



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

Masterclass

Connected Migrants: encapsulation or cosmopolitanism?

Date: 14 December 2016

Venue: KNAW, The Trippenhuis, Kloveniersburgwal 29, 1011 JV Amsterdam ([route description](#))

Programme

Wednesday 14 December 2016

10.00 - 10.30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

10.30 - 12.00 a.m Part I, chair: Koen Leurs (Utrecht University, the Netherlands)

Reflecting on Interdisciplinary Intersectional Methods in the Digital Era
Kishonna Gray (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States)

12.00 – 1.30 p.m. Lunch

1.30 - 3.00 p.m. Part II, chair: Sandra Ponzanesi (Utrecht University, the Netherlands)

Digital Humanities for Social Justice
Roopika Risam (Salem State University, United States)

3.00 – 3.30 p.m. Coffee/ tea break

3.30 - 5.00 p.m. Part III, chair: Donya Alinejad (Utrecht University, the Netherlands)

Developing rapid approaches to address complex social phenomenon using transversal methods.
Farida Vis (University of Sheffield, United Kingdom)



Part I: Kishonna Gray

MASTERCLASS TITLE/FOCUS

Reflecting on Interdisciplinary Intersectional Methods in the Digital Era

MASTERCLASS OUTLINE

This segment focuses on considerations in interdisciplinary, intersection, methodological approaches relevant to gender, race, class, citizenship, and other marginalized issues. This segment focuses specifically on digital tools useful to investigating and centering these marginalized perspectives.

MASTERCLASS READINGS

- a) K. L. Gray "Race, Gender, and Virtual Inequality: Exploring the Liberatory Potential of Black Cyberfeminist Theory"
- b) D. H. Adelabu "Confronting Resistance: Addressing Issues of Race and Class During Community-Based Research"
- c) D. Patai "US Academics and Third World Women: Is Ethical Research Possible?" S. Berger Gluck and D. Patai, eds. *Women's Words: The Feminist Practice of Oral History*

MASTERCLASS GUIDING QUESTIONS

- a) Discuss issues of power inherent in researching marginalized lives: Interrogate meaningful ways to disrupt that power (and the responsibility of the researcher to do so)
- b) Discuss ethical issues surrounding 1st world scholars researching so-called 3rd world narratives
- c) Examine the practices employed by marginalized participants to disrupt power and social hierarchies in digital spaces

BIOGRAPHY

Kishonna L. Gray (Ph.D., Arizona State University) is currently a MLK Visiting Scholar in Women & Gender Studies and Comparative Media Studies/Writing. Her most recent book, *Race, Gender, & Deviance in Xbox Live* (Routledge, 2014), provides a much-needed theoretical framework for examining deviant behavior and deviant bodies within that virtual gaming community. Her work has been featured in *the LA Times*, *Paste Magazine*, *Engadget*, *The Guardian*, *BET*, and *Blavity*. She's a featured blogger and podcaster with "Not Your Mama's Gamer" (<http://www.nymgamer.com/>). She actively blogs at www.kishonnagray.com and at <http://lachezbippy.kinja.com/>. Follow her on Twitter @KishonnaGray and the Equity in Gaming Initiative at @equitygaming.



Part II: Roopika Risam

MASTERCLASS TITLE/FOCUS

Digital Humanities for Social Justice

MASTERCLASS OUTLINE

The growth of digital humanities as a methodological toolkit has led to the emergence of powerful digital tools for humanities analysis. These tools represent tremendous possibility for undertaking research in social justice topics, such as analysis of online activism. This segment of the masterclass examines how to conduct social justice-oriented digital humanities research through the lenses of theory and praxis. Participants will be introduced to the conceptual underpinnings of postcolonial digital humanities and will apply this theoretical approach to textual analysis tools. Topics addressed will include web-scraping and quantitative social media analysis, with an eye towards understanding both the affordances and limits of these tools for social justice research. For inspiration, we will also consider exemplar projects that use this approach.

MASTERCLASS READING

- a) R. Risam et al.. *Social Justice and the Digital Humanities* <http://criticaldh.roopikarisam.com>
- b) W. Hsu, "Lessons on Public Humanities from the Civic Sphere," *Debates in Digital Humanities*. Eds. M.K. Gold and L.F. Klein. University of Minnesota Press, 2016. <http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/text/75>
- c) S. Sinclair and G. Rockwell, "Teaching Computer-Assisted Text Analysis: Approaches to Learning New Methodologies," *Digital Humanities Pedagogy*. Ed. B. Hirsch. Open Book Publishers, 2012. <http://books.openedition.org/obp/1644>

MASTERCLASS GUIDING QUESTIONS

- a) What are the key practices for research and study design that integrate social justice into digital humanities at the level of methodology?
- b) How do we envision best practices for bridging the divide between researcher and community when undertaking quantitative and qualitative social media analysis?
- c) Textual analysis is often misunderstood as a neutral method. How do we articulate its biases when using it and what considerations should we navigate when using it for social justice research online?

BIOGRAPHY

Roopika Risam is an assistant professor of English at Salem State University. Her research focuses on the untold stories and unheard voices in the digital cultural record, with an emphasis on postcolonial cultures and the African diaspora. Risam's monograph, *Postcolonial Digital Humanities: Theory, Praxis, and Pedagogy*, is under contract with Northwestern University Press. Her digital projects include *The Harlem Shadows Project*, a critical edition of Claude McKay's poetry, and *Social Justice and the Digital Humanities*, a resource for digital project design. Risam's scholarship has recently appeared in *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2016*, *First Monday*, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, *Ada*, *International Journal of E-Politics*, *Left History*, and *South Asian Review*.



Part III: Farida Vis

MASTERCLASS TITLE/FOCUS

Developing rapid approaches to address complex social phenomenon using transversal methods.

MASTERCLASS OUTLINE

This segment will focus on a number of aspects: it explores how different methods anchored in different academic disciplines can be brought together with approaches from industry. We will look at how methods traverse, how they highlight different facets of the social phenomenon under study. Specifically we will focus on they can be used to study complex social phenomena like the refugee crisis. Specifically, we will look at on the role social media data can play and how this data can be combined with other types of social data and approaches. And finally, we will explore how this can be done more rapidly than is currently the norm in academia.

MASTERCLASS READINGS

- d) Mason, J (2011) '[Facet Methodology: the Case for an Inventive Research Orientation](http://mio.sagepub.com/content/6/3/75.full.pdf+html)'. *Methodological Innovations Online*, 6 (3) 75-92 (paper available from: <http://mio.sagepub.com/content/6/3/75.full.pdf+html>)
- e) Scheel, S., Cakici, B., Grommé, F., Ruppert, E., Takala, V. and Ustek-Spilda, F. (2016). [Transcending Methodological Nationalism through Transversal Methods? On the Stakes and Challenges of Collaboration](http://arithmus.eu/?page_id=13). ARITHMUS Working Paper Series, Paper No. 1. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.33901.79842 (paper available from: http://arithmus.eu/?page_id=13)
- f) Vis, F., and Goriunova, O. (Eds.) (2015), 'The Iconic Image on Social Media: A Rapid Response to the Death of Aylan Kurdi*'. A Visual Social Media Lab Rapid Response Report. Available from <http://visualsecialmedialab.org/projects/the-iconic-image-on-social-media>

MASTERCLASS GUIDING QUESTIONS

- d) Discuss the broad issues of working across disciplines and bringing together different methodological approaches that enable researchers to highlight different aspects of social issues.
 - a. Explore the possibilities such approaches open up for studying complex phenomena such as the refugee crisis (what are the challenges, opportunities and drawbacks?)
- e) Discuss the opportunities and limitations of social media data for better understanding the refugee crisis. What other data sources can further strengthen such online datasets? What can this social media tell you (and how do you know)? And what can it not tell you?
- f) How can different ways of working be developed that break with traditional academic publishing time frames in order to shape public debate around social issues? Does end up research suffering from more rapid approaches? If so, how can this be addressed?

BIOGRAPHY

Farida Vis is Director of the Visual Social Media Lab, which brings together a group of interdisciplinary researchers from academia and industry interested in analyzing social media images. In 2015 the VSML developed a rapid response report focused on the images of Alan Kurdi, which aimed to better understand the role of these iconic image on social media. This report received extensive coverage in the media. Farida is a Faculty Research Fellow in the Information School at the University of Sheffield (UK), where her research further focuses on 'The Futures of the Visual Web'. Taking seriously the need to engage beyond academia, she sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Information and Entertainment and on the Board of Directors of the Big Boulder Initiative, an organization focused on the sustainable future of the social data industry. Farida publishes in leading academic journals as well as elsewhere and sits on the Editorial Boards of *Big Data & Society*, *Social Media & Society* and *Digital Journalism*. She is a regular public speaker (including LIFT, TED Salon, Future Everything, Emerge Eday, International Journalism Festival, Big Boulder) and tweets as @flygirltwo and @VisSocMedLab.