

DLA Newsletter vol. 17

the Digital Liberal Arts

For our first monthly newsletter for 2016-17, we are reintroducing ourselves as well as highlighting some new faces and projects! Read on...

What we're all about

The Digital Liberal Arts at Middlebury College is a Mellon-funded initiative designed to support faculty use of digital tools in their research and pedagogy. This support is offered through individual consultations on the best tools to use based on your research questions, facilitating cross departmental connections, and providing funding for digital projects. The DLA also coordinates workshops throughout the year, a reading group, and a monthly Behind the Scenes luncheon showcasing digital projects on campus. We invite you to participate in as many of these opportunities as you find useful for your needs. You can learn more about the initiative on the [DLA's website](#) at go/dla or by emailing Faculty Director Jason Mittell (jmittell@middlebury.edu) or Postdoctoral Fellow Kristy Golubiewski-Davis (kgolubiewskidavis@middlebury.edu).



A Note from the Faculty Director

As we launch the third year of the Digital Liberal Arts Initiative, I am both proud to look back at how much we have accomplished thus far, and excited about what this year will bring. Most notably, we are all overjoyed to welcome the newest member to the DLA team: Kristy Golubiewski-Davis, our new DLA Postdoctoral Fellow. Kristy introduces herself below, but I encourage everyone to reach out to her when you get a chance, both to welcome her into the Middlebury community, and to learn about her exciting work and broad-ranging expertise. As detailed below, definitely try to attend Kristy's Behind the Scenes talk on 9/27 to learn more about her research. I look forward to seeing all of the great work within the digital liberal arts that will emerge over this year and beyond.

-Jason Mittell

A Note from the DLA Postdoc

First, I'd like to thank everyone who has given me such a warm welcome so far. I received my PhD in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, with a dissertation focus on Late Bronze Age Central European Archaeology (~1200-800 BCE). My research interests include social networks, 3D scanning and analysis, object-oriented studies, and specialized craft knowledge. Throughout my work, I have been an advocate for working with 3D and digital technologies for research, outreach, and education purposes. Additional projects I have worked on include interactive web applications, in-class content, and hands-on activities using 3D printed materials for understanding archaeological materials. To learn more about the work I've done, please visit [my website](#). I'm very excited to join the Middlebury College DLA team, and look forward to working with you on your projects! Please feel free to email me anytime at kgolubiewskidavis@middlebury.edu with any questions you might have about the program or any projects you'd be interested in working on with the DLA.



~Kristy Golubiewski-Davis

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2016-17 Fellows

Each year, the DLA funds a number of Middlebury faculty during their academic leave to pursue a new digital project that expands the horizons of their research or creative work. This academic year, we have a record-breaking five faculty who are fellows for at least one semester.

- Caitlin Myers (Economics, Spring – Fall 2016) is using GIS and spatial software to present research on the relationship between health policies, teen pregnancy, and other reproductive rights issues.
 - Guntram Herb (Geography, Fall 2016) is developing a multimedia website mapping the indigenous nations along the US/Canada border including audio interviews, photographs, and primary documents.
 - Kirsten Hoving (History of Art and Architecture, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017) is creating a multimedia catalog and supplement to the Middlebury Museum of Art exhibition she is curating for Fall 2017, "Land and Lens: American Photography and the Environment."
 - Linus Owens (Sociology, Spring 2017) is producing an interactive documentary about the role of Halloween within the lives of young adults in the U.S.
 - Tatiana Smorodinska (Russian, Spring 2017) is creating an online multimedia textbook for second-year Russian courses.
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Summer DLA projects

Beyond the work of our ongoing DLA fellows and our two concluding DLA fellows, Michael Newbury and Jamie McCallum, the DLA sponsored and supported numerous projects this past summer. Some highlights:

- Sam Liebhaber has been working on converting his existing [Mahri Poetry Archive](#) from a Wordpress site to Scalar, which provides a platform for non-linear content exploration. The project is under contract to be published by Stanford University Press.
- Ioana Uricaru, Daniel Houghton, Coumba Winfield '17, and Katrina Moore '17 are in the thick of animating *Pavlov's Dog*. After a summer spent scriptwriting, designing the set and characters, and laying out the action, the team began building the key storytelling drawings that served as a visual approximation of the finished product. After edits and refinements to that sketch, the team will move

on to full animation this fall and winter.

- Thomas Van Order is revising the online textbook, *Midd Italiano*, that he created (in collaboration with students and fellow faculty) last year. The DLA supported his trip to Italy to gather videos, sounds, and images for the textbook.
- Mike Dash worked with a student to develop web-based, interactive tutorials that enable students to explore the relationships between chance and common statistical tests. These tutorials are designed to help students develop an intuitive understanding of how statistics are used to make conclusions despite the inherent uncertainty of inferential tests.
- Matthew Dickerson worked with a student and alum this summer to create video, images, and sounds for a companion website for his book, *Trout in the Desert: on Fly Fishing, Human Habits, and the Cold Waters of the Arid Southwest*.

DLA Reading Group



The [DLA reading group](#) returns this year with not one group, but two! One of our reading groups will read selections from *A New Companion to Digital Humanities*, 2nd Edition edited by Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, and John Unsworth. This newly published anthology presents case studies of projects alongside discussion of methods and approaches. You can find the table of contents [here](#). The second reading group will be working their way through *Laying the Foundation: Digital Humanities in Academic Libraries* edited by John White and Heather Gilbert. The full text is available in .pdf format [here](#).

The DLA invites all faculty and staff interested in exploring themes and issues related to the digital liberal arts to join a DLA reading group. If you're interested in joining either of the reading groups, please fill out [this survey](#). Books will be generously provided by the DLA or the library to members of the reading group as needed. We ask that if you join the reading group, you make a commitment to attend regularly in order to facilitate ongoing discussion.

Meetings for *Laying the Foundation: Digital Humanities in Academic Libraries* will be on the first Friday of each month starting 10/7. Meetings for *A New Companion to Digital Humanities*, 2nd Edition will be on the third Friday of each month starting 10/21. The location is to be determined.

[Sign up for the DLA Reading Group](#)

Behind the Scenes Luncheon

This year's [Behind the Scenes Luncheons](#) will take place on the last Tuesday of the month (9/27, 10/25, and 11/29). Join

us on **Tuesday, 9/27 from 12:15-1:30** in the CTLR lounge for our first meeting featuring our new Postdoc, Kristy Golubiewski-Davis, as she demonstrates the 3D scanning tools and techniques she used in her doctoral research. This project is a case study using 3D scans of Late Bronze Age swords (~1200-800BC) to recreate community networks of knowledge. The aim of the work is to link the decisions of specialized craft workers to morphological data. Those data were in turn used to represent links in a social network. In this way, networks of specialized knowledge could be visually represented across space. Come learn about 3D scanning, statistics, and network analysis. The talk will include a brief demonstration of the [David Scanner](#). Lunch will be provided, please [RSVP](#).



[RVSP to Behind the Scenes](#)

Save the Date: Tom Scheinfeldt Visit

Tom Scheinfeldt, Associate Professor of Digital Media and Design, Associate Professor of History, and Director of Digital Humanities in the Digital Media Center at University of Connecticut, will be visiting Monday, December 12th for a lunch time lecture. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more details to come!

Workshop Survey

As we are planning the workshops that the DLA will offer this academic year, we wanted to hear what would be useful to you! Please fill out this [brief survey](#) (2-5 minutes) to help us provide you with the most relevant training.

[Take the Workshop Survey](#)

Project Spotlight: Legends of Kintamani



Legends of Kintamani is an original cello concerto composed by Professor of Music Su Lian Tan to be performed live by cellist Darrett Adkins and the Burlington Chamber Orchestra with guest conductor Evan Bennett. During the composition process, Tan collaborated with Arts Technology Specialist Daniel Houghton and a team of students, under the auspices of our new [Middlebury College Animation Studio](#), to create five large animated digital murals of mythical Bali that will be projected during the performance. The piece and murals debuted at Oberlin College in the spring of 2016. On **Friday, October 8th at 8pm**, the piece will be performed at the Mahaney Center for the Arts in Roberts Hall. To learn more and purchase tickets, please visit the [Performing Arts Series 2016-2017 Season schedule](#).

If you have any questions about the DLA mailing list, or if you would like to add an event, please contact Kristy Golubiewski-Davis at kgolubiewskidavis@middlebury.edu.

For general questions about the DLA, contact Jason Mittell (jmittell@middlebury.edu) or Kristy Golubiewski-Davis.

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