

# Historical Documents, Digital Approaches

## Mark-up, Analysis and Representation of Medieval Texts Theory and Practice

Three-day seminar-workshop on the use of Humanities Computing methods in Historical Studies, organized by the Ghent Center for Digital Humanities, the Departments of History and of Languages and Cultures, and the Ghent Center for Slavic and East European Studies, in cooperation with the Flemish Medieval Studies Workgroup and the Henri Pirenne Institute of Medieval Studies.

While e-Humanities conferences abound, reporting on specific tools and special methodological and technical issues, this seminar-workshop seeks to reach digital novices as well as a more advanced audience by wedding the opposite extremes of the spectrum, viz. practice at its most basic and theory at its most general and abstract level.

### GHENT UNIVERSITY, 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2013

**Lecture sessions** will take place at the Ufo-building, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 35, Jan Dhondt meeting room (second floor)

**Workshop sessions** will take place at the Ufo-building, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 33, ICT-classroom (ground floor)

Participation to this seminar-workshop has to be confirmed and registered by e-mail to Bart Cosyns ([bart.cosyns@ugent.be](mailto:bart.cosyns@ugent.be)) **before August 30**. This workshop seminar will count as a specialist course for doctoral students of Ghent University who attend the lectures and workshop.

# Historical Documents, Digital Approaches

## PRACTICE

The event features a general introduction into XML-based technologies and their possible applications for the analysis and (re)presentation of medieval manuscripts, together with a hands-on workshop of three half days, focusing on the basics of text encoding. The key instructor, Prof. dr. David J. Birnbaum from the University of Pittsburgh, has been a leader in the DH community since the mid-1980s, and currently teaches a university course entitled "Computational methods in the humanities" (<http://dh.obdurodon.org>).

Participants in the workshop are expected to inform the instructor of the topic and the goals of their projects prior to the start of the sessions. By the end of the workshop the participants will have acquired basic understanding of how to transcribe manuscripts for subsequent processing (analysis or publication) and how to prepare TEI-conformant descriptions of those manuscripts with Oxygen. More specifically, they will have begun to prepare their own transcriptions and descriptions during the hands-on portion of the workshop, so that they will feel comfortable with the tools and the procedures, and so that they will feel confident about continuing that work on their own after the conclusion of the seminar. The workshop will be divided as follows:

Day 1) Introduction to XML and the general TEI infrastructure;

Day 2) Basic TEI encoding for manuscript transcription;

Day 3) Basic TEI encoding for manuscript description.

## THEORY

At the same time, the more philosophical questions surrounding digital technology and shifting concepts of (hyper)textuality will be addressed in a series of lectures. These questions will be organized around three thematic strands. The first strand, Issues of markup, will examine the challenges of translating material documents into digital text. A second strand on Computational data analysis will be devoted to novel forms of classifying, comparing and analyzing datasets. The final strand will explore Digital representation as it questions the (inevitably biased) role of the editor of digital text, different kinds of reader (or user) engagement prompted by digitized resources, and the nature and claims of digital text objects.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Lara Sels (Universities of Ghent and Leuven, Dept. of Languages and Cultures)

Els De Paermentier (Ghent University, Dept. of History, Ghent Center for Digital Humanities)

Tjamke Snijders (Ghent University, Dept. of History, Flemish Medieval Studies Workgroup)

Michel De Dobbeleer (Ghent University, Dept. of Languages and Cultures)

Mike Kestemont (University of Antwerp, Flemish Medieval Studies Workgroup)

Bart Cosyns (Ghent University, Dept. of History, research policy officer)

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

### Thursday September 5

9:00-9:30: Registration and coffee

9:30-12:00: Introduction and welcome

**Jan DUMOLYN** (Pirenne Institute)

Keynote: **Lara SELS** (University of Leuven,  
Ghent University) *'On Artifacts and Editors'*

Session: Issues of Markup  
(10:45-11:00 - coffee break)

**Laura GILI** (École des chartes, Paris)

*'Balisage du texte et mise en forme d'un index  
en XML/TEI: l'intérêt de l'encodage pour  
étudier la pratique notariale dans les chartes  
romaines du XIIe siècle'*

**Bert VAN RAEMDONCK** (Ghent University)

*'Editing Correspondence: the I in TEI'*

12:00-13:00: Lunch

13:00-15:00: Workshop XML (1) –

**David BIRNBAUM**

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-17:30: Workshop XML (2) –

**David BIRNBAUM**

### Friday September 6

9:00-9:30: Registration and coffee

9:30-12:00: Keynote: **Edward VANHOUTTE** (Kantl)

*'Which Digital Humanities'*

Session: Computational data analysis  
(10:45-11:00 - coffee break)

**David BIRNBAUM** (University of Pittsburgh)

*'Perspectives on the digital edition and  
publication of medieval manuscripts'*

**Folger KARS DORP** (Meertens Instituut  
Amsterdam)

*'On the relation between semantic plagiarism  
and motifs in (medieval) folktales'*

**Mike KESTEMONT** (University of Antwerp)  
*'Computational Text Analysis and Medieval  
Literature: A Distant Reading'*

12:00-13:00: Lunch

13:00-15:00: Workshop XML (3) –

**David BIRNBAUM**

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-17:30: Workshop XML (4) –

**David BIRNBAUM**

19:00: Dinner

### Saturday September 7

9:00-9:30: Registration and coffee

9:30-12:00: Keynote: **Peter STOKES**

(King's College London)

*'Digital Codicology? Online  
Representations of the Material Form'*

Session: Digital (re)presentation  
(10:45-11:00 - coffee break)

Keynote: **Leah TETHER** (Anglia Ruskin  
University)

*'Engaging readers in digital texts using  
medieval methods'*

**Caroline MACÉ** (University of Leuven)

*'Edition and History of Texts in the  
Digital Age'*

Discussion and general conclusions:  
**Leah TETHER**

12:00-13:00: lunch

13:00-15:00: Workshop XML (5) –

**David BIRNBAUM**

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-17:00: Workshop XML:

Discussion and conclusions (6) –  
**David BIRNBAUM**