

Digital Methods for the Humanities: Space, Image and Object

AR1DH03 Course 3

Doctoral level

5 ECTS

SCHEDULE (INCL. READINGS LIST) [2021-08-20]

[All readings are linked in the schedule or will be available on Athena as PDFs]

Seminar 1 – Mon 30.08 1- 4 pm CET

Introduction: Space-, Image- and Object in Digital Humanities

Anna Dahlgren, professor of Art History and Ewa Machotka, docent in Japanese Language and Culture (Art History), Stockholm University

Readings for this seminar:

Jaskot, Paul B. "[Digital Art History As the Social History of Art: Towards the Disciplinary Relevance of Digital Methods](#)" *Visual Resources* 35 (2019): 21-33.

Zweig, Benjamin. "[Forgotten genealogies brief reflections on the history of digital art history](#)", *International Journal for Digital Art History* (2015): 38-49. (Open access)

Seminar 2 – Tue 31.08 2-5 pm CET

“Doing Spatial History with Maps”

Dr. Katherine McDonough, The Alan Turing Institute

Since Richard White asked “What is spatial history?” in 2000, significant developments have changed what it means to think spatially with historical information. First, we have better infrastructure for working with spatial data (see my 2019 chapter). Second, map digitization campaigns in libraries and archives have transformed the possibilities of using scanned maps, enabling us to ask questions of 100,000 maps rather than 10 (see my 2021 article). Spatial history has moved beyond building Geographic Information Systems using tabular (e.g. census) or even text data: reproducible, computational methods using visual sources are the new frontier for spatial history.

Readings for this seminar:

Kasra Hosseini et al., "[Maps of a Nation? The Digitized Ordnance Survey for New Historical Research](#)," *Journal of Victorian Culture* 26, no. 2 (April 1, 2021): 284–99, (Open access)

Katherine McDonough, “Putting the Eighteenth Century on the Map: French Geospatial Data for Digital Humanities Research,” in *Digitizing Enlightenment*, ed. Simon Burrows and Glenn Roe (Oxford Studies in the Enlightenment, 2019). (available on Athena)

Taylor Arnold and Lauren Tilton, "[Distant Viewing: Analyzing Large Visual Corpora](#)," *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 34, no. Supplement_1 (December 1, 2019): i3–16. (Open access)

Seminar 3 – Thu 02.09 2-5 pm CET

”Visualisation as a research tool in the digital humanities”

Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dominik Lengyel, Chairholder of Architecture and Visualisation at the University of Cottbus and founder of Lengyel Toulouse Architects (full formal version would be BTU Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg)

Visualisation is a research tool, acting as a catalyst to critically reflect on questions in the humanities and to generate further research questions. Data is translated into objects that correspond to the certainty in knowledge, taking into account the scientific hypotheses by creating substitutes for partly abstract concepts has never been part of the humanities. At this point the discipline of architecture comes into play, whose essence is to translate spatial ideas that have not yet been fully formulated into a visually perceptible form.

Readings for this seminar:

Dominik Lengyel and Catherine Toulouse, "Visual Mediation of Unique Construction and Access Principles of the Amphitheatre of Durrës", *Proceedings of EVA London 2021* (6 p.)
<http://dx.doi.org/10.14236/ewic/EVA2021.8> (available on Athena)

Dominik Lengyel and Catherine Toulouse, "Artificial Imagination Induced by Visualised Hypotheses in Archaeology", *Proceedings of EVA London 2020* (8 p.)
<http://dx.doi.org/10.14236/ewic/EVA2020.8> (available on Athena)

Dominik Lengyel and Catherine Toulouse, "Experiencing Architectonic Design Processes Through Interactive Virtual Reality Applications", *Proceedings of EVA Florence 2021* (8 p.) (available on Athena)

Seminar 4 – Tue 07.09 4-7 pm CET

“The affordances of spatial software in the digital humanities: A case study about the Book of Fortresses project”

Dr. Ed Triplett, Lecturing Fellow of Art, Art History and Visual Studies at Duke University

This talk will discuss the ways GIS, CAD and procedural modelling software can be used to spatially analyze historical sources, with a particular emphasis on critical approaches to these tools. The chief case study that Dr. Triplett will discuss in detail is the "Book of Fortresses" project, which attempts to "translate" perspectival 16 century drawings into explorable 3D scenes. This project will also discuss how critical cartography and place theory offer different approaches to the ever-present problem of visualizing ambiguous and qualitative data in the digital humanities.

Readings for this seminar:

Harris, Trevor M. 2015. "Deep Geography — Deep Mapping : Spatial Storytelling and a Sense of Place". 28-53. (available on Athena)

Kullmann, K. (2018). [The mirage of the metropolis: city imaging in the age of digital chorography](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2017.1311771). *Journal of Urban Design*, 23(1), 123-141.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2017.1311771>

Miller, Harvey J. 2004. "Tobler's First Law and Spatial Analysis". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 94 (2): 284-289. (available on Athena)

Seminar 5 – Thu 09.09 4-7 pm CET

“AI for the Photoarchive” X.Y. Han, Cornell University

I describe a collaborative project between art historians and librarians—at the Frick Art Reference Library (FARL) — with researchers—at Cornell, Stanford, and the University of Toronto—to develop an algorithm that will apply a local classification system based on visual elements to the Library’s digitized Photoarchive. We leverage state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) systems to develop a classifier for the automatic annotation of digitized but not-yet-catalogued images in the FARL’s Photoarchive—a photo study of 1.2 reproductions of works of art in the Western tradition. This project offers a useful model for effective interdisciplinary interaction.

Readings for this seminar:

Ellen Prokop, X. Y. Han, Vardan Papyan, David L. Donoho, and C. Richard Johnson Jr. The Role of AI in the Digital Photoarchive. *Art Documentation*, 2021. Published by Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk. *To Appear*. (available on Athena)

X. Y. Han, Vardan Papyan, Ellen Prokop, David L. Donoho, and C. Richard Johnson Jr. Artificial Intelligence and Discovering the Digitised Photoarchive. *Archives, Access and AI: Working with Born-Digital and Digitised Archival Collections*, 2021. Editor: Lise Jaillant. Part of *Digital Humanities Research Series*. Columbia University Press. Series Editors: Silke Schwandt, Anne Baillet, Andreas Fickers, Tobias Hodel and Peter Stadler. *To Appear*. (available on Athena)

Seminar 6 – Tue 14.09 4-7 pm CET

“Creating a Data-Driven History of Art” Dr. Diana Seave Greenwald, Assistant Curator of the Collection, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA

This talk will explore how quantitative and data-driven approaches can complement qualitative analyses in art history. In particular, it will focus on describing the kinds of research questions best suited to quantitative analysis, introducing the many art historical datasets available for study, and examining how these new approaches provide new perspectives on the art historical canon

Readings for this seminar:

Diana Seave Greenwald [Painting by Numbers: Data-Driven Histories of Nineteenth-Century Art](#), (Princeton University Press, 2021), p. 1 -12 and p. 85-114. Available at SUB as E-book (see link).

Galenson, David C. and Robert Jensen, "[Careers and Canvases: The Rise of the Market for Modern Art in the Nineteenth Century](#)", working paper

Seminar 7 – Thu 16.09 10 am -1 pm CET

”A new digital edition of Gotland's picture stones”

Dr. Sigmund Oehrl, Stockholms universitet / Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

In the lecture, the ongoing project *Ancient images 2.0. A digital edition of the Gotlandic picture stones*, which is funded by the Swedish Research Council within the research program “Digitisation and accessibility of cultural heritage collections” (DIGARV), will be presented. The picture stones from the Isle of Gotland are among the internationally most famous archaeological monuments from Sweden. These exceptional memorial stones, dated to about AD 400–1100, are covered with images of humans, animals, monsters, vessels, buildings, symbols and much more. Thus, they offer a unique source material for studies of Late Iron Age material culture and Scandinavian pre-Christian religions. The current project is aiming at the digitization of the entire corpus of gotlandic picture stones, applying digital recording and imaging methods such as photogrammetry and RTI, and the creating of a searchable up-to-date online edition of the material. Through this digital re-edition, the picture stones will become fully accessible and evaluable for the first time.

Readings for this seminar:

S. Oehrl: *Die Bildsteine Gotlands – Probleme und neue Wege ihrer Dokumentation, Lesung und Deutung*. Vol. I–II. *Studia archaeologiae medii aevi* 3 (Friedberg 2019). [selection] (will be available on Athena)

S. Oehrl: Picture Stones from Gotland analyzed with the Reflectance Transformation Imaging Method (RTI). In: Olof Sundqvist et al. (ed.), *Myth, materiality and lived religion in Merovingian and Viking Scandinavia*. *Stockholm Studies in Comparative Religion* 40 (Stockholm 2019), 141–185. (will be available on Athena)

S. Oehrl: [”Documenting and interpreting the picture stones of Gotland. Old problems and new approaches.”](#) *Current Swedish Archaeology* 27 (2017), 87–122.

Seminar 8 – Tue 21.09 3-6 pm CET

Your Story, Our Story: Connecting Across Time and Place

Kathryn Lloyd, Director of Programs and Interpretation, Tenement Museum

In this seminar, we’ll look at the Tenement Museum’s Your Story, Our Story initiative, an online exhibit and digital storytelling project that explores American identity through the objects and traditions in contributors’ lives. We’ll explore stories from the collection and discuss how museums have used the Your Story, Our Story initiative to open their collections to new narratives and underrepresented perspectives.

Readings for this seminar:

Russel-Ciardí, Maggie, [”The Museum as a Democracy-Building Institution: Reflections on the Shared Journeys Program at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum”](#), *The Public Historian*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (February 2008), pp. 39-52.

Gil-Fuentetaja, I. and Economou, M. (2019) [Communicating museum collections information online: Analysis of the philosophy of communication extending the constructivist approach](#). *Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage*, 12(1), 3.

Examination: Wed 22.09 4 pm: Deadline for submitting the learning journal

If you would like to receive feedback on your paper during the final seminar, please submit your paper by Wednesday 22nd of September, 4 pm. If you want to make changes you have until a week after course ends to do so.

Seminar 9 – Fri 24.09 12 am – 3 pm CET

**Final seminar: Futures of Space-, Image- and Object Analytics in Digital Humanities
Prof. Anna Dahlgren and Dr. Ewa Machotka**

Examination: Wed 01.10 4 pm: Final deadline for submitting the learning journal

If you do not want to receive feedback on your paper during the final seminar please submit your paper by Friday October 1st, 4 pm.