COMPUTER SCIENCE SEMINAR

Digital Humanities and Computer Science: Intersections and Opportunities

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Abstract: Abstract: What is the field of digital humanities? What are its intersections with computer science? And what are the opportunities for collaboration between digital humanists and computer scientists? This talk will provide an overview of the digital humanities, a wide-ranging field that involves the use of computational methods to explore humanistic research questions, and the use of humanistic methods to explore issues related to computation. In order to illustrate this range of work, as well as the ways in which computer scientists in various subfieldsparticularly NLP/ML and data visualizationcan contribute, I will present three recent collaborative research projects: 1) the development of a model of lexical semantic change which, when combined with network analysis, offers a new perspective on the abolitionist movement of the 19th century United States; 2) the design and fabrication of a large-scale haptic data visualization, inspired by a forgotten historical visualization scheme, which suggests future possibilities for visualization design; and 3) a book, Data Feminism, which outlines a set of feminist principles for more just and equitable data science, and computer science more broadly. The goal of this talk is to foster future collaborations between the Digital Humanities Lab and Emory CS faculty and students.

Lauren Klein is an associate professor in the departments of English and Quantitative Theory & Methods at Emory University, where she also directs the Digital Humanities Lab. Before moving to Emory, she taught in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech. Klein works at the intersection of digital humanities, data science, and early American literature, with a research focus on issues of gender and race. She is the author of An Archive of Taste: Race and Eating in the Early United States (University of Minnesota Press, 2020) and, with Catherine DIgnazio, Data Feminism(MIT Press, 2020). With Matthew K. Gold, she edits Debates in the Digital Humanities a hybrid print-digital publication stream that explores debates in the field as they emerge. Her work has appeared in leading humanities journals including PMLA, American Literature, and American Quarterly; and at technical conferences including NACCL, EMNLP, and IEEE VIS. Her work has been supported by grants from the NEH and the Mellon Foundation.

Friday, April 23, 2021, 1:00 pm https://emory.zoom.us/j/92103915275

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