

Destiny Durham

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CMS Seminar

Professor Bai

Presentation write up

I presented two articles in class one titled “Viewpoint Computing as Social Science” written by Michael Buckley and “Social science meets computer science at Yahoo” written by James Temple. I chose both of these articles because I am a Women and Gender Studies major with a minor in Education, and I wanted to relate my field of interest to this Computer Science Seminar.

The first article “Viewpoint computing as Social Science” is an article where the author contemplates how to keep Freshmen students in college interested in the major of computer science. Buckley believes that the reason that the major is losing freshmen students is because “We don’t offer students the idea that computer science is social, relevant, important, and caring and we lose their interest.”(Buckley 29) However, Buckley argues that the computer science does in fact have an impact on social issues. He describes a senior project that computer science students partake in. The students posted a sign for handicapped school children which read “Is there something you need? Call us?” After hearing from a mother whose daughter could not use a computer because she has no motor skills and could move her fingers but not her arms. So the students made her a trackball out of a basketball and wrote games that use the wide swing of her arms as she rotated the basketball. I like the fact that the author included this example because it shows that computer science does indeed have an impact on social science.

I also presented an article titled “Social science meets computer science at Yahoo” which was written by James Temple. This article is about how Yahoo Labs have added a range of social scientists and highly cognitive psychologists, economists, and ethnographers from top universities around the world. Yahoo has realized that computer science alone can’t answer all the questions of the Modern Web business. Yahoo businesses have realized that in order to be one of the best websites on the internet they must find out what motivates human to click and stick on features, ads, and applications. I chose to include this article because it was an example of how social science does indeed have an impact on computer science and electronics.

Overall, I enjoyed this seminar because I was able to learn some terms of computer science.