Dark Archives 20/20: A Note on Conference Organisation

We are excited to be bringing together dozens of medievalist speakers, respondents and other participants at Dark Archives 20/20, from Shanxi to California. In order to maximise live participation for all in the debates, wherever you are in the world, the conference is organised along the following lines:

- **All presentations are pre–recorded.** As well as being streamed on their respective days during the conference itself, the talks will be released to registered participants in view–on–demand format five days ahead, via [http://darkarchiv.es](http://darkarchiv.es), on 3rd September 2020; on that date we will also be opening a forum to allow registered participants to send possible questions for discussion at the conference itself – or ask questions via Twitter with the #darkarchives hashtag.

- **All Zoom discussion sessions, including question–and–answer sessions with speakers, will be held live and in plenary format, in the afternoons and evenings British Summer Time.**

- **Multiple moderated Zoom break–out rooms will also operate throughout the conference, to allow continued socialising and Dark Archives 20/20 discussion.**

*To get the most from Dark Archives 20/20, we strongly recommend that you digest the wealth of presentations at your leisure between 3rd and 8th September*

General registration will remain open until 6th September 2020 (access links to our forums on Zoom and at [http://darkarchiv.es](http://darkarchiv.es) will be sent out from the end of August).

Register at:

Part One: Macrocosms
(Tuesday 8th September)

Just how big is the world of medieval writing (extant, whether read or unread, and destroyed), how is it connected and what is it made of? How and why should we map it? How has our current ‘active archive’ come to include the materials that it does, and not others?

Talks (released as view-on-demand from 3rd September)
(Keynote: also streamed on 8th September, 1.15pm BST)

**Showing the Medieval and Early Modern World as it Actually Was: the expansion of the work of HMML (the Hill Museum & Library) beyond monastic libraries in Europe to global preservation of handwritten heritage**

*Columba Stewart* (Hill Museum and Manuscript Library) @columbastewart

**Loss and Dispersal (also streamed on 8th September, 10.30am–12.45pm BST)**

*The Lost Patriarchs Project: discovering Greek patristics in the medieval Latin tradition*

*Scott Bruce* (Fordham University) @xuthalofthedusk

*Fragments and Reconstructions: the written traces of polyphonic liturgical music in medieval Worcester and beyond*

*Karen Desmond* (Brandeis University) @demontibus

*The Elusive Archives of Livonia*

*Anastasija Ropa, Edgar Rops* (LASE Latvia)

*Using Manuscript Fragments to Map Lived Religion: the case of the cults of saints in medieval Sweden*

*Sarah Elis-Nilsson* (Linnaeus University and Lund University) @ellenisnilsson

*Estimating the Loss of Medieval Literature with an Unseen Species Model from Ecodiversity*

*Mike Kestemont* (Antwerp University) @Mike_Kestemont and *Folgert Karsdorp* (KNAW: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences)

*Veiled Manuscripts: European female mystics’ writing in medieval Castile’s monastic libraries*

*Pablo Acosta-García* (Heinrich Heine University)
Part One: Macrocosms (contd)
(Tuesday 8th September)

Inaccessibility and Bias (also streamed on 8th September, 10.30am–12.45pm BST)

The Dark Archive and the Silent Book: histories of access
Stacie Vos (University of San Diego) @stacvos

Inaccessible and Inconvenient Archives at the Turn of the Century
Genevieve McNutt (Edinburgh University)

Medieval Graffiti
Matthew Champion (Norfolk Graffiti Survey) @mjc_associates

Book Ciphers and the Medieval Unreadable
Anna Dorofeeva (Durham University) @LitteraCarolina

Digitalization and Practicalities of European Medieval Studies in China
Yating Zhang (Shanxi Normal University)

Plenary and Live Sessions (8th September, 1.15pm–8.00pm BST)

1.15pm  Keynote Address (stream from 1.15pm; live q&a session from c. 2pm)
Columba Stewart (Hill Museum and Manuscript Library)

2.45pm  Break

3.15pm  Debate: Mapping the Medieval Graphosphere: a new science?

4.45pm  Break

5.15pm  Debate: Inaccessibility and Bias
Chair: Michael G. Sargent (City University of New York). Participants: Columba Stewart, Miri Rubin (QMUL), ‘Inaccessibility and Bias’ speakers, and others.

6.45pm  Break

7.00pm  #PolonskyGerman #BloggingMSS Presentations
Organisers: Andrew Dunning @anjdunning, Henrik Lähnemann @HLaehnemann, Matthew Holford @MatthewHolford, Tuija Ainonen @AinonenT (Oxford)
Part Two: Microcosms
(Wednesday 9th September)

How far is it the case that the facets of the medieval written artefact can, cannot or can only be captured digitally?

Talks (released as view–on–demand from 3rd September; also streamed on 9th September, 8.30am–1.30pm BST)

Keynote Address: The Opportunities (and Limits) of Lockdown Digital Fragmentology
Lisa Fagin Davis (Medieval Academy of America) @lisafdavis

The Book, The Whole Book, and Nothing But the... Digital Surrogate
Stewart Brookes (University of Oxford) @stewart_brookes

Let there be Light: The holy digitised artefact
Keri Thomas @keri_thomas

Found Within: discovery and complex objects
Benjamin L. Albritton (Stanford University) @bla222

Reading the Invisible: can biocodicology help interpret the history of a manuscript?
Sarah Fiddyment (Cambridge University) @DrFiddyment

How to Read the Unreadable? Non-Invasive digitization of cultural heritage
Vincent Christlein and Daniel Stromer (Friedrich-Alexander University) @v_christlein, @daniel_stromer

Reading the Unread: parchment damage in a fifteenth century Netherlandish prayer book
Sophie Clayton (University of Leeds) @sophieclayton97

Rethinking the abbreviation: questions and challenges of machine reading medieval scripta
Estelle Guéville (Louvre Abu Dhabi) & David Joseph Wrisley (NYU Abu Dhabi) @DJWrisley

How Much of a Manuscript is a Digitized Manuscript?
Cornelis van Lit (Utrecht University) @LWCvL

Beyond the Veil: manuscript curtains and the reading experience, medieval and modern
Henry Ravenhall (KCL) @HenryRavenhall

Blast from the Past and Back to the Future: manuscripts and digitisation
Luise Morawetz (SAW Leipzig) @LuiseMorawetz, Natascha Domeisen @NDomeisen (Oxford), Carolin Gluchowski (Fribourg), Lena Vosding (Heinrich Heine University)
Part Two: Microcosms (contd)  
(Wednesday 9th September)

Plenary and Live Sessions I (9th September, 1.15pm-5.30pm BST)

1.30pm  Keynote Address (stream from 1.30pm; live q&a session from c. 2.15pm)  
Lisa Fagin Davis (Medieval Academy of America) @lisafdavis

3.00pm  Break

3.30pm  Debate: The Whole Book?  
Chair: Lisa Fagin Davis. Participants: ‘Microcosms’ speakers, and others.

5.30pm  Break

Part Three (a): Massive, Open, Online ... the Future Archive?  
(Wednesday 9th September)

What challenges and opportunities would the answers to Parts One and Two open for the future of the Archive and of scholarship?

Talks (released as view-on-demand from 3rd September; streamed on 9th September, 9.30am-1pm BST)

The Curator in the Machine: balancing accessibility and experience in digitizing the Islamic manuscript collection of the National Library of Israel  
Samuel Thrope (National Library of I @SamuelThrope

(Re)collecting the Archive: recovering medieval manuscripts destroyed During WWII  
Krista Murchison (University of Leiden) @drkmurch

There and Back Again with 2022: bringing Dublin's lost records back from Westminster  
Elizabeth Biggs (University of Durham), Paul Dryburgh (The National Archives), Lynn Kilgallon (TCD) @pablodiablo74, @ElizabethCBiggs

Shedding Light on Middle High German Hymn Translations  
Franziska Lallinger & Pavlina Kulagina (Humboldt University)
Part Three (a): Massive, Open, Online ... the Future Archive? (Contd)
(Wednesday 9th September)

Talks (released as view-on-demand from 3rd September; streamed on 9th September, 9.30am–1pm BST)

Preserving the Materiality of the Digital: data management and sustainability in the context of a digital edition of *L’histoire ancienne jusqu’à César*
Natasha Romanova (KCL)

‘Back up soon’: toward an infrastructural understanding of digital archives and digital failure
Thomas White (University of Oxford) @___TomWhite___

Medieval Spanish Manuscripts, Modern Digital Repositories: the future of scholarly-curated thematic collections supported via public engagement
Roger L. Martínez-Dávila, with Mary Rupp (University of Colorado) @rogerlmartinez

Manuscript Catalogues: unread and unreadable
Michelle Warren (Dartmouth College) @MichelleRWarren

Plenary and Live Sessions II (9th September, 6.00pm–10.15pm BST)

6.00pm Debate: The Future Archive
Chair: Suzanne Paul (Cambridge University) @suzpaul.
Participants: Elaine Treharne (Stanford), Ben Albritton (Stanford), Maja Kominko (Arcadia Fund), ‘Future Archive’ speakers, and others.

8.30pm Break

9.15pm Compline from the Crypt
Organiser: Henrike Lähnemann.
Participants: Andrew Dunning, Lachlan Hughes, Matthew Cheung Salisbury, Jennifer Rushworth
Part Three (b): Massive, Open, Online ... the Future of Scholarship?  
(Thursday 10th September)

Talks (released as view-on-demand from 3rd September; also streamed on 10th September, 9.30am–1.30pm BST)

Keynote Address: Seeing and Being Seen: digital manuscripts and their viewers
Elaine Treharne (Stanford University) @ETreharne

Emma Goodwin (University of Oxford) @DH CrowdScribe

Medieval Digital Visionary Women: editing the wiki ‘Catalogue of Living Saints’
Rebeca Sanmartin Bastida (Complutense University of Madrid)

The Changing Paradigms of the Digital Production and Communication of Medieval Scholarship: some reflections on openness
Ulrike Wuttke (University of Potsdam) @UWuttke

Using Semantic Textual Encoding to Support the Navigation and Analysis of Medieval Texts
Zoe Bartliff (University of Glasgow) @ZBartliff

From the Library of Babel to Arcologies of Information
Michael G. Sargent (City University of New York)

Plenary and Live Sessions I (10th September, 3pm–9.15pm BST)

3.00pm  Keynote Address (stream from 3pm; live q&a session from c. 3.45pm)
Elaine Treharne (Stanford University) @ETreharne

4.30pm  Break

4.45pm  Debate: The Future of Scholarship  
Chair: Peter Frankopan (University of Oxford)  
Participants: Elaine Treharne, ‘Future of Scholarship’ speakers, Jane Taylor (Durham), Damon Wischik (Cambridge University / Turing Institute), Mike Kestemont (Antwerp), Justin Stover (Oxford), and others.

6.30pm  Break

6.45pm  Debate: Public Engagement: funders’ perspectives
Participants: Marc Polonsky (Polonsky Foundation), Simon Chaplin (Arcadia Fund), Daniel Reid (Whiting Foundation), and others.

7.30pm  #PolonskyGerman #BloggingMSS Prize: Laudationes and Award Ceremony
Organisers: Andrew Dunning, Henrike Lähnemann, Matthew Holford, Tuija Ainonen