

# EMERG

CRITICAL  
DIGITAL  
HUMANITIES  
INITIATIVE

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## SCHOLAR SHOWCASE

VIRTUAL EVENT

22 April 2022

9:00am to 3:30pm EST



CRITICAL DIGITAL  
HUMANITIES INITIATIVE  
DIGITAL HUMANITIES NETWORK



# SCHEDULE

## WELCOME BY

**9:15-9:30 PROFESSOR ELSPETH BROWN**

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### SESSION 01 9:30-10:30

#### VISUALIZATION PRACTICES

Yuxing Yolanda Zhang / Tia Sager / Andrew Kaufman  
Shanmuga Priya / Jennifer Ross

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### SESSION 02 10:45-11:45

#### MULTILINGUAL DH

Ian Turner / Juan Antonio Bobadilla / Lisa Ndejuru / John Liao

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### SESSION 03 1:00-2:00

#### ACCESSIBILITY AND DATA

Taylor Thornton / Bisma Ali Sebastian Rodriguez  
Arun Jacob Rebecca Noone

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### SESSION 04 2:15-3:15

#### COMMUNITY IN RESEARCH

Carina Guzmán / Tracy O'Brien / Marim Karim / Elisa Tersigni

## PROGRAM LIFE

**Yuxing Yolanda Zhang**, *PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information; CDHI Graduate Fellow*

Yuxing's research examines the socio-political implications and epistemological consequences of data-driven agroecological technologies in China. Her project approaches precision-oriented agroecological operations as world-making practices that structure not only material practices but also the ways we think about food production systems, environmental sustainability, and multispecies relations.

## A GEOGRAPHY OF TERROR & REPRESSION: DISASTER, PROTEST, & SECURITY IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA

**Dr. Jennifer Ross**, *Postdoctoral Fellow, Failure: Learning in Progress Project, UTM*

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, paramilitary units from a large number of private security companies descended on the city of New Orleans to secure centers of capital and impose law and order. Since then, state and federal governments have employed private security contractors with increasing regularity to respond to domestic crises and instances of democratic expression. From Hurricanes Katrina and Maria, to the #NoDAPL and #BlackLivesMatter protests, this project visualizes the continuously expanding purview of contractor deployment, revealing a disturbing trend growing out privatization, the quest to protect white supremacy, and the erosion of civil and human rights.

## VISUALIZING DEBT:

### FLOWS, NETWORKS, AND THE MARKET FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH'S DEBT

**Drew Kaufman**, *PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, Geomatics, & Environment, UTM; CDHI Graduate Fellow*

How does a growing market for debt from the Global South relate to the rise of the financial sector and histories of uneven development? My research answers this question by following capital as it is lent to low-and-middle-income nations by way of sovereign bonds before tracing its path through global capital markets. Here, I present novel data sources and visualization modes that let us rethink the relationships between finance, debt, and power.

## RECONSTRUCTING RUINS: 3D SCANNING AND MODELLING OF LATE BRONZE AGE ARCHITECTURE ON CRETE

**Tia Sager**, *PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, FAS; CDHI Graduate Fellow*

Bronze Age architecture on Crete survives only as fragmentary remains of the once monumental built environments that dotted the island over three thousand years ago. To bring these buildings back to life, archaeologists are turning towards non-invasive visualization techniques such as 3D scanning and modelling. This talk will outline Tia's work on Late Bronze Age Crete, which employs multi-phase 3D scanning and modelling to engage with questions of phenomenological experience, materiality, and socio-cultural interaction within the ancient built environment.

## DIGITAL LITERATURE AS A CREATIVE METHOD & A TOOL OF VISUALIZATION PRACTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

**Dr. Shanmuga Priya**, *Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of  
Historical & Cultural Studies, UTSC*

Electronic literature as a creative method and a tool of visualization practice in environmental research can enhance and enrich findings and dissemination of environmental challenges and rethink environmental flux in the physical world. Dynamic digital literary entities such as kinetic texts, images, videos, graphics, maps and other entities become actors. Their narratives become an impetus to bring positive societal change and to spark the critical thinking and decision making about environmental problems. In the digital era, digital positivism and plurality disseminate electronic literature more efficiently and effectively as they can find many platforms to reach their targeted audiences such as social media and other digital platforms.

## ALL RITES RESERVED: CONCEPTUAL BORROWING & CULTURAL BELONGING THROUGH NEWAR SELF- PUBLISHING

**Ian Turner**, PhD Candidate, Department for the Study of Religion, UTSG; CDHI Graduate Fellow

One of the power imbalances and exclusions a critical digital humanities must confront is the hegemony of English and the Latin script. Just as Newar writers and publishers in Nepal have adapted print technologies from the presses of Indian publics to generate a textual community, so too must critical digital humanities develop the tools to recognise and engage with non-dominant scripts. Through the Transkribus platform, I am training a Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR+) model for modern Newar's particular use of the devanāgarī script, rendering ephemeral print publications into a digital corpus for preservation as much as for critical engagement through text searchability and macro-analysis.

## "APPRIVOISER": FINDING LANGUAGE, THINKING, & MAKING WITH THE ARCHIVE OF IBITEKEREZO TALES

**Dr. Lisa Ndejuru**, Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Information

Waking our stories is a work of resistance against the erasure wrought by colonization. Using art, the project aims to foreground the ways history, memory, healing, and community intertwine in the present and contribute to creating road maps for the future.

## VISUALIZING THE AMERICAS: CONSIDERATIONS ON MULTILINGUAL ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION

**Juan Antonio Bobadilla**, Undergraduate, Political Science and Economics, History, UTM; CDHI Undergraduate Fellow

The first part of this presentation will describe the learning process of the fellowship; from the study of literature on archival description to the hands-on work inside the UTM library. On a second section, focus will be given to specific ethical considerations that were found throughout the examination of the original documents to highlight the importance of responsible archival description practice.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE AESTHETICS, LOGIC, & SOCIOLOGY OF ANCIENT GREEK TITLES

**John Liao**, Undergraduate, Classical Civilization, UTM; CDHI Undergraduate Fellow

This presentation will summarize the key achievements of a four-month pilot study on the logic and conventions of ancient Greek titles as they appear in pre-Socratic, Platonic, and Aristotelian philosophical texts, with the goal of ultimately developing an open-source database of all Greek book titles. The first portion of the presentation will relate observations about the broad nature and context of philosophical titles captured during the data collection phase of this project. I will then use conclusions drawn from our study of prior digital projects in Classics to explore conceptions and considerations for our own database and its potential limits.



## OUR DATA, OUR STRENGTH: DISASTER, PROTEST, & SECURITY IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA

**Taylor Thornton**, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology; CDHI Graduate Fellow

Collaboration between southern researchers and Inuit communities has become a pre-requisite for conducting meaningful scientific inquiry within Inuit Nunangat (the Canadian Arctic). This endeavor is complicated, however, by the fact that Inuit homelands are separated by modern political borders each with their own laws regarding data collection and access. This presentation will provide a brief survey of data sovereignty among the relevant jurisdictions comprising Inuit Nunangat before concluding with an example from my dissertation fieldwork in Nunavut to highlight the balancing act that is collaborative research.

## DARK PATTERNS IN UI/UX DESIGN

**Sebastian Rodriguez**, Undergraduate, ICCIT, UTM; CDHI Undergraduate Fellow

Dark patterns (also known as "dark UX" or "deceptive design") are design and marketing strategies that manipulate users into making unintentional and often malicious decisions. Dark patterns can take the form of intrusive popups, confusing language, or suggestive button placement. Online platforms use these designs to influence your behavior in a way that benefits them more than it benefits you. This presentation will demonstrate several common dark patterns and show how they evolved from post-1945 marketing and merchandising strategy.

## #CRIPRITUALS: PRAXIS OF DIGITAL ARCHIVAL METHODS FOR DISABILITY NARRATIVES

**Bisma Ali**, Undergraduate, Health Studies; CDHI Undergraduate Fellow

In this presentation, Bisma will be speaking about the tools and strategies which were involved with the digital creation, preservation, and accessibility of disability narratives in the #CripRitual exhibit. The #CripRitual website is transitioning to be an archival record of disability narratives for future educational use, and Bisma will be speaking about her role in helping to accomplish this.

## GEOGRAPHIES OF SELF- SUFFICIENCY: EXPLORE! EXPERIENCE! ACCESS!

**Dr. Rebecca Noone**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Information Studies, University College London

Scrolling through Google Maps application or website, it's difficult to avoid Google Maps' hallmark promises of explore and experience. Explore and experience (and their iterations of discover, find, and access) command imaginaries of unrestricted entitlement and complete control over one's personal domain. Rebecca argues that Google Maps' imperatives to explore, experience, and access space are based on a colonial raced, gendered, classed, and ableist prototype—the self-sufficient user. In organizing space around the self-sufficient user, Google Maps extends and entrenches settler colonial dispossession and ableist gatekeeping marking what is self-sufficient and insufficient.

## CLINICUS EX MACHINA: ANALYZING THE CULTURAL TECHNIQUES OF AUTOMATING COUNSELLING SERVICES

**Arun Jacob**, *PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information; CDHI Learning Communities; CDHI Community Liaison*

This paper investigates how mental health technologies automate therapeutic care offered by universities through media platforms, and the impact therapeutic process automation is having on our emerging asocial society. Arun argues that counselling therapy media technologies (therapy tech) offered to students function as technologies of subjectification by amassing data, auditing the affective interactions of their user base and generating revenue for the data brokers through the sale and commerce of said affective surveillance data. This paper engages in a critical analysis of the governmentalist logics of emergent digital therapy technologies and how, in turn, they have structured bodies and agency.

## STOR(Y)ING MI DESMADRE: TRANS-FEMINIST & QUEER COMMUNITY ARCHIVAL AND DIGITAL CUSTODIAL PRAXES IN LATIN AMERICA

**Carina Guzmán**, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information;  
CDHI Graduate Fellow; CDHI Graduate Project Partner

Carina's dissertation develops a critical framework to explore digital, media and archival praxes of Trans- Feminist and Queer (TFQ) communities, such as lesbians, transwomen, drag performers and others) in Latin America. They focus on the offline and online work, the work of transforming analogue-to-digital material, as well as the work involved in born-digital material of three main sites of TFQ community memory-holding in Mexico, Colombia and Argentina.

## CREATIVITY, DISSIDENCE & ARAB FEMINIST INFORMATION ACTIVISM

**Mariam Karim**, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information,  
CDHI Graduate Fellow

Mariam's presentation explains how infrastructures of power, information management and media are negotiated and transformed by Arab feminist movements' information activism, and what we can learn from them. Borrowing from her dissertation work on Arab women's movements, this presentation situates digital activism by addressing histories of cross-regional twentieth century Arab feminist organizations and the communications outputs they produced, circulated and were involved in with the aim of providing context to the use of digital media by feminist movements in the MENA today.

## INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN STUDYING EARLY MODERN WOMEN'S WRITING

**Tracy O'Brien**, PhD Candidate, Department of English, FAS,  
CDHI Graduate Fellow

Since a linguistic expression is bound by contemporaneous and culturally specific constraints, variations over time reveal a history of change in society, politics, language and art. Digital corpora and text analysis software make it possible to recover such historical cultural narratives. In this talk, I discuss interdisciplinary approaches to identifying language patterns in 16th- and 17th-century English women's writings and how variation in those patterns reveals micro-histories about sociocultural conditions during the period.

## EARLY MODERN WOMEN'S RECIPE BOOKS AND INFORMATION NETWORKS

**Dr. Elisa Tersigni**, Postdoctoral Fellow, CDHI; Graduate  
Fellows Cohort Coordinator, CDHI

Over the early modern period, it became increasingly common for women to compile family recipe books. These complex manuscripts tell stories about the rise of globalization and colonization, information networks, and the relationships between print and manuscript. However, due to their complexity, manuscripts are still understudied and under-represented in databases and corpuses. This presentation will speak about the challenges of digitizing, transcribing, and encoding the world's largest collection of early modern English manuscript recipe books, as well as some of the findings coming out of that project.



# BIOGRAPHIES |

**Bisma Ali** is a fourth-year Health Studies student at UTSC. Her academic and research interests are in health inequities, where she has explored topics such as: mental health, women's health, aging populations, and accessibility. The current project Bisma is working on as an Undergraduate Fellow will be exploring the use of digital humanities tools in contemporary disability studies.

**Juan Antonio Bobadilla** is a double major in Political Science and Economics, with a minor in History. He is a third-year international student who is passionate about Latin American politics and history. In his free time, he enjoys filmmaking and supporting his hometown football team, Pachuca.

**Carina Emilia Guzmán** is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Information and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies collaborative program, studying with Prof. T.L. Cowan (UTSC; Faculty of Information) and Prof. Jasmine Rault (UTSC; Faculty of Information). Guzmán's dissertation is developing a trans-feminist and queer (TFQ) framework, "stor(y)ing mi desmadre," to explore the digital, media, and archival praxes of feminized queer communities in Latin America.

**Arun Jacob** is a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, working in the Media, Technology, and Culture concentration. His research interests include examining the media histories of educational technologies. Arun is the CDHI Community Liaison and leads a CDHI Learning Community.

**Mariam Karim** is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Information joint program WGSJ and a fellow at the CDHI, University of Toronto. She holds an M.A. in Cultural Studies & Critical Theory from McMaster University. She is currently in the process of writing her SSHRC funded dissertation on 20th century Arab women's movements in which she centers Arab women's political contributions as key players in the struggle for liberation. Mariam is also working with the Community Media Advocacy Centre organizing cross-regional series of consultative events on "Building an Antiracism strategy in Canadian Broadcasting".

**Andrew Kaufman** is working towards his PhD in Human Geography under the supervision of Prof. Alan Walks (UTM). His project, "Vulture Capitalism: The Making of Sovereign Debt Markets," will produce a digital guide tracing the path of capital that is lent to low-and-middle-income nations through global capital markets.

**John Liao** is an undergraduate double-majoring in Classics and Classical Civilization. Interested in theories of paratext and its application in ancient literature, he is currently working with Prof. Kenneth Yu on a project uncovering the logic and functions of Greek titles.

**Dr. Lisa Ndejuru** is a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow. Her extensive experimentation with storytelling, play, and improvised theater aims for individual and collective meaning-making and empowerment in the aftermath of large-scale political violence. Lisa is a member of the new CDHI PDF Community of Practice.

# BIOGRAPHIES |

**Dr. Rebecca Noone** is an artist and SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Information Studies, University College London, and recently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information. Situated in the areas of critical information studies and feminist media studies, Rebecca's research focuses on the politics, discourses, and practices of locative media. Rebecca leads a CDHI Learning Community.

**Tracy O'Brien** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. She is completing a collaborative specialization in Book History & Print Culture. She holds master's degrees in Linguistics and English and is leveraging her multidisciplinary training to complete her dissertation, "A Corpus Study of Language Variation in Early Modern English Women's Writing," in which she examines linguistic structures women writers used in their compositions between the mid-16th and late-17th centuries. She is founder and coordinator of U of T's Early Modern Research and Reading Group and spends her summers writing theatre reviews.

**Dr. Shanmuga Priya's** research and teaching interests include an interdisciplinary focus in the areas of digital humanities, digital environmental humanities and digital literature. She is particularly interested in building and applying digital tools and technologies for Humanities research. She completed her Ph.D. at Indian Institute of Technology Indore, India. She was an AHRC Postdoctoral Research Associate at Lancaster University, UK. She also received Postdoctoral Fellowship at University of Toronto, Canada. She has published papers in national and international journals such as DSH, DHQ and EBR etc. She is one of interim executive committee members of DHARTI. She is a member of the new CDHI PDF Community of Practice.

**Sebastian Rodriguez** is a second-year undergraduate student studying Communication, Culture, Information & Technology at UTM. His educational pursuits include ethical computing, surveillance, UI/UX design, front-end development, and data science.

**Dr. Jennifer Ross** is the Educational Research and Teaching Innovation Postdoctoral Fellow, and as a Research Associate with both the Critical Digital Humanities Initiative and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Her research focuses on contemporary American literature, digital humanities, literary and cultural theory, and critical disaster and terrorism studies. In 2020-2021, Jennifer was awarded the JHI/CLIR Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship, and she continues to work with the CDHI as Conference Coordinator. Her research can be found in the volumes *Liberal Disorder: Emergency Politics, Populist Uprisings, and Digital Dictatorships* (Routledge 2020) and *Transnational Spaces: Intersections of Cultures, Languages, and Peoples* (Vernon Press, forthcoming).

**Tia Sager** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Art History specializing in Minoan architecture. My dissertation explores questions of cultural exchange and stylistic development in the architecture of a particularly transformative period, the Late Bronze Age, on the island of Crete. My dissertation, titled "The Poetics and Politics of Space: a regional analysis of the Cretan Postpalatial built environment," employs spatial analysis to address questions of cultural exchange, continuity, innovation, and modification at the scale of the built environment and the town.

# BIOGRAPHIES |

**Dr. Elisa Tersigni** (Ph.D. University of Toronto, 2018) completed her doctorate in English and the collaborative program in Book History and Print Culture. After graduation, she held the position of Digital Research Fellow for the Mellon-funded research project, *Before 'Farm to Table': Early Modern Foodways and Cultures* at the Folger Shakespeare Library and a Digital Research Fellowship at the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester. She has extensive experience working in both digital humanities projects and with special collections, having completed an M.Sc. in Material Cultures and History of the Book at the University of Edinburgh, and has received grants to pursue research at dozens of libraries across Canada, the US, and the UK. Her DH research extend across GIS mapping, textual analysis, transcription, and cataloguing of early manuscripts, and she is currently developing a new authorship attribution method that combines text analysis with GIS.

**Taylor Thornton** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto and graduate fellow of the university's Critical Digital Humanities Initiative. As an archaeologist, her work is grounded in a commitment to community-based practices that recognize the authority of local knowledge, particularly in relation to historically excluded communities. She is currently collaborating with the Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society (PI/KHS) of Iqaluktuuttiaq/Cambridge Bay\*, Nunavut on a digital atlas prefaced on shared knowledge production between archaeologists and Inuinait families. Prior to her graduate studies, Taylor taught archaeological field methods at the Center for American Archeology, a not-for-profit research and education center in her home state of Illinois.

**Ian Turner** is a doctoral candidate in the Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, investigating how people build homes and domesticate spaces according to the religious concerns of themselves and their communities. In particular, Ian is researching how the Newar community in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley draw on indigenous traditions of Buddhism and Hinduism throughout recent decades of modernisation, liberalisation and crisis, to work out questions of identity, individual ethics, and sociality. Ian is interested in how houses and homeways become key literal and discursive spaces through the print publications of Newar intellectuals and the everyday practices of householders. Ian is a 2021/22 Fellow with the Critical Digital Humanities Institute at UofT.

**Yuxing Yolanda Zhang** is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto. Yuxing's research interests include media theory, critical infrastructural studies, algorithms, ecology and biotechnology, space media, multispecies ethnography, and digital humanities methods.

# CRITICAL DIGITAL

## **THE CRITICAL DIGITAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE & THE EMERGING SCHOLARS SHOWCASE ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY**

Institutional Strategic Initiatives, OVPRI, University of Toronto  
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Dean, Faculty of Information  
Faculty of Arts and Science  
Jackman Humanities Institute  
Department for the Study of Religion, FAS  
Department of Art History, FAS  
Department of History, FAS,  
Woodsworth College

## **THE EMERGING SCHOLARS SHOWCASE WAS COORDINATED BY**

Dr. Elisa Tersigni, Postdoctoral Fellow & Graduate Fellows Cohort Coordinator, CDHI  
Dr. Laura Smith, Events & Program Coordinator, CDHI  
Tanya Rohrmoser, Communications Officer, CDHI  
Dr. Danielle Taschereau Mamers, Managing Director, CDHI

## **SPECIAL THANKS & GRATITUDE TO**

Dr. Elisa Tersigni, for her leadership of the inaugural CDHI Graduate Fellows Cohort and the incredibly professional development opportunities, mentorship, and community she generously created for our fellows.

All of the faculty and librarian supervisors and project leads, for their commitment to critical digital humanities training and mentorship of this year's undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral fellows and participants.