

You are cordially invited to a public lecture in Digital Humanities (Prague Talks on Digital Humanities)

organised by the by the ERC funded research group TRIPTIC-EU within the Department for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Thought (Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences).

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Digital Fragmentology: Promises and Challenges

June 21, 2022, 3:30 PM CET

Academic Conference Centre
Husova 4a
11000 Prague

and on ZOOM

Abstract:

The study of manuscript fragments has a history as old as the study of manuscript codices, and previous generations of scholars have been content to lump fragments together into the subject-matter of codicology. On this reading, the manuscript leaves that we find in the bindings of books, the illuminated initials pasted onto pages, the leaves from broken books for sale on the internet, all represent imperfect manuscript codices books, and, as such, can be investigated, although at greater expense of time and for less reward. Digital technologies and practices in the digital humanities have vastly changed the landscape, enabling approaches to fragmentary material to achieve new and exciting results. In particular, imaging technologies permit access to unreadable texts and the rapid reconstruction of pages, online databases facilitate the rapid location of fragments and their identification, and the networking effects of interoperability and virtual communities allow for the reconstruction of books, libraries and literary cultures, and the rapid dissemination of results. The sum total of these developments is the birth of a discipline, Fragmentology, that moves beyond just codicology to include diplomatics, early print, and the full range of historical sciences.

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