing strategies, and may eventually contribute to the formulation of digital strategies and policies?

Background

At the opening of the Asian Heritage Month Arts and Photo Exhibition in 2017 in Metro Hall, Toronto, attended by the Mayor of Toronto John Tory, Asian Canadian artists voiced the concern that they found it difficult to find their way into "mainstream" venues and productions. While the Art Gallery of Ontario might feature Asian artists prominently, it is very difficult for Asian Canadian artists to have their works exhibited.

The aim of this poster is to find out how artificial intelligence on the IBM Watson platform can identify pathways for Asian Canadian artists to reach mainstream Canadian exhibitions, performances and productions.

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How can the IBM Watson platform help to identify qualities that can bridge Asian Canadian artists to Canada and Canadians? To answer this question, a pilot study is conducted on the IBM Watson platform. A use case is built using a successful production of a new children's opera, *The Monkiest King*, by award-winning Asian Canadian composer, Alice Ho, choreographed by Emily Cheung of Little Pear Garden Dance Collective, with librettist Marjorie Chan, all of whom are Chinese Canadians, and produced by mainstream Canadian Children's Opera Company, as the celebration of the company's 50th anniversary. *The Monkiest King* is based on a Chinese legend from the Song Dynasty (960-1127), which became a famous 16th century Chinese novel *Journey to the West*. To reach the mainstream audience, this production was a Canadian adaptation. The production was a huge success, attracting full house reflective of the multicultural members of the Canadian Children's Opera Company.

To find out what makes this production outreach successfully to the wide spectrum of the Canadian audience, IBM Watson platform is used. The artificial intelligence service platforms were employed to identify those qualities from a large amount of unstructured data that enabled the cultural bridges.

Research Questions

In this project, the IBM Watson Platform, especially Knowledge Studio and Natural Language Understanding, were used to identify the digital needs of artists, artistic groups and organizations. The project hopes to devise digital strategies to enable artists and artistic groups in Canada to make use of artificial intelligence to widen their audience, and to enable more people in Canada and the world to be aware of their artistry and its meaning.

Our specific research questions are 1) How do Asian Canadian works of art make use of cultural diversity and inclusion? 2) How do they reflect cultural fusions made possible by multiculturalism in Canada?

Methodology

To train Watson to identify content, IBM Watson Knowledge Studio and Natural Language Understanding were used to extract metadata from unstructured text, and enable content to be analyzed for concepts, entities, keywords, categories, relations, and semantic role. A crucial step is to identify these types carefully as they form the basis for the machine learning. Such identification may take many rounds of trial and error.

In this poster, I will do a quick demonstration on how to use this artificial intelligence platform. Information has to be extracted according to the research questions. First, on Watson Knowledge Studio, a workspace entitled "Asian Canadian Arts" was created. This is a portal to study Asian Canadian artists and art forms. The portal is set as single user, and language is in English, and the platform can be multilingual covering Asian languages.

Sample

Under Assets and Tools, documents sets were uploaded. Dora Award Winner Alice Ho's new opera with the Canadian Children's Opera Company, *The Monkiest King*, was used as a pilot study. The documents uploaded to train the AI platform included promotional items related to this production, and the online means through which the general public could learn about this production. In addition to the description of the opera on their website, the bio of the composer from Canadian Music Centre, the description of the Canadian Children Opera Company on their website, and the information on the choreographer Little Pear Garden Dance Company were used. For the training for the pilot project, a small number of files were uploaded to test to identify the types such as entities and relations. Then these will be pushed out to 450 documents to train the machine.

Results

Before the uploaded texts can be analyzed, a type system of domain-specific entities and relations have to be created. The types should be kept to a reasonable number, targeted at the research questions. An entity is a group name that can encompass a number of elements. A relation is between two entities.

To address our research questions, 13 entity types were created: title of art works, production, person, ideas and concepts, source story, Asian, Canadian, global, audience, characters, setting, date and time and awards. It is crucial to keep these numbers small, as these already need about 450 documents to train the machine. This number is dependent on how complicated the words are in the language system in the document sets. It is harder to train the machine with large type systems. After the document set was uploaded, the annotation set was created. This refers to the human annotation process. Creating annotation sets is to group the documents specific to an annotator. There are typically hundreds of documents. So each annotation set may be for a specific purpose, done by a specific annotator.

Then the texts using the entity types and relations were annotated according to the 13 entity types. An entity is a category of object to annotate. Relation types describe how two entity types are connected. For example, "composing" is relating the person entity to the title of art works entity. The entities and relations cannot be too many else it becomes too complicated with the number of document sets, and takes too long to generate.

Annotations have two steps: pre-annotations and human annotations. Pre-annotations were done by specially prepared dictionaries, and the metadata on our Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage were used to create two dictionaries, one on Asian Canadian artists, as there were over a hundred entries on the Virtual Museum, and the other on Asian countries. The major step is human annotation when the text was annotated manually using the entities and relations. The machine is trained to evaluate. Collaborators can be invited to apply the rules to specific domain.

The Annotate Tasks function is used to train the computer to recognize the entities and relations. A number of tasks are necessary to make sure the entity types and the relation types are appropriate and will yield the results needed to answer our research questions. Here is what the annotated text looks like, colour-coded according to each entity marked:



Conclusion

The artificial intelligence on the IBM Watson Platform can definitely be used to extract targeted information from massive unstructured data. However, deciding on the entities and relations can be time consuming as one has to arrive at the correct categories. A number of documents needed to be humanly annotated before setting up the machine learning model. But this is time worth spending as the machine will be trained according to such categories. Once developed, the model is also capable to be deployed to IBM Watson Natural Language Understanding. The ultimate aim is to apply this model on the more than 100 artists profiles on our Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCH) to help them reach mainstream audience.



New Directions
in the Humanities



Abstract:

Maria Carlota C. Macedo Soares (Paris, 1910 - NY, 1967), also known as Lotta, studied painting with Portinari, and was one of the founders of União Democrática Nacional – UDN, a progressive political party. As an intellectual and a world citizen, born into a rich family in Rio de Janeiro, she was always surrounded by personalities like Calder, Lina Bo, and Pietro Maria Bardi. Lotta also was intimately involved in the creation process of the Modern Art Museum of Rio de Janeiro. In the 1960s, her venture in politics was enough to prevent the execution of a progressive urban project designed for Aterro do Flamengo. Under her supervision, she led a team of professionals to design and construct Parque do Flamengo, the largest public space and recreation area in Rio de Janeiro. After reviewing her biography and the project of Aterro do Flamengo, this work investigates the importance of the feminine perspective to the maintenance of Carioca landscape, its permanence, and resistance.



Image 1: Glória and the Park. Source: Módulo Magazine, Rio de Janeiro, n. 37, p.26, ago. 1964.

Introduction:

This work aims to investigate the importance of the feminine perspective to the maintenance of Carioca landscape, its permanence and resistance.

Background:

The authorship Parque do Flamengo (Flamengo's Park) is attributed to



Image 2: Flamengo's Park Plan. Source: Safeguard Process number 748-T-64. Iphan, 1964.

two men, Affonso Reidy and Roberto Burle Marx however another important person behind it is a woman, named Lota, that led the team of professionals responsible for its design. But that isn't explored, as it should.

Relevance

Lota was an intellectual, a world citizen, fond of architecture, urban planning and the arts. A modernist. In 1960, she was invited by Carlos Lacerda, Governor of Guanabara, to work with him, then she demanded to work with the area of the earthwork.

Gloria, the neighbourhood where it was built, is the link between the historic core of Rio de Janeiro and the South Area of the city. The project with more than a million square meters, connected these two areas and completely transformed the landscape.

Lota's intention was to project a Tropical Central Park, so beautiful that would be remarkable. A gift to the city. Owing to the fact that she was not graduated, she worked as a volunteer for two years and that did not interfered in her dedication. She was an idealist.

Research Question:

Therefore how can Lota be such a stranger to Brazilians while the others professionals of her team are so familiar?

Methods:

Thus, in order to understand Lota's work and life, we did a critical reading of her biography.

Results:

The city landscape was transformed by the urban changes that took place between 1930 and 1960. The land for the embankment came from one of the three hills that were demolished. The urban planning department (SURSAN) intended to built a high way and allow the construction of tall buildings near the beach.



Image 3: The Park and the Bay. Source: Módulo Magazine, Rio de Janeiro, n. 37, p.30, ago. 1964.

Lota's view was really important since it became an alternative to preserve Carioca Landscape. She was inventive, professional. She Sought innovation, and knew how to make it with quality and low budget. Her plans were opposite to the ones made by the department and she knew that this was the reason why the department was always interfering in her work.

She wanted the park to be remarkable but she also wanted to preserve the urban fabric, its memory and the layers of the city that already existed there.

She wanted the park to be remarkable but she also wanted to preserve the urban fabric, its memory and the layers of the city that already existed there.

In order to protect the park and its project and also to assure that its construction was going to be finished, Lota applied for the park to be put the under government interest and she did it. When the park opened, in 1965, it was already considered cultural heritage. And to guarantee that its maintenance would be free of political intervention, she tried to create the Parque do Flamengo Foundation, but that did not succeed due to conflicts between her and SURSAN.

Lota worked in the Park's project from 1961 to 1967, when she killed herself. According to Carlos Lacerda, she created Parque do Flamengo but she died without it because of politics. And what remains of it, it is only because of her.

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