

DIGITAL HUMANITIES: NEW TOOLS FOR THE MEDIEVALIST

Namur and Louvain-la-Neuve, 7th-8th May 2018

As a matter of fact, computing has nowadays become an invaluable tool for the medievalist. For several decades now, many historians, art historians and philologists specializing in the Middle Ages have constructed their work upon diplomatic corpora, digital editions and databases of which the design can sometimes be traced back to the mid-1980s. However, in spite of appearances, these research instruments and corpora generally remain under-exploited with respect to their potential. Apart from some notable exceptions, few medievalists have embraced a global and thorough quantitative approach of this digital material. The marvelous instruments available to researchers, including among others the Belgian *Thesaurus Diplomaticus* and its latest version, the *Diplomata Belgica*, are way too often only considered as compilations of text editions and confined to this single use. However, new analytical methods, which are not incompatible with traditional approaches – quite the contrary –, allow us to question these corpora in other ways. As their scope and their relevance increase over the years, everything suggests that they will soon lead to the emergence of new forms of exploration of medieval history, art history, and literature in which methodological experiments and innovations will certainly play a major role.

The aim of this bilingual (English/French) workshop, which has been specially designed for young researchers and students, is twofold. On the one hand, it seeks to illustrate how and to what extent digital humanities make significant contributions to revitalize of many fields of research in medieval studies. On the other hand, it seeks to give a first practical introduction to some tools of which the *modus operandi* can be rather easily grasped. The workshop will focus on three types of methods in quantitative analysis which are generally applied to textual sources: 1) Network analysis, in which graphs and graph-related computations are implemented in order to study relationships between social entities and therefore gain a deeper understanding of social phenomena; 2) Text mining, which intends to explore large digital documentary collections and extract workable textual data; 3) Stylometry, which aims to study the proper styles of authors through statistical tools and, hence, shed new light on authorship attribution.

On the practical side, the event will consist of a two-day workshop. On the first day, it will be hosted by the University of Namur and will consist of a series of paper presentations combining methodological reflections and case studies with the aim of illustrating the potential of network analysis, text mining and stylometry. The second day of the workshop, which will take place at the University of Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve), will embrace a more didactic approach and will provide an introduction to network analysis, text mining, and stylometry through beginners' level "how-to"-sessions. The main goal of this workshop is to pave the way for the organization of other potential events related to digital humanities. As an output of these two days, a compilation of short notices describing the possibilities, the limits and the availability of the digital tools used by the speakers will be published online.

This event will be co-organized by the *Réseau des Médiévistes belges de Langue française* (F.R.S.-FNRS contact group), which began its « digital metamorphosis » a few years ago, and by the research groups *PraME – Pratiques médiévales de l'écrit* (University of Namur) and *H37 – Histoire et cultures graphiques* (University of Louvain).

PROGRAM :

University of Namur, Monday 7 May 2018

Seminar

9:15 **Sébastien de Valeriola (UCLouvain / UGent)** and **Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani (UNamur / UVSQ)** – Introduction

Moderator : Tristan Martine (Université Lyon-III)

9:30 **Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften)** – *Mapping Medieval Conflicts: A Network Analytical Approach Towards Political Dynamics in the Pre-Modern Period*

10:15 **Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani (UNamur / UVSQ)** – Analyse de réseaux et critique historique : quelques enseignements tirés de l'étude du « schisme » de Cambrai (vers 1100)

11:00 Coffee break

Moderator : Sébastien de Valeriola (UCLouvain / UGent)

11:15 **Nicolas Perreaux (Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main)** – Les corpus diplomatiques numérisés : contenus, méthodes, possibilités

12:00 **Dominique Stutzmann (CNRS / IRHT)** – La recherche en plein texte dans les manuscrits médiévaux : la reconnaissance des écritures manuscrites dans le projet HIMANIS.

12:45 Lunch

14:00 **Jeroen De Gussem (UGent)** – Forgery in Saint-Denis: A Stylometric Study in the Donation of Charlemagne

Moderator : Adélaïde Lambert (ULiège)

14:45 **Jean-Baptiste Camps (École nationale des Chartes)** – L'analyse généalogique de traditions textuelles : présentation du module « Stemmatology » pour R

15:30 Coffee break

15:45 **Nicolas Mazziotta (ULiège)** – Lire, choisir et découvrir, puis numériser : la part du philologue dans les nouvelles technologies

16:30 **Pascale Renders (Université de Lille / Université de Liège)** and **Esther Baiwir (Université de Lille / Université de Liège)** – Ancien picard, picard moderne : quelles ressources numériques ?

17:15 **Paul Bertrand (UCLouvain)** – Conclusion

University of Louvain, Tuesday 8 May 2018

Workshops

9:30 Workshop 1 – Social Network Analysis, org. by **Sébastien de Valeriola (UCLouvain / UGent)**, **Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani (UNamur / UVSQ)** and **Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften)**

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Workshop 2 – Text Mining, Semantic Analysis, and Stylometry, org. by **Jeroen De Gussem (UGent)**, **Sébastien de Valeriola (UCLouvain / UGent)** and **Nicolas Perreaux (Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main)**

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

- Paul Bertrand (Professor, University of Louvain)
- Anna Constantinidis (Teaching assistant, University of Namur)
- Sébastien de Valeriola (PhD Student, University of Louvain / University of Ghent)
- Adélaïde Lambert (PhD Student, University of Liège)
- Alain Marchandise (Senior Research Associate, FNRS / University of Liège)
- Jean-François Nieuws (Senior Research Associate, FNRS / University of Namur)
- Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Namur / University of Versailles)
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- Jonathan Dumont (Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Liège)
- Ingrid Falque (Scientific collaborator of the FNRS, University of Louvain)
- Christophe Masson (Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Oxford)
- Anh Thy Nguyen (Research Fellow, FNRS / University of Louvain)
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