

# DATA ACTIVISM

How can we become  
data activists?

# DATA ACTIVISM

What can we learn from Dr. Joy Buolamwini about data activism?

3-2-1 Rule:

- 3 facts
- 2 pieces of information you never knew
- 1 question



# DATA ACTIVISM

Data activism is ...  
analyzing power  
and how it  
operates in the  
world.

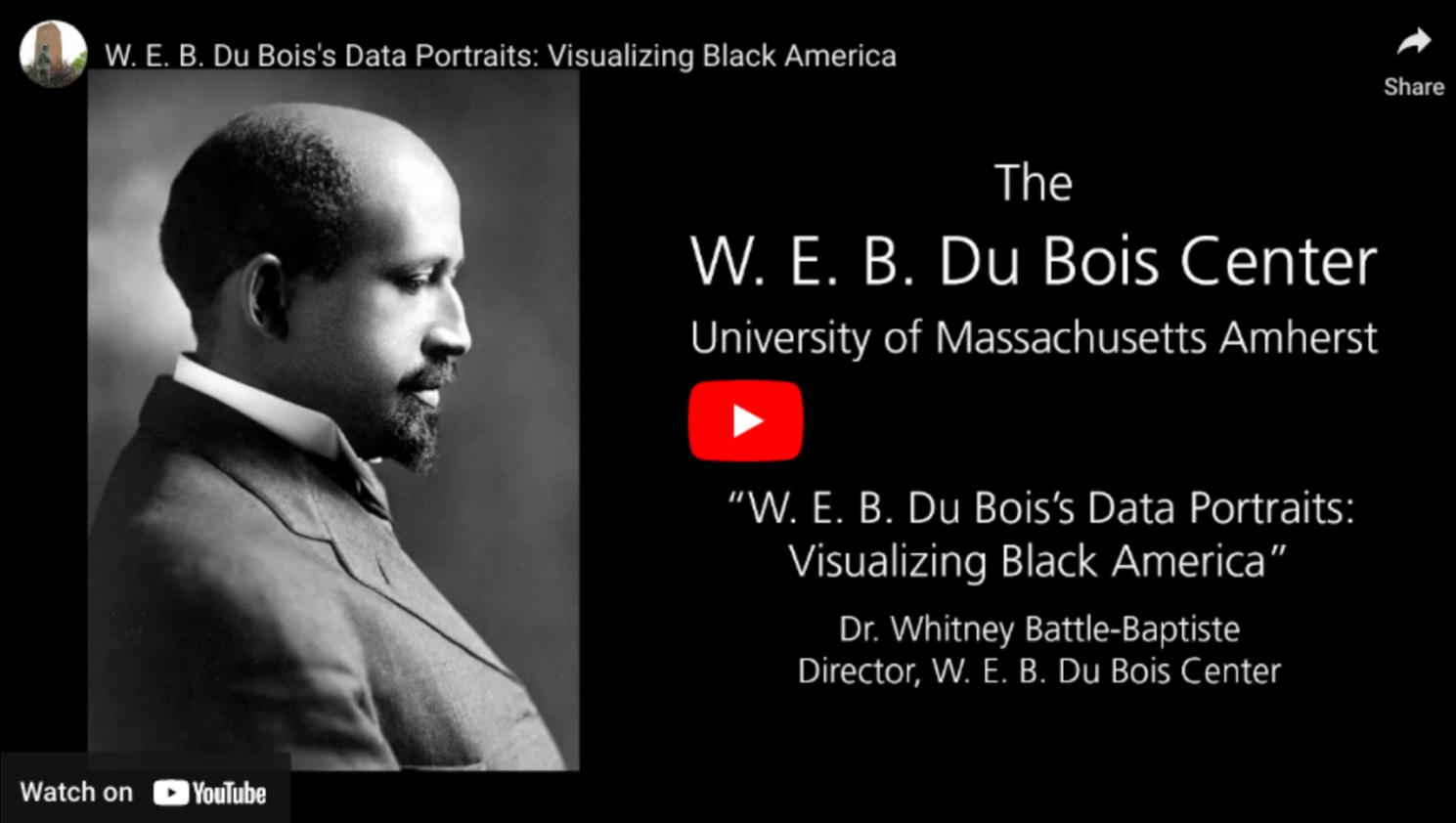


# DATA ACTIVISM

What can we learn from W.E.B. Du Bois about data

3-2-1 Rule: activism?

- 3 facts
- 2 pieces of information you never knew
- 1 question



W. E. B. Du Bois's Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America

The  
W. E. B. Du Bois Center  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

“W. E. B. Du Bois’s Data Portraits:  
Visualizing Black America”

Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste  
Director, W. E. B. Du Bois Center

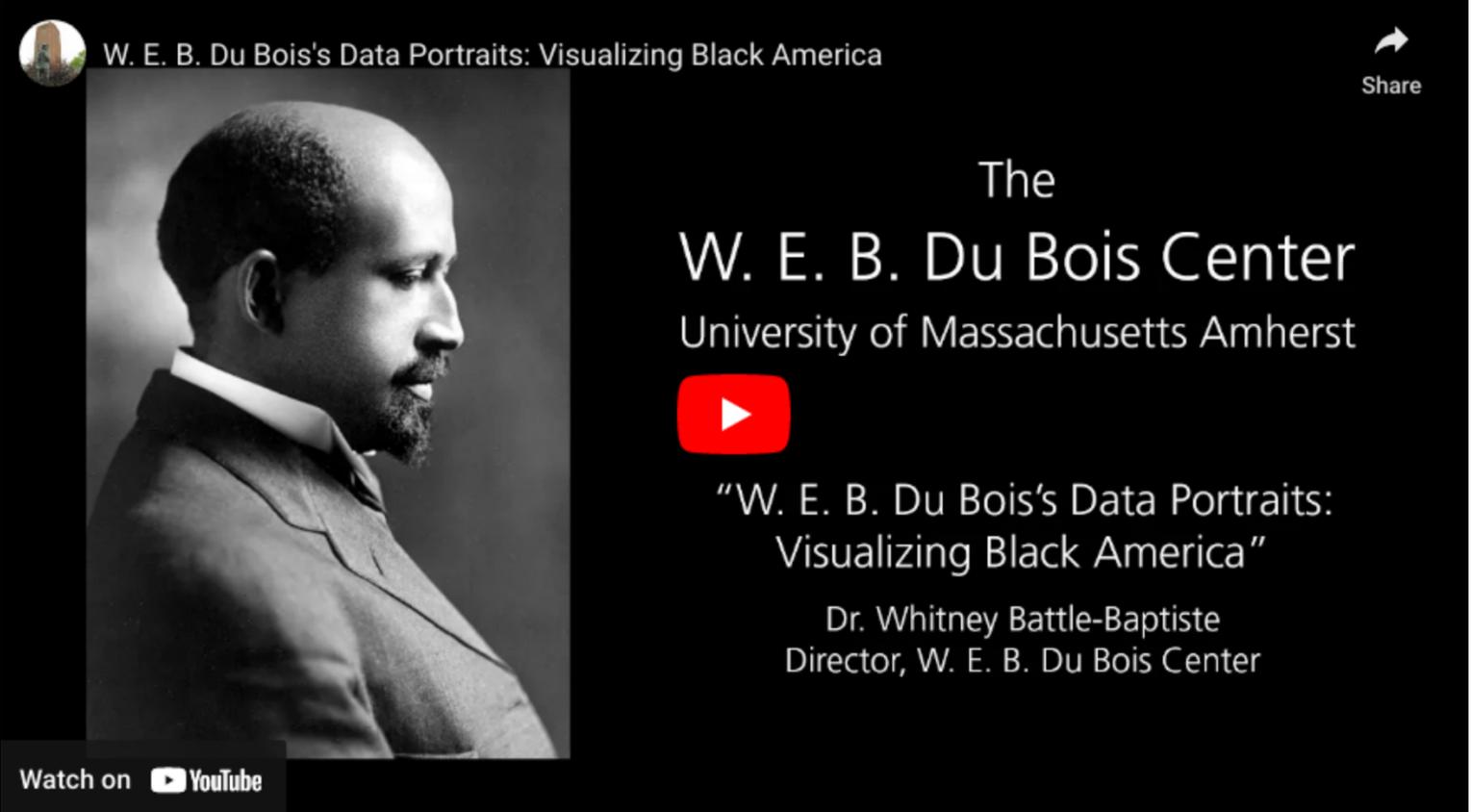
Watch on YouTube

# DATA ACTIVISM

Data activism is ... challenging power.

3-2-1 Rule:

- 3 facts
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What can we learn from "Soft City" about data activism?

3-2-1 Rule:

- 3 facts
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Roxbury, Dorchester, and East Cambridge

# DATA ACTIVISM

What can we learn from "Soft City" about data activism?

- "Soft City is a large-scale textile series that maps the Black neighborhoods in Boston." - Just practice
- "The tapestries map historic (redlined) and contemporary Black neighborhoods, including Roxbury, Dorchester, and East Cambridge." - Just practice



Roxbury, Dorchester, and East Cambridge

# DATA ACTIVISM

Data activism is ... using art and computing to empathize with people that are oppressed.

3-2-1 Rule:

- 3 facts
- 2 pieces of information you never knew
- 1 question



Roxbury, Dorchester, and East Cambridge

# WHAT IS DATA ACTIVISM?

1. analyzing power and how it operates in the world
2. challenging power
3. using art to empathize with people who are oppressed

# OBJECTIVE:

- learn the critical thinking and coding skills needed to ensure AI is fair in the criminal justice system

# OBJECTIVE:

- learn about the COMPAS  
Recidivism Algorithm

# BACKGROUND:

- COMPAS is a Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) that decides whether someone in jail has a low, medium, or high risk of recidivating or committing another crime.



AN

Are Risk Assessment Algorithms Fair, or Racist?



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# ALGORITHMS AND MASS INCARCERATION



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