

LibrePlanet 2020 presentation

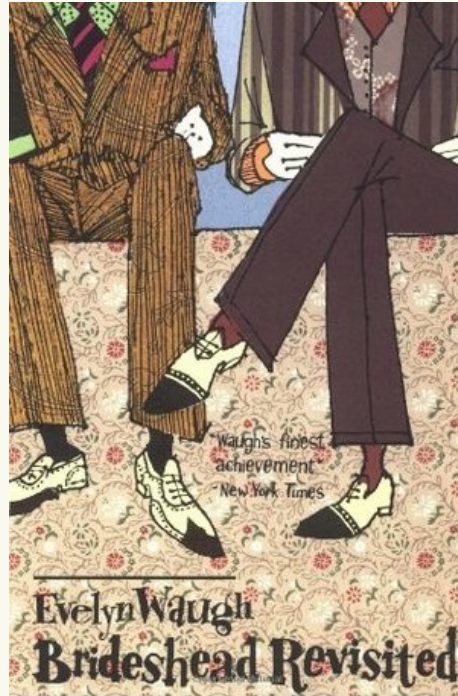
Camille Akmut

February 3, 2020

Abstract

Some of my previous research (Turing Award, Soudcloud, GNU project...) as well as others' will be presented. [Goal : walk people through the steps of doing research rather than simply present results.]

Diversity in free software projects : a statistical analysis



Int. : diversity and ideology

These issues are not easy, and not new. "*Here it is a matter of ascending from earth to heaven*" (as two anti-idealist philosophers already wrote in the 19th c.):

"... in considering the course of history we detach the ideas of the ruling class from the ruling class itself and attribute to them an independent existence (...) without bothering ourselves about the conditions of production and the producers of these ideas (...)

Each new ruling class (...) is compelled (...) to present its interest as the common interest of all the members of society (...) it has to give its ideas the form of universality, and present them as the only rational, universally valid ones"

(Marx and Engeles, 'The German Ideology', I 4. and III 1.)

*add. : (half-billionaire) Ellen DeGeneres, a friend to everyone, and no one. (Ref. to Bush)

Context 1 : Turing Award

Context 2 : Black computer science profs.

- Statistics (late 1990's)
- Quote from Clarence Ellis (“but the ‘kid’ was black and from the Chicago ghetto”)

Context 3 : corporate “diversity”
promises vs reality (e.g. Soundcloud)

Diversity in free software : GNU

Alternatives : Panfrost

Projects **Groups** Snippets Help

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Panfrost





- Group overview
- Issues 3
- Merge Requests 2
- Members**

Panfrost > Group members

Group members

Existing shares 4

Members with access to **Panfrost** Search Sort by Name, ascending

	Alyssa Rosenzweig ❤️ @alyssa Given access 1 year ago	Owner
	Connor Abbott @cwabbott0 Given access 1 year ago	Owner
	hanetzer @hanetzer Given access 1 year ago	Developer
	Lyude Paul @lyudess Given access 1 year ago	Owner

« Collapse sidebar

Alternatives : Python



Jessica McKellar

- Twisted (networking library),
maintainer
- Python Software Foundation,
director

Alternatives : Libreboot

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Libreboot

Libreboot is free (as in freedom), libre hardware initialization (boot firmware), to replace non-free BIOS/UEFI firmware. It supports many laptops, desktops and servers on x86/ARM. Libreboot includes a bootloader, to boot an OS (GNU+Linux, BSD, etc).

<https://libreboot.org>

libreboot

★ 83 📄 90

Libreboot is a free boot firmware implementation, to replace the non-free BIOS/UEFI firmware found on most systems. It initializes the hardware and starts a bootloader for your operating system.

Updated 8 months ago

People



bucts

★ 0 📄 0

the original repo on stuge.se is down. this is a backup.

Updated 2 years ago

Further reading

- hcommons.org/members/cami

(4-part “The history and sociology of computer science and technology” - if you want to get involved in this field, but you should just really start! Make errors.)

- Rossiter, Margaret. “Matilda effect” (short article, sociological history).

- Baldwin, James. *The fire next time*. (plus the Peck film)

- Marx, Canguilhem, Foucault... (old, reliable friends in times of doubts, temporary intellectual fashions, and mumbo-jumbo Marxian gurus)

“Diversity in free software projects...”

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

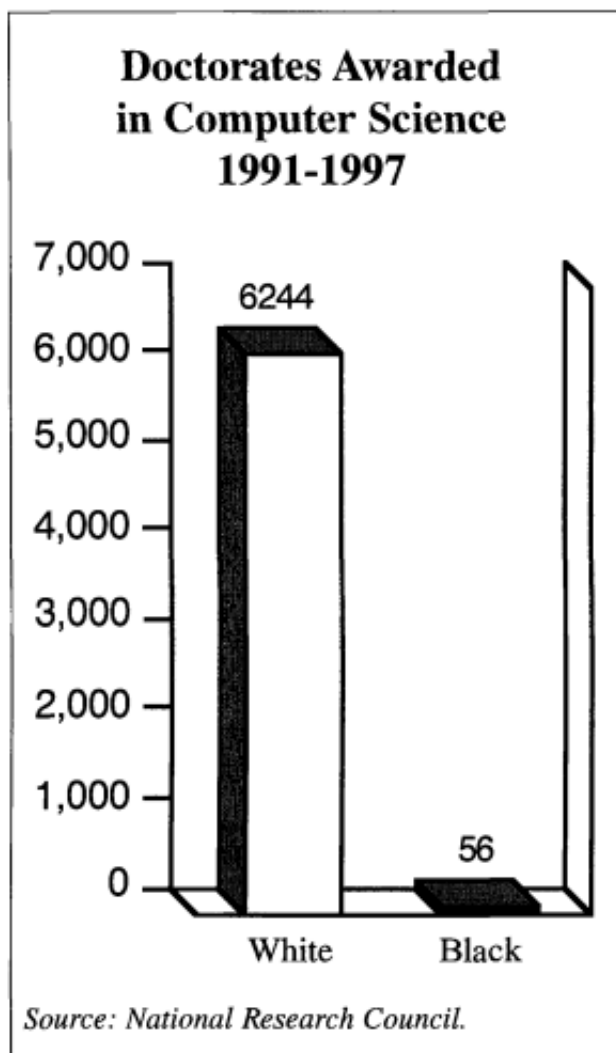
- JBHE 1999 study

In 1994 : “no blacks among the 550 computer science faculty at the nation’s highest-ranked universities“

By 1999 :

Professor level : 0,9%

PhD level :



- More recent studies on black academics and tech workers :

JBHE. 2003. "The Lily-White World of Academics in Computer Science" *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* 40 : 40.

Regarding the 1999 study, they did a follow up report (that I wasn't aware of at the time) called "The Lily-White World of Academics in Computer Science" :

"Of the 1,332 computer science faculty at the 50 universities that report the largest computer science budget, only four are black." ("These universities tend to be the nation's most prestigious research institution")

"in the computer science departments of the nation's great research universities, black scholars are not invisible. They simply do not exist."

Some High-Ranking Universities With No Black Computer Science Faculty

University	Computer Science		
	Total Faculty	Black Faculty	Percent Black
Brown University	20	0	0.0 %
CalTech	8	0	0.0
Carnegie Mellon University	36	0	0.0
Columbia University	22	0	0.0
Cornell University	31	0	0.0
Johns Hopkins University	15	0	0.0
MIT	38	0	0.0
Princeton University	20	0	0.0
Rice University	14	0	0.0
Stanford University	30	0	0.0
Univ. of Calif.-Los Angeles	20	0	0.0
University of Michigan	32	0	0.0
University of N.C.-Chapel Hill	16	0	0.0
University of Virginia	20	0	0.0
Washington University	13	0	0.0

Source: Survey by Donna J. Nelson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Table © The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

**Dillon et al.. 2015. “The State of African-Americans in Computer Science...” 27(8).
Computer Research News. <https://cra.org/crn/2015/09/>**

Here's an even more recent study :

They mostly do “global statistics”, which tend to provide little useful information, but do include a “tech” vs. “non-tech” figure. However they don't go beyond that; specifically, they don't provide more detailed categories such as ie. software engineer vs system administrator (the former being much more prestigious, hence we can expect more inequalities).

**Table 2: Black/African-American Representation
(Detailed Representation)**

Company	Percent		
	Tech	Non-Tech	Leadership Role or Senior Level
Apple	6%	9%	3%
EBay	2%	9%	2%
Facebook	1%	2%	2%
Google	1%	4%	2%
Groupon	2%	5%	1%
LinkedIn	1%	3%	1%
Twitter	1%	4%	2%
Yahoo	1%	3%	1%
Yelp	1%	5%	2%

Data represents the companies' employee demographics data for 2014.

(They use the “Taulbee survey” a lot - also by the CRA. Extremely detailed.)

This also contains useful information about women’s (non-)inclusion at the professor level :

Table 5: Faculty Representation

	Black/African-American				All Ethnic Groups	
	Male		Female		Male	Female
	%	N	%	N	%	%
Tenure Track and/or Tenured	1%	42	<1%	22	82%	18%
Non-Tenure Track and Postdoctorate	1%	27	<1%	18	76%	24%

These data points were extracted from the 2014 Taulbee Survey [10].

- Cover, “antecedants”

How *Brideshead revisited* and especially *Maurice* is not just about the old system of all-male colleges, but also very much about class issues, differences : a turning point in *Maurice* being when one of the two men gets in a relationship with a lower-class servant (while the other marries within the expectations both of their class, and times).

In *Brideshead revisited*, this aspect is also present but it's more about nobility (the Flyte family, Sebastian, and his fashionable crowd of aesthetes) vs (petite) bourgeoisie.

- Female undergrad interviews

Margolis et al.. 2000. "The Anatomy of Interest: Women in Undergraduate Computer Science" *Women's Studies Quarterly* 28(1/2) : 104-127.

Qualitative study on women's experiences in undergraduate computer science, their reasons for joining and quitting.

One female student in her first year had this to say :

"I have this thing in me that wants to help. I felt the only problem I had in computer science was that I would be detaching myself from society a lot, that I wouldn't be helping; (...) I would like to find a way that I could help - that's where I would like to go with computer science"

(compatible with free software)

"... lent credibility to the pseudo-science of "safe AI" ..."