

The Digital Humanities and Islamic & Middle East Studies

Brown University Oct 24-25, 2013 | Conference program (draft: 10/5/13)

Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Joukowsky Forum in the Watson Institute for International Studies (111 Thayer St.)

Thursday, October 24, 2013

8:30 – 9:00 am: Coffee and pastries

9:00 – 9:30 am: Welcome and opening remarks by Kevin McLaughlin (Dean of the Faculty) and Beshara Doumani (Director of Middle East Studies, Prof. of History)

9:30 – 10:45 am: **Digital Ethnography** | chair: Beshara Doumani (Brown)

Peter McMurray (Harvard), “Berlin Islam as Acoustic Ecology: An Ethnography in Sound”

Nadia Yaqub (UNC), “Working with Indigenous Digital Humanities Projects: The Case of the Mukhayyam al-Sumud al-Usturi Tal al-Za‘tar Facebook Group”

10:45 – 12:00 pm: **Manuscript Visualization and Digitization** | chair: Sue Alcock (Brown)

Alex Brey (Bryn Mawr), “Quantifying the Qur’an”

David Hollenberg (Univ. of Oregon), “Preserving Islamic Manuscripts Under Erasure: The Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative”

12:00 – 1:00 pm: Lunch (registered participants)

1:00 – 2:45 pm: **Text Mining** | chair: Beatrice Gruendler (Yale)

Maxim Romanov (Tufts), “Abstract Models for Islamic History”

Guy Burak (NYU library), “Comparing Canons: Examining Two 17th-century *Fatama* Collections from the Ottoman Lands”

Kirill Dmitriev (St. Andrews), “Arab Cultural Semantics in Transition”

2:45 – 4:00 pm: **Databases** | chair: Elli Mylonas (Brown)

Sebastian Günther (Göttingen), “A Database & Handbook of Classical Islamic Pedagogy”

Will Hanley (FSU), “Prosop: A Social Networking Tool for the Past”

4:00 – 4:15 pm: Coffee break

4:15 – 5:30 pm: **Mapping** | chair: Sheila Bonde (Brown)

Till Grallert (Freie Univ. Berlin), “Mapping the Urban Landscape through News Reports: Damascus and its Hinterlands in Late Ottoman Times”

Meredith Quinn (Harvard), “Putting Middle East and Islamic Studies On the Map”

5:30 – 6:45 pm: Reception, Watson Institute lobby

7:00 pm: Dinner for speakers, chairs, and invited guests at Faculty Club (1 Magee St.)

Friday, October 25, 2013

8:30 – 9:00 am: Coffee and pastries

9:00 – 10:15 am: **Digitization and E-Publication** | chair: Ian Straughn (Brown)

Dagmar Riedel (Columbia Univ.), “Manuscripts and Printed Books in Arabic Script in the Age of the E-Book: The Challenges of Digitization”

Chip Rossetti (Managing Editor, LAL), “Al-Kindi on the Kindle: The Library of Arabic Literature and the Challenges of Publishing Bilingual Arabic-English Books”

10:15 – 11:30 am: **Disciplinary and Theoretical Considerations** | chair: Elias Muhanna (Brown)

Afsaneh Najmabadi (Harvard), “Making (Up) an Archive: What Could Writing History Look Like in a Digital Age?”

Travis Zadeh (Haverford), “Uncertainty and the Archive: Reflections on Medieval Arabic and Persian Book Culture in the Digital Age”

11:30 am – 12:30: Keynote address by Dr. Dwight Reynolds (UCSB): “From Basmati Rice to the Bani Hilal: Digital Archives and Public Humanities”

12:30 – 2:00 pm: Roundtable discussion over lunch (registered participants)