Digital Humanities and Digital Communication:
Integrating traditional and innovative tools

Host Institution: University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Coordinating Institution: Department of Studies on Language and Culture

Website: https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/

Dates: 3 June 2025 - 6 June 2025

Location: Modena, Emilia Romagna, Italy

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

We are happy to announce the 7th edition of our Summer School in Digital Humanities and Digital Communication, which will be hosted by the Department of Studies on Language and Culture of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, in collaboration with the Fondazione Marco Biagi. As part of the Doctoral Programme in Human Sciences, the Summer School aims to provide PhD students and young researchers with methodological tools for the study of digital communication and data analysis. This year's focus is on challenges and opportunities of integrating traditional methods with innovative tools, with topics ranging from digital resources for research in the humanities to the use of new information technologies for data analysis.

SUMMER SCHOOL THEMES

Digital technology is a major enabler as recent developments in research in the humanities have shown. New applications, software and techniques have raised the level of analysis we can perform. Machine learning in the form of deep neural networks has revolutionized our ability to process large datasets and classify or learn from their content. Sophisticated tools for the compilation, annotation and analysis of corpora, distant reading methods and techniques, increasingly complex digital archives and Large Language Models for faster and better translations are all now available.

Although AI is indeed pushing the boundaries of technological progress further and further beyond what was conceivable perhaps even just a few years ago, we cannot overlook the value of traditional knowledge, skills and abilities. While far from defending a Luddite position on the question, it can be argued that the human element in research is still fundamental when using these digital tools, not least of all to guarantee representative data to avoid bias. Furthermore, the sensitivity, cultural awareness and knowledge of researchers can continue to benefit the interpretation of data. Traditional methods and innovative tools should be seen as complementary to each other, not the replacement of one for the other. However, knowing how researchers should interact with AI and work in tandem is fundamental for success. How can the integration of AI and traditional methods lead to new insights

or discoveries that neither approach could achieve independently? How can we balance the use of traditional methods and innovative tools? What kind of traditional skills can be particularly useful?

The 2025 Summer School of the UNIMORE Doctoral Programme in Human Sciences will try to discuss the challenges and opportunities of integrating traditional methods with innovative tools, considering new fields of study, new tools and resources, new forms of collaboration in research, while at the same time allowing participants to explore some of the recent advances in the field of digital humanities in hands-on workshops.

Invited Speakers

- John Bateman (University of Bremen)
- Lynn Bowker (Université Laval)
- Astrid Ensslin (University of Regensburg)
- Christopher Hafner (City University of Hong Kong)
- Marcus Müller (Technische Universität Darmstadt)
- Wu Ping (Beijing Language and Culture University)

APPLICATIONS AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite contributions from PhD students and young non-tenured researchers from a variety of disciplines interested in digital communication, digital humanities, and transdisciplinary approaches to the field. The selection of participants is based on a review process organised by the scientific committee of the summer school. The application will be subjected to a double-blind peer review. Based on this review, the scientific committee of the summer school will select the participants.

The selection criteria are:

- quality of the PhD project, assessed in relation to its:
  i) theoretical approach;
  ii) methodological standards;
  iii) potential for innovation;
- the relevance of the aims and objectives of the PhD project within the areas covered.

Participants will be expected to present their work at the Summer School, either in the form of a presentation or of a poster.

The application form includes:

1. **abstract of the PhD project/current research project** (max 2500 characters, including spaces. Please submit your abstract as word documents and format your in-text references and bibliography in APA7)
2. a **short CV** according to a given model (see https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/application/)

Send application form, abstract and CV to: **digitalhumanities@unimore.it** (with the subject of the email "APPLICATION *NAME-SURNAME*")

Programme director: Prof. Marina Bondi

Scientific Committee

Matteo Al Kalak, Marina Bondi, Giovanna Buonanno, Silvia Cavalieri, Federico Corradini, Giuliana Diani, Matteo Di Cristofaro, Laura Gavioli, Ulrike Adelheid Kaunzner, Silvia Modena, Jessica Jane Nocella, Vallori Rasini, Maria Chiara Rioli, Annalisa Sezzi, Judith Anne Turnbull, Gloria Julieta Zarco, Federico Zaupa

Organizing Committee

Valeria Barbieri, Federico Corradini, Jessica Dalli Cardillo, Matteo Di Cristofaro, Stefano Dilorenzo, Noemi Eleonora Maria Grasso, Guo Han, Domitilla Lionetti, Marilinda Malaspina, Cecilia Marchetti, Riccardo Martino, Elisa Milesi, Miles Nerini, Jessica Jane Nocella, Fabiola Notari, Lorenzo Sergi, Elena Tosi, Federico Zaupa, Xiaomin Zhang

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for applications: March 28, 2025

Notification of acceptance: April 11, 2025

Registration Fee: € 100,00

Conference website: https://www.summerschooldigitalhumanities.unimore.it/

For any inquiry, please contact the organisers at: digitalhumanities@unimore.it

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