

# The Arts and Humanities Initiative

at the American University of Beirut

cordially invites you to

## *Digital Humanities @ AUB*

a workshop

15-17 April 2013

The humanities in the digital age are undergoing a rapid series of transformations. The “Digital Humanities” are an evolving set of practices that both adapt traditional questions of humanistic scholarship to new digital environments, and open up new modes of inquiry and analysis altogether. Technologies such as data mining, visualization and mapping, and multi-modal archival environments, combined with an increasing numbers of open-access, socially-networked platforms, are not only changing the ways humanists investigate and teach their source material, but are also forging new means of interdisciplinary scholarly communication and research dissemination. The Digital Humanities are a challenge both to the researcher and to the university community in which s/he works.

This three-day workshop, sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Initiative, will explore some digitally inflected research and pedagogy at AUB. The keynote speakers will address current trends, institutional challenges and pathways forward. A number of round tables will involve faculty, students and staff in discussions of salient issues. **All events in College Hall, Auditorium B1 unless noted.**

Speakers include Sebastian Guenther (Goettingen), Lynne Siemens (Victoria), Ray Siemens (Victoria)

and AUB faculty, staff and students

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PROGRAM

[Monday, 15 April 2013](#)

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**Monday, 15 April 2013**

2pm **Opening Comments, Provost Ahmed Dallal**

2-315pm **Mini-Conference:**

**"Building, Experimenting, Collaborating:** featuring sprint talks on digitally inflected projects at [@AUB Lebanon](#)"

**Kamal Abou Mikhael** (Graduate, English Language/Computer Science) "Automating Greek-Arabic New Testament Interlinears"

**Mazen Beaini** (Undergraduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering) "Algorithms for Arabic Prosody"

[Anaïd Donabédian](#) (INALCO/IRD - Paris, AUB - English) "Contact linguistics and GIS"

[Rico Frances](#) (Fine Arts and Art History) "A Minor in Digital Arts"

[Sagger Khraishi](#) (Undergraduate, English Literature) "Literature for the Mobile Game Environment"

[Tariq Mehmood](#) ([English](#)) "The Lotus archive"

[Jasmina Najjar](#) ([English](#)) "MindMeister and Composition Pedagogy"

[Paul Newson](#) (History/Archeology) "Roman Arabia and GIS"

[John Pedro Schwartz](#) ([English](#)) and **George Turkiyyah** (Computer Science) "Augmented Reality and Lebanese Heritage Sites"

[DJ Wrisley](#) ([English](#), [@DJWrisley](#)) "Geospatial-Temporal Visualizations of Medieval Literary History"

315-330 Q&A

330-400 Coffee Break

400-500 **Round table:** "What Digital Humanities for AUB? For Lebanon? For the Arab World?"

500-530 Coffee Break

530-700 **Lecture:** [Ray Siemens](#) (Victoria) "Toward a Practical Embrace of the Digital Humanities"

*Engaging the quickly-growing areas of confluence among rapidly-proliferating computational methods and the mandate(s) of Humanities research, this talk explores an open approach to understanding what the Digital Humanities are, across movements in exemplary projects, via fundamental principles and models of action, in consideration of key trends that impact such research now and in future, and toward identifying high-impact areas of investment in the Digital Humanities (with the example of pedagogy and curriculum).*

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## **Tuesday, 16 April 2013**

1200-400 **Celebration of Student Writing:** Some students from undergraduate composition courses will be presenting their writing in multimodal formats (videos, power points, prezis, and audio recordings).

*This event is sponsored by the Communication Skills Program in the Department of English and will take place on the Green Oval. You are welcome to drop by at your leisure.*

200-345 **Round Table:** "The Role of IT in the Digital Humanities"

400-515 **Round Table:** "The Digital Dimensions of the Multi-Media Essay: Notes from the Field" ([Caren Kaplan](#), UC Davis)

*Professor Kaplan is the author of two web-based, co-designed, multi-media essays: "[Precision Targets](#)" and "[Dead Reckoning: Aerial Perception and the Social Construction of Targets](#)" (published in *Vectors* 2:2, Jan. 2007). She will present these and lead an open discussion about experimentation in alternative dissemination formats for research and the opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration they promote.*

*Professor Kaplan's round table is sponsored by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.*

530-700 **Lecture:** [Sebastian Guenther](#) (Goettingen) "Goettingen Database and Handbook of Classical Islamic Pedagogy: A Digital Islamic Studies Project at the University of Goettingen"

*Given the challenges Arabic and Islamic studies are facing in the increasingly culturally diverse contexts of modern societies, meaningful new methodologies and tools of research need to be explored.*

*The Goettingen Database and Handbook of Classical Islamic Pedagogy addresses some of these issues in a three-year research project conducted at the University of Goettingen, Germany. The main objectives of the project are, in a first step, to identify, collect, and systematically analyze large amounts of data on Islamic educational theory and practice, drawn from a large variety of classical Arabic texts. This will facilitate, in a second step, the elucidation of key principles and theories of classical Islamic education, reintroduce them into contemporary intellectual*

*discourse and, thus, respond to the very real need to better understand the larger purposes and values that underlie and animate Islamic education on social, ethical, psychological and religious levels. In order to document, administer, and examine the data on Islamic education extracted from the classical Arabic sources, a specific database was designed. This presentation discusses the underlying themes and theoretical premises of this database and handbook project, along with its structure and research opportunities.*

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## **Wednesday, 17 April 2013**

230-430 **Discussion:** "How Can I Get Started in Digital Humanities? : Examples and Challenges"

*NB: this event will take place in Bldg 37 and is for AUB faculty, AHI fellows and members (if you would like to attend, please reserve via [ahi@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ahi@aub.edu.lb))*

430-500 Coffee break

530-700 **Lecture:** [Lynne Siemens](#) (Victoria) "Building and Sustaining the Collaborative Infrastructure for Digital Humanities Projects"

*Advances in digital resources, tools, and methods are allowing researchers to ask and answer different types of research questions which often result in larger and more complex projects. Given these projects' scale and scope, traditional solitary scholarly practices need to be adapted to include collaborative approaches with colleagues locally, nationally and increasingly internationally. This trend raises questions about the ways to develop the necessary team-related skills and required processes to build and sustain teams and their projects while addressing the many challenges that come with working across disciplines, distance, time and culture/language groups. This talk will begin to address these questions and suggest best practices for Digital Humanities teams to consider in their collaborations.*

The Arts and Humanities Initiative (AHI) is funded by a three-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It is administered by the Office of the Provost. Its director is Professor Maher Jarrar. For more information, contact [dw04 \(at\) aub \(dot\) edu \(dot\) lb](mailto:dw04@aub.edu.lb).

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