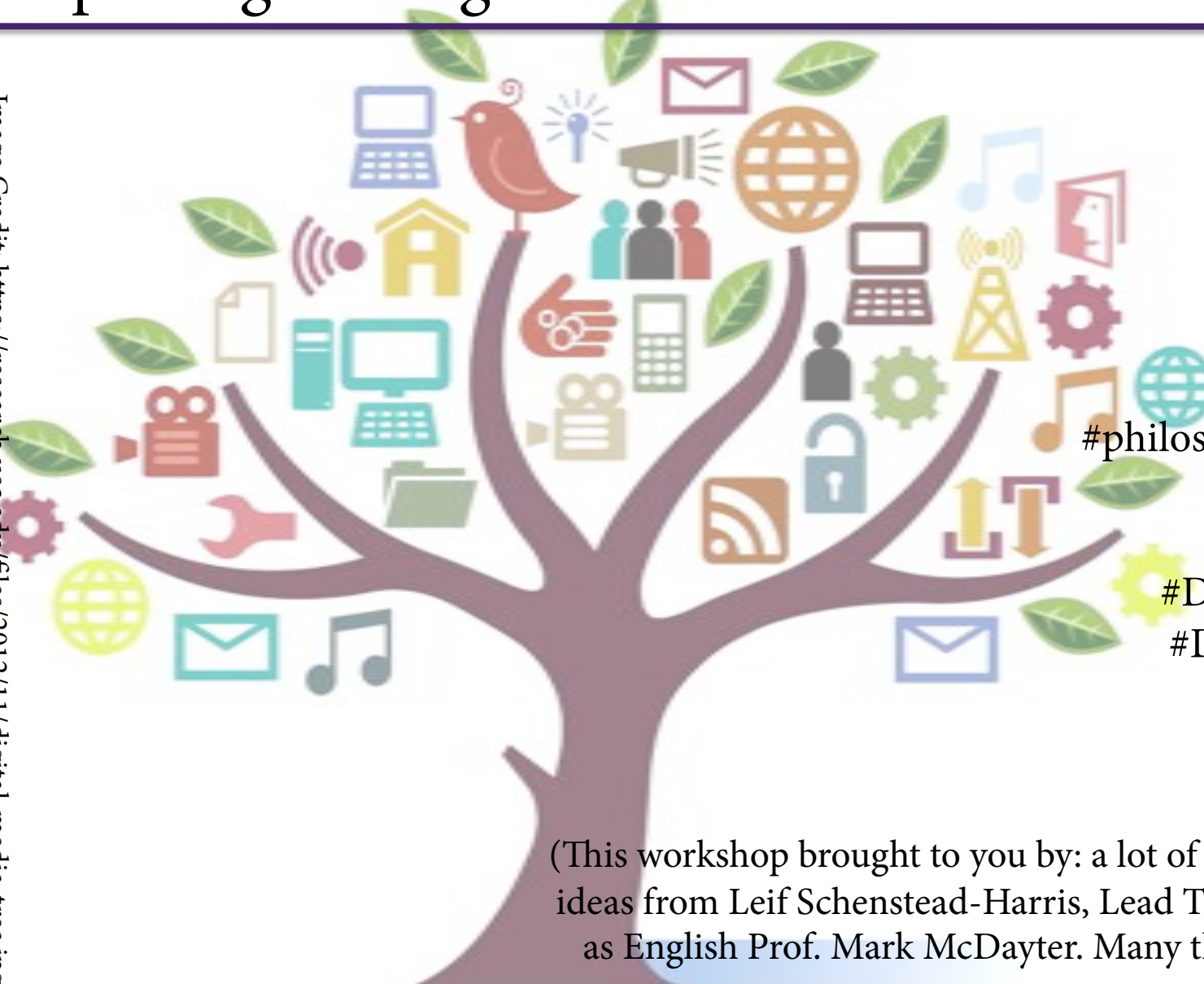


# Philosophy TA Workshop: Exploring the Digital Humanities

with Melissa Jacquart

March 11, 2014

Image Credit: <https://research.usc.edu/files/2012/11/digital-media-tree.jpg>



 @mjacquart

#philosophyTAworkshop  
#DigitalTeaching  
#DigitalLearning  
#DigitalHumanities  
#DigitalPhilosophy

(This workshop brought to you by: a lot of help, links, text, and ideas from Leif Schenstead-Harris, Lead TA in English, as well as English Prof. Mark McDayter. Many thanks Leif & Mark!)

# What are the “Digital Humanities”?



What does it mean (or what do we think it means), when someone says “digital humanities?”

What are some examples of digital humanities you use in your work or class?

*Why were they useful?*

Image Credit: [http://chronicle.com/img/photos/biz/photo\\_15394\\_portrait\\_wide.jpg](http://chronicle.com/img/photos/biz/photo_15394_portrait_wide.jpg)

# Agenda

---

- Theory and Motivation
- Engaging the Digital Humanities!
- Q&A
  - with Prof. Samantha Brennan
  - and Prof. David Bourget
- Feedback

---

---

# Theory and Motivation

---

---

# Who cares about DH?

---

SSHRC commissioned a survey to get a better understanding of issues related to the Digital Humanities development and acceptance

Of the 200+ responses...

80% are actively incorporating electronic resources into their teaching

# Who cares about DH?

---

Primary users:

Age Group	Percentage	
20–29	Yes: 78%	No: 22%
30–39	Yes: 94.5	No: 5.5
40–49	Yes: 98	No: 2
50–59	Yes: 86	No: 14
60 and over	Yes: 70	No: 22

See Study: <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/7/1/000114/000114.html>



# Digital Natives

---

Who are they?

They are more familiar with technology. Myth?!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzNkW2eyR-I>

(h/t to Leif Schenstead-Harris for video)

Tech is a Time Saver? Depends!

You must take the time out to teach your students how to use it [properly], and why it is useful.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WPVWDkF7U8&list=PLktAdTFuO2fsexrMrflwp\\_VMjb1fXJFfN&feature=share](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WPVWDkF7U8&list=PLktAdTFuO2fsexrMrflwp_VMjb1fXJFfN&feature=share)

(h/t to Dan Hicks for video)

# DH: What's the Value?

---

“The utility of digital humanities tools stems from...

- 1) their support of already common tasks such as grading and presenting course content in interesting and educational ways, **and**
- 2) facilitating new assignments and teacher/student interactions, such as alternate-imaging assignments, blog-keeping, or collaborative work.

Imagination and diplomacy is required for the TA to best use these resources, as well as a strong sense of pedagogical practice as it has been traditionally viewed. Best not to mistake a tool for a crutch, a fancy screen for another way of lecturing.”

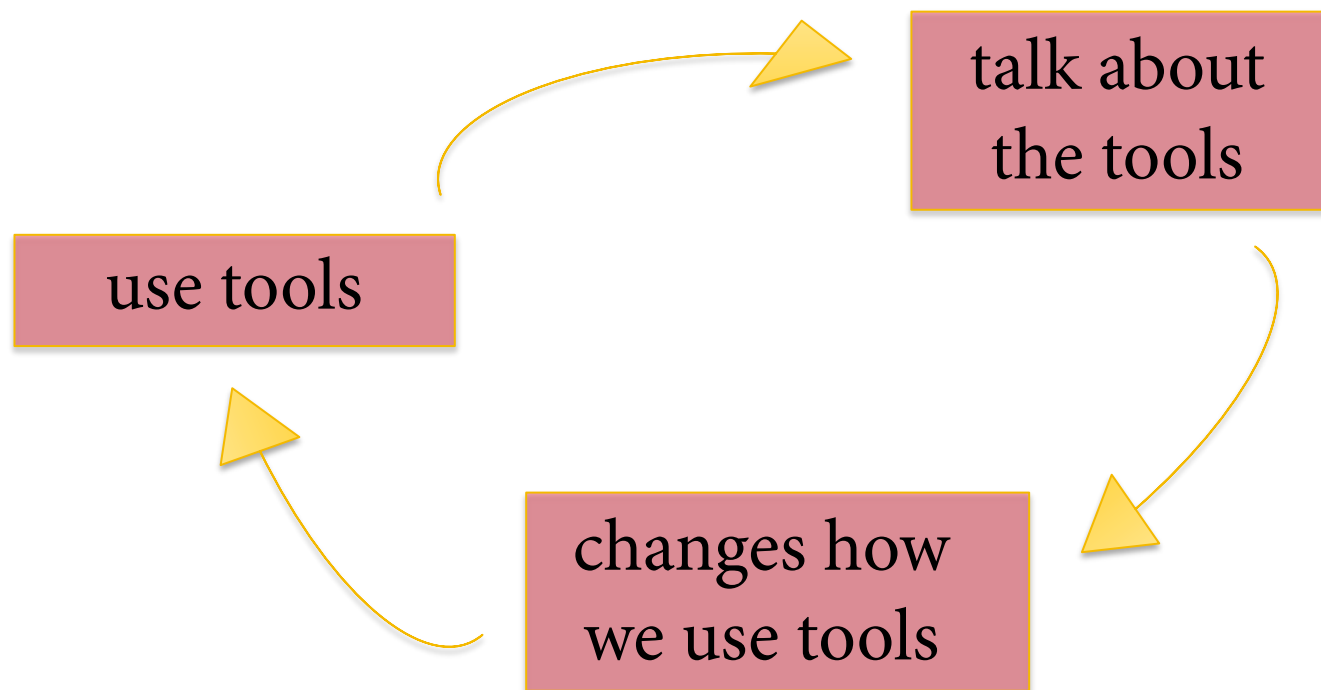
- *Schenstead-Harris*



# DH in Education

---

Digital Humanities is not just using tools to learn!



It requires a self-reflective practice.

# Virtual and Digital Embodiment

---

## **What does it mean to have a presence on social media?**

- Start to teach your students what it means to be in the public.
  - A way to start to teach your students just how public the digital world is.
- Forces public discourse.

## **Decentralization of information**

- You get students teaching students.
- You become part of the body, no longer an authority.

*How have the rules of engagement changed?*



# Digital Handouts

---

**Philosophy DH Resource Page:**

<http://melissajacquart.com/teaching/resources-for-instructors/digital-philosophy/>



# Visualization of Narratives

---

Big in English, any use in Philosophy?

*Can books be summarized through their emotional trajectory and character relationships?*

Stefanie Posavec's *On the Road* literary organism (and other visualizations)

Famous novels first sentences, mapped

Frequency of characters mentioned in a book

Distant Reading of Hamlet (as seen on previous slide)

# Visualization in Philosophy

---

“Dynamic Ontology”

Network of all Thinkers [Pt. 1](#)

*Data from SEP*

Network of all Thinkers [Pt. 2](#)

*Data from IEP*





[Wordle](#) of Western's 2012-2013 Critical Thinking Syllabus.



# *Enhanced Presentations & Resources*

---

## **Prezi**

- Angela Medelovici, [Sample Philosophy Paper](#).

## **Animated Videos**

- VideoScribe

## **Interactive Videos**

- [Zaption](#)

# Collaborative Work

---

## **File Sharing**

- Dropbox, ...

## **Document Editing**

- Google Docs (how's it going on there?), ...

## **Padlet**

- it's like pinterest, but for resources

# Social Media

---

Twitter

- *How's it going on there?*

Facebook

*Importance of self-reflection! Why are using these tools sometimes an issue?*

*What does it mean to be on social media?*

# Blog Syllabus

---

## **Blog as a Syllabus**

Transforms the syllabus to a place of learning rather than a static document that talks at the student.

## **Course Blogs**

*Private vs Public Course Blogs?*

# Who cares about DH?

---

Instant Feedback:

Vote!

<http://www.polleverywhere.com/>

---

---

## Q & A with Panelist

---

---

Prof. Samantha Brennan, Philosophy Department  
Prof. David Bourget, Philosophy Department  
and Centre for Digital Philosophy



Storify!

# Feedback Survey

---

Contact: [mjacquar@uwo.ca](mailto:mjacquar@uwo.ca)

---

---

Thanks!

---