



**Universiteit
Leiden**
Centre for
Digital Humanities



LUCDH Newsletter - 8 September 2022

The Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities (LUCDH) is an inter-disciplinary centre that brings together students and faculty from across the Leiden community. [Read more at lucdh.nl](http://lucdh.nl)

Welcome back to the new semester! We have a packed edition of our newsletter this month. Scroll through to the end for all the events, funding & vacancy opportunities, advanced workshop dates and latest podcast recording.



DIGITAL LAB P.J. VETH 1.07



> LUCDH/
Digital Lab_

Drop-in sessions for all staff & students

Every afternoon during semesters

13:00 - 17:00. Seating for 25 people. During semester times you *do not* need to book beforehand, but email us if you have questions or would like specific assistance with a project. See lucdh.nl/lab digital for a list of all research resources.

Larger groups and workshops

Mornings (09:00 - 13:00) in the Digital Lab are available for teachers to reserve and for workshops.

Email: digital-lab@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

How to find the Digital Lab & Studio?

The P.J. Veth building is located in the garden area opposite the Hortus Botanicus. Walk almost the length of the P.J. Veth building and enter via the main entrance staircase. Once through the wooden and glass doors, turn immediately right, and through the Student Study Lounge. Exit the lounge and take the stairs up to the first floor. You'll have found the Digital Lab in P.J. Veth 1.07! The Podcast Recording Studio is next door in 1.06. Please contact us if you need assistance with access. (There are washrooms opposite the lab; and a small kitchen area with drink water one floor up.)

LUCDH EVENTS

Open Lab Afternoon

Friday, 30 Sept. 14:00 - 16:30

Digital Lab & Studio - P.J. Veth 1.07 and 1.06

**Dr. Jelena Prokic, Dr. Angus Mol, Janessa Vleghert,
Aron van de Pol et al.**



Are you new to the exciting possibilities for using digital tools and methods to enhance your research in the Humanities? Would you like to explore further how the Humanities interacts with a digital world? If so, then join us on 30 Sept. for our Open Lab afternoon with your burning questions such as: How can I enrich my classes and enthuse students with digital methods and thinking? Where do I start with extracting and digitising historical data or social media texts for my research? What is the best software to create an interactive database, analyse a social network, or visualize my data in a map or image? Where can I learn to start programming in Python or find advice on my Python coding problem?

Drop by for short presentations and advice on tools and methods used in the digital humanities. Staff will be on hand to give short demonstrations on 3D modelling/printing; working with a 360 degree camera; play and research using Virtual Reality; recording podcasts.

Learn more about applying for funding from our Small Grant program, the DH Minor program, DH Elective courses, regular monthly workshops, Mon-Fri lab drop-in afternoons, possibilities to book space in the digital lab and studio for your own workshops and recordings, and much more!

No need to register, come along!

**We look forward to meeting you on Sept. 30 between
14:00 and 16:30**

The Leiden Dialectology Workshop Series

28 Sept., 19 Oct., 26 Oct., 9 Nov., 23 Nov.

Times: 10:00 - 12:00

Location: Digital Lab PJ Veth 1.07

Interested in dialects? Want to know how to analyse dialects? Want to learn how to create linguistic maps? Then this is the workshop for you! This semester, the Leiden Dialectology Workshop Series will give 5 workshops on



different aspects of dialectology; you will learn how to read maps, extract dialect data as well as creating your own linguistic maps with hands on experience. Read more

here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pexPUZSMMf2XndNYir9dNWya9Cypnqen/view?usp=sharing>

If you are interested, please sign up here:

<https://www.formdesk.com/universiteitleiden/form196031>

Organised by [Matthew Sung](#)

E-mail: h.w.m.sung@hum.leidenuniv.nl

LUCDH Lunchtime Speaker Series

Studying the History of Technocratic Reasoning in Digitized Parliamentary Debates with [Ruben Ros](#) (Inst. of History)

Wednesday, 5 October 12:00 - 13:00

Location: Digital Lab, P.J. Veth 1.07 and Online via Kaltura

'Technocratic institutions are often considered a threat to democracy. Outsourcing political decision-making to unelected experts is, according to many, one of the main causes for recent populist discontent. My dissertation project studies the rise of technocracy as a mode of thinking and reasoning. By studying parliamentary argumentation, I aim to shed light on the evolving role of expertise in democratic debate in twentieth-century Dutch politics. In this talk I will outline my approach to this question, and discuss the role of computational methods in my historical research.' » [See link](#)

LUCDH Lunchtime Speaker Series is an opportunity for researchers to share their recent research in digital humanities. If you would like to be one of our speakers contact: lucdh@hum.leidenuniv.nl

A warm welcome to Ruben Ros (PhD Candidate LUCDH/Inst. of History)

Ruben Ros is a historian and computational humanist working on conceptual and intellectual history from a computational perspective. His dissertation research focuses on the advent of technocratic thinking in Dutch parliamentary politics. In the coming years, he will use digitized parliamentary proceedings to study how expertise is employed in political debate, and how politics has changed as the result of this "technocratization". More about Ruben's research interests can be found on his website (www.rubenros.nl). Ruben will be giving our first lunch lecture of the semester on [5 October](#).



FURTHER EVENTS FROM DH COLLEAGUES

CDH Webinar: Digital Humanities 101 – An introduction to DH thinking

Thursday, 22 Sept. 2022

Time: 15:00 - 16:15

Location: Online

This webinar is set up as an entry into Digital Humanities (DH) thinking. Professor [Hugo Quené](#) will show and discuss how to work with digital data and how to employ digital methods in the humanities. The presentation is intended for everybody within the Faculty of Humanities (and beyond) interested in working with digital sources and/or digital methods.

More info & registration: [Centre for Digital Humanities | CDH Webinar: Digital Humanities 101 - An introduction to DH thinking \(uu.nl\)](#)



Programming in Python at LU

Friday, 23 Sept. - Friday, 7 Oct. 2022

Time: 09:30 - 13:00

Location: Online

This course offers a basic and accessible introduction to programming in Python, aimed specifically at LU researchers and LU teachers without prior coding skills. The training consists of 3 Online sessions (in English) on 23, 30, 30 Sept and 7 Oct. Each session runs from 9:30 to 13:00.

» See [Programming in Python - Universiteit Leiden](#) to register.

Artificial Intelligence & Artistic Practices: between hype and bias

Exhibition and workshop by Helena Nikonole

Curated by Dr. Ksenia Fedorova, Assistant Professor, LUCAS

Supported by the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University

1) Exhibition of sound installation “Bird Language” by Helena Nikonole

16 - 18 Sept.

Location: EST art foundation, Papegaaibolwerk 20, 2312 LW Leiden

Discussion with the artist moderated by Dr. Ksenia Fedorova – 16 Sept., 17:00-18:00

Opening of the exhibition - 16 Sept., 18:00-20:00

Artist talk by Helena Nikonole – 17 Sept., 11:00-12:15, Lipsius 123

Exhibition will be open on 17-18 Sept. from 13:00 to 19:00

» For further information on Helena Nikonole see www.nikonole.com

2) Workshop: AI & Art: Aesthetics and Politics of Artificial Neural Networks - for workshop register by 14 Sept.

Supported by the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University

Instructor: Helena Nikonole (www.nikonole.com), artist, curator and educator specializing on AI and art.

The structure of the workshop:

1. Introduction
2. Lecture: Aesthetics and Politics of AI
3. hands-on: AI and text. Introduction to Google Colab. LSTM architecture.
4. hands-on: AI and images. Hacking of StyleGAN2 architecture.
5. Presentations of the ideas and open discussion

Date: 17 Sept., 11:00-12:15

Location Artist lecture: Lipsius 123 (open to everyone) 12:00-16:00

Location Workshop: Lipsius 126 (upon registration). Requirements: Basic computer skills, no prior experience of working with AI or programming is needed. Language: English

» Please register for participation by sending an email to Sanne van de Haar (s.m.van.de.haar@hum.leidenuniv.nl) by **Sept. 14**, briefly introducing yourself and your motivation for taking place in the workshop (2-3 sentences).

eXtending Realities: Designing Future Cultural Heritage experiences

Thursday, 29 Sept. 13:00-18:00.

Location: TU Delft Campus

The workshop aims to bring together minds with different backgrounds related to cultural heritage, such as researchers and practitioners from the domains of computer science, design, psychophysics, (art) history, archeology, and museum studies. Participants (hopefully also you), will be joined by attendees of the [Eurographics GCH 2022](#) conference, co-located at TU Delft.

» If you would like to join, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/DanwhoQbrRXYX3Wu9>

eXtending Reality workshop

Preliminary program:

- 13:00 – 14:00 – Presentations & demos
- 14:00 – 15:00 – Creative session (part 1)
- 15:00 – 15:30 – break
- 15:30 – 16:30 – Creative session (part 2)
- 16:30 – 17:00 – Wrap-up & evaluation of creative session
- 17:00 – 18:00 – Drinks

The afternoon will kick off with some short presentations on (research) projects, and will feature some exiting VR/AR/AI demos (to be confirmed). After that, you will work in smaller groups, in parallel interactive, creative sessions. The aim of these sessions is to transcend disciplinary boundaries, in future-casting the role of extended reality (XR) technologies, in the context of galleries, museums, archives, and libraries, and their collections. Together we will develop ideas, and discuss, how these technologies might be or should be developed further, to change the way

we interact with, learn about, and let cultural heritage shape our current day and future globalised discourse.

The interactive creative sessions will be based around several cases, which will provide the necessary ‘grounding’ and context, for the future-casting activities:

Confirmed cases

- o eXtending Realities of the [Dutch National Canon](#) – by [Allard Pierson Museum](#).
- o Reconstructing a (virtual) palace in a museum context – by design agency [NorthernLight](#).
- o AR in the Serious game [MedievalMe](#) – by Sanne Frequin (Utrecht University).
- o Multi-sensory AR experiences of children’s pop-up books – by Willemijn Elkhuisen (TU Delft, in collaboration with the KB).

This is a shared event, co-organized by TU Delft [Museum Futures Lab](#), TU Delft [Future Libraries Lab](#), and made possible by the LDE [Art, Heritage & Science cluster](#). This event is part of and co-located with the [Eurographics Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage 2022](#).

On behalf of the organizers:

Willemijn Elkhuisen, Eric (Heng) Gu, Jeff Love, Himanshu Verma, and Arnold Vermeeren (Industrial Design Engineering, TU Delft); Angus Mol ([Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities](#)); Ricardo Marroquim ([Computer Graphics & Visualisation](#), TU Delft, organizer of [GCH 2022 conference](#))

The Critical Digital Humanities International Conference (Hybrid)

30 Sept & 1 Oct 2022

Location: University of Toronto

Organized by the [Critical Digital Humanities Initiative](#) (CDHI), University of Toronto. The conference will be hybrid, with virtual events on Friday and in-person events on Saturday. Session types include paper panels, roundtable discussions, workshops, lightning sessions and posters. »Read more: <https://dhn.utoronto.ca/conference/>

VVSOR Symposium on Transparent Machine Learning, October 5th, Utrecht

Wednesday, Oct 5

Location: Utrecht

Join us: For abstracts, practical information, and registration, see [our website](#).

This event is VVSOR-members only. If you are not a member: membership comes with many benefits and there are discounts on the fee for many (fees starting at €0,-)! You can find more information about memberships [here](#).

CDH Webinar: Talking XTC – Distant and close reading of digitized newspaper and radio data archives

Friday, 21 Oct. 2022

Time: 15:00 - 16:15

Location: Online

During this webinar media researcher [Berrie van der Molen](#) will talk about the methodological approach – the ‘leveled approach’



– he used writing his dissertation ‘Talking XTC: Drug discourse in post-war Dutch newspaper and radio debates’. Van der Molen will show how he combined analysis of Optical Character Recognition enriched newspaper data with analysis of Automatic Speech Recognition enriched radio data.

More info & registration: [Centre for Digital Humanities | CDH Webinar: Talking XTC - Distant and close reading of digitized newspaper and radio data archives \(uu.nl\)](#)

Workshop: "R for Stylistics" at UCR

19 and 20 January 2023. Apply by 31 Oct!

Location: [University College Roosevelt](#), Middelburg, The Netherlands

Organizers: Ernestine Lahey and Sara Bartl

R for Stylistics is a 2-day, hands-on workshop for students and scholars of stylistics/literary linguistics who are eager to learn how to use the R programming environment to handle textual data. The workshop will follow an intensive two-day program in which participants will learn the basics of working with R and R Studio, as well as some methods of basic textual analysis with R. The workshop is best suited to advanced students (i.e. MA, PhD) and scholars of stylistics with no prior programming experience.

Please note that the number of spots on the workshop is limited.

Contact for further info and eligibility: [Ernestine Lahey](#), University College Roosevelt

Apply by 31 Oct. via [this form](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

Social Resilience & Security seed funding for interdisciplinary research: Call for proposals

Funding opportunity for young researchers from the Leiden University (up to 8 years after obtaining a PhD). Researchers from the Humanities can also apply.

Apply by 30 September 2022.

Full details on the [blue button 'Call for Proposal' link](#)

Digital Approaches to the 'Humanities' and 'Social Sciences' - Calls for proposals are now open!

1) Digital Approaches to the Humanities - Apply by 14 oct 2022

This call for proposals aims to help researchers in the Humanities who require research software or digital tooling to answer their research problem. Researchers new to applying digital research methods as well as experienced users are encouraged to apply. A successful proposal should address a research question in a Humanities' discipline and describe how a digital approach will durably impact that discipline. In this call, 'research software' refers to digital tools or methods

that contribute to the creation or analysis of research data and research results. You can apply for 9 person months of Software engineering from the eScience Center.

<https://www.esciencecenter.nl/calls-for-proposals/call-for-ssi-in-humanities/>

2) Digital Approaches to the Social Sciences - Apply by 14 oct 2022

This call for proposals aims to help researchers in the Social Sciences who require research software or digital tooling to answer their research problem. Researchers new to applying digital research methods as well as experienced users are encouraged to apply. A successful proposal should address a research question in a Social Sciences' discipline and describe how a digital approach will durably impact that discipline. In this call, 'research software' refers to digital tools or methods that contribute to the creation or analysis of research data and research results. You can apply for 9 person months of Software engineering from the eScience Center.

<https://www.esciencecenter.nl/calls-for-proposals/call-for-ssi-in-social-sciences/>

As a research organisation co-funded by NWO and SURF, the [Netherlands eScience Center](#) builds research software together with scientific partners at universities and research institutes. Our role is to team up with researchers in all scientific domains to explore innovative ideas by applying (advanced or specialized) research software.

We collaborate with scientists on projects of varying sizes, through an in-kind investment of RSEs. Projects are awarded through calls for proposals.

LUCDH Grants and Resources/Opportunities

» Read more on various DH vacancies: [DH Opportunities](#)

LUCDH Small Grants CfP 2022-2023

[Small Grants](#) information under 'Grants and Resources' will be updated on our website by next week with a new deadline of mid-December 2022 and new application docs. for the next CfP.

Vacancy: *(student) research assistant to support the MacBERTh/GysBERT project.*

Apply before Monday, 26 September, 2022

Background

MacBERTh and GysBERT are language models (more specifically, BERT models) pre-trained on historical textual material (date range: 1450-1950). These models have been developed as part of a PDI-SSH project that aims to support Humanities and Social Science researchers who work with historical textual data.

Researchers who interpret and analyse historical textual material are well-aware that languages are subject to change over time, and that the way in which concepts and discourses of class, gender, norms and prestige function in different time periods. As such, it is important that the interpretation of textual/linguistic material from the past is not approached from a present-day point-of-view, which is why NLP models pre-trained on present-day language data are less than ideal candidates for the job. That's where our historical models can help.

MacBERTh, a model pre-trained on historical English (1450-1950) has been published in the [huggingface repository](#). The release of a Dutch historical model, called GysBERT, is planned for 2022. More information on the project, including upcoming talks and publications, can be found at the project website: <https://macberth.netlify.app/>

As a student research assistant in this project, you will be involved in developing BERT-based applications in order to assist research in the Humanities and Social Science. Tasks may involve, among other things, automating annotation procedures, assisting with information extraction from historical documents or developing computational semantic models.

Who are we looking for? As a research assistant, you will support the project team by carrying out technical tasks. Hence, we are looking for an MA or Research MA student (or recent graduate) with:

- A background in Computer Science, NLP and/or Computational Linguistics;
- Programming experience in Python (Scikit-Learn, Numpy, Pandas, PyTorch);
- Some hands-on experience with predictive language models (preferably BERT).

You are particularly welcome to apply if you have an additional interest in language change, Linguistics, or Humanities research more generally.

What we offer - We can offer a paid position of 0.2fte-0.5fte (1-2.5 days a week) for a duration of 3 months. The assistantship may be extended to 6 months depending on the available budget and your performance. The exact starting date is flexible: you may start as soon as 10 October 2022, but a later starting date can be discussed if desired.

Application - If you are interested in joining our team, please send an e-mail to L.fonteyn@hum.leidenuniv.nl and e.m.a.manjavacas.arevalo@hum.leidenuniv.nl containing the following:

- Your name;
- A short message outlining your motivation for applying;
- A short cv, listing your study and work experience, which addresses the requested skills listed in this application.

Your application should be sent to us **before Monday, 26 September, 2022.**

PhD opportunities will be announced later this year

» playfulmimemachines.com



Becoming an LUCDH Affiliated Member.

If you have research interests in Digital Humanities, and wish to join our collaborative network of [Leiden University Affiliated Researchers](#), please contact one of the [LUCDH Staff Members](#).

Are you a PhD or Master student interested in Digital Humanities?

» [Read More here](#) on how to become involved in the Digital Humanities Student Network. If you have questions about the DH/SN please contact [Matthew Sung](#): h.w.m.sung@hum.leidenuniv.nl

“The Humanities in a Digital World”, Special Issue, Vol. 4 of the DH Benelux Journal is now published.

After a challenging year in which to organize the 8th Annual Conference of Digital Humanities for the Benelux community - because of covid travel restrictions, the conference was reconceived online - the guest editors are pleased to see the publication of this Special Issue of the DH Benelux journal. The contributions of this issue reflect a mix of articles, some directly addressing the theme of the conference, 'The Humanities in a Digital World', others presenting case studies within the broader spectrum of Digital Humanities. Enjoy the read [here](#)!



Guest editors for this volume:

Lorella Viola

(C2DH, Université de Luxembourg)

Jelena Prokic

(Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities)

Antske Fokkens

(Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam & Eindhoven University of Technology)

Tommaso Caselli

(Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

STUDIO - P.J. VETH 1.06

Looking for a Recording Studio for your next Podcast?

Thursday, 6 Oct 15:00-15:30 in P.J. Veth 1.06

If you haven't used our Studio before, join Angus Mol for one of the monthly mini-tours of the Studio (P.J. Veth 1.06), and a briefing on the recording equipment.

The gear is very user friendly so we hope to see all you new or experienced podcasters soon!

Please e-mail digital-lab@hum.leidenuniv.nl to confirm your place.

» [Read more, and check Studio calendar for available time slots](#)



When you're ready to record your podcast, time slot(s) can be reserved via the same email. And after you've published your Podcast, don't forget to send us a link so we can share your work in the next newsletter!

WORKSHOPS

Don't miss these afternoon workshops 13:00-17:00 (cf. Winter Week has various times). Save the dates! Details to follow in later newsletters.

E-mail lucdh@hum.leidenuniv.nl now if you wish to sign up to the GIS workshop or Social Media/Text Analysis workshop.

Date and details to be confirmed via email.

Location: Digital Lab PJV 1.07.



2022

30 Sep: Open Lab Afternoon 14:00 - 16:30 (correct date)

Tentative 21 Oct: GIS (Date to be confirmed)

4 Nov: Social Media/Text Analysis

16 Dec: Interactive Storytelling/Glütwine

2023

30 Jan – 2 Feb: Digital Skills – Winter Week (especially useful for teachers)

3 Feb: Pilot Projects Symposium

17 Mar: Open Science (FAIR)

21 Apr: Networks

To be confirmed - likely 26 May: Neural Networks

Featured Podcast from The Common Room's summer season of recordings

[The EU Rule of Law Crisis: Normativity and Harsh Reality](#)

In this international episode, Mauricio Mandujano Manriquez, Jonah Zijlma and Greta Scott discuss the EU rule of law crisis. We had the pleasure of interviewing Tom Theuns, Assistant Professor of Political Theory and European Politics at Leiden University and an Associate Researcher at Sciences Po Paris, on the EU's response to the undemocratic and illiberal practices of Hungary and Poland. What is the future of Hungary and Poland in the EU, and what can and should the EU do to rein in its most problematic Member States?

This episode was recorded on the 24th of June 2022 at the Yolk Workspace & Community podcast studio in Kraków and the Digital Lab at Leiden University

