

DHP11012 *Cultural Technical Systems*

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| Module type | Optional (approved module: MPhil in Digital Humanities) |
| Term / hours | HT / 18 (+ self-directed reading & learning) |
| ECTS | 10 |
| Coordinator(s) | Dr Jennifer Edmond (edmondj@tcd.ie) |
| Lecturer(s) | Dr Jennifer Edmond Dr Clodagh Brook |

Module description

This module will present a set of cases for discussion and exploration from theoretical and forensic perspectives. These cases will be organised into three sections. In the first, the focus is on the process of modelling, what we mean by this, how models are constructed and the advantages and disadvantages that they bring (in particular in big data contexts). The second section of the module focuses on memory identity practices, including storytelling, and how interactions mediated by information and communication technologies can disrupt these significant processes. The third section looks at the issues of autonomy, agency and authority, specifically in the context of the rise of artificial intelligence.

Assessment

The module is assessed through an in-class presentation (15%) and an end-of-term 5,000-word essay (85%).

Indicative bibliography

Hertzmann, Aaron, 'Computers Do Not Make Art, People Do', *Communications of the ACM*, 63:5, May 2020, 45-48.

McPherson, Tara, 'Why Are the Digital Humanities so White?', *Debates in the Digital Humanities* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012).

O'Neill, Cathy, *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy* (Penguin Books, 2017) (excerpts).

Presner, Todd, 'The Ethics of the Algorithm: Close and Distant Listening to the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive', in *History Unlimited: Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture* (Harvard UP, 2015).

Sætra, Henrik Skaug, 'Freedom under the Gaze of Big Brother: Preparing the Grounds for a Liberal Defence of Privacy in the Era of Big Data', *Technology in Society*, August 2019.

Turkle, Sherry, *Alone Together* (Basic Books, 2011) (excerpts).

Yee, Nick, Jeremy N. Bailenson, and Nicolas Ducheneaux, 'The Proteus Effect: Implications of Transformed Digital Self-Representation on Online and Offline Behavior', *Communication Research*, 36:2, 2009, 285-312.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Recognise core texts, contexts and concepts for the discussion of science and technology studies.
- LO2 Demonstrate familiarity with case studies in which technology has either greatly supported or harmed social, cultural or individual development.
- LO3 Explain the complex interactions in such cases with technological affordances, social/cultural/psychological factors and political or business imperatives.
- LO4 Present persuasive oral and written work with analytic arguments based on evidence, reading and reason.