



Digital Humanities and Digital Communication: Managing uses (and misuses) of AI

Host Institution: University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Coordinating Institution: Department of Studies on Language and Culture

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

Dates: 8 June 2026 - 12 June 2026

Location: Modena, Emilia Romagna, Italy

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

We are happy to announce the 8th 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 and with the patronage of the Italian Association for the Study of English (AIA). 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. The focus of this year's edition is on the uses and misuses of AI in academic research, with particular attention to how AI-driven tools are reshaping data analysis, textual interpretation, teaching practices, and knowledge production in the humanities. While AI enables unprecedented speed, scale, and efficiency in research, it also raises substantial methodological, ethical, and epistemological concerns that cannot be ignored.

SUMMER SCHOOL THEMES

AI has transformed the way we live, work and think, bringing exceptional advances in healthcare, transportation and many other fields. As technology continues to advance almost on a daily basis, it opens up new opportunities, but may also favour potentially dangerous practices. It is, indeed, a double-edged sword.

On the one hand, when used critically and responsibly, it enables data analysis at an unprecedented speed and scale to identify patterns, extract meaning and gain new insights. It enhances efficiency, accuracy, and access to services. It empowers people by supporting decision-making and improves outcomes. As a tool, AI can assist in literature reviews, textual analysis and, in teaching, act as a source for engaging activities, support personalized learning through adaptive platforms and assist with assessment and feedback.

On the other hand, the inappropriate use of AI, whether intentional or otherwise, can skew results and lead to the dissemination of fake information, and thus undermine trust and academic integrity or result

in unsafe or unethical outcomes. It can encourage plagiarism through AI-generated text presented as original work. Furthermore, over-reliance on AI tools may erode critical thinking skills, obscure methodological accountability and weaken academic rigour if students and researchers unquestioningly accept the interpretation of data. AI may also amplify existing inequalities.

The 2026 Summer School of the UNIMORE Doctoral Programme in Human Sciences will explore the latest developments in the use of AI in the academic context and in particular digital humanities, whilst keeping a watchful eye on the risks connected with AI tools and their potential misuses. It will also reflect on AI not merely as a technological development, but also its impact on our minds, knowledge, ethics, and society. Ultimately, managing AI effectively is not about restricting progress, but about ensuring that technological advancement remains aligned with human values and professional standards to benefit society as a whole.

INVITED SPEAKERS

- Lynne Bowker (Université Laval)
- Niall Curry (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Nataliia Laba (University of Groningen)
- Michaela Mahlberg (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität)
- Marcus Müller (Technische Universität Darmstadt)
- Wu Ping (Beijing Language and Culture University)

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 a Word document and [format your in-text references and bibliography in APA7](#))
2. a **short CV** according to a given model (see

Summer School 2026

<https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/application/>)

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

Programme director: Prof. Marina Bondi/Prof. Silvia Cavalieri

Scientific Committee

Matteo Al Kalak, Marina Bondi, Giovanna Buonanno, Silvia Cavalieri, Federico Corradini, Giuliana Diani, Matteo Di Cristofaro, Laura Gavioli, Ulrike Adelheid Kaunzner, Silvia Modena, Jessica Jane Nocella, Marcella Palladino, Vallori Rasini, Maria Chiara Rioli, Annalisa Sezzi, Judith Anne Turnbull, Gloria Julieta Zarco, Federico Zaupa

Organizing Committee

Coordinators: Federico Corradini, Jessica Jane Nocella, Federico Zaupa

Committee Members: Allegra Brasili, Noemi Eleonora Maria Grasso, Javad Haditaghi, Alessandra Lovino, Fabiola Notari, Marcella Palladino, Monika Prysok, Alice Sbrana, Michele Sinatra

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for applications: March 20, 2026

Notification of acceptance: April 30, 2026

Registration Fee: € 150,00

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

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



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