Arts and Humanities in Digital Transition (Lisbon, 6–7 Jul 23)

Nova University of Lisbon, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (Portugal) – NOVA Institute of Communication, Jul 6–07, 2023
Deadline: Mar 15, 2023

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! NEW DEADLINE 15.3.2023 !

Transformations stemming from digital technologies are growing with every passing decade, even if the newness of new media is gradually fading. The idea of digital transition evokes a feeling of disruption, but also of inevitability and becoming, mixing the voluntarism or the design of the artificial with new evolutionary narratives. Between a lingering post-historical atmosphere and the spectre of an era of extinctions, the certainty of the digital transformation stands out as the only truly foreseeable future – a future where not only capitalism but the co-evolution of nature, culture and technology seem to take the place of history itself. The question concerning the digital (Krämer, 2018; Hui, 2019; Galloway, 2021), which has only begun, is crucial for understanding the anthropological, ecological and cosmological crisis (Latour, 2021) of the present and resisting a one-way universalisation of technology. This crisis makes it urgent that we image alternative futures but also that we concern ourselves with the digital (Stiegler 2010, 2019) and explore this transient temporality, the transformative and transgressive possibilities opened up by this very being in transit.

The crossovers between cybernetics and environmental sciences, molecular biology and informatics, neurology and robotics expand our knowledge of the human being and lead, at the same time, to the questioning of the singularity and centrality of the Anthropos in all his/her dimensions – perception, cognition, agency and creativity. Media theory, digital studies and the philosophy of technology have been the source of a fundamental anthropological questioning (Stiegler, 1984; Kittler, 1997; Hayles, 1999) by showing the co-constitution of the human and the technical environment, namely concerning cognition and other superior capabilities of the human spirit. They are joined today by ecological thinking in the claim of a post-humanist turn of the humanities (Braidotti, 2019).

The initiative of this conference is indebted to these interrelated questionings as well as to the paths opened up by the digital humanities and the digital arts, which have increasingly surpassed a mere disciplinary view of their own fields. In the last decade, the discussions about the cognitive and epistemological implications of the widespread use of AI and computation have cast new critical themes within Digital Humanities themselves (Burdwick et al. I, 2016, Berry and Fagerjord, 2017; Dobson, 2019). Likewise, discourses and practices around digital arts moved beyond the aim of establishing a mere genealogy and procedural field to think how the digital is penetrating

aesthetic, affective and political experience, as well as creative and collaborative practices in ways more fundamental or also more indirect (Zielinski, 2006; Bishop, 2012; Weibel, 2019). Thus, the scope of this conference is that of a broad epistemic, cultural, political and artistic reflection on the transformation of knowledge, creativity, design, literacies, cultural techniques and institutions in an era increasingly characterized by the distribution of capabilities and agencies between humans and technology.

Establishing a political cosmology and ecology for the digital transition emerges as a new task of critical thought in the XXI century. This call for proposals invites participation in this task through topics such as, and not restricted to, the ones below. In addition, we welcome the exploration of themes from the extensive work of Bernard Stiegler in homage to his intellectual legacy and his influential contribution to the understanding of the relationship between culture and technique and of the digital condition.

- Digitality, post-digital and digital transition
- Tecno-ecology, digital ecology and cognitive ecology
- Post-human and post-humanities
- Digital Humanities: theory, methodologies and practices
- Digital arts, design, post-media aesthetics and artivism
- Cognitive and creative economy and industries
- AI, Machine Learning and automation
- New literacies, cultural techniques and skills
- The university and the digital
- Bernard Siegler's philosophy of technology and contribution for digital studies (mnemotechnics and organology, pharmacology and care; disruption and bifurcation; etc.)

Submission:
Abstracts for individual papers should be written in English and have a maximum of 300 words, including a title and up to 5 keywords. The submission form allows the upload of a short biographical note (word file, max. 100 words). The conference is primarily in-person but admits some online participation, to be requested in the abstract.

Please submit your proposal to AH-DT 2023| Arts and Humanities in Digital Transition at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ahdt2023

Deadline for submissions: 6th March EXTENDED UNTIL 15th March
Notification of acceptance: 30th March
Early Bird Registration: until 15th April (120 €)
Deadline for Registration: 30th April (200 €)

Publication:
After the conference, authors will be invited to submit full papers to a special edition of a journal indexed in Scopus.

For further information, please send us an e-mail:
digitaltransition@fcsh.unl.pt
Conference website: ah-digitaltransition.fcsh.unl.pt

Invited Keynote speakers:
Yuk Hui, City University of Hong Kong (confirmed).
Claire Bishop, City University of New York.

Reference:
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