



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Research Centre Global Dynamics |
ReCentGlobe



Programme

Open(ing) Science? Digital Humanities in Area Studies

Franco-German Summer School

7–11 July 2025

Leipzig, Germany

Day 1: Monday, 7 July 2025

Venue: Bibliotheca Albertina, Vortragssaal (Beethovenstraße 6, 04107 Leipzig)

16:00–16:30 **Welcome**

16:30–18:00 Roundtable

The digital turn in area studies – Franco-German perspectives in the age of artificial intelligence

Discussants: Mercedes Volait (CNRS & DISTAM), Matthias Middell (Leipzig University & NFDI4Memory), Anne Lipp (University Library Leipzig), Sandra Aube (CNRS & DISTAM)

Moderation: Kathleen Schlütter (Leipzig University & NFDI4Memory)

18:00–19:00 **Presentation** and choice of the parallel workshop sessions:

- 1) **Spatialization and its digital representation using GIS and related methods**
- 2) **Data visualization**
- 3) **Working with text using handwritten text recognition (HTR) and OCR**

19:15 **Barbecue and get-together**

Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig
(Karl-Tauchnitz-Str. 1, 04107 Leipzig)

Day 2: Tuesday, 8 July 2025

Venue: Bibliotheca Albertina, Vortragssaal (Beethovenstraße 6, 04107 Leipzig)

- 9:00–10:30 Presentation
Data-driven intellectual history? The challenges of building a research platform for Arabic manuscript cultures
Speaker: Daniel Kinitz (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities)
- 10:30–10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45–12:15 Presentation
Treating a genre as a database: a digital research methodology for studying Chinese local gazetteers
Speaker: Shih-Pei Chen (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)
- 12:30–13:45 Lunch break (Mensa Petersteinweg, Straße des 17. Juni 2, 04107 Leipzig)
- 13:45–14:45 Presentation
How to think of your research in terms of data management and FAIR principles
Speaker: Eva Ommert (Leipzig University & NFDI4Memory)
- 14:45–16:15 Presentation
Digital Benin: a digital platform connecting the displaced royal artefacts from Benin Kingdom
Speakers: Anne Luther & Eiloghosa Obobaifo (Institute for Digital Heritage)
- 16:15–16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30–17:30 Presentation
Reference systems and interoperability
Speaker: Benjamin Guichard (Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations)
- 17:30–18:30 Presentation
Multilinguality and data access: an area studies librarian's perspective
Speaker: Cosima Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin & NFDI4Memory)
- Evening Film screening
"Silk Road Memories in Global Politics" (2025) – film premiere
Followed by Q & A with director and researcher John Njenga Karugia (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Day 3: Wednesday, 9 July 2025

Venue: Nikolaistraße 6-10 (Strohsackpassage), 04109 Leipzig

9:00–10:30 Presentation (tbc)

Mapping the Homestead Act: how do use GIS as digital source criticism

Speaker: Julius Wilm (Leipzig University)

Room 716, 7th floor

10:30–10:45 Coffee break

10:45–12:15 **Parallel workshop session I**

| Spatialization | Visualization | Working with text |
|---|--|--|
| Introduction to spatial humanities | Introduction to reflective data visualization I | Introduction: How to structure a corpus of text |
| Thomas Efer (Leipzig University) | Jana Moser (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) | Marie Bizais-Lillig (University of Strasbourg & DISTAM) |
| Room 5.55, 5th floor | Room 3.25, 3rd floor | Room 3.49, 3rd floor |

12:30–14:00 Lunch break, Mensa am Park (Universitätsstraße 5, 04109 Leipzig)

14:00–16:00 **Parallel workshop session II**

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| Utilising prosopographic databases for sequence and spatial analysis (tbc) | Introduction to reflective data visualization II | Detecting and deciphering damaged medieval Armenian inscriptions using YOLO and vision transformers |
| Thorben Pelzer (University of Kiel) | Jana Moser (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) | Chahan Vidal-Gorène (Ecole des Chartes & Calfa) |
| Room 5.55, 5th floor | Room 3.25, 3rd floor | Room 3.49, 3rd floor |

16:00–16:30 Coffee break

16:30–18:30 **Parallel workshop session III**

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|--|---|--|
| Investigating border areas | How to use Nodegoat as a research environment and for data visualization | Automated text recognition: OCR and HTR solutions for non-Latin languages |
| Vincent Thérouin (Sorbonne University & DISTAM) | Kathleen Schlütter (Leipzig University & NFDI4Memory) | Noémie Lucas (University of Edinburgh) & Chahan Vidal-Gorène (École nationale des chartes & Calfa) |
| Room 5.55, 5th floor | Room 3.25, 3rd floor | Room 3.49, 3rd floor |

Day 4: Thursday, 10 July 2025

Venue: Nikolaistraße 6-10 (Strohsackpassage), 04109 Leipzig

9:00–10:30 Roundtable

Back to the future with area studies? Artificial intelligence, open access, and ethical dimensions

Discussants: Chahan Vidal-Gorène (École nationale des chartes & Calfa), representative of De Gruyter/Brill (tbc), Mareike König (German Historical Institute, Paris), Cosima Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin & NFDI4Memory)

Moderation: Mercedes Volait (CNRS & DISTAM)

Room 716, 7th floor

10:30–10:45 Coffee break

10:45–12:15 **Parallel workshop session IV**

| Spatialization | Visualization | Working with text |
|---|--|--|
| Historical and archeological reconstruction with GIS | How to work with Gephi for network analysis | Exploring digital methods for Arabic texts and manuscripts: handwritten text recognition (HTR) and text re-use analysis |
| Yanis Mokri (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University & DISTAM) | Roman Kuhn (Berlin State Library) | Noémie Lucas (University of Edinburgh) |
| Room 5.55, 5th floor | Room 3.25, 3rd floor | Room 3.49, 3rd floor |

12:30–13:30 Lunch break, Mensa am Park (Universitätsstraße 5, 04109 Leipzig)

14:00–17:00 **Cultural exploration tours in Leipzig**

Group 1: Visit of the Bibliotheca Albertina and its Manuscript Centre

Guided tour and discussion with Christoph Mackert (Head of the Manuscript Centre & Deputy Head of the Special Collections Department) and Katrin Sturm (Researcher at the Manuscript Centre)

Group 2: Visit of the Grassi Museum of Ethnology

Guided tour and discussion with Stefanie Bach (Curator for Global Art History with a focus on Africa at Dresden State Art Collections)

Evening

Closing night at Moritzbastei

(Kurt-Masur-Platz 1, 04109 Leipzig)

Day 5: Friday, 11 July 2025

Venue: Nikolaistraße 6-10 (Strohsackpassage), 04109 Leipzig

9:00–12:30 **Parallel workshops on digital publishing**

| Digital publishing low tech: Markdown, Pandoc, and static websites | Sustainable digital publishing and research outreach: a practical workshop | Science communication for social scientists and humanists |
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| Till Grallert (Humboldt University of Berlin & NFDI4Memory) | Mareike König (German Historical Institute, Paris) | Pia Siemer (Leipzig University & Else Frenkel Brunswik Institute for Democracy Research in Saxony) |
| Room 5.55, 5th floor | Room 3.25, 3rd floor | Room 3.49, 3rd floor |

12:30–14:00 Farewell lunch, Room 5.59, 5th floor