HDSM
Humanities Data Science & Methodology, TU Darmstadt

TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

Institut für Geschichte

Week 1. Introduction to the course: The art of making data speak (readings on the state of the art)

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Institut für Geschichte

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Plan

1. Introduction to the course

2. Examination details

3. Introduction to the topic of data visualisation, discussion

4. Reflection and Q&A

5. Closing remarks

Exam

The exam will be conducted in the format of a portfolio, which accumulates the results of the following assessments:

- Presentation of a chapter on the art of making data speak.

- Participation in the discussions in the class

- Essay (evaluated). To write an essay, students will be offered several questions. All the questions refer to the literature, research topics and issues related to the art of making data speak discussed during the course. *Essay is optional only if the student needs a 'passed' or 'not passed' mark. Writing the essay is obligatory to obtain a 1-5 mark for the course.

Introduction to the course

- Moodle

Questions

Order of the class

- Speaker – Moderator – Participants (Attendees) – Discussion

- Note taking is required

Speaker

The art of making data speak (readings on the state of the art) - 02-04-0120-se(by Dr Nadezhda Povroznik)

Task for the Speakers

Presentation and discussion facilitation

In our upcoming class session, you will present and lead a discussion based on the paper assigned to you. Each paper addresses a specific aspect of the topic of the course.

This activity is obligatory and contributes to the final mark of the exam.

Please complete the following steps in preparation:

1. Read and analyse the assigned text

- Read the assigned paper thoroughly.
- Identify its core arguments and contributions to the field of born-digital heritage.
- Note any key terms or concepts that require clarification or further discussion.

2. Prepare a 15–20-minute presentation to explain the content of the publication.

Your presentation should include:

- A brief introduction to the author and context of the text;
- A structured summary of the main argument(s) and focus of the paper;
- Explanation of key concepts related to data visualisation and specific terminology mentioned in the text (for better understanding by those who never read the paper);
- A precise articulation of challenges, issues, problems the paper addresses, etc.
- One or two illustrative examples or case studies mentioned in the paper;
- A short critical reflection on how the paper contributes to our understanding of the art of making data speak. What are its strengths, limitations, or provocations?

You are required to prepare slides to support your presentation. Please upload your slides to Moodle before the class begins.

3. Prepare to moderate a 15-minute discussion

- Develop 2–3 open-ended questions to guide a class discussion.
- Your questions should invite reflection on the paper's themes, connections to other readings, or implications for data visualisation practice.
- Be ready to engage the group, respond to comments, and guide the conversation.

Attendees

The art of making data speak (readings on the state of the art) - 02-04-0120-se

Task for the Attendees

In this session, your peers will participate in the discussion based on selected readings that introduce new perspectives and case studies related to the art of making data speak. As a listener, you are expected to actively engage with the presentation and play a key role in making the discussion thoughtful and productive, even if you are facing the material for the first time.

Regular contribution to the discussions is obligatory as part of the course to get the examination mark.

To prepare and participate effectively, please do the following:

1. Fill out the "Listeners' Notes" template during each presentation

You can either receive or download the Listeners' Notes template from Moodle. It is your responsibility to fill it in as you listen. For each presentation, complete the following sections:

- Write down the title of the paper.
- Summarise the main arguments, definitions of key terms, and examples mentioned by the presenters in the Notes section
- Raise questions: Write down at least one question, comment, or point of confusion you had while listening (this will be useful for the discussion).
- Key areas & problems: identify what kind of issues, problems or challenges are being addressed in the paper.

2. Actively contribute to the discussion
After each presentation, the presenters will ask the class to respond to a few discussion questions. Your task is to:

- Use your notes to offer a comment, ask a question, or respond to a point raised by the presenter or another student.
- Engage respectfully and thoughtfully, even if you're unsure, because your curiosity and reactions are also contributions.
- Make connections to themes we've discussed in earlier sessions or raise new ideas that came to mind while listening.

Everyone is expected to participate. You do not need to have read the paper in advance, but you should come prepared to listen closely, take notes, and speak up during the discussion.

**The art of making data speak
(readings on the state of the art) - 02-04-0120-se**

Date:

Paper:

Main arguments and concepts:

Questions	Notes

Key areas & problems:

Aims & Learning outcomes

Aim of the class:

    –   Introduction to the art of making data speak

Learning outcomes:

1. Identify central ideas on data visualisation and data-driven research in the humanities.
2. Summarise and reflect on selected readings addressing the role of visualisation in knowledge production.

Speed Dating

What is a Data Visualisation? And where do we need it?

Presentations

- Adam Strantz - Data Visualization as Inquiry/Invention in the Digital Humanities
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiX5OknYPZQ

Moderated discussion

(let's use the notes)

Questions for the discussion

- Why do we need visualisations across the research process?

- Have you experienced hidden thinking?

Q&A

2 presenters for the next week