

*READING BETWEEN
THE LINES*

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Another love

Homosexuality [ˌhəʊməʊˌseksjʊˈæliːtiː] *noun*:

cannibalism, fascism, sex-negativity, self-abnegation, pornography (with much derriere), secularism, racism, polygyny, queer, gymnophobia.

WHITE SUSPECT

Ala. suspect brilliant, but social misfit

That's how the [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal chose to present](#) the story of Amy Bishop, a former college professor who eventually [pleaded guilty](#) to killing three colleagues and wounding three others at a faculty meeting in 2010.

BLACK VICTIM

Montgomery's latest homicide victim had history of narcotics abuse, tangles with the law

And [that's the headline AL.com ran](#) about the shooting death of a 25-year-old black man in Alabama earlier this year.

WHITE SUSPECT

Son in Staten Island murders was brilliant, athletic -- but his demons were the death of parents

This is how the [Staten Island Advance covered](#) the case of Eric Bellucci, a mentally ill New York man who allegedly killed his parents.

BLACK VICTIM

Trayvon Martin was suspended three times from school

Implicit perspectives

- Perspectives are not only conveyed by explicit expression of opinions
- They also reflected in **what** we choose to say and **how** we choose to say it

- The man, who was arrested for **stealing**,
- The **thief**

Micro-portraits

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Micro-portrait

White suspect	Black victim
brilliant	narcotics abuse
athletic	tangles with the law
All-American	ingested six crack rocks
brains and looks	obstructing justice
schizophrenic	lied
refused medication	felony warrant
subject to mood swings	charged with armed robbery

Extracting Micro-portraits

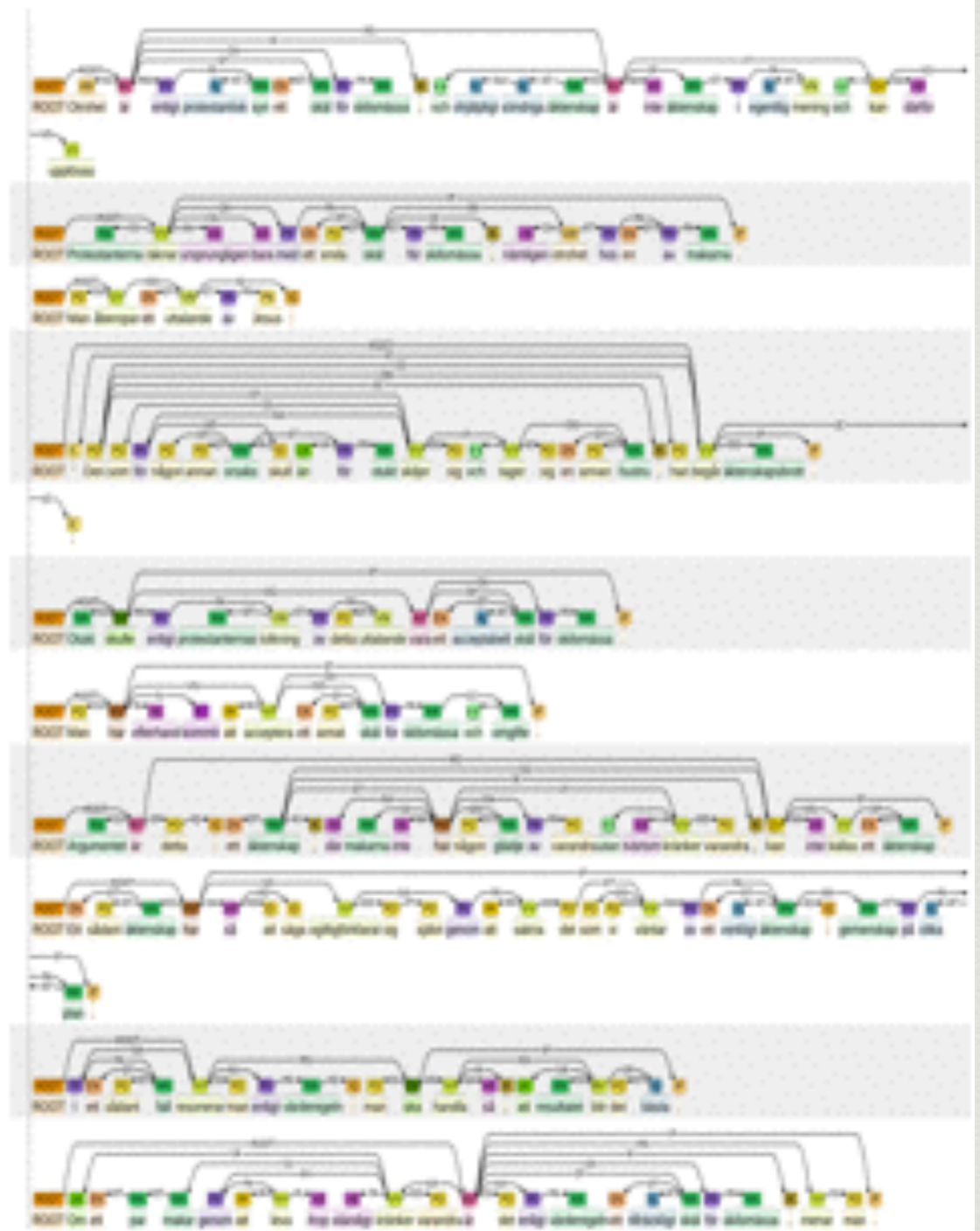
He was everybody's All-American, a high school sports star with brains and looks. He allegedly stabbed his parents dozens of times in the living room of their Poillon Avenue home early Wednesday, before fleeing in their Honda pickup truck to Newark Liberty International Airport, then flying to Israel.

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Extracting Micro-portraits

1. Find out who each expression describes
2. Find out who was doing what:
 1. who *stabbed* and who *was stabbed*?
 2. who *fled* and *flew*?
3. Find out which expressions refer to the same person



Research questions

- Do media systematically talk differently about certain (ethnic) groups?
- Are there differences between media to what extent they do this?
- What is the influence of how certain groups are portrayed?
- What does this say about society?

Interdisciplinary

- Computational linguist: design tools and methods to investigate how media talk about a specific topic
- Domain experts (communication scientists, historians, sociologists, sociolinguists, etc.):
 - what is relevant?
 - how should an outcome be interpreted?
 - what is the interaction between language, media, background knowledge?

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