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 México, 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 also brought the war against drugs to new levels.

Literature review:
- Historical analysis of the Mexican drug organizations has been taken 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.

Key References:
Basketball, Women, and the Reservation: 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 institution of educational revitalization - basketball.

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. Delshut and Terret 1895-1896). The girls' team had an 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 1,000 mile train journey. At the World's Fair (formally called The Louisiana Purchase Exposition), 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.

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), RCAA Division I scholarship (2010-2014), 2013 World University Games (Gold Medal), 8th overall pick 2014 WNBA draft, and to this 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.

Shimmel 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 elder 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 anniversary of Confederation in Canada, the timely need to find new ways to enable them to reach mainstream Canadian venues and audiences was raised by many artists. They often face problems of recognition when struggling with funding and recognition in our current cultural context. At the Asian Heritage Month Film Festival panel discussion, when Asian Canadian filmmakers were asked about digital tools that could help to promote themselves, their films, and to produce new arts forms, they unanimously concluded that with the help of the new digital platforms and tools in Canada for Asian Canadian artists.

Furthermore, different kinds of artists with different backgrounds may need different strategies. Such backgrounds include language, ethnicity, and professional background. There is a growing need for digital infrastructure, especially artificial intelligence, to help Asian Canadian artists gain recognition, reach their potential audiences, and, subsequently, to help target audiences to interpret their artworks. Asian Canadian artists are taking on the broader sense of digital arts here in the broad sense of contemporary art, film, literature, visual arts, and photography. In this poster, I explore how the functionalities on IBM Watson can contribute to Asian Canadian arts.

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.

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 Monks, was used as a pilot study. The documents uploaded to the AI platform included promotional material 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 biography of the composer from Canadian Music Centre, the description of the Little Fear of a Gun Dance Company, and the information on the choreographer Little Fear of a Gun Dance Company were used.

Results

Before the uploaded texts can be analyzed, a type system of documents is created. The type system is based on the number of entities targeted at the research questions. An entity is a group 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 of art works, text, text fragment, globe, language, characters, setting, date, and time and audience. It is crucial to keep these numbers small, as the爱心 these numbers lead to a lot of documents to train the machine. This number is dependent on the complexity of the words in the language used in the document sets. It is harder to train the machine with large type systems. After the document sets were uploaded, the annotation set was created. This refers to the human annotation process. Creating annotation sets is group dependent on the type system set. The type system set contains hundreds of documents. Each annotation set may be for a specific purpose, done by a specific annotator.

Conclusion

The artificial intelligence on the IBM Watson Platform can be used to extract targeted information from massive unstructured data. However, deciding on the entities and relations can be a complex task. Once developed, the model is also capable of deploying on IBM Watson Natural Language Understanding. The ultimate aim is to apply this model on the more than 100 artist profiles on our Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCHH) to help them reach mainstream audiences.
Gloria through her eyes: Lota’s influence in Carioca Landscape

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Abstract:
Maria Carlota C. Macedo Soares (Paris, 1910 - NY, 1969), also known as Lota, 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 Barb. Lota 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.

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 two men, Afonso 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.

References: