

Project title: Digital Holocaust Memory Innovation Lab IJRA Scheme

Description

The newly launched Digital Holocaust Memory Innovation Lab at the University of Sussex is offering an opportunity for junior researchers to explore the data collated to form its 'living database'. The database contains walkthroughs of digital projects created by Holocaust memorials and museums across Europe, the US and Australia, complemented by interviews with those involved in creating them.

The database sheds light on the practical, ethical and financial challenges and opportunities that inform the rapidly developing digital Holocaust memoryscape. Once launched, it will offer rich opportunities for analysis and learning from practice to address the urgent issue of the sustainability of Holocaust memory in the digital future.

The Lab offers the opportunity for junior researchers to explore the existing data from either a humanities or computer sciences perspective and to develop original research, with the support of a supervisor, based on a research question of their choosing.

This is a unique opportunity to participate as part of a research team at the beginning of their inquiry into a new dataset, contributing to groundbreaking research in the field of digital Holocaust memory studies.

Method

The Lab's team is multidisciplinary, including media and cultural studies, computer sciences and digital humanities scholars. We will support junior researchers in selecting the most appropriate method for their analysis and guide them to implement it ethically and rigorously. Methods might include:

- Thematic analysis
- Textual analysis
- (Computational) distant reading

Skills / experience required

- A background in the humanities, with an interest in the Holocaust and/ or genocide studies more broadly
- Excellent communication skills: verbal and written
- An enthusiasm for working as part of a team, but with the ability to work independently (with support) to develop your own research
- Experience in humanities or computer science methodologies
- An interest in or experience working in the heritage sector (e.g., museums, archives, galleries)

Key readings

Blanke, T et al. 2020. Understanding Memories of the Holocaust – A New Approach to Neural Networks in the Digital Humanities, *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 35(1), 17-33
Cole, T. and T. Hahmann. 2019. Geographies of the Holocaust: Experiments in GIS, QSR, and Graph Representations, *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 13(1-2), 39-52
de Leeuw, D. 2018. Digital Methods in Holocaust Studies: The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, *IEEE 15TH International Conference on e-science*, 58-66.

Ebbrecht-Hartmann, T. 2020. Commemoration from a Distance: The Digital Transformation of Holocaust Memory in Times of Covid-19, *Media, Culture & Society* 43(6), 1095-112.

Ebbrecht-Hartmann, T., N. Stiassny and L. Henig. 2023. Digital Visual History: Historiographic Curation using Digital Technologies', *Rethinking History*

Frosh, P. 2018. The Mouse, The Screen and the Holocaust Witness: Interface Aesthetics and Moral Response, *New Media & Society* 20(1), 351-68

Knowles, A.K et al. 2020. Integrative ,Interdisciplinary Database Design for the Spatial Humanities: The Case of the Holocaust Ghettos Project', *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 14 (1-2), 64-80

Pfanzelter, E. 2015. At the Crossroads with Public History: Mediating the Holocaust on the Internet, *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* 21(4), 250-71.

Presner, T. 2016. The Ethics of the Algorithm: Close and Distant Listening in the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive', in *Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture*, eds. C. Fogu, W. Kansteiner and T. Presner. Harvard University Press.

Walden, V.G. (Eds.). 2021. *Digital Holocaust Memory, Education and Research*. Palgrave Macmillan

[Walden, V.G., K. Marrison et al. 2023-24. Recommendations for Digital Interventions in Holocaust Memory. REFRAME.](#)

Learning Outcomes

- Develop confidence in analysing interviews and digital walkthrough data
- Critically apply appropriate methods to produce an original study
- Present original findings about the experiences of those involved in developing digital Holocaust memory projects and/or about the projects in themselves

Supervisor: Dr Victoria Grace Walden

Department: School of Media, Arts and Humanities