UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Dipartimento di Studi
Linguistici e Culturali

Corso di Dottorato in
Scienze Umanistiche

Digital Humanities and Digital Communication:
Challenges and opportunities of interacting with and through technology

Host Institution: University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Coordinating Institution: Department of Studies on Language and Culture

Website: https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/

Dates: 3 June 2024—7 June 2024

Location: Modena, Emilia Romagna, Italy

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

We are happy to announce the 6th edition of our Summer School in Digital Humanities and Digital Communication, which will be hosted by the Department of Studies on Language and Culture of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, in collaboration with the Fondazione Marco Biagi. As part of the Doctoral Programme in Human Sciences, the Summer School aims to provide PhD students and young researchers with methodological tools for the study of digital communication and data analysis. This year's focus is on challenges and opportunities of interacting through technology, with topics ranging from digital resources for research in the humanities to the use of new information technologies for data analysis; from tools for analysing communication in new media to ways of processing, accessing, and disseminating knowledge.

SUMMER SCHOOL THEMES

The digital world in which we live opens up numerous opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In recent years the impact of technology has been profound and far-reaching and the speed at which innovations have been introduced has radically changed the landscape of research and communication. New forms of media have transformed our working and social habits and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships. Digital technology has also facilitated the production, storage and access to information. Research, especially in the humanities, has benefited from increasingly complex digital archives, the flexibility and the multimodality of digital publishing, the wealth of tools for the compilation, annotation and analysis of corpora etc. The object itself of research has changed, often including digital data or focusing on digital communication and user-

generated content in particular. Dissemination of knowledge has expanded its potential with the use of augmented reality and gaming. Indeed, generative AI is opening the whole field of the humanities to new methods and new research questions.

However, these trends often pull in opposite directions, creating paradoxes and contradictions. For example, whilst an infinite amount of information is guaranteed, the reliability, trustworthiness and source of that information is unknown, with AI in the background and the legal issues associated with it (data leaks, misrepresenting information, unintended uses etc.). Access to global systems of communication bring potentially an infinite number of people into contact, but at the same time, alone with our computers or mobile phones, we can become detached and solitary. Contemporary forms of communication have blurred the distinction between what is real and what is virtual. What kind of demands do the new forms of technology pose on researchers in the humanities? What role does literacy play in fostering ethical understanding and critical thinking in today's technologically evolving society? Is there a risk of undermining the active role of human agents with AI? May too much trust be placed on the machine?

The summer school will try to discuss the challenges and opportunities of interacting with and through technology, considering new fields of study, new tools and resources, new forms of collaboration in research, while at the same time allowing participants to explore some of the recent advances in the field of digital humanities in hands-on workshops.

Invited Speakers

Phil Cooke (University of Strathclyde)

Christoph Draxler (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Matteo Fuoli (Birmingham University)

Gabriel Hankins (Clemson University)

Wu Ping (Beijing Language and Culture University)

Massimo Riva (Brown University)

Josef Schmied (University of Chemnitz)

Janina Wildfeuer (University of Groningen)

APPLICATIONS AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite contributions from PhD students and young non-tenured researchers from a variety of disciplines interested in digital communication, digital humanities, and transdisciplinary approaches to the field.

The selection of participants is based on a review process organised by the scientific committee of the summer school. The application will be subjected to a double-blind peer review. Based on this review, the scientific committee of the summer school will select the participants.

The selection criteria are:

- quality of the PhD project, assessed in relation to its:
  i) theoretical approach;
  ii) methodological standards;
  iii) potential for innovation;
- the relevance of the aims and objectives of the PhD project within the areas covered.

Participants will be expected to present their work at the Summer School, either in the form of a presentation or of a poster.

The application form includes:

1. **abstract of the PhD project/current research project** (max 2500 characters, including spaces. Please submit your abstract as word documents and format your in-text references and bibliography in APA7)
2. a **short CV** according to a given model (see https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/application/)

Send application form, abstract and CV to: **digitalhumanities@unimore.it** (with the subject of the email "APPLICATION *NAME-SURNAME*")

Programme director: Marina Bondi

Summer School Scientific Committee
Matteo Al Kalak, Carlo Altini, Marina Bondi, Giovanna Buonanno, Lorenzo Bertucelli, Daniela Capra, Silvia Cavalieri, Federico Corradini, Laura Gavioli, Giuliana Diani, Matteo Di Cristofaro, Ulrike Adelheid Kaunzner, Michele Lodone, Chiara Preite, Jessica Jane Nocella, Vallori Rasini, Maria Chiara Rioli, Judith Anne Turnbull, Federico Zaupa

Organizing Committee
Aminat Emma Badmus, Valeria Barbieri, Eleonora Bellentani, Federico Corradini, Matteo Di Cristofaro, Stefano Dilorenzo, Anna Lombardi, Cecilia Marchetti, Elisa Milesi, Antonio Mirizzi, Jessica Jane Nocella, Fabiola Notari, Marcella Palladino, Matteo Socciarelli, Zhang Xiaomin, Federico Zaupa

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for applications: March 28, 2024

Notification of acceptance: April 10, 2024

Conference website: https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/

For any inquiry, please contact the organisers at: digitalhumanities@unimore.it