Conference

THE DIGITAL CONDITION AND HUMANITIES KNOWLEDGE

22-24 SEPT 2022

MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART ATHENS, GREECE

ORGANISED BY

INDEPENDENT SOCIAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
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RESEARCH CENTRE for the HUMANITIES | ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ για τις ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΣΤΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΕΣ

DESCRIPTION

The digital condition appears in many forms: second-wave artificial intelligence, virtual assistants, online course instruction, algorithmic trading, bibliometric citation analysis, and economic modeling based on very large data sets, to name a few. It is the dominant framework for momentous transformations in knowledge production and in modes of reading and interpretation, which include a metamorphosis of the printed word into other media.

There are many reasons for a familiar sense that everything has changed irreversibly. One has been remarkable advances in computer programming, which long ago raised the prospect of artificial intelligence that could match or exceed human intelligence. Another has been the influential "two cultures" paradigm that cast literature and literary intelligence as something like the backward-looking opposite of technology. We are organizing this conference both to assess the history of responses to the digital condition in the humanities and social sciences, and also to identify new directions that might extend and deepen the contributions of these fields to the full range of knowledges required by the current state of the world.

Marking the intersection of many distinct trends, the digital condition has radically restructured methodologies in a host of disciplines. It is often experienced as a radical break with higher education traditions where the humanities play a central role in knowledge creation. Within the digital condition, the social sciences and the humanities are faced with two baseline challenges: to understand more clearly their own processes of knowledge production and, at the same time, to understand the underlying dynamics of the digital framework. While the social sciences and the humanities have long histories of methodological self-reflection, they must now propose new concepts, devise new methodologies, and test new approaches that acknowledge the digital condition while affirming and extending their distinct ways of knowing the world.

In other words, we cannot respond to the digital condition by adapting the humanities and social sciences to it. These fields create essential forms of knowledge not found in scientific and technological fields. In reality, the multiple zones and regimes of knowledge interact continuously, share and borrow methods, and manifest overlapping epistemological complexities. Perhaps most importantly, major global issues are best addressed through partnerships among scientific, technical, humanistic, social, and professional modes of knowledge. Equitable relations among diverse disciplines are hard to find, in part for intellectual reasons and in part because of divergent material infrastructures and research practices. And yet, cross-disciplinary collaborations are increasingly common and often successful: the digital humanities is one such arena of collaboration, and there are others. Our conference aims at strengthening both the independence of the humanities and the social sciences, and their material powers of collaboration across the disciplines.

PARTICIPANTS

Theodore Arabatzis   RCH Founding Member; Professor of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Athens

Nishat Awan   Senior Research Fellow, TU Delft

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Danae Karydaki   Postdoctoral researcher in History, University of Thessaly

Michalis Kastanidis   Visual Anthropologist, Filmmaker

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Marion Thain   Professor of Literature & Culture, King's College London

Penelopi Tsatsouli   PhD Candidate in History & Museology, Democritus University of Thrace

Despoina Valatsou   RCH Administrator; Adjunct Lecturer of Digital Humanities, Athens School of Fine Arts

Atti Viragh   Lecturer in English, University of California, Berkeley

Antonis Vradis   Lecturer in Sustainable Development, St. Andrews University

Gavin Weedon   Lecturer in Sociology of Sport, Nottingham Trent University

DAY ONE	Thursday, 22nd September 2022

9:00	Coffee & Registration
9:15	Welcome & Introduction – Ada Dialla & Chris Newfield

SESSION ONE

09:30	Current Debates in Artificial Intelligence Chair: Lars Cornelissen
09:30	Liz Losh "No Body to Think With"
09:45	Lauren Goodlad "The Lifecycle of Writing Subjects: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Large Language Models"
10:00	Sabelo Mhlambi "If it's not decolonial it's not minimal: How major AI-Ethics, Human Rights frameworks, and AI fail to make the world more equitable"
10:15	Foteini Dimirouli "Poetry and the Limits of Consciousness: from Robopoetics to Artificial Intelligence"
10:30	Discussion
11:15	Coffee Break

SESSION TWO

11:45	Knowledge Regimes in the Humanities & Social Sciences I Chair: Chris Newfield
11:45	Colleen Lye "Reading Marx Now"
12:00	Larisa Jasarevic "Off the scale, beyond the frame: On insight, digital media, and the ecological crisis"
12:15	Natalia Cecire "Network Mycofictions"
12:30	Io Chaviara, Danae Karydaki, Michalis Kastanidis, Reggina Mantanika "OpenEleusis – Crafting digitalized representations of Elefsina's industrial culture"
12:45	Discussion
13:15	Lunch Break

SESSION THREE

14:15	Knowledge Regimes in the Humanities & Social Sciences II Chair: Myrto Malouta
14:15	Lisa Taylor "The Affordances of the Digital short"
14:30	Sieglinde Lemke "Do AIs Make Better Lovers? On Post-Human Affect"
14:45	Katerina Konstantinou "Balancing between research and content production: the experience of a study on artistic research in Greece"
15:00	Kate Dosset "Disrupting the Canon: Race, Archives and Black Theatre Making"
15:15	Discussion
15:30	Day One End

Afternoon/ Evening	Field Trip to Elefsina
16:00	Departure from Museum of Cycladic Art
17:00	City Tour & Archaeological Site Visit
19:30	Dinner

DAY TWO		Friday, 23rd September 2022
9:00	Coffee & Welcome	

SESSION FOUR

09:15	Digitality & Social Practices Chair: Theodore Arabatzis	
09:15	Gavin Weedon "Breathing in the attention economy: Techno-spiritual salvation, time scarcity and meditation apps"	
09:30	Athena Hadji "Poetry in (digital) motion: teaching Greek Sculpture remotely"	
09:45	Vasilis Galis, Giorgos Mattes, Antonis Vradis "Data-driven policing: unboxing the contested social practice of predictive policing as a form of power"	
10:00	Discussion	
10:30	Coffee Break	

SESSION FIVE

11:00	Digitality & Migration Chair: Eleni Stambogli	
11:00	Illay Romain Ors "Digital visualization and imagination of migration in the Dodecanese"	
11:15	Nishat Awan "Affective witnessing and the scopic view"	
11:30	Costas Gousis "Migrant Struggles, Digital tools and Knowledge from Below: Evidence from Greece"	
11:45	Discussion	
12:15	Lunch Break	

SESSION SIX

13:15	Digitality & Democracy Chair: Lars Cornelissen	
13:15	Hanne Cottyn "Paramunos. An interactive and democratic digital strategy for inclusive knowledge co-production in the Colombian páramos"	
13:30	Eleanor Jupp "New affective digital ecologies of local community action: mutual aid and beyond"	
13:45	Craig Jones "On life support or supporting life? Counter wounding and care-as-politics in the Gaza Strip"	
14:00	Thanasis Betas "The body of labour and labouring bodies in the Greek tobacco industry in the 20th century"	
14:15	Discussion	

SESSION SEVEN

15:15	Culture & Digital Practices Chair: Chris Newfield	
15:15	Leandros Kyriakopoulos "Spaces out of sound – Time made out of technique: Interfaces of media, music, and the body"	
15:30	Stelios Lekakis "The walking experience and the digital layer in the time of the pandemic"	
15:45	Alexandros Teneketzis, Kyriakos Sgouropoulos & Penelopi Tsatsouli "A data model for local cultural heritage and digital museology"	
16:00	Costis Repapis "Economics: Past Present and Future. The aims and design of an interview project"	
16:15	Discussion	
16:45	Day Two End	
19:30	Dinner	

DAY THREE	Saturday, 24rth September 2022
9:00	Coffee & Welcome

SESSION EIGHT

09:15	Attention Studies Chair: Chris Newfield
09:15	Marion Thain "The Centre for Attention Studies at King's, and Cultural Technologies of Attention"
09:30	Patrick ffrench "Close Reading as Technology for Reverie"
09:45	Atti Viragh "Close Reading and Hermeneutics in a Digital Age"
10:00	Discussion
10:30	Coffee Break

SESSION NINE

11:00	Defining Archives in the digital era Chair: Kallirroe Linardou
11:00	Ernestina Karystinaiou-Efthymiatou & Sergios Strigklogiannis "Revisiting the archive of Annie Vrychea"
11:15	Styliani Lepida "Digitality in Ottoman Historical Research"
11:30	Despoina Valatsou "Digital archives and participatory practices: the 'Your 1821' crowdsourcing project"
11:45	Discussion
12:15	Lunch Break

PLENARY DISCUSSION

13:45	Thinking Ahead Chair: Ada Dialla
	Kostas Gavroglu & Chris Newfield
15:00	Day Three Close