

First International Conference
“Literary Recycling for Postdigital Readers.”
A Digital Epistemology for the Recycling of Literatures?:
Digital Literary Studies under Debate

Faculty of Philology, Complutense University of Madrid, September 26 and 27, 2024

Organised by [LEETHI](#) Group

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Now that we live immersed in the postdigital era without hardly noticing it and that any given cultural object seems susceptible to be recycled by a digital technology available to anyone, it is time to ask ourselves about the underlying conceptual and methodological models that these technologies impose.

What kind of cultural recycling (of reading, of literatures, of literary histories) are the so-called *Digital Humanities* proposing? We observe that the construction of digitised corpora, the essentially quantitative and probabilistic methods, and the capacity of machines to quantify data propose a model of objectivity, a single epistemology that seems to clash with plural hermeneutics.

If these methods make it possible to look at the past through new lenses, how can we do so without forgetting the interstices and ambiguities that they leave out? Can phenomena of the past, such as the transcultural or transtemporal interweavings and the mediality of other eras (in contrast to the present one) be helpful to understand more precisely the mediatisation and recycling of literature today? Particularly, those mediations and recycling carried out by Digital Humanities' methods?

It is not a new model, it is an old one: we only have to take a look at its history (its promises can already be found in nineteenth-century positivism) or at the institutionalisation of Digital Humanities as a disciplinary field, which tends to be conservative in its principles and hierarchies. Nevertheless, this model is considered innovative in terms of its creation, modification, and introduction of a socio-cultural use in literary studies. This is indeed why we must question the epistemological bias of this model. In culture, in literatures, biases are observable. We need to critically question the specific characteristics of digital methodologies in the field of literary studies and their underlying conceptualisations and epistemologies, since they can guide future approaches, as well as point to its limitations and blind spots: we need Critical Digital Humanities.

Contributions may focus on one of the following aspects:

- Theories and methods of literary analysis in Digital Humanities: limitations and how to overcome them.
- Methods and applications of the digital analysis of literary corpora and texts as forms of cultural recycling: underlying conceptualisations.

- Analysis of mixed methods that blend previous literary-theoretical traditions and procedures that are specific to the Digital Humanities: epistemological foundations.
- Analysis of processes of cultural and transtemporal interweaving in literatures using digital methodologies: possibilities and limitations.
- Macro-recycling of literary histories: new focuses, blind spots.

The languages of the conference will be Spanish, English and German. Guest lectures will be translated into Spanish.

Key speakers: Anita Traninger (Freie Universität Berlin) and Rabea Kleymann (Technische Universität Chemnitz)

Interested applicants can send their proposals including name, institution, email address, title of the proposal, keywords and an abstract of at least 250 words to reclit-ji@ucm.es by February 28, 2024. The committee's decision on the acceptance of the proposals will be notified within two months.

A monographic publication will be released with the contributions selected by the scientific committee.

Web of the event: <https://www.ucm.es/leethi/literary-recycling-for-postdigital-readers>

References

- Kleymann, Rabea: "Datendiffraktion: Von Mixed zu Entangled Methods in den Digital Humanities". In: *Fabrikation von Erkenntnis – Experimente in den Digital Humanities*. [Manuel Burghardt, Lisa Dieckmann, Timo Steyer, Peer Trilcke, Niels Walkowski, Joëlle Weis, Ulrike Wuttke (eds.)]. *Zeitschrift für digitale Geisteswissenschaften / Sonderbände*, 5, Wolfenbüttel 2021-2022. DOI: [10.17175/sb005_008](https://doi.org/10.17175/sb005_008).
- Kleymann, Rabea, et al. (eds.): Special Issue 'Theorytellings: Epistemic Narratives in the Digital Humanities'. *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, vol. 7, no. 4, Nov. 2022, <https://culturalanalytics.org/issue/6695>.
- Llamas Ubieto, Miriam / Vollmeyer, Johanna (eds.): *Cultural Recycling in the Postdigital Age*. Bern et al.: Peter Lang (forthcoming 2023).
- Numerico, Teresa: *Big data e algoritmi. Prospettive erotice*. Roma: Carocci editore, 2021.
- Portela, Manuel: *Scripting Reading Motions: The Codex and the Computer as Self-Reflexive Machines*. Cambridge, London: MIT Press, 2013.
- Traninger, Anita: *Copia / Kopie: Echoeffekte in der Frühen Neuzeit*. Hannover: Wehrhahn, 2020 (Neue Perspektiven der Frühneuzeitforschung 3).
- Weitin, Thomas: *Digitale Literaturgeschichte. Eine Versuchsreihe mit sieben Experimenten*. Berlin: Metzler, 2021.