

POLONSKY DIGITAL HUMANITIES SCHOLARS SUMMER 2015

ILLUMINATING THE SCRIPTORIUM: USING TEI AND SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS TO UNDERSTAND MONASTIC BOOKS AND BOOK PRODUCTION FROM THE MEDIEVAL MONASTERY OF ST. MICHAEL IN EGYPT

Andrew Myers, History of Art at the Institute of Fine Arts

Biography

Andrea Myers Achi is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of Art at the Institute of Fine Arts specializing in late antique and Byzantine art, manuscript studies, and late Roman ceramics. She received her bachelor's degree in ancient studies from Barnard College, and she holds two masters' degrees from New York University: one in Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian studies and a second in the History of Art from the Institute of Fine Arts. Her dissertation investigates monastic books and book production from the medieval Monastery of St. Michael in Egypt. This project investigates Coptic manuscripts at the Pierpont Morgan Library and examines how manuscripts can help us understand monastic economy, including the production of books, and the pervasive monastic book culture of Christian Egypt.

Project Description

Andrea Myers Achi explored modeling strategies and methodologies for organizing and analyzing the core work of her dissertation. Specifically, she became proficient writing XML documents with TEI, and versed in social analysis packages in R Studio. In tandem with mastering these digital methods and tools, she translated the Coptic colophons in the manuscript corpus. The colophons of the manuscripts confirm that the collection forms a single group of manuscripts dedicated to the Monastery of St. Michael, and they provide rare detailed information about the scribes, artists, donors and production location of the manuscripts. As these texts were translated, with the help of the social network analysis tools, she assessed the relationships between the various people who were involved in the monastic book production in the Faiyum Oasis, Egypt during the ninth and tenth centuries. All of the manuscripts preserve their illuminations. Through a stylistic analysis of the decoration, she intends to find a connection between the information gleaned from the colophons and the decorative choices used in the manuscripts. She hopes to use social network analysis programs as a means to assess these data. Overall, this project allows her to visualize, merge, and manipulate both the textual and art historical data from her dissertation research.

THE DAVID WOJNAROWICZ PROJECT AT FALES LIBRARY

Francisco Chaparro, Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts

Biography

Francisco J.R. Chaparro is a fifth year PhD candidate in Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU, where he arrived in 2011 as a Fulbright student scholar. He studied art history in the universities of Granada, Spain, and Siena, Italy. During all these years he has combined his academic career with his activity as an art journalist. His interests include the history of Modernism, Spanish art, and the history and theory of photography and reproducible media.

Project Description

This project addressed the creation of a database for the use of scholars who are researching the work of David Wojnarowicz, an artist who was active in downtown New York from the 1970s until the early 1990s. The artist's archive in the Fales Downtown Collection is the major source of information for the database. A challenge in the database design was to depart from the limitations of conventional databases for art collections, which privileges a highly structured and hierarchical arrangement of information that is antithetical to Wojnarowicz's multifaceted and post-media approach to art. In this way, modern Computer Science resources are regarded not just as visual tools to compartmentalize information but as models from which a more dynamic interpretation of artistic categories as relationships and events can be successfully represented in a database environment.

IFA CHINESE PICTORIAL ART PORTAL

Hui Fang, Institute of Fine Arts

Biography

Hui Fang is now a third-year PhD student at the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA), NYU. She received her B.A. degree in philosophy from Peking University, China, and her M.A. degree in art history from the University of Oregon. Her research interests include the history of Chinese professional painting in South-Eastern China from the late fourteenth to the mid-fifteenth century, and artistic exchanges between China and Japan from the thirteenth century to the sixteenth century.

Project Description

In this project, Hui Fang worked as both a researcher and a website editor on a Glossary entitled Epistemologies of Ink Painting including 270 terms on a WordPress-based IFA research portal. Each glossary entry includes a discussion of the term varying in length from one to several paragraphs, followed by a relevant bibliography. During the internship, she extensively researched scholarship in Chinese both from Mainland China and Taiwan— over 400 dissertations, books, and journal articles—and provided a large number of Chinese language references to the existing bibliography. She also created a separate WordPress-based teaching website for an upcoming survey course on Chinese art, which she will teach at Parsons (The New School) in spring 2016.

INSIDE NEW YORK CITY'S HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Tierney Gleason, Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University

Biography

Tierney is a second year student in the Dual Degree Mentoring Program, a partnership between New York University and the Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University to train scholar librarians. At NYU, she is earning her M.A. in Irish and Irish American Studies with a focus on history. She received her B.A. in Women's Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her academic interests include Gender Studies, Irish and Irish American Studies, and Ethnic Studies.

Project Description

Tierney Gleason's project focuses on nineteenth-century public records for the House of the Good Shepherd, a Magdalen reformatory for "fallen" women and "delinquent" girls that was located on East 90th Street and the East River from the 1860s to the 1920s. Run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, an order of Roman Catholic nuns founded in France, the reformatory in Manhattan was part of a network of reformatories built by this order in the United States in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Many of these reformatories, including the location in Manhattan, contained industrial laundry facilities where inmates worked without pay. This project charts the timeline of the House of the Good Shepherd in New York City, examines the nineteenth century demographics of inmates and convent residents through census records, and maps the network of Good Shepherd reformatories for women throughout the United States in the early-twentieth century.

LANGUAGE ATTITUDES OF TWITTER USERS TOWARD AMERICAN ENGLISH REGIONAL DIALECTS

Nate LaFave, Linguistics Department

Biography

Nate LaFave received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in the fields of Linguistics and Chinese Language and Culture. He is now a Ph.D. candidate in the Linguistics department at NYU. He is interested in the intersection of sociolinguistics with the Digital Humanities, particularly research on computer-mediated communication and technologically-mediated interactions such as collaborative video games. He is currently engaged in fieldwork involving a local community of gamers. Another significant interest is the use of large-scale online corpora, such as Twitter, to examine the expression of identity and attitudes to language use.

Project Description

Twitter has been recognized as an important resource for social scientists and humanists alike. However, investigations of textual and linguistic phenomena such as geographically delineated lexical variation (i.e., differences in use of synonymous words and phrases, such as pop versus soda versus coke) have focused on differences in production. This student argues that Twitter represents an untapped resource for the

investigation of perceptions of language use. This is particularly true for language attitudes toward regional dialects, such as New York City English (NYCE), and differences in their phonetic features (which can be identified by non-standard orthography: New Yawk, cawfee). Mining Twitter solves a primary quandary for language attitude researchers—how to acquire naturally occurring data given the fact that participation in research decreases naturalness. Researchers have long considered NYCE a regional dialect of English highly stigmatized by both New Yorkers and non-New Yorkers. However, results from this study show a number of positive language attitudes toward NYCE being espoused on Twitter— more so, in fact than the number with negative sentiment. This project examines the content of the positive and negative sentiments alike.

DECODING HISTORIC LANDSCAPES: MAPPING RESIDENTIAL MIGRATION AND REAL ESTATE IN 20TH-CENTURY NYC

Alison MacKenzie, Museum Studies

Biography

Alison MacKenzie received her Bachelor's degree in 2014 from Binghamton University, where she majored in English Literature with a concentration in Global Culture and a minor in General Anthropology. Her undergraduate honors thesis focused on the ways in which the ideologies and narratives of house museums and the legacies of their owners function in communities, and she continues to be interested in narrative-building and education in museum settings. After interning as a web writer at the Strong National Museum of Play, she moved to New York City to pursue her Master's degree in Museum Studies at NYU, and has been interning at the Morgan Library & Museum.

Project Description

This multi-platform mapping project is the first step in a larger effort to track residents of two houses-turned-museums in New York City: The Lower East Side Tenement Museum and the Weeksville Heritage Center. What happened to the residents of these houses after they moved out? Race-based-mortgage-lending policies made homeownership difficult for African-American Edward DeGrant. Meanwhile, Polish-American Pauline Levine was able to purchase property and accumulate wealth over the course of her life. The two case studies illustrate larger processes that have been thoroughly documented by urban historians. Professor Aimee VonBokel plans to develop the study to visualize an expanded roster of racialized trajectories across the New York City landscape throughout the twentieth century. Such narratives may not fit neatly in either of these museums, but without them, the two historic sites' may do more to obscure than to explain New York's immigrant and black history— because the forces that created our twenty-first-century, racially segregated city must be acknowledged in order to understand the city's current form.

THE DAS LABYRINTH PROJECT

Deborah Shapiro, Archives/Public History

Biography

Deborah Shapiro is in her second and final year of the master's program in Archives/Public History at NYU. In class she often finds herself writing about the user experience and archival discovery tools, such as finding aids and search engines. Her undergraduate linguistics degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, along with her graduate work in archives, has allowed her to explore the flexibility and limitations of human cognition.

Project Description

This project intends to aid the opera community by enhancing access to operatic sheet music. Frequently the resources necessary to present fully-staged operas are inaccessible; orchestral parts are particularly hard to come by. The Das Labyrinth Project website will make freely available clean orchestral parts and scores for Das Labyrinth, the 1798 sequel to Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. In addition to hosting the digital objects on the Project's own WordPress website, the student will upload the parts and scores to the International Music Score Library Project (<http://imslp.org/>).

BRINE DIGITAL HUMANITIES SCHOLARS SUMMER 2015

A WEBSITE FOR TIME LANDSCAPE

Timothy Anderson, English

Biography

Timothy Anderson is a doctoral candidate in the English Department at New York University. He earned his B.A. in History and Literature at Harvard College and M.A. in Liberal Studies at the New School for Social Research. His current research examines reiterations of Colonial American narratives in the poetics of William Carlos Williams, Charles Olson, Carl Andre, and Susan Howe, and their relation to contemporaneous developments in minimalist visual art and historiographic practices.

Project Description

Working with the artist Alan Sonfist and art historian Robert Slifkin, Anderson has created a website detailing "Time Landscape," Sonfist's site-specific land art installation originally proposed for New York City in 1965. Sonfist envisioned "Time Landscape" in a series of at least 100 settings, each of which would recreate the natural landscape paved over in the construction of the city, but the city constructed only one park, located at the corner of LaGuardia Place and West Houston Street. The website, built on Bootstrap using HTML and CSS and incorporating a GIS mapping interface created using CartoDB, explains the project's history and enables users to situate the artwork's

various unrealized locations across the island of Manhattan. Time Landscape <http://timelandscapes.com/>

THE DOWNTOWN MAGAZINE DATABASE

David Hobbs, English

Biography

David Hobbs is a PhD Candidate in the English Department at New York University. He is interested in the relationship between urban experience and poetic form, as well as the aesthetics of avant-garde literary coteries.

Project Description

This is a public digital archive providing access to optimized archival scans of historic literary magazines from New York's creative explosion following the Vietnam era, as represented by the Downtown Collection at the Fales Library. Many of the writers and artists included in the Collection wrestled with the Post-Structuralist and Existentialist theories that are taught today, but their work circulated in word-of-mouth magazines limited to few copies and fewer issues. By digitizing these magazines and making them available to a broader reading public, this student's database will support both instructors wishing to teach their classes about American avant-garde literature and researchers whose projects focus on the analysis of big data.

WOMEN READERS IN FEDERALIST-ERA NEW YORK

Sara Partridge, English

Biography

Sara Partridge is a Ph.D. student in English at NYU. Her research interests include nineteenth-century American literature, the history of the book, and digital humanities. She received her B.A. in English from Columbia University, where she focused on modern American literature. After graduating, she helped edit and acquire commercial nonfiction as an assistant editor at HarperCollins Publishers.

Project Description

Drawing on the early circulation records (1789-1805) of the New York Society Library, New York's first social library and one of its oldest cultural institutions, the project explores the reading histories of the Library's female members with an eye toward genre, publication history, and borrowing trends. "Women Readers in Federalist-Era New York" complements the Library's multi-phase digitization project, which will use data from its charging ledgers and membership lists to offer an unprecedented window into the reading habits of Federalist-era New Yorkers. This project uses metadata from their open access software platform to generate statistics, visualizations, and datasets to analyze the types of books women in New York read in the 1790s.

THE REFORMER AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE CASE OF MARY SIMKHOVITCH AND GREENWICH HOUSE

Nathaniel Preus, English

Biography

Nathaniel Preus is a second-year PhD student in English, focusing on spatial approaches to twentieth-century American literature. He is also an educator, and has taught English literature abroad and in the U.S.

Project Description

This project uses digital tools to make visible forms of geographic thought found in the settlement house movement, focusing in particular on the work of Mary Simkhovitch, founder and director of Greenwich House. It sees Simkhovitch's understanding of neighborhoods responding to and diverging from mainstream attitudes about community-based planning and reform, suggesting ways in which settlement-based urban planning concepts may have supported or hampered grassroots organizing. The project maps archival material from the Greenwich House archive at Tamiment Library in connection with a close reading of Simkhovitch's speeches and writings.