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1st International Workshop on Computational History

Data-driven humanities: teaching computers history so they can calculate the unknown

June 27th 2014, RIA, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland



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The International Workshop on Computational History, which focuses on the challenges and opportunities of data-driven humanities, brings together world-leading scientists and scholars at the forefront of this emerging field, at the interface between computer science, social science, humanities and mathematics. As historical knowledge becomes increasingly available in forms that computers can process, it becomes amenable to large-scale computational analysis and interpretation. Mathematical analysis of the dynamic, evolutionary patterns observed in the data helps us to better understand the past and can even produce empirically-grounded predictions about the future.

This day-long event will be divided into two main sessions. The morning session will focus on *teaching computers history*. Computer scientists and digital humanities experts will introduce technologies and tools they have applied in order to extract knowledge from historical records in a form that can be processed by computers without losing its meaningfulness. The theme of the afternoon session is *calculating the unknown*. A collection of leading international scientists, working at the forefront of mathematical and theoretical analysis of historical data, will describe what is possible with current tools.

The workshop will be preceded by a public lecture, [The mathematics of impending social implosion](#), on June 26th by Professor Peter Turchin. It will be held at 6-7:30pm in the Royal Irish Academy. Admission to the public lecture is free to all, and offered on a first-come, first-served basis (no registration required).

Location

Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson St
Dublin 2

[Click here for map.](#)

Registration

Attendance at this events requires pre-registration. Tickets cost €20. Please use the eventBrite link below to register. A light lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Register Now on 

Timetable

Session 1: Teaching computers history Chair: Declan O'Sullivan		9am – 12.30pm
8.45	Registration	
9.00	Introduction & Welcome	Prof. Declan O'Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin Head of Intelligent Systems Discipline, School of Computer Science and Statistics
9.15	Digitising History – why should historians care?	Prof. Micheál Ó Siochrú, Department of History, Trinity College Dublin.

9.40	Technologies for extracting knowledge from historical records and archives	Profs. Owen Conlan & Seamus Lawless, School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin
10.15	Digital Repository of Ireland and the importance of trusted digital preservation	Dr. Natalie Harrower, Royal Irish Academy
10.30	Coffee	
11.00	Irish Record Linkage: national opportunities and international obstacles	Dr. Ciara Breathnach, University of Limerick
11.30	Seshat – the global history databank project	Prof. Peter Turchin, University of Connecticut Prof of Ecology, Anthropology & Mathematics
12.00	Building technology platforms for data curation – Dacura and Linked Data	Dr. Kevin Feeney, School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin
12.30	Lunch	
Session 2: Calculating the future Chair: Rob Brennan		1.30pm - 5pm
1.30	Mathematical models of complex evolutionary processes – an introduction	Prof. Sergey Gavrillets, University of Tennessee Professor of Arts & Sciences, Mathematics, Ecology
2.00	Modeling population dynamics in Old World agrarian empires	James Bennett, University of Washington Netflix VP, creator of Netflix prize
2.30	A network-based approach for studying technological evolution and revealing patterns of combinatorial change	Dr. Ioannis Psorakis
3.00	Coffee Break	
3.30	Geospatial Network Modelling of the Roman Empire	Prof. Walter Scheidel, Stanford University Chair of Classics
4.00	Global-scale mathematical models of social evolution: investigating the development of the modern world	Dr. Tom Currie, University of Exeter Lecturer in Cultural Evolution
4.30	Panel Session: the way forward	TBC

After the panel session, we invite you to continue the conversation in [Café en Seine](#), 40 Dawson Street, just across the street.

ECTS Certificates for Attendance

The organisers recommend that student attendees receive 1-2 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) of credit for researching the event background and speakers, participating in the workshop and writing a brief report for their supervisors or research group.

The organisers will provide signed certificates of attendance on request (please contact us on the day and we will print and stamp them for you).

Organising Committee

Prof. Declan O'Sullivan (general chair), KDEG, TCD

Dr. Kevin Feeney (co-chair), KDEG, TCD

Dr. Rob Brennan (co-chair), KDEG, TCD
Dr. Natalie Harrower (co-chair), DRI, RIA
Dr. Sandra Collins, DRI, RIA
Prof. Peter Turchin, UConn
Dr. Christophe Debruyne, DRI, RIA

This workshop has been partially funded by a *New Foundations* Grant from the Irish Research Council.



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