


A film collaboration with philosopher and data scientist Sabina Leonelli examining notions of *Data Shadows*.







*“Examining data that are not there, not readily available, and/or not useable towards proving claims or fostering discoveries brings us to confront the significance of what is not typically recognised as knowledge – what is invisible, tacit, ignored, denied, expected, forbidden, private, inaccessible, unknown, or unexplored.”*

We have identified the theme of Data Shadows within Sabina’s research and use works of art by Jacob van der Beugel to create an innovative aesthetic palette from which we build beautiful metaphors to explore this complexity within the world of data science.

Accompanying the film will be a unique soundscape audio composed by Felix Erskine.



## OVERARCHING THEMES

Making the seemingly absent present.  
Turning away from the idea of data as immutable.  
Embracing the notion of data as mutable mobiles.  
The journeying of data as a continual process of re-contextualising and de-contextualising.  
Patterning of light and shade can act to clarify, obscure and attract speculation.  
The latency and potency of data's mobility.  
Revealing processes that happen to data to make them travel.  
Hidden infrastructures lurking in the shadows.  
Data as contextual creations.  
From data shadows grows more data.  
Wrenching data from the present.

## THE FILM

Just as data are created from the real world, in the context of this film, we have cast and then extracted concrete cores to represent data: an aggregated composite medium. The central narrative follows the physical journeys of these cores as they undergo processes of de-contextualisation, transformation, appropriation and loss. The film exists in 5 chapters...





# Chapter 1: Extraction







Like data, a core can be extracted from anywhere. We establish the idea that successfully interpreting particular data is dependent on the context of an extraction point: the first of many shadows.

We use stunning close-up shots to reveal the unique texture of the hole left behind in the landscape.





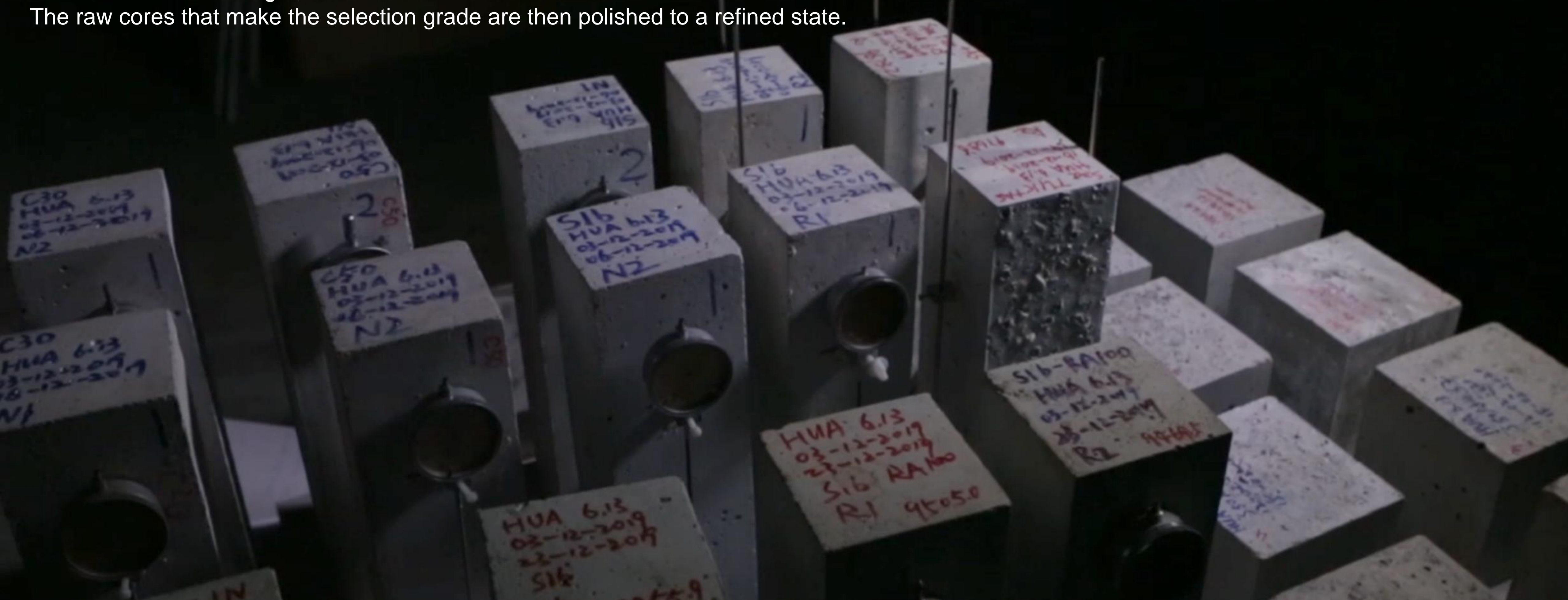
**Chapter 2: The Repository**



The data repository is where data are cleaned, curated and stored before use: hidden, are the processes and infrastructures that will determine how the data can be used.

**‘Patterning of light and shade can act to clarify, obscure and attract speculation.’**

Some pristine looking cores rotate to reveal broken and missing elements on the other side. To evoke the concept of data shadows we rotate lights around cores, creating a dance of shadow and light, that reveals and hides different characteristics of each core. The raw cores that make the selection grade are then polished to a refined state.





# Chapter 3: Journeys





The film will follow a number of cores on their journeys that symbolise different aspects of data flow.

In some instances, we follow discarded components and see whether they can be re-constituted to provide another data point.







Or does it just flow out into the ether.....



Another journey articulates the phenomenon of aggregating and compiling new data sets.









# Chapter 4: Destinations



There is no definitive end point for any data and our destinations allude to moments of potentiality.

The river delta is an analogy for bifurcation points, but also a confluence point where multiple paths meet.



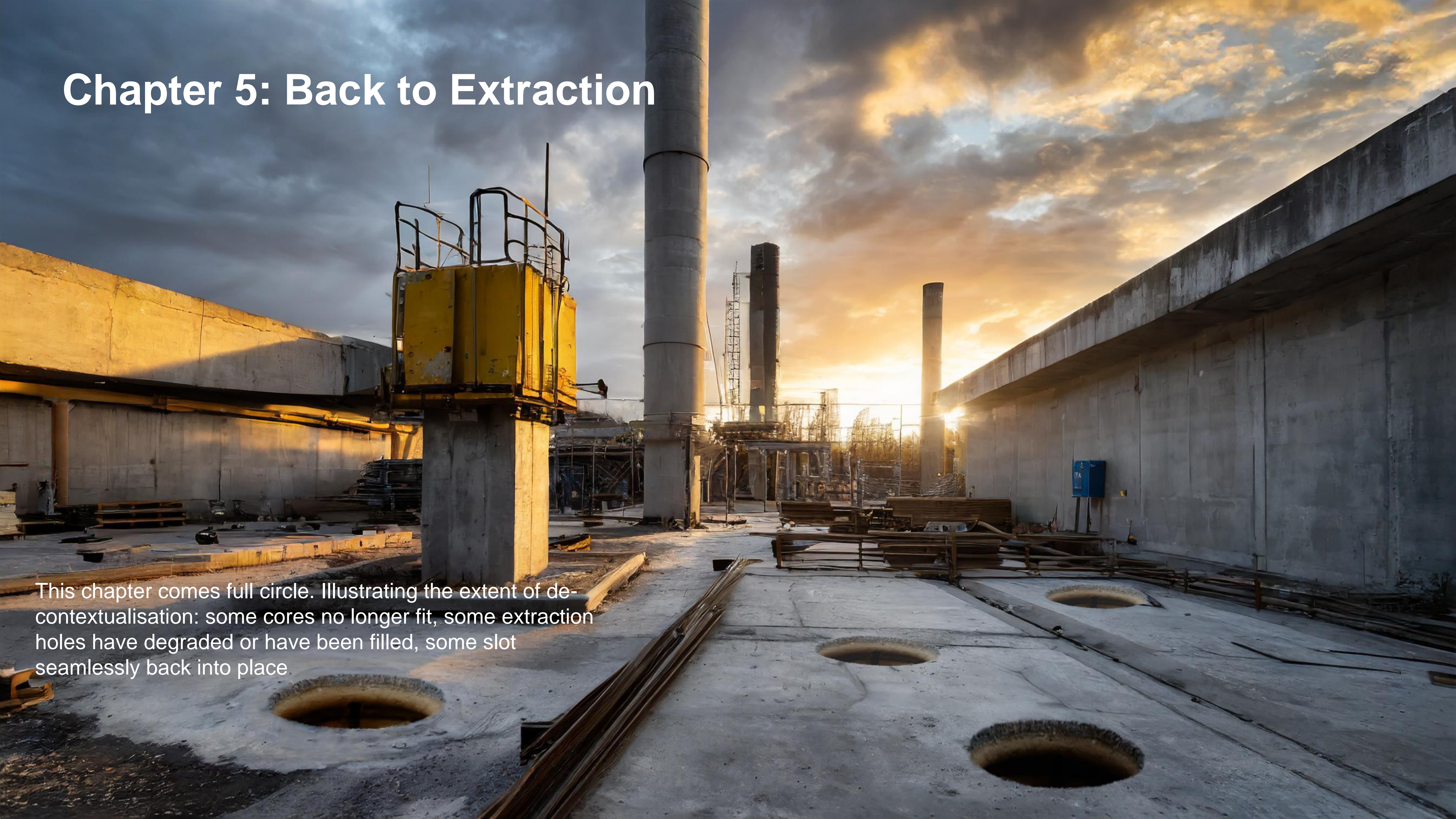


'Data Shadows can transform into data and vice-versa'



# Chapter 5: Back to Extraction

This chapter comes full circle. Illustrating the extent of de-contextualisation: some cores no longer fit, some extraction holes have degraded or have been filled, some slot seamlessly back into place.





Finally, in revealing a site of many holes, we reinforce the fundamental importance of context at extraction and the sheer scale of this phenomenon.

