



CROSSING OCEANS: DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN DIALOGUE

February 26 & 27 | 2026

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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KNOW.AFRICA | Redes de conhecimento na África Oitocentista: uma abordagem das Humanidades Digitais dos encontros coloniais e do conhecimento local nas narrativas de expedições portuguesas (1853-1888). Projeto KNOW.AFRICA financiado por: FCT — Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (ref. 2022.01599.PTDC) | <https://doi.org/10.54499/2022.01599.PTDC>

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

CROSSING OCEANS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

26 February

08:30 GMT – REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

08:45 GMT – OPENING CEREMONY

Rui Salgado (University of Évora / IIFA)

Anderson Antunes (University of Évora / IHC / IN2PAST)

Maria de Fátima Nunes (University of Évora / IHC / IN2PAST)

Sara Albuquerque (University of Évora / IHC / IN2PAST)

09:00–10:30 GMT – DIGITAL ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS

Chair: Éverton Alves Aragão (Federal Rural University of Pernambuco/University of Évora)

Digitisation as a resource for historical construction: the photography collection of sculpture works by students at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Lisbon – Inês Ariana de Freitas Pita (Faculdade de Belas-Artes da Universidade de Lisboa)

Digital Humanities for Contemporary Sources: the construction of the digital archive «Wounded of the War (1914–1918): a lost memory» – Filipa Moreno Figueiredo Caetano (História, Territórios e Comunidades – HTC – NOVA FCSH / CFE – UC)

Workers' Voices in the Digital Age: A Newspaper-Based Collection on Portuguese Self-Management – João Pedro Loureiro de Oliveira (NOVA University of Lisbon, School of Social Sciences and Humanities)

The Catalogue of Living Saints: Open-Access Approaches to Female Hagiography in Castile (1400–1550) – Ana Rita Gonçalves Soares (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

CROSSING OCEANS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

110:30–12:00 GMT – DIGITAL HERITAGE

Chair: Natália Melo (University of Évora)

Cybersecurity as the Strategic Frontier in Safeguarding Digital Heritage – Sofia Pina (HTC/FCSH/NOVA – CEF– UC; FCT)

From Angola to Coimbra and from Coimbra to the rest of the world: spatial visualization of Welwitschia mirabilis networks – Ana Margarida Dias da Silva and Maria Teresa Gonçalves (Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra)

Red Italy in Black Africa: the Italian left involved in Portuguese decolonization in Mozambique; the case of Reggio–Africa archive – Manfredo Gambino (University of Parma)

13:00–15:00 GMT – ROUNDTABLE

Chair: Sara Albuquerque (University of Évora / IHC / IN2PAST)

A Digital Corpus of Nigerian Writers in Diaspora: Mapping Literature, Memory, and Place – Henry Chukwudi John (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

Digitizing the Past: Challenged and Opportunities for Digital Humanities in Venezuela – Marcus Golding (University of Texas, Austin)

The Korean Association for Digital Humanities: Building Bridges for Digital Humanities in Asia and Beyond – Lyndsey Twining (Korean Association for Digital Humanities)

A historicidade dos dados digitais e a inteligência artificial: por uma epistemologia crítica para as Ciências Humanas – Danielle Sanches (Fundação Getúlio Vargas)

15:00–15:30 GMT – COFFEE BREAK

CROSSING OCEANS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

15:30–17:00 GMT – DIGITAL APPROACHES TO COLONIALISM

Chair: Iracema Dulley (University of Lisbon)

Da floresta colonial ao metadado: o Projeto Resgate e a variação desigual das possibilidades de leitura histórica – Éverton Alves Aragão (Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco)

Mapping Indigenous Mobility: Provincial Administration and Territorial Knowledge in the Brazilian Empire – Amanda Chiamenti Both (Universidade de São Paulo/Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

Histórias Mais-Que-Humanas: Metodologias Digitais para uma ecologia multiespécie – Eduardo Padilha Raffo (Universidade do Extremo Sul Catarinense – UNESC)

Unarchiving Colonialism: Testimonial Literature and Ibero-Amefrican Trauma in Dialogue with Digital Humanities – Guilherme José Schons (Federal University of Fronteira Sul – UFFS, Brazil)

17:00–18:30 GMT – DATABASES AND ARCHIVES

Chair: Ana Sofia Ribeiro (University of Évora)

From Archive to inbox: newsletters as a public-facing Digital Humanities practice – Ygor Souza (Federal University of Minas Gerais)

The Big Science and Brazil: analyzing the network between scientists and businesspeople on the building of a Brazilian nuclear energy sector (1945–1964) – Gabriel de Azevedo Maraschin (Municipal Department of Education of the City of Rio de Janeiro)

Sociolinguistics Database in the Digital Humanities. Theoretical-Methodological Articulations and Verification Procedures – Jefferson Evaristo and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer (UERJ/FAPERJ / UERJ/FAPERJ)

How are heroes created? Digital archives (historical/personal) for the creation of national identities – Miriam Peña Pimentel (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

CROSSING OCEANS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

27 February

08:30 GMT – WELCOME COFFEE

09:00–10:30 GMT – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Chair: Juan Umbarila (University of Lisbon / CeComp / Universidad de Los Andes)

Making the Past Legible? AI and Handwritten Text Recognition in the Brazilian National Archive – Carolina de Moraes Souza (Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura – Universidade de Coimbra)

The Impact of AI on the Humanities and Critical Approaches to its Use: A Perspective from the Global South – Neque Alcino António João Francisco (Independente)

"Why we need critical DH in an age of AI" – Amanda du Preez (University of Pretoria – ZAF)

Recovering the Pi from the Sky: AI-powered anticolonial pedagogy – Andre Goodrich (North-West University)

10:30–12:00 GMT – DATABASES

Chair: Daniel Alves (IHC / IN2PAST / NOVA FCSH)

Mining Political Representation: A Digital Humanities Approach to Redefine the Italian Representation (1848–1946) – Goffredo Adinolfi (ISCTE IUL Lisboa)

How to Build a Database for African Ethnonyms: Testing Digital Tools for Historical and Linguistic Analysis – Iracema Dulley and Ana Rita Amaral (University of Lisbon / University of Coimbra)

The Arquitectura Aqui Platform: Digital Humanities as a means towards inclusive architectural history – Catarina Ruivo Pereira (Dinâmia'Cet, Iscte-IUL)

CROSSING OCEANS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

11:00–15:00 GMT – ROUNDTABLE

Chair: Anderson Antunes (University of Évora / IHC / IN2PAST)

Los documentos más allá del texto. Una introducción al análisis de sentimientos – Leonor Riesco (Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez)

The role of digital humanities in the preservation of indigenous knowledge at the National Museums of Kenya – Aflin Awuor (Riara University)

On Humanidades Digitales in Argentina: minimal computing and open research practices – Gimena del Rio Riande (CONICET/Universidad del Salvador)

Building databases and information systems on the history of science and technology – Alfredo Tolmasquim, Heloisa Gesteira and Marta de Almeida (Museu de Astronomia e Ciências Afins)

15:00–15:30 – COFFEE BREAK

15:30–17:00 GMT – INFRASTRUCTURES AND METHODS

Chair: Teresa Lança (University of Évora)

Fostering collaboration and public outreach with cultural heritage digital data: the case of ROSSIO infrastructure – Daniel Alves and Amélia Aguiar Andrade (NOVA FCSH)

When digital humanities meets walking ethnography: a reflexive discussion on what happens when fieldwork goes digital – Kristen L. Connor (Post-Doctoral Researcher, Centro de Estudos Sociais – UC)

The Late Portuguese Appropriation of British Romanticism: A Distant Reading of the Early Twentieth-Century Printing Press – Teresa Raquel Nunes Pereira and Luciano Moreira (NOVA FCSH/CETAPS, FLUP/CETAPS)

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

17:00–18:30 GMT – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Chair: Danielle Sanches (Fundação Getúlio Vargas)

Experimental Archaeology of Ceramic Media: Towards a Transmediation of Pre-Hispanic Cultural Archives Through Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools – Mauricio Vásquez Arias (Eafit University)

Falsifying History: Challenges and Risks Resulting from AI in the Historical Field – Miguel Ángel Millán Meléndez (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

Generative Artificial Intelligence and Humanities Education: A Situated Institutional Intervention in the Argentine Public University System – Claudia Santa Cruz and Andrea Fracassi Ravier (University of Buenos Aires – UBA)

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The international conference **CROSSING OCEANS: DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN DIALOGUE**, brought together researchers, practitioners, and digital humanists from all around the globe. This event promoted a space of truly transoceanic dialogue to discuss the present and future of Digital Humanities.

By crossing oceans and perspectives, this conference provided a space for dialogue on how Digital Humanities can boost plural approaches to history, memory, heritage, and creativity, while also confronting questions of accessibility, ethics, and epistemic justice, as when we use these tools to give voice to new agents previously made invisible by traditional historiography.

The conference invited participants to rethink methodologies for work in the Humanities at a time when digital transformations are reshaping how we investigate, interpret, and share knowledge. The digitization of archival materials, alongside the proliferation of born-digital records, has multiplied the sources available for historical, literary, and cultural analysis. Today, researchers have at their disposal a wide range of digital tools and software that allow them to organise, interpret, manipulate, share, and store data in increasingly diverse ways, opening new pathways for both collaborative and innovative research. At the same time, the emergence of artificial intelligence challenges us to critically assess both the possibilities and the risks of automated tools in the construction of knowledge.

This conference was organized by the **KNOW.AFRICA** project (<https://doi.org/10.54499/2022.01599.PTDC>), which investigates nineteenth-century Portuguese scientific expeditions in Angola by highlighting the invisible contributions of local agents who made travelling and collecting possible. In this project, we analyse how cooks, guides, interpreters, porters, local rulers, and others, collaborated with the construction of knowledge and the formation of scientific collections. Through the use of Digital Humanities methods and tools – such as GIS mapping, network analysis and visualisation, databases, and interactive digital timelines – KNOW.AFRICA aims to explore how digital tools can assist in the construction and dissemination of historical knowledge. By combining archival research with digital tools, the project not only advances academic debates on colonial science but also develops outputs aimed at wider publics, including digital exhibitions, podcasts, and interactive maps and timelines. In this way, KNOW.AFRICA aims to use the Digital Humanities as a way to bridge research and dissemination, turning historical inquiry into a shared, multidisciplinary and collaborative process.

ABSTRACTS

Mapping Indigenous Mobility: Provincial Administration and Territorial Knowledge in the Brazilian Empire

Amanda Chiamenti Both (Universidade de São Paulo/Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

This investigation analyzes the dynamics of provincial territorial production and the forms of knowledge mobilized for its governance, emphasizing the central role of provincial administrations in the Brazilian Empire. It takes as its starting point the Topographic Map of the Province of Rio Grande do Sul, prepared by the military engineer Antonio Eleuthério de Camargo and published in 1868, the main provincial cartographic initiative of the Second Empire (1840–1889).

The analysis combines a contextual examination of the map's production with a deconstructive reading of toponymy, understood as a political marker and a field of memory disputes. In a second stage, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are employed to operationalize this approach. The provincial map was georeferenced and inserted into ArcGIS Online, allowing for the superimposition of multiple layers of information. References to Indigenous presence identified in the map were then crossed with data from provincial administrative documentation and secondary literature, with the aim of reconstructing patterns of Indigenous circulation and settlement in the mid-nineteenth century.

The analysis reveals that references to Indigenous territories, even when considered outdated by contemporaries, point to the persistence of traditional forms of territorialization and to the deep imprint of Indigenous populations on the provincial space. Through the combined of cartographic and administrative sources, it becomes evident that areas of governmental interest frequently overlapped with Indigenous spaces of circulation, demonstrating how policies of settlement, resettlement, and dispossession articulated territorial control with the use of Indigenous labor.

Through the use of digital spatial analysis, the project engages with Digital Humanities debates on methodological innovation. Its final outcome is the development of an open-access interactive digital version of the map, to be hosted in the USP Digital Library of Historical Cartography, aimed at expanding access to historical cartographic materials and providing interpretive layers on toponymy, circulation, and territorial governance.

"Why we need critical DH in an age of AI"

Amanda du Preez (University of Pretoria – ZAF)

The Humanities are struggling worldwide as its relevance in the job market, and a science-dominated world is increasingly disputed. Who needs the Humanities when everything from food preferences, planetary activities, and climate shifts to emotional responses can algorithmically be predicted and analysed? This paper wants to argue that it is because humanity is not merely a mathematical problem to be solved, and humans cannot be reduced to “the sum of their data” (Fuchs 2021), that we need the Humanities more than ever.

A recent Future of Jobs report by the World Economic Forum (2025) unequivocally states that “creativity is in the top 3 most sought-after skills needed to survive the 4th Industrial Revolution since it is a cognitive skill that simply cannot be automated”. One of the key skills for ensuring job creation and employment in the 21st century is thus creativity and critical discernment. It is proposed that the Critical Digital Humanities (CDH) plays an essential part in nurturing these skills.

DH has moved through distinct phases or waves, and the current Critical Digital Humanities (CDH) moment promotes reflection, particularly on how the digital and humanity intersect. CDH challenges the treatment of technology as neutral by advocating for greater creativity and critical thinking. It is also pushing to make AI technologies more transparent and explainable.

In this paper the following CDH principles will be explored, namely to challenge the notion that data is independent information not determined by the parameters of the research; to distinguish the value of close and distant reading; to compare human vision and machine vision; and finally, to show the importance of the postdigital when dealing with the digital.

"From Angola to Coimbra and from Coimbra to the rest of the world: spatial visualization of *Welwitschia mirabilis* networks"

Ana Margarida Dias da Silva and Maria Teresa Gonçalves (Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra)

This presentation aims to provide new insights into the networks established between the Botanic Garden and the Botany Institute of the University of Coimbra (UC) and foreign natural history museums, botanic gardens, and Herbaria because of the famous and bizarre plant *Welwitschia mirabilis*, endemic from the Namib desert in Southern Africa. Considered a living fossil, *Welwitschia* specimens have been sought-after by natural history museums, botanical gardens and herbaria. At the end of the 19th century, the Botanic Garden and the Botany Institute of the UC played a key role in the circulation of specimens collected in Angola. Using social network analysis, and spatial and temporal visualisations with nodegoat.net, we can follow the journey of *Welwitschia mirabilis* specimens (whether plants or seeds) from Angola to Coimbra, who collected and who sent them, how and why they then travelled from Coimbra to foreign botanical institutions. Nodegoat is a web-based data management, network analysis and visualisation environment for the humanities platform, developed by LAB110. With this work, we sought to exhaustively map all the archival, bibliographic and museological information on *Welwitschia mirabilis* at the UC. Evidence of extensive exchange networks around *Welwitschia* specimens is the main contribution of this work. It also allowed us to identify most of the actors in the networks, from naturalists to administrators and lesser-known local collaborators. This exploratory study aims to present information in a non-traditional way (e.g. through an online catalogue).

The Catalogue of Living Saints: Open-Access Approaches to Female Hagiography in Castile (1400–1550)

Ana Rita Gonçalves Soares (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

This paper introduces the “Catalogue of Living Saints,” a wiki catalogue that collects a corpus of lives of Castilian charismatic women who acquired reputations for holiness and were influential in religious life as well as in the politics of their time (1400–1550). The collected lives appeared in a diversity of sources: manuscripts of the fifteenth through seventeenth centuries, including conventual books and compendia containing lives of saints (such as *flos sanctorum*), handwritten and printed chronicles of religious orders in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Castile, among other works. Thus, the Catalogue recovers several texts that have never been printed before (and that in most cases were never edited independently) and makes them available to academic researchers as well as non-specialized public (with different types of interest, whether religious, historical or cultural). This digital catalogue also provides the data included in the database as well as the geolocation, two additional features created specifically to provide a better and more accessible understanding of the phenomenon. Specifically, they help us to understand the different proposed hagiographical models and their performative shape and spatial distribution of power. This paper also aims to discuss how gathering, editing, and reading the lives of these women via open-access virtual tools creates a new hermeneutical framework regarding the materiality of the original codices and printed volumes.

The idea of creating this Catalogue resulted from an initial project funded by the Spanish government, *The Construction of Female Sanctity and Visionary Discourse (15th–17th Centuries): Analysis and Recovery of Conventual Literature (2013–15)*. This project was followed by a second (2016–2019), *The Emergence of Female Spiritual Authority in Castile*, and a third, entitled *Catalogue of Living Saints (1400–1550): Towards a Complete Corpus of a Female Hagiographic Model (2020–2024)*, also funded by the Spanish government.

Recovering the Pi from the Sky: AI-powered anticolonial pedagogy

Andre Goodrich (North-West University)

My argument explores local AI's potential to critically engage and disrupt dominant pedagogical frameworks and academic readiness interventions in South African higher education as part of the broader goal of decolonising the sector. Drawing on the "Feed" from Neal Stephenson's *The Diamond Aged* as a metaphor for centralised, standardised, and extractive epistemic infrastructures of knowledge to represent the status quo, I explore the speculative possibility of a "Seed"-inspired pedagogy: decentralised, situated, and emergent.

Layering this figurative distinction over Mary Louise Pratt's account of Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's 17th-century letter to the Spanish King, I argue that current academic preparedness modules and a Eurocentric and decontextualised conception of 'innovation' foreclose the epistemic creativity, hybridity, and disobedience that SA universities require, and that the Digital Humanities might offer in furtherance of decolonisation, epistemic diversity and social justice.

Rather than cultivating epistemic diversity, these approaches to preparedness and innovation induct students into the norms of settler-modernity, thus aligning with what Walter D. Mignolo terms knowledge on the side of modernity rather than from the colonial wound. Such knowledge, and the process of its production and dissemination thus necessarily reinscribe coloniality. Building on Mignolo's "delinking" and Tim Ingold's distinction between "cyphers" and "clues," I speculate that combining AI advances with single board computing may offer an alternative: an AI-powered "Primer" emulating the Primer Stephenson envisioned, built on a Raspberry Pi, using Llama, designed to operate offline, embedded in local contexts, and loaded with learning resources. Such a device resists the logic of the Feed in its technological form and its pedagogical orientation—inviting learners to follow contextual "clues" to compose knowledge, and articulate voice from within their life-worlds. This Seed-like intervention offers a speculative and practical response to the epistemic closures of dominant educational infrastructures, reclaiming AI as a tool for decolonial learning.

Making the Past Legible? AI and Handwritten Text Recognition in the Brazilian National Archive

Carolina de Moraes Souza (Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura – Universidade de Coimbra)

This study examines the use of Artificial Intelligence–based Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) systems as methodological infrastructures of Digital History, drawing on a collaborative research project developed with the Brazilian National Archive. Engaging with critical debates in Digital Humanities, this contribution advances a historiographical reflection on the effects of these technologies on research practices, archival access, and the epistemological conditions of historical knowledge production.

Handwritten documentation constitutes a structural obstacle to large-scale historical research, particularly in contexts marked by extensive collections, significant paleographic diversity, and infrastructural inequalities. The integration of machine learning models—such as CRNN and Transformer-based architectures—into archival workflows substantially expands the legibility and accessibility of historical documents written in archaic Portuguese. However, as Gil (2024) cautions, the intensive use of automated document-processing techniques should not be equated with methodological progress per se, as it risks reinforcing forms of digital neo-positivism that privilege large-scale data extraction over historiographical critique.

From a Digital History perspective, this study argues that HTR systems are not neutral tools but epistemological mediators. By recognizing graphic patterns, regularizing spellings, and ranking probabilistic outputs, these technologies produce specific forms of legibility that accelerate historical research while potentially attenuating the material and linguistic alterity of the past if employed without critical mediation (Noiret, 2015). Recent studies on semantic recognition in historical documents further support this argument by demonstrating that techniques such as OCR, HTR, and Named Entity Recognition (NER) face structural limitations imposed by linguistic historicity, documentary heterogeneity, and the scarcity of annotated historical corpora, thereby requiring continuous interpretive decision-making (Ehrmann et al., 2021).

Finally, in dialogue with Bonaldo (2022) and Nicodemo, Rota, and Marino (2022), this research contends that Digital History does not constitute a rupture with the foundations of the historian's craft but rather a reconfiguration of its conditions of possibility. Technological innovation acquires historiographical meaning only when articulated with source criticism, explicit theoretical choices, and interpretive responsibility—particularly in contexts of the Global South.

The Arquitectura Aqui Platform: Digital Humanities as a means towards inclusive architectural history

Catarina Ruivo Pereira (Dinâmia'Cet, Iscte-IUL)

Traditional architectural history has often focused on celebrated architects and extraordinary author pieces, overlooking the common structures and the diversity of actors involved in their construction. The digital platform Arquitectura Aqui seeks to counter this tendency, moving towards a history of everyday architecture, built by diverse voices and including the different actors involved in the conception, construction, and use of public buildings. Simultaneously, it aims to bring user voices forward to understanding the historical and contemporary value of these buildings to local communities, contributing to their recognition by public entities.

This paper discusses the premises, methods, practice, and preliminary results of the Arquitectura Aqui initiative and its materialization in a digital platform designed to combine academic historical research with the knowledge of local communities. Aimed at both amplifying the voices heard in the construction of history and broadening the access to historical information beyond historians and academics, Arquitectura Aqui seeks inclusion in its data structure and user interface. The database follows a person-event-object model where agents, documentation, actions, and buildings are linked through traceable sources, including oral testimonies collected through fieldwork and community contributions.

Through a preliminary analysis of the platform's data on over 3,000 buildings in Portugal and Spain, the paper explores how digital interfaces can contribute to a more complete and diverse history of architecture. It shows that Arquitectura Aqui uncovers invisible actors – users, builders, and local associations – whose roles are often absent from traditional archives; exposes gender imbalances in curated archives; and reveals geographic disparities in construction. By integrating different sources of information – such as archival documentation, community memories and oral history – the platform includes diverse voices in shaping architectural history. By interconnecting multiple case studies, it allows for a simultaneous reading of patterns and social narratives and reveals temporal and geographic patterns.

Generative Artificial Intelligence and Humanities Education: A Situated Institutional Intervention in the Argentine Public University System

Claudia Santa Cruz and Andrea Fracassi Ravier (University of Buenos Aires – UBA)

The expansion of generative artificial intelligence poses significant challenges for higher education, particularly in the Humanities, where academic writing, interpretation, and authorship constitute central pillars of knowledge production. Beyond framing AI as a technical tool or as a problem associated with individual misconduct, this presentation approaches it as an institutional challenge that raises epistemological, pedagogical, and organizational questions, and presents a situated intervention project within the Argentine public university system, aimed at promoting ethical, critical, and pedagogically grounded uses of generative AI in Humanities education.

The project is based on a diagnostic framework that identifies three predominant types of institutional responses to AI: restrictive approaches focused on control, formal regulatory frameworks, and formative strategies oriented toward awareness, communication, and critical digital literacy. Building on this analysis, the presentation outlines a situated institutional intervention designed to strengthen pedagogical and organizational responsibility in the use of these technologies.

On this basis, the project develops an integrated educational strategy composed of three complementary components: (1) an institutional communication campaign aimed at establishing shared criteria for responsible AI use; (2) faculty development initiatives focused on pedagogical mediation, assignment design, and the revision of assessment practices; and (3) student-oriented training actions intended to critically examine authorship, originality, and the situated use of AI tools in academic production.

Conceived as a situated intervention within the Argentine public university system, the project contributes to debates in Digital Humanities on institutional responsibility, epistemic justice, and the role of public universities in shaping ethical and pedagogically grounded responses to generative artificial intelligence.

Fostering collaboration and public outreach with cultural heritage digital data: the case of ROSSIO infrastructure

Daniel Alves and Amélia Aguiar Andrade (NOVA FCSH)

ROSSIO (<https://rossio.pt/>) is the leading infrastructure in the field of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities in Portugal and currently holds almost ten million records on Portuguese-language cultural heritage from twenty five Portuguese institutions, one Brazilian institution, and several research projects from three universities. It has been part of the National Roadmap of Research Infrastructures of Strategic Interest in Portugal (RNIE) since 2014. There were several significant institutional and technological challenges in creating and maintaining the infrastructure, its portal, and its respective services. Alongside internationally recognized initiatives such as Europeana and the Digital Public Library of America, ROSSIO is today the leading portal aggregating records of Portuguese-language culture, with a reach that cross oceans.

This type of infrastructure is considered fundamental for the development of research. The exponential growth of available data in recent decades, as well as the increasing digital integration of society and academia, or the future challenges of Artificial Intelligence, make their role increasingly essential. Probably more so in the arts, humanities and social sciences, bringing together scattered data invaluable for international audiences.

ROSSIO encompasses historical documentation from the 9th century to the present day and cultural records of multiple origins, typologies, and formats: cartography, plans, images (engravings, paintings, photographs, etc.), moving images, sounds, publications, posters, private collections, newspapers, old books, etc. The services it provides can foster collaborative work in the Digital Humanities, also contributing to cultural dissemination to non-academic communities. The available metadata, complying with FAIR principles, enhances research on historical, cultural, and heritage topics from all Portuguese-speaking countries, as will be demonstrated by several examples in this communication. We also intend to give particular emphasis to the ROSSIO virtual research environment and to exhibitions and collections as privileged forms of fostering academic collaboration and general public outreach with cultural heritage data.

Histórias Mais-Que-Humanas: Metodologias Digitais para uma ecologia multiespécie

Eduardo Padilha Raffo (Universidade do Extremo Sul Catarinense – UNESC)

Esta análise investiga a relação entre humanos e outros-que-humanos através das (pós)Humanidades Digitais, focando em como a mediação digital pode visibilizar coagenciamentos para (sobre)viver reciprocamente. Partindo de uma ontologia neomaterialista, o estudo propõe que a justiça ecológica hoje depende de histórias ambientais e de práticas de monitoramento multiespécies (sensoriamento remoto, exercendo etnografia multiespécie por meio de aparato vestível pelos gaianos), que permitam aos Terrestres traduzir necessidades do conjunto vivente não-antropo em agência política com-humano. Ao considerar o Antropoceno, o trabalho examina como o uso da etnografia multiespécie e localização via relação humano/mais-que-humano permite mapear pontos de negligência histórica para com os outros-que-humanos, por exemplo, em danos climáticos em decorrência do Capitaloceno. Essa "etnografia" consistiria em pensar ferramentas de mensuração climática como forma de compreender coagenciamentos das relações não-antropocentradas, tecendo ferramentas vestíveis, que sejam anatomicamente adequadas aos agentes vestidos (mochilas-GPS para aves). Os mais-que-humanos, bordados aqui como agentes ativos nos estudos climáticos, de modo a não focar apenas nos humanos e nos danos à si, mas olhando para as relações multiespécies e assinando um compromisso de devir-com reciprocamente, objetivando justiça ecológica em diálogo com pós-humanidades digitais. Trata-se de "ficar com o problema" através da curadoria de arquivos digitais ambientais e da análise de como algoritmos de clima podem (ou não) incluir variáveis não-antropocêntricas, a partir de diálogo e pesquisa-ação feita-com os não-humanos. Assim, o posicionamento pós-humanista articulado com pesquisa de pós-humanidades digitais é articulado não apenas como teoria, mas como prática de História Ambiental Digital, visando o desenvolvimento de interfaces que promovam tessituras de narrativas históricas de agentes outros-que-humanos e defesa territorial fora do eixo antropocentrado, transformando dados brutos de Gaia em compromisso e "respons-habilidade".

Da floresta colonial ao metadado: o Projeto Resgate e a variação desigual das possibilidades de leitura histórica

Éverton Alves Aragão (Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco)

Esta comunicação analisa os limites epistemológicos das ferramentas digitais de acesso ao Projeto Resgate para a escrita da História Ambiental. Tomando como estudo de caso a exploração do pau-brasil (*Paubrasilia echinata*) nas conexões entre Pernambuco, Lisboa e Angola, argumenta-se que a mediação tecnológica – especialmente os resumos arquivísticos padronizados e os sistemas de busca baseados em OCR – produz novas formas de silenciamento histórico. Demonstra-se que os resumos modernos, embora essenciais para a história administrativa, operam uma filtragem temática que privilegia a fiscalidade e a circulação oficial, reduzindo a complexidade da floresta colonial a um inventário administrativo/político. Informações cruciais para a História Ambiental – como sazonalidade do corte, pragas, técnicas de manejo, topografia e a atuação de indígenas, mateiros e trabalhadores subalternos – permanecem ausentes ou invisíveis na indexação contemporânea. Esse silenciamento é agravado pelas limitações do OCR aplicado a tipografias e manuscritos setecentistas, cujos desafios técnicos (variações ortográficas, grafias arcaicas e deterioração material) geram “falsos negativos” nas buscas por palavra-chave. Assim, dados ambientais e agentes históricos presentes na imagem do documento permanecem inalcançáveis ao pesquisador que confia exclusivamente na interface digital. Metodologicamente, propõe-se superar a confiança nos verbetes e resumos por meio da leitura serial assistida por HTR e da auditoria crítica das ferramentas de transcrição automática. Defende-se que a História Digital, para além da ampliação do acesso, deve interrogar suas próprias mediações, sob pena de reproduzir, em chave algorítmica, os silenciamentos da história colonial do Atlântico.

Digital Humanities for Contemporary Sources: the construction of the digital archive «Wounded of the War (1914–1918): a lost memory»

Filipa Moreno Figueiredo Caetano (História, Territórios e Comunidades – HTC – NOVA FCSH / CFE – UC)

The First World War (1914–1918) was a geographically wide, extremely violent, and traumatic conflict. Because of the technological improvement of military armament and the use of chemical weapons, the soldier's body became an unprotected and vulnerable target. For example, mustard gas caused long-term respiratory problems. The shrapnel would invade the soldier's face, damaging and disfiguring his facial features, particularly the jaw. To avoid the spread of infections, caused by other kind of injuries, the practice of amputation was fundamental and common. It is estimated that, between 1914 and 1918, about 21 million soldiers were wounded. Thus, as the war unfolded, the number of disabled young men increased. Later, these soldiers would have to be socially reintegrated.

The digital archive «Wounded of the War (1914–1918): a lost memory», developed in the Omeka S platform, is a starting point for the study of the disabled Portuguese war veterans, simultaneously establishing a comparative perspective with the international context. What sources are available for the study of this topic? Do they give us access to the intimate perspective of the mutilated/invalid war veterans? What policies did the belligerent countries adopt to promote and ensure their social reintegration? How did these men mobilize and revendicate their rights? The digital archive's aim is to make historical sources available (some of them original) in digital format, using open source and open access technology, based on internationally recognized metadata schemes and ontologies.

The Big Science and Brazil: analyzing the network between scientists and businesspeople on the building of a brazilian nuclear energy sector (1945–1964)

Gabriel de Azevedo Maraschin (Municipal Department of Education of the City of Rio de Janeiro)

The aim of this study is to examine the connections between scientists and business leaders in the construction of Brazil's nuclear energy production sector during the democratic period from 1945 to 1964. Drawing on the Prosopon database, developed at the Museum of Astronomy and Related Sciences (MAST) in Rio de Janeiro—which compiles data on scientists who received funding from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) between 1951 and 1973—it was possible to trace the scientists, public institutions, and private companies involved in projects to establish a nuclear energy industry in Brazil.

The collected data follow a prosopographical approach, employing information on academic training and professional trajectories, and cross-referencing these materials with additional sources such as interviews, testimonies, personal archives, and bibliographic works produced by the actors themselves. The research focuses on the period spanning the end of the Second World War and the advent of the Atomic Age, when Brazil was regarded as one of the world's major holders of mineral deposits used in the production of nuclear fuel, at a moment when the country was undergoing rapid industrialization—an element that drew the attention of both domestic and foreign business sectors.

In this context, the growing demand for investment in atomic energy prompted certain Brazilian scientists to build networks with politicians and entrepreneurs through their personal connections. These networks enabled them to revive longstanding agendas—previously overlooked by the state—concerning the creation of universities and research institutes, institutions that ultimately received support from leading Brazilian industrialists. However, the clash of interests between nationalist and internationalist business groups, combined with pressure from the United States regarding the export of atomic minerals to supply the American nuclear industry, generated a series of obstacles that brought the Brazilian atomic question into the political dynamics surrounding the coups d'état of 1956 and 1964.

Mining Political Representation: A Digital Humanities Approach to Redefine the Italian Representation (1848–1946)

Goffredo Adinolfi (ISCTE IUL Lisboa)

This paper presents an AI-assisted workflow for reconstructing a prosopographical database of the Italian Senate (1848–1946), designed to rethink how we narrate political representation in modern Italy. Using web scraping and structured data modelling via a transparent thirteen-step pipeline, we construct a comprehensive machine-readable dataset of all senators from the Kingdom of Sardinia through the Fascist era. This database links biographical profiles, careers, territorial origins, and prior parliamentary service, enabling a detailed reconstruction of elite selection. We trace the shifting balance among nobility, wealth, and merit, and map the evolving relationships between career politicians, high civil servants, military officers, and regional notables. By digitally reconstructing the Senate's composition—who was appointed, on what legal grounds, and from which professional and geographic backgrounds—this study reveals how the appointed chamber systematically moderated political change. It also provides a reproducible methodological model for applying digital approaches to the study of historical political institutions. The result is a reusable infrastructure that turns heterogeneous sources into a narrative engine, enabling new stories about who represented whom and with which continuities and breaks. The project demonstrates how LLMs can innovate historical database construction beyond traditional hand-crafted models. Presenting a specific case, the paper will reflect critically on the promises and risks of using AI for historical knowledge construction and database design.

Unarchiving Colonialism: Testimonial Literature and Ibero-Amefrican Trauma in Dialogue with Digital Humanities

Guilherme José Schons (Federal University of Fronteira Sul – UFFS, Brazil)

This paper proposes a theoretical and methodological reflection on testimony as a language for the public elaboration of colonial trauma within the space of the former Portuguese Empire, taking as its corpus *Becos da memória* by Conceição Evaristo, *Caderno de memórias coloniais* by Isabela Figueiredo, and *Memórias da plantação* by Grada Kilomba. Drawing on trauma studies and testimonial literature, in dialogue with postcolonial and decolonial approaches, we argue that these discourses produce modes of engaging with colonial trauma that exceed classical models of archive, document, and evidence, while also challenging the Eurocentric epistemologies that have structured the modern Humanities. By articulating experiences located in Latin America, Africa, and Europe – a space analyzed in this research as Ibero-Amefrica – these books constitute a connected traumatic field, marked by transoceanic circulations of violence, memory, and silencing from colonialism to the present. In this context, testimony is understood not merely as a record of the past, but as an active mediating device capable of reorganizing temporalities, making visible historically subalternized agents, and unsettling hegemonic regimes of knowledge production. In this sense, we contend that such practices anticipate issues that are central to contemporary Digital Humanities, such as the curation of fragments, multivocality, ethics of representation, and the limits of transforming traumatic memory into data. The investigation thus seeks to offer a critical contribution to methodological debates in the field, reflecting on the risks of neutralizing trauma through processes of digitization and automation, as well as on the need for approaches attentive to the gaps, silences, and imagination that constitute testimony. Ultimately, we argue that testimonial literature, by functioning as an insurgent archive, expands the horizon of Digital Humanities by demanding models of knowledge curation and circulation committed to the decolonization of knowledge and to the attentive listening to colonial wounds that remain open.

Digitisation as a resource for historical construction: the photography collection of sculpture works by students at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Lisbon

Inês Ariana de Freitas Pita (Faculdade de Belas-Artes da Universidade de Lisboa)

On the brink of a dictatorial state, a year before the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic was established in 1933, a reform of artistic education took place at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lisbon.

The documents that exist about the faculty at that time – minutes of the Pedagogical Council, etc. – provide a more bureaucratic and administrative view of the 1932 reform, but it is the photographic archives of the students' work that allow us to interpret their experience of attending higher education during the Estado Novo and the faculty reform. The Historical Archive located at the college contains photographic collections, such as that of Ancient Drawing, which cover this period. However, at the time of writing, part of the collection of photographs of the sculpture works of college students has not yet been analysed, leaving a fragment of the memory of this period still to be elucidated.

It is important to note that, despite the consistently reported need to create a photographic archive of the activities of ESBAL's Fine Arts and Design department – for example, as early as 13 July 1982, at a meeting of the Pedagogical Council – this need has not been fully met to date.

This essay proposes an inventory and digitisation of the aforementioned photographic collection. Thus, the collection will be investigated using two approaches: firstly, on the photographs as documents for reconstructing memory in the Archives, where the role of digitisation in the crypto-history of art and its function in public access to the collections will be analysed; and secondly, a historical interpretation of their content, understanding how higher art education functioned at that time and the impact of a dictatorial state in this field. As a result, this part of the Faculty's photographic archive will finally be reconstructed and made accessible to the public and, consequently, a part of the artistic and historical memory of the Estado Novo that, until now, had not yet been worked on.

How to Build a Database for African Ethnonyms: Testing Digital Tools for Historical and Linguistic Analysis

Iracema Dulley and Ana Rita Amaral (University of Lisbon / University of Coimbra)

This paper presents NAME, a collaborative research project that mobilises Digital Humanities methodologies to rethink the historical formation of ethnicity in nineteenth-century Central Angola. NAME proposes to develop a systematic investigation of African-language terms used for self-designation and for the classification of 'others' prior to the establishment of colonial rule. Drawing on the extensive accounts of Hungarian trader and traveller László Magyar and Portuguese trader António Francisco Ferreira da Silva Porto, both of whom lived for significant periods under autonomous African rulers, the project challenges the assumption that colonialism invented ethnicity. Instead, it advances the hypothesis that colonial rule selectively systematised and stabilised pre-existing, plural naming practices embedded in African languages such as Umbundu, Kimbundu, and Ngangela.

A central task of the project is the construction of a contextual, relational database of ethnonyms as they appear in the textual corpus comprising the two sources. At the moment, we are searching for the appropriate digital tools for this task. Our aim is to tests keyword frequency analysis and KWIC (Key Word in Context) functions to identify African-language terms while preserving the semantic and narrative environments in which they occur. Rather than treating ethnonyms as isolated data points, ideally the database will capture who recorded them, where and when they were used, and in relation to which political, social, or descriptive contexts.

This paper reflects on the anticipated potential and limitations underlying the use of digital tools to analyse historically and linguistically complex sources, emphasising the necessity of qualitative interpretation alongside computational methods.

Sociolinguistics Database in the Digital Humanities. Theoretical-Methodological Articulations and Verification Procedures

Jefferson Evaristo and Marcos Luiz Wiedemer (UERJ/FAPERJ / UERJ/FAPERJ)

This presentation examines the integration of sociolinguistic databases into the field of Digital Humanities, exploring the theoretical, methodological, ethical, and political implications of this development in the Brazilian context. It starts from the observation that contemporary (socio)linguistics faces a dual movement: the expansion of analytical possibilities afforded by digital technologies and the need to reaffirm the researcher's interpretive role in the face of data automation. Against this backdrop, we propose a historical-analytical trajectory organized into three waves of sociolinguistic database development in Brazil: a phase of cataloging and epistemological foundation; a stage of consolidation, systematic production of results, and ethical and political institutionalization; and the current moment, characterized by integration into Digital Humanities, interdisciplinarity, and the social validation of knowledge. Finally, the paper emphasizes the importance of incorporating explicit sociolinguistic and territorial validation procedures into data dissemination processes. It advocates a conceptual reformulation of the governance of these platforms, aligned with principles of social responsibility, ethics, and community participation, referred to as "verification".

Workers' Voices in the Digital Age: A Newspaper-Based Collection on Portuguese Self-Management

João Pedro Loureiro de Oliveira (NOVA University of Lisbon, School of Social Sciences and Humanities)

Following the Portuguese Carnation Revolution of 1974, workers mobilised autonomously in response to the profound economic and social instability inherited from more than four decades of Estado Novo dictatorship. (Fontes & Cabreira, 2020). In the absence of effective trade union mediation, many workers self-managed their workplaces as a strategy of resistance, survival, and collective organisation. This digital collection brings together journalistic coverage from "Diário de Lisboa" and "O Combate", two of the most significant Portuguese newspapers of the period, with the aim of foregrounding workers' voices and lived experiences. Rather than merely documenting events, the collection seeks to reflect on how such historical processes can be meaningfully communicated, interpreted, and structured within a digital environment.

The digital collection is conceived not simply as a repository of sources, but as an interpretative and organisational framework through which historical knowledge can be curated and made accessible to different audiences. Drawing on approaches developed within Digital Humanities scholarship (Terrón Quintero et al., 2023), the project integrates technical procedures with historiographical reflection, ensuring that digital mediation supports rather than diminishes historical complexity and meaning.

How can a digital collection effectively structure and communicate historical sources in ways that go beyond preservation and support critical interpretation? In what ways can digital environments facilitate comparison, reuse, and reinterpretation of archival materials related to labour and self-management movements? How can a digitally mediated collection function simultaneously as a scholarly research tool and as a platform for broader public engagement? Finally, to what extent can digital humanities methodologies contribute to reshaping how historical narratives are constructed, accessed, and communicated in contemporary contexts? By addressing these questions, the project clarifies its central aim: to demonstrate how digital collections can serve as shared, interpretative frameworks that enhance historical understanding while fostering dialogue between academia, cultural institutions, and the public. (Sinn, 2012)

When digital humanities meets walking ethnography: a reflexive discussion on what happens when fieldwork goes digital

Kristen L. Connor (Post-Doctoral Researcher, Centro de Estudos Sociais – UC)

This presentation will take the form of a reflexive retrospective on the research methodology of my dissertation, “Knowledge in High Places: Labor and the Scientific Industry in Western Uganda, 1860–1970” (Univ. of Michigan PhD, 2024). After 15 months of oral historical, ethnographic, and archival research in western Uganda, personal circumstances followed by the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the second portion of my research (originally further ethnography and archival research) turned digital. This talk reflects upon the digital as a wrench—a tool that can transform our practice, but that can be wielded in multiple contradictory ways. The talk highlights some examples of the synergistic findings of my research that only resulted from a combination of walking ethnography (e.g. Ingold and Vergunst 2008) and expanded digital research opportunities as a result of pandemic-era transformations such as the HathiTrust “Emergency Temporary Access Service” and the willingness of archivist to share digital files over email. It also raises questions about the relationship between access and emergency (defined by whom, and according to whom, when?), and the ongoing importance of in situ immersion as part of digital knowledge-making and sharing practices.

Red Italy in Black Africa: the Italian left involved in Portuguese decolonization in Mozambique; the case of Reggio–Africa archive

Manfredo Gambino (University of Parma)

The Portuguese transition of 1974 constitutes a unique episode in the history of regime changes in 20th century. The collapse of Salazarism triggered a series of internal political dynamics and an overlay of international historical processes. The Carnation Revolution represented a point of convergence for broader historical processes, contributing to the downfall of the last bastion of colonialism and opening new opportunities for the expansion of the European Community. Although the struggles for Mozambique's independence may seem distant from the Italian context, it is necessary to reject this idea. During the period of the country's struggle for independence, some sectors of Italian society expressed support for the cause of the FRELIMO. Specifically, this support came from solidarity organizations, leftist groups, intellectuals, and certain personalities of the Italian Communist Party. These groups organized demonstrations, public meetings and awareness campaigns to promote the cause of Mozambican independence, openly criticizing Portuguese colonialism and its imperialistic exploitation while recognizing liberation movements as legitimate representatives of their peoples. A particular support was expressed, thanks to the commitment of certain communist activists, by the city of Reggio Emilia which became a point of reference and support for FRELIMO. African decolonization thus played a significant role in the foreign policy of the Italian Communist Party and shaped a new internationalism. In this context, a meaningful experience of solidarity and collaboration developed between the city of Reggio Emilia and the liberation movements in Mozambique. A key aspect is that the support was not only ideological and moral but also concrete and material, based on the sending of medical devices to the hospital in Capo Delgado through relations with Arcispedale S.Maria Nuova of Reggio Emilia. The first contacts between these distant worlds took place in 1963 when communist mayor Renzo Bonazzi met Amilcar Cabral and Marcelino dos Santos, in Warsaw during a conference. This meeting led to fruitful correspondence between them. To better understand how the specific connection between Reggio Emilia and Mozambique then developed, it is necessary to consider several levels of relationship. Firstly, there was a strong bond between the individuals involved; secondly, there was a network of associations and active groups in Reggio Emilia that consider the anti-fascist and anti-colonial struggle as the pivot of their political fight. To quote Mozambican leader Samora Machel: 'International solidarity is not an act of charity, it is an act of unity between allies fighting on different fronts for the same objectives'.

Experimental Archaeology of Ceramic Media: Towards a Transmediation of Pre-Hispanic Cultural Archives Through Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools

Mauricio Vásquez Arias (Eafit University)

This paper presents the results of a collaborative research-creation project between the MediaLab at Universidad EAFIT and the independent workshop Ossinissa, dedicated to the inquiry of Pre-Hispanic aerophones. The project focuses on the appropriation and reactivation of sonic artifacts from the Zenú and Tairona cultures, native to the Colombian territory, proposing a theoretical framework that transitions from computational humanities towards intermedial humanities, through an exercise of experimental archaeology of ceramic media.

We understand this intermediality as pushing the digital to its limits, where the preservation of data on a screen is insufficient, nor is the photogrammetric three-dimensional reconstruction of objects enough for their comprehension. Instead, their rematerialization is required, assuming the conceptual, perceptual, and performative implications of such an exercise.

The paper analyzes the tension between capture flows (recording and 3D modeling) and fabrication counter-flows (3D printing and manual modeling), where Artificial Intelligence acts not only as an archival tool but as a speculative agent capable of completing fragmented or lost visual narratives.

The core of this reflection addresses the friction between the analog and the digital, and between contemporary and ancestral technologies. Based on the transitions between the object's recording, its modeling, and its subsequent production using ceramic techniques and Generative Artificial Intelligence, it is revealed that the true innovation in digital and intermedial humanities lies in their capacity to amplify the volume and sound of ancestral memories.

Falsifying History: Challenges and Risks Resulting from AI in the Historical Field

Miguel Ángel Millán Meléndez (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

This paper addresses the recent difficulties that have arisen in the field of history in the face of the abrupt arrival of artificial intelligence in various areas of the historical method; source criticism, investigative process, writing, and historiographical production, among others. Intertwining the legacies of traditional historiographical schools of the 19th and 20th centuries to understand the current landscape of historical research and its vulnerable situation with the forms of documentary falsification that various AI applications offer today, along with the potential impact produced on society and in academia in their perceptions about history.

How are heroes created? Digital archives (historical/personal) for the creation of national identities

Miriam Peña Pimentel (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

This proposal examines the role of digital archives—both historical and personal—in the construction of national identities and the production of heroic narratives from a digital humanities and postcolonial perspective. Digital archives are not neutral repositories of the past; rather, they are socio-technical assemblages shaped by selection, metadata practices, digitization standards, and platform logics that actively participate in defining historical relevance and cultural memory. In postcolonial contexts, these processes acquire particular significance, as they often reproduce, challenge, or renegotiate narratives inherited from colonial epistemologies.

The proposal focuses on how digital preservation strategies and archival design influence the visibility of certain figures, events, and voices, contributing to the elevation of “heroes” aligned with dominant national imaginaries while marginalizing alternative, subaltern, or personal histories. By analyzing case studies of historical digital archives alongside personal or community-driven digital collections, the study highlights tensions between official memory and vernacular memory, as well as between state-sponsored narratives and grassroots forms of digital remembrance.

Methodologically, the research combines critical archival theory, digital humanities approaches to archives, and postcolonial scholarship to interrogate how digital infrastructures shape historiography and identity formation. Particular attention is paid to issues of metadata bias, sustainability, and long-term digital preservation, emphasizing how technical decisions have epistemic and political consequences.

Ultimately, the argument that digital archives hold the potential not only to reinforce national myths but also to destabilize them by enabling plural, contested, and transnational narratives of the past. Recognizing digital archives as active agents in the making of heroes and national identities is essential for developing more inclusive, reflexive, and ethically grounded practices of digital preservation within the digital humanities.

The Impact of AI on the Humanities and Critical Approaches to its Use: A Perspective from the Global South

Neque Alcino António João Francisco (Independente)

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the humanities presents a paradoxical duality: it offers unprecedented tools for data analysis, creative production, and the dissemination of knowledge, yet it simultaneously risks undermining the very critical and reflexive foundations of the field. This paper interrogates this paradox from the often-silenced perspective of the Global South, using Mozambique as a critical case study.

While AI can democratise access to information, its uncritical adoption in contexts with high rates of digital illiteracy and precarious educational infrastructure exacerbates existing epistemic inequalities. This research identifies two key concerns: the erosion of veracity and authorship through AI-generated cultural artefacts (e.g., synthetic historical imagery), and the fostering of intellectual dependency among students and researchers who bypass foundational learning processes. These phenomena threaten to produce what we term "cognitive atrophy" then a decline in deep, critical engagement with knowledge.

Moving beyond a mere critique, this paper argues for the urgent development of a situated, critical literacy for AI in the humanities. It proposes a framework that moves from using AI as a mere tool to engaging with it as a complex cultural artefact that embeds specific values, biases, and power structures. By "crossing oceans" of thought, we advocate for a pluralistic approach to digital humanities one that does not simply adopt Global North technologies, but critically adapts them, centring local knowledge and ethical reflection to ensure AI serves as a true bridge for dialogue, not a new vector of epistemological colonisation.

Cybersecurity as the Strategic Frontier in Safeguarding Digital Heritage

Sofia Pina (HTC/FCSH/NOVA – CEF– UC; FCT)

Archives and memory institutions face escalating digital threats, where cyberattacks imperil the integrity, authenticity, and accessibility of both born-digital and digitized collections. In this landscape, archivists are called to assume a proactive, strategic role, fostering institutional cyber-resilience by aligning archival principles with cutting-edge information security practices. Drawing on extensive professional experience and the integration of archival expertise with compliance and cybersecurity standards, this presentation critically examines the European regulatory framework—including the NIS2 Directive, GDPR, and IDAS—and situates digital preservation within the OAIS reference model, building on prior analysis from the author's master's thesis (PINA, 2007). Best practices in European archival cybersecurity are highlighted, emphasizing specialized training, institutional cyber-resilience planning, staff engagement, and transnational collaboration. Digital preservation is reframed not merely as records management but as the safeguarding of information systems that underpin cultural memory, ensuring their continuity, reliability, and trustworthiness.

Ultimately, this presentation advocates for the archivist's emerging role as a strategic custodian of digital heritage, combining technical, ethical, and managerial expertise to secure the longevity and authenticity of collective memory in public, cultural, and private institutions. By situating cybersecurity as the strategic frontier of digital preservation, it underscores the imperative for archivists to lead institutional efforts in resilience, trust, and sustainable stewardship of digital heritage.

The Late Portuguese Appropriation of British Romanticism: A Distant Reading of the Early Twentieth-Century Printing Press

Teresa Raquel Nunes Pereira and Luciano Moreira (NOVA FCSH/CETAPS, FLUP/CETAPS)

According to Álvaro Manuel Machado (1979), the notion of Romanticism should only be applied to the historical, political, and social domains in the context of eighteenth-century Portugal, and not to the aesthetic or cultural spheres. In fact, it was only with the Generation of 1870, Decadentism, Symbolism, and the Modernism of the Generation of Orpheu that Portuguese culture began to incorporate a complex European Pre-Romanticism and Romanticism, movements it was never fully able to assimilate, develop, or make its own. The Portuguese printing press, the main branch of the cultural industries in early twentieth-century Portugal and a central element of the day-to-day lives of most literate citizens, functioned as the organizing institution of literary life, with many writers also taking on the role of journalists, as was the case with Fernando Pessoa. As a result, the printing press offers researchers a singular perspective on the political, social, and cultural concerns and disputes of Portuguese intellectuals, and, necessarily, on the delayed appropriation of Romanticism. However, the early twentieth-century Portuguese press is not easily accessible to the research community. The project Cross-Cultural Discourses: Portugal, Britain and the Press partially fills this gap by identifying, annotating, and digitizing almost 2,000 articles that allude to Britain, published between 1920 and 1930 in Coimbra, Lisbon, or Porto. The database is enriched with Dublin Core open-standard metadata and published online in the CETAPS Repository. In this presentation, we aim to report and reflect upon an exploratory distant reading analysis of a subcorpus that includes references to British Romantic authors. We will map and discuss the dimensions and patterns of the appropriation of British Romanticism over the years and across intellectual circles. Finally, we will discuss the challenges faced by the research team in adopting Digital Humanities methodologies.

From Archive to inbox: newsletters as a public-facing Digital Humanities practice

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This paper presents and critically reflects on the creation and development of a digital newsletter, called “Por Dentro do Acervo”, produced by the Arquivo Público Mineiro (APM), a Brazilian public archive, as a strategy for disseminating archival knowledge beyond academic audiences. Conceived as a low-cost, accessible and sustainable tool, the newsletter was created to bridge the gap between archival institutions, researchers, educators and a broader public, fostering new forms of engagement with historical documents and archival practices. Drawing on principles from Digital Humanities (DH) and Public History, the newsletter combined curated archival content, short interpretative texts, thematic selections of documents, and information about research services and cultural activities. Particular attention was given to the use of clear language, inclusive communication strategies, and editorial choices that focused on underrepresented historical actors and themes traditionally marginalized in institutional narratives. The paper discusses the methodological choices involved in designing the newsletter, including editorial workflows, online platforms, audience targeting, and metrics for evaluating reach and engagement. It also reflects on the challenges faced by public archives in the Global South, such as limited resources, digital divides, and institutional constraints, while highlighting the potential of such initiatives to promote access, transparency, and epistemic plurality. By framing it as a DH practice oriented towards dissemination rather than data analysis alone, this contribution argues for the recognition of communicational and mediational projects as central to contemporary DH debates. The APM newsletter case demonstrates how digital tools can stimulate various dialogues on memory, heritage, and public access to archives, reinforcing the role of these institutions as active agents in the digital public sphere.

