DLA

the Digital Liberal Arts Initiative @ Middlebury College

Read on for news from the DLA about what we're up to this year and how we can help you.

February 2020

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Behind the Scenes:

What Is Deformative Criticism?, or How to Make Weird Videos as Scholarly Inquiry

One of the interesting developments in digital humanities is the emergence of "deformative criticism," an approach to creatively "breaking" an object of study to reveal hidden facets and create innovative new works. In a DLA Behind the Scenes presentation, Jason Mittell, Professor of Film & Media Culture and American Studies, will demonstrate a number of "videographic deformations" that he made during his research leave last year. Through a creative manipulation of the classic film *Singin' in the Rain*, Jason will share how deformations might be a useful (and fun) mode of scholarship. Lunch will be provided. **Click here to RSVP by February 13.**

Date: February 18, 2020

Time: 12:15-1:30 PM

Place: CTLR Lounge, Davis Family Library

Unfracking the Future through Civic Technoscience

From flammable tap water and sick livestock to the onset of hundreds of earthquakes in Oklahoma, the impact of fracking in the United States is far-reaching and deeply felt. In this DLA-sponsored talk, Sara Wylie, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Health Science at Northeastern University, traces the history of fracking and the ways scientists and everyday people are coming together to hold accountable an industry that has managed to evade regulation. Wylie shows how nonprofits, landowners, and community organizers are creating novel digital platforms and databases to track unconventional oil and gas well development and document fracking's environmental and human health impacts. These platforms model alternative approaches for academic and grassroots engagement with the government and the fossil fuel industry that are increasingly vital in the context of climate denial and environmental deregulation. To learn more about Sara visit her website. Lunch will be provided. **Click here to RSVP by February 17**.

Date: February 21, 2020

Time: 12:15-1:30 PM

Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age

Discussing his recently published book, *Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age* (Princeton UP 2019), Tarek El-Ariss explores the way modes of confrontation, circulation, and writing shape contemporary knowledge production and critiques of power. Focusing on a new generation of activists and authors from the Arab world and beyond, El-Ariss connects Wikileaks to *The Arabian Nights*, Twitter to mystical revelation, cyberattacks to pre-Islamic tribal raids, and digital activism to the affective scene-making of Arab popular culture. Tarek El-Ariss is Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at Dartmouth College. His research interests include Arabic literature, culture, and art, modernity studies, and comparative literature and critical theory. He is also the author of *Trials of Arab Modernity: Literary Affects and the New Political* (Fordham, 2013) and editor of *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda* (MLA, 2018).

Date: February 24, 2020

Time: 4:30-6 PM

Place: Axinn Center 229

The DLA is pleased to co-sponsor this event, which is hosted by the IGS Program (Middle East Studies Track).

Digital Pedagogy Lab

Attend the Digital Pedagogy Lab at UC Denver this summer (July 27-31) to learn about digital teaching and learning. The Office of Digital Learning and Inquiry (DLINQ) is offering to cover registration and travel for two Middlebury College faculty members who want to attend this event. Digital Pedagogy Lab offers a 5-day course on topics like digital scholarship in a time of precarity; data, code, and ethics; introduction to open pedagogy; community-based digital pedagogies; and more! There will also be workshops and keynotes offered throughout the week. Don't miss your chance to attend one of the leading digital pedagogy events in the country.

Apply here by February 24, 2020

Apply for Funding

Want to attend a digital scholarship conference or hire a student research assistant to work on a digital project? We've got funds for that. **Our next funding deadline is March 15.** Subsequent applications will be due by May 15. Click here for more information on the types of funding we provide. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with DLA Postdoctoral Fellow, Sarah Payne, prior to submitting applications.

Apply here by March 15

Project Highlight

French Grammar Games for Grammar Geeks

During her time as a DLA Faculty Fellow, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies Brigitte Humbert designed an online Canvas site for her students to practice their French grammar using exercises, games, and songs. Colleagues then used her site in two different French courses and reported positive feedback. The work completed during her fellowship led to the creation of a second, more public facing website: French Grammar Games for Grammar Geeks. Professor Humbert partnered with Dr. Sonja Burrows, Instructional Designer in the Office of Digital Learning and Inquiry, to create a publicly accessible WordPress site. Using both H5P, a WordPress plugin, and Quizlet, Humbert and Burrows designed three main game sets: Sentence Whiz, Word Nerd, and Verb Challenge. The site also includes a learning guide that provides a more structured introduction to the site as well as a resource area that includes detailed explanations of grammar rules. Dr. Burrows wrote a blog post describing her experience on the project noting that, "Brigitte, like all language professors across our institution, brings considerable expertise and creativity to her teaching and materials development. WordPress and the built-in structure we created together using this tool has enabled Brigitte to easily add her expertise to a learning space in a clear, simple way that we hope will be accessed by many students of French far and wide." For her part, Professor Humbert plans to add more games and complete both sites after her retirement this June.

Featured Resource

The Programming Historian

Interested in learning programming tools for your research, but not sure where to start? The Programming Historian provides an accessible entry point to various programming tools, particularly for those coming from a humanities background. Though the site initially focused mainly on Python, there are now a variety of lessons such as the "Beginner's Guide to Twitter Data"; "Corpus Analysis with Antconc"; and "Using Geospatial Data to Inform Historical Research in R." All of the tutorials are designed for non-specialists and labeled according to difficulty. Additionally, the tutorials undergo a peer review process prior to publication, ensuring accuracy and audience awareness. Certain lessons are also available on the Spanish and French versions of the site.

HILT 2020

The 8th annual Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching (HILT) Institute will take place at the University of Nebraska Lincoln from May 18-22, 2020. HILT is a 4-day training institute that includes keynotes, short Ignite-style talks, and local cultural heritage excursions for researchers, students, early career scholars and cultural heritage professionals who seek to learn more about Digital Humanities theory, practice, and culture. This year's course offerings include, among others, "Teaching DH: Assignment, Syllabi, Curricula"; "Latinx Digital Praxis: From the Archive to the Digital"; and "Introduction to Web Development and Design Principles."

Click here for more info

Registration ends on April 15.

DHSI 2020

The Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI) will occur this year at the University of Victoria, Canada during June 2020. Session One will run from June 1-5 and Session Two from June 8-12. A time of intensive coursework, seminars, as well as lectures, participants at DHSI share ideas and methods, and develop expertise in using advanced technologies. Every summer, the institute brings together faculty, staff, and students from the Arts, Humanities, Library, and Archives communities as well as independent scholars and participants from areas beyond. This year's course offerings include, among others, "Surveillance and the Critical Digital Humanities"; "Stylometry with R: Computer-Assisted Analysis of Literary Texts"; and "DH Technology Sampler."

Click here for more info

Early registration ends on April 1

Regular registration ends on June 1

If you have any questions about the DLA, please contact us at dla@middlebury.edu.

add contact information here