

Postgraduate Summer School

THE DIGITAL TURN: WHEN, WHY, AND HOW TO EMBRACE IT

2-3 JULY 2021

ONLINE EVENT

This Summer School is directed towards postgraduate students working in Italian Studies and interested in digital culture. It organised by the *Interdisciplinary Italy: Interart/Intermedia* team and the Department of Italian at Trinity College Dublin.

Free tuition | Application deadline:

ORGANIZERS



CLODAGH BROOK

*Professor of Italian, Trinity College Dublin
Interdisciplinary Italy Principal investigator*



ELEONORA LIMA

*Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin
Interdisciplinary Italy Blog Editor*

SPEAKERS



HENRY JENKINS

Provost Professor of Communication, Journalism, Cinematic Arts and Education, University of Southern California



MASSIMO RIVA

Professor and Chair of Italian Studies, Brown University | Director of the Virtual Humanities Lab



TATIANA BAZZICHELLI

Artistic director and founder of the Disruption Network Lab in Berlin

DESCRIPTION

The need for researchers to embrace digital tools and culture has become even more urgent in the last year, due to issues contingent to the Covid-19 pandemic. With courses, conferences, and symposia moved online, as well as university libraries often out of reach, digital tools are now essential to academic life. This, however, is just the latest stage of a longer academic trend: the term 'digital' is increasingly present in grant applications, conference calls, and college curricula. It seems that embracing the 'digital turn' is a necessity for researchers, or rather an inescapable destiny.

But what if, instead of facing a case of 'take it or leave it', we could set our own terms for dealing with this change? What if, as researchers, we could even influence and shape the nature of the 'digital beast'? The goal of this Summer School is precisely to explore what it means for an early career researcher to embrace digital tools and culture.

The three goals of this summer school are:

1. to provide participants with the necessary theoretical tools to critically understand the new environment in which we all produce and share our research;
2. to invite the participants to reflect on the peculiarity of artistic products and experiences (literature, films, visual art, performances, etc.) developed and consumed in this new digital environment;
3. to help the participants familiarising with a number of methodologies, techniques, and research strategies that take advantage of the possibilities offered by Digital Humanities and digital tools in general.

The **six workshops** and **two public lectures** have been designed with the goal of offering the participants a set of theoretical and practical tools that will allow them to understand the promises and pitfalls of digital culture. The overarching idea shaping this Summer School is not necessarily to get graduate students excited about digital cultures and tools, but rather to offer a space for discussing their merit and shortcomings, thereby forging a new generation of researchers whose critical approach is grounded in sound awareness of the relevant issues.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

DAY 1

Friday, July 2

WORKSHOP 1. THE CULTURAL TURN: AN INTRODUCTION

Convenors: Prof. Clodagh Brook and Dr. Eleonora Lima

How have digital technologies changed our culture? What does it mean to do research in this new context? In this workshop participants will familiarise with the main concepts and theories defining 'digital culture'. The goal is for participants to become aware of the social and cultural impact of digital technologies and to learn how to critically evaluate it.

WORKSHOP 2. HOW THE DIGITAL CHANGES THE ARTS

Convenors: TBC

This workshop presents how digital tools and, more broadly, digital culture change artists' perspectives and creative practices. Participants will consider some specific cases studies (both in literature and visual arts) and learn how to approach them from an interdisciplinary perspective.

WORKSHOP 3. MEETING THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Convenor: Prof. Massimo Riva

Participants will have the chance to discuss with Prof. Riva the role of digital culture in Italian Studies, his contribution to the field, as well as issues arising from their own research. A supporting reading list will be provided in order to facilitate the discussion.



PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROFESSOR MASSIMO RIVA

Title: TBC

DAY 2

Saturday, July 3

WORKSHOP 4. LITERARY AND DIGITAL CULTURE: APPLYING METHODOLOGIES

Convenor: Dr. Eleonora Lima

Working with digital culture and tools might raise some questions: which is your field when it comes to publish or apply for a job? Who is your audience? How to evaluate a digital humanities project to measure career's advancement (impact, rigor, etc.)? This workshop will consider these issues starting from Dr Lima's project on Italian literature and computer culture and her website *Narrating Computing*.

WORKSHOP 5. DIGITAL ART AND DIGITAL JUSTICE

Convenor: Dr. Tatiana Bazzichelli

Are digital technologies and online platforms democratising tools, or do they pose a threat to free creative expression and arts consumption? In this workshop, participants will discuss topics such as digital bias, data surveillance, and digital activism in the arts with Dr Tatiana Bazzichelli, artistic director and founder of Disruption Network Lab, based in Berlin.

WORKSHOP 6. MEETING THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Convenor: Prof. Henry Jenkins

Participants will have the chance to discuss with Prof. Jenkins the role of digital media and convergence culture, his contribution to the field Comparative Media Studies, as well as issues arising from their own research. A supporting reading list will be provided in order to facilitate the discussion.



PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROFESSOR HENRY JENKINS

Title: TBC