

Jeffrey Moro
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PhD Exams List: Digital Humanities / In the Anthropocene

Committee members: Matthew Kirschenbaum (Chair), Kari Kraus, Jason Farman, Christina Walter

This list attempts to do two things: first, to offer my articulation of digital studies as a field of inquiry; and second, to situate digital studies in relationship to critical questions emerging from the turn to the Anthropocene in literary and media studies. Inasmuch as the list presents a cogent argument, it might be that a digital studies in and for the Anthropocene can help us understand technology's role in the production of material and political realities that intensify our present ecological and epistemic crisis, as well as tactics by which we can counter or imagine beyond such a crisis.

My version of digital studies begins from a media studies tradition that predates the emergence of digital computing in the mid-twentieth century. In its theoretical grounding, it shares significant terrain with contemporary cinema and media studies, from roots in the Marxist materialist critiques of the Frankfurt school, through mid-century Anglophone studies of media and technology as constitutive parts of everyday life. Given digital technology's proliferation now into most aspects of contemporaneity, my digital studies centers the technical object itself as the subject of analysis. This unabashedly materialist approach grounds this list's interest in media archaeology and technological infrastructures. Digital studies also attends to the capacity for networking technologies to produce and mediate relations between people, machines, and environments.

Within this field, I am interested in how digital technologies and those who wield them create and respond to the present crisis in ecological and materialist thought those of us in the humanities (and to certain extent the sciences and the public more generally) call the "Anthropocene." Defining the Anthropocene is in many ways trickier than defining digital studies. It is a slippery concept that ramifies through technology, geology, public policy, ecology, and literary criticism. My articulation of the Anthropocene draws heavily from science and technology studies as well as recent work in speculative and new materialist philosophy. While the environmental humanities leaves a lingering footprint on this list, my investment in the Anthropocene as a generative concept is more about approaching it as a crisis for imagining futurity than for marking the flows of electronic waste and rising atmospheric carbon. As such, a digital studies in the Anthropocene marks an occasion for thinking interdisciplinarily about the role of digital technologies in the work of worlding—of speculating on and imagining possible futures.

Major List: Digital Studies

Media Archaeology

1. Benjamin, Walter. "The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility," 2nd. ed., 1935
2. Benjamin, Walter. "On the Concept of History," 1940
3. Chun, Wendy Hui-Kyong. *Programmed Visions: Software and Memory*, 2011

4. Derrida, Jacques. *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression*, 1995
5. Emerson, Lori. *Reading Writing Interfaces: From the Digital to the Bookbound*, 2014
6. Ernst, Wolfgang. *Digital Memory and the Archive*, 2013
7. Farge, Arlette. *The Allure of the Archives*, 1989
8. Foucault, Michel. *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, 1972
9. Foucault, Michel. "Nietzsche, Genealogy, Memory," 1977
10. Fuller, Matthew, ed. *Software Studies: A Lexicon*, 2008
11. Gitelman, Lisa. *Always Already New: Media, History, and the Data of Culture*, 2006
12. Heidegger, Martin. "The Question Concerning Technology," 1954
13. Kirschenbaum, Matthew. *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination*, 2008
14. Kittler, Friedrich. *Discourse Networks 1800/1900*, 1992
15. Kittler, Friedrich. *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*, 1999
16. Lennon, Brian. *Passwords: Philology, Security, Authentication*, 2018
17. Malloy, Judy, ed. *Social Media Archaeology and Poetics*, 2016
18. Marvin, Carolyn. *When Old Technologies Were New: Thinking About Electric Communication in the Late Nineteenth Century*, 1990
19. Montfort, Nick and Ian Bogost, *Racing the Beam: The Atari Video Computer System*, 2009
20. Nakamura, Lisa. "Indigenous Circuits: Navajo Women and the Racialization of Early Electronic Manufacture," 2014 [*American Quarterly*]
21. Parikka, Jussi. *What is Media Archaeology?*, 2012
22. Parikka, Jussi and Erkki Huhtamo, eds. *Media Archaeology*, 2011
23. Siegert, Bernhard. *Cultural Techniques: Grids, Filters, Doors, and Other Articulations of the Real*, 2015
24. Sterne, Jonathan. *MP3: The Meaning of a Format*, 2012
25. Tenen, Dennis. *Plain Text: The Poetics of Computation*, 2017
26. Vismann, Cornelia. *Files: Law and Media Technology*, 2008
27. Young, Liam Cole. *List Cultures: Knowledge and Poetics from Mesopotamia to Buzzfeed*, 2017
28. Zielinski, Siegfried. *Deep Time of the Media: Toward an Archaeology of Hearing and Seeing by Technical Means*, 2006

Infrastructures and Platforms

29. Bratton, Benjamin. *The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty*, 2015
30. Frabetti, Federica. *Software Theory: A Cultural and Philosophical Study*, 2015
31. Gabrys, Jennifer. *Program Earth: Environmental Sensing Technology and the Making of a Computational Planet*, 2016
32. Hayles, N. Katherine. "Print is Flat, Code is Deep: The Important of Media-Specific Analysis," 2004 [*Poetics Today*]
33. Hu, Tung-Hui. *A Prehistory of the Cloud*, 2015
34. Mattern, Shannon. *Code and Clay, Data and Dirt: Five Thousand Years of Urban Media*, 2017
35. Noble, Safiya. *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism*, 2018
36. Parks, Lisa and Nicole Starosielski, eds. *Signal Traffic: Critical Studies of Media Infrastructure*, 2015

37. Peters, John Durham. *The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media*, 2015
38. Rossiter, Ned. *Software, Infrastructure, Labor: A Media Theory of Logistical Nightmares*, 2016
39. Star, Susan Leigh. "The Ethnography of Infrastructure," 1999 [*American Behavioral Scientist*]
40. Starosielski, Nicole. *The Undersea Network*, 2015

The Politics of Networks

41. Appadurai, Arjun. *Fear of Small Numbers: An Essay on the Geography of Anger*, 2006
42. Browne, Simone. *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*, 2015
43. Brunton, Finn and Helen Nissenbaum. *Obfuscation: A User's Guide for Privacy and Protest*, 2015
44. Cheney-Lippold, John. "A New Algorithmic Identity: Soft Biopolitics and the Modulation of Control," 2011 [*Theory, Culture, Society*]
45. Chun, Wendy Hui-Kyong. *Updating to Remain the Same: Habitual New Media*, 2016
46. Deleuze, Gilles. "Postscript on the Societies of Control," 1992 [*October*]
47. Galloway, Alexander. *The Interface Effect*, 2012
48. Galloway, Alexander and Eugene Thacker. *The Exploit: A Theory of Networks*, 2007
49. Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. *Empire*, 2000
50. Jagoda, Patrick. *Network Aesthetics*, 2016
51. Latour, Bruno. *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory*, 2005
52. Nakamura, Lisa and Peter Chow-White, eds. *Race after the Internet*, 2012
53. Pasquale, Frank. *The Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms That Control Money and Information*, 2015
54. Scholz, Trebor, ed. *Digital Labor: The Internet as Playground and Factory*, 2013
55. Terranova, Tiziana. *Network Culture: Politics for the Information Age*, 2004

Technology, Culture, and Communication

56. Bush, Vannevar. "As We May Think," 1945 [*The Atlantic*]
57. Edgerton, David. *The Shock of the Old: Technology and Global History since 1900*, 2006
58. Edwards, Paul. *The Closed World: Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America*, 1996
59. Gleick, James. *The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood*, 2011
60. Hicks, Mar. *Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing*, 2017
61. Innis, Harold. *The Bias of Communication*, 1951
62. Liu, Alan. *The Laws of Cool: Knowledge Work and the Culture of Information*, 2004
63. Manovich, Lev. *The Language of New Media*, 2001
64. McLuhan, Marshall. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, 1964
65. Mumford, Lewis. *Technics and Civilization*, 1934
66. Turner, Fred. *From Counterculture to Cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the Rise of Digital Utopianism*, 2006
67. Wiener, Norbert. *Cybernetics, or Control and Communication in the Animal and Machine*, 1948

68. Zuboff, Shoshanna. *In the Age of the Smart Machine: The Future of Work and Power*, 1988

Research Focus: In the Anthropocene

Naming the Anthropocene

69. Chakrabarty, Dipesh. "The Climate of History," 2009 [*Critical Inquiry*]
 70. Crutzen, Paul. "The Geology of Mankind," 2002 [*Nature*]
 71. Grusin, Richard, ed. *Anthropocene Feminism*, 2017
 72. Latour, Bruno. "Agency at the Time of the Anthropocene," 2014 [*New Literary History*]
 73. Menely, Tobias and Jesse Oak Taylor, eds. *Anthropocene Reading: Literary History in Geologic Times*, 2017
 74. Nowviskie, Bethany. "Digital Humanities in the Anthropocene," 2015 [*Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*]
 75. Wark, McKenzie. *Molecular Red: Theory for the Anthropocene*, 2015

Speculation and Strangeness

76. Barad, Karen. *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning*, 2007
 77. Behar, Katherine, ed. *Object-Oriented Feminism*, 2016
 78. Bennett, Jane. *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, 2010
 79. Bryant, Levi et al., eds. *The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism*, 2011
 80. Coole, Diane and Samantha Frost, eds. *New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, Politics*, 2010
 81. Haraway, Donna. *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, 2016
 82. Harman, Graham. *The Quadruple Object*, 2011
 83. Kraus, Kari. "Finding Fault Lines: An Approach to Speculative Design," in Sayers, Jentery, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Media Studies and Digital Humanities*, 2018
 84. Meillassoux, Quentin. *After Finitude: An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency*, 2010
 85. Negarestani, Reza. *Cyclonopedia: Complicity with Anonymous Materials*, 2008
 86. Peak, David. *The Spectacle of the Void*, 2014
 87. Rosner, Daniela. *Critical Fabulations: Reworking the Methods and Margins of Design*, 2018
 88. Sheldon, Rebekah. "Form / Matter / Chora" in Grusin, Richard, ed. *The Nonhuman Turn*, 2015
 89. Tsing, Anna et al., eds. *Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet: Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene*, 2017

Ecology, Waste, and Repair

90. Brunton, Finn. *Spam: A Shadow History of the Internet*, 2013
 91. Carpenter, J.R. *The Gathering Cloud*, 2017
 92. Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome and Linda Elkins-Tanton, *Earth*, 2017
 93. Cubitt, Sean. *Finite Media: Environmental Implications of Digital Technologies*, 2017
 94. Ghosh, Amitav. *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, 2016
 95. Heise, Ursula. *Imagining Extinction*, 2016

96. Houston, Lara et al., eds. *Continent 6.1*, "The Repair Volume," 2017
97. Jackson, Steven. "Rethinking Repair," in Gillespie, Tarleton et al., eds. *Media Technologies: Essays on Communication, Materiality, and Society*, 2014
98. Morton, Timothy. *Ecology without Nature: Rethinking Environmental Aesthetics*, 2007
99. Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, 2011
100. Parikka, Jussi. *A Geology of Media*, 2015
101. Purdy, Jedediah. *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene*, 2015
102. Russell, Andrew and Lee Vinsel, "Hail the Maintainers," 2016 [Aeon]
103. Starosielski, Nicole and Janet Walker. *Sustainable Media: Critical Approaches to Media and Environment*, 2016