Digital Cultures and Societies Lightning Talks 1, 8 April 2022

digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au

Session 1: 1st April 2022 9AM - 12PM

9am: Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

9:10am: The discourse of polarisation and sentiment analysis

Online discourse is becoming increasingly polarised, but current approaches to sentiment analysis only allow us to examine lexicalised indicators of sentiment. In this presentation I illustrate the limits of current approaches to sentiment analysis through the lens of research on online public shaming, and suggest what steps we might take to try and address those limitations. Michael Haugh is Professor of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics in the School of Languages and Cultures. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/14629

9:15am: Cybercrime and online child exploitation from anthropological and ethnographic perspectives

Cybercrime and online child exploitation are topics most often studied in STEM and the psychological sciences. In contrast, this talk will summarize some key insights and perspectives on cybercrime and online child exploitation offending based on nearly 15 years of anthropological, ethnographic, and social scientific research. Jonah Rimer is a Lecturer in Criminology. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/24497

9:20am: Mapping the Digital World and Hoping to Halt Atrocity

The talk discusses the way social media (such as Twitter) is being mapped by software to collate evidence of, and therefore hope to counter, hate speech in Southeast Asia. The talk looks at specific projects and provides insight into examples of digital tools that wish to work towards halting the risk of atrocity in the Southeast Asia region. Kirril Shields teaches across the Schools of Comm Arts, HAPI and POLSIS. https://polsis.uq.edu.au/profile/3963/kirril-shields

9:25am: Group 1 Q&A

9:40am: How Text Analytics can help us understand the discourse around COVID (the floods/Ukraine) in the Australian Twittersphere

The talk showcases a study that used computational text analytics to understand the development of the COVID19 discourse and the sub-discourses or topics that this discourse consisted of in the Australian Twittersphere. We show the importance of adding a humanities perspective to this discussion and what can be gained from combining traditional linguistics with modern machine learning techniques. The talk provides an outlook of how the approach presented in this talk can be extended to other current political and social issues such as the South-East February Floodings or the Ukraine conflict. Martin Schweinberger is Lecturer in Applied Linguistics in the School of Language and Cultures. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/22858

9:45am: Protocols for digitally archiving Indigenous languages

The documentation of Indigenous languages has been 'born digital' for nearly two decades now. There has been a concerted effect to ensure that archiving and consent protocols are in step with this development so that Indigenous communities have access to and control over their recordings. This talk outlines work done in PARADISEC with the Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language collection. Felicity Meakins is the Deputy Director of the UQ node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/547

9:50am: Infrastructure for Multilingual Text Analysis

Australia is a richly multilingual society and therefore infrastructure in Australia for research on language data has to be capable of handling multiple languages. This presentation describes how the design of the Language Data Commons of Australia includes such capability and demonstrates this capability with a collection of documents in various languages and scripts. Simon Musgrave is a lecturer in linguistics at Monash University. https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/profile/6696/simon-musgrave Peter Sefton is an eResearch expert in the School of Languages and Cultures. https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/profile/6706/peter-sefton

9:55am: Group 2 Q&A

10:10am: Platformisation, Regulation, Inclusion

My presentation will deal with the anxieties faced by the Indian State in the context of platformisation, the platformisation of religion, Hinduism in particular, against the background of the regulation of platforms in India and in other jurisdictions. My research is reflected in on-going writing projects that most recently includes the exploration of digital inclusivity through community network projects. Pradip Thomas is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Arts. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/1513

10:15am: Digital Technology and Public Governance: Transitions in Society

Digital technologies have long been entangled with the operation of the state and have been critical to transformations in policy, public administration and service delivery. These transformations reconfigure the nature of state power, the positionality of citizens, and the structures of society. I will speak to these transitions based on my past and emerging work. Paul Henman is Professor of Digital Society and Social Policy, School of Social Science. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/708

Session 1: 1st April 2022 9AM - 12PM

10:20am: Emulating online platforms' algorithms in user research: The case of Google Search and the Facebook News Feed

This contribution introduces and demonstrates a novel experimental methodology that allows to emulate different versions of platform algorithms in realistic, personalised interactive mock-ups while registering user behaviour and probing user experiences. Cedric Courtois is a senior lecturer in Digital Analytics and Data & Society at the School of Communication and Arts.. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/25908

10:25am: Digital Transactions in Asia

The DTA project seeks to provide a comprehensive and authoritative account of the rapid shift towards digital payments in Asian economies. Our approach examines the technical and commercial organization of the leading Asian transaction platforms, along with detailed studies of everyday norms and practices in India, Indonesia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines. Adrian Athique is Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Arts. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/13752

10:30am: Group 3 Q&A

10:45am: Break 20 Minutes

11:05am: Creating opera utilising augmented reality and augmented reality technologies.

This research project seeks to innovate opera by utilising novel technologies to create new opera experiences. The research outcomes include three iterations of the opera ARTEMIS. The first version was created in Unity3D for viewing in the Oculus Quest headset. The second was created using TiltBrush in conjunction with Adobe Premiere Pro and deployed via YouTubeVR. The third version of the opera was a live augmented reality version, developed to create a staging of the original augmented reality opera ARTEMIS. Self-experiential prototyping was employed to create the compositions and immersive environments for each opera version. Taana Rose is a PhD candidate at the School of Music. www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfgQ68iLikQ&t=198s

11:10am: Digital Cultures at the Intersection of the Arts and Sciences

This presentation will approach Digital Cultures as and at a point of intersection between the arts and sciences. It will focus particularly on the leading role played by creative practitioners and visual artists, as well as humanities scholars, in the emergence of a new field of research, the Digital Health and Medical Humanities. The Australasian Health and Medical Humanities Network is a new peak body for the region, with partner associations around the world. This talk will focus on the potential to establish UQ as a national and regional hub for the Digital Health and Medical Humanities. Elizabeth Stephens is Associate Professor of Cultural Studies in the School of Communication and Arts. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/1204

11:15am: "A Standard topic:" theatre, young people and the everyday postdigital

Young people see the digital world as 'standard,' but theatre as something else. In this talk I analyse two examples of theatre engaging with young people to discuss the everyday postdigital as a mechanism to examine theatre's response to the ubiquity of digital culture. Abbie Trott is a Lecturer in Drama in the School of Communication and Arts , https://communication-arts.uq.edu.au/profile/1489/abbie-trott

11:20am: Museums as Media

In this lightning talk I will discuss the shifting shape of the museum as it adjust to artificial intelligence, deep fakes and media platforms.

Caroline is a Lecturer in the School of Communication and Arts https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/16477

11:25am: Group 4 Q&A

11:35am: Group Discussion

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au

Session 2: 8th April 2022 1PM - 5PM

Zoom Link: https://uqz.zoom.us/j/88495441640

1PM: Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

1:10pm: Subsistence Journalism: Journalistic labour and practice in post-Murdoch regional Queensland news

This talk reveals the findings of my recent work with journalists in regional Queensland as they come to terms with the creeping necropolitics that has come to define their journalism and professional identities in a post-digital disruption and post/trans-Murdoch mediascape. Richard Murray is a Lecturer in the School of Communication and Arts. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/23169

1:15pm: Crafting Response-able Policy Futures Around New and Emerging Technologies: Digital Asia and Automation and Work In this lighting talk

we set out the agenda for the Centre of Policy Futures in crafting response-able (a la Donna Haraway) policy futures capable of producing desirable socio-technical worlds. In doing so, we will discuss both Centre-wide priorities and individual research projects that expand our understanding of digital society in India, Australia, and beyond through basic and applied research that focuses on questions surrounding automation and work-life futures, inequalities and digital technologies in workplaces and labour platforms, the infrastructural and material conditions shaping technology development and use, as well as the ways that multiple policy concerns are implicated in producing everyday socio-technical experiences. Centre research prioritizes a context-based understanding of the socio-technical to support holistic policy frameworks and preferable social futures. Greg Marston is the Deputy Executive Dean of HASS and Director of the Centre for Policy Futures.http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/14689. Allison Fish is a Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for Policy Futures. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/17017

1:20pm: New tech, old exploitation: Gig economy, algorithmic control and migrant labour

In this presentation, I will present briefly three main themes that have emerged within the on-demand gig economy in the current literature - the use of algorithmic control of workers; mythical autonomy and the complexity of migrant workers in navigating this space and also highlight some gaps in the literature that could be used for future work. Lutfun Nahar Lata is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Social Solutions research group within the University of Queensland (UQ) Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/23484

1:25pm Group 1 Q&A

1:40pm: LADAL: The Language Technology and Data Analysis Laboratory

The talk introduces LADAL and describes the different services and components available via the LADAL website such as the content of available tutorials and interactive notebooks and provides an outlook of what will be added in the next months, including the topics of planned tutorials as well as videos and screencasts that accompany the current tutorials Martin Schweinberger is Lecturer in Applied Linguistics in the School of Language and Cultures at the University of Queensland, Australia (UQ) and Associate Professor II at the Arctic University of Norway. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/22858
Michael Haugh is Professor of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics in the School of Languages and Cultures. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/14629

1:45pm: Training for research on Digital Cultures and Societies - collaboration across disciplines and institutions

Research on Digital Cultures and Societies very commonly involves collaboration across disciplines. The QUT node of Australian Digital Observatory and the Australian Text Analytics Platform are extending such collaboration into research training, developing workshops and materials together. This presentation will cover the motivation for the collaboration and introduce some of the early results. Betsy Alpert is a software developer and data scientist at the QUT Digital Observatory. https://research.qut.edu.au/adms/people/elizabeth-alpert/
Ben Foley is currently a Language Data Scientist in the School of Languages and Cultures. https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/profile/7739/ben-foley
Simon Musgrave is a lecturer in linguistics at Monash University. https://lens.monash.edu/@simon-musgrave
Martin Schweinberger is a Lecturer in Applied Linguistics in the School of Languages and Cultures. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/22858

1:50pm Group 2 Q&A

2:00pm: Pentagon and CIA influence in Hollywood

Through FOIA requests, we obtained 27,000 internal declassified documents which detail the Pentagon and CIA's involvement in Hollywood film productions. Over the past 8 months (assisted by a HASS Enabler Grant) we turned this messy data into a structured and searchable online archive and are now in a position to begin uncovering the nature, scale and scope of the role the US security state has played in the world's biggest entertainment industry. Sebastian Kaempf is Senior Lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies at the School of Political Science and International Studies. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/1726
Cedric Courtois is a senior lecturer in Digital Analytics and Data & Society at the School of Communication and Arts.. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/25908

Session 2: 8th April 2022 1PM - 5PM

2:05pm: Leveraging the Digital: digital storytelling and the Queensland Atlas of Religion

Since 2010 the UQ School of H&PI has developed a suite of public reference websites, supported by the ARC and Queensland State Government, that are essentially static digital platforms. The challenge for the new Queensland Atlas of Religion (our current ARC project in this mode) is to animate our content on launch and beyond via social media and current forms of digital storytelling. Geoff Ginn is the UQ History Convenor, and a Queensland public historian. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/166

2:10pm: Post-digital book culture and fantasy fandoms

It is often remarked how the publishing industry is increasingly perfecting how they gather and leverage fan energy online to market books. But in what ways do digital affordances allow readers and writers to push back against those industrial power structures? Kim Wilkins is the Deputy Associate Dean of Research in the HASS faculty. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/478

2:15pm: Group 3 Q&A

2:30pm: Break 20 Minutes

2:50pm: What is offence? A sociopragmatic investigation of online public shaming in Taiwan

The aim of this project is to examine how people talk about offence, contest offence, and how offence-taking goes viral on social media platforms in Taiwan. This project is important because we still know little about the linguistic underpinnings of how offence is talked about, taken, and contested in Taiwan – or indeed more widely around the world. Melody Chang's is a lecturer in the School of Languages and Cultures. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/16988

2:55pm: Metaphors as signposts of racism on social media

Social media algorithms are notoriously poor at identifying hate speech, in part because they lack the subconscious conceptual metaphors that humans possess. In a corpus of Facebook posts, I found that metaphoric vocabulary related to animals and war, for example, was indicative of racism even when the words had no racist connotations when used non-metaphorically. Kari Sullivan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Languages and Cultures. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/2432

3:00pm Group 4 Q&A

3:10pm: From Laser Cutters to Evening Strolls in the Park: A Curious Path though Gender, Emergent Technology and Space

This talk is less a review of current work and more the short story of my career path from architecture to television studies and gender to a broader look at the intersections of constructions of gender, gender violence, media technologies and space. Dr Alex Bevan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Communication and Arts. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/19832

3:15pm: Digital Embodiment

In this talk I will discuss my previous digital ethnographic research in online communities focussed on the body and its modification (specifically bodybuilding communities), and my hopes and dreams for future explorations of digital embodiment (i.e. new online communities, and new digital tools for exploring embodiment). Mair Underwood is a lecturer in the school of social science. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/515

3:20pm: What's worrying girls and young women? Tuning into and turning up the conversation on consent

This is the first stage in a three-stage research project, which seeks to amplify the voices of girls and young women in relation to experiences of, and education about, consent across a range of single-sex and co-educational sites. This first stage involves a qualitative, feminist textual content analysis of the online testimonies of Australian women's experiences of sexual violence and harassment. These testimonies appear on the Teach Us Consent website.

Elizabeth Mackinlay is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of Queensland where she teaches Research Methods, Gender Studies and Arts Education. https://education.uq.edu.au/profile/195/liz-mackinlay

Margaret Henderson is the Deputy Head of the School of Communication and Arts, http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/306

Renée Mickelburgh is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry. https://communication-arts.uq.edu.au/profile/2610/renee-mickelburgh

Bonnie Evans is Research Associate in the School of Communication and Arts and School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry,

3:25 pm: Behemoth and Leviathan: The Digital Theatre Chaos Monster

Indicates intensifying demand for cultural exchange and access. Obscured by massive viewing figures and even more significant amounts of money, and the epistemological and ontological quagmire of notions of liveness, are questions relating to access and democratisation, neo-colonialism, genre-formation, community-generation, and representation. Bernadette Cochrane is a Lecturer in Theatre and Performance at the School of Communication and Arts. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/10664

3:30pm: Group 5 Q&A

3:40pm: Exploring (inter)actions in social media discourse

This talk will focus on how social media discourse is approached from the perspective of interactional and interpersonal pragmatics. Case studies will present research on (im)politeness, morality, identity, othering, joint fantasising and action ascription. Valeria Sinkeviciute is Lecturer in Applied Linguistics in the School of Languages and Cultures. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/16970

Session 2: 8th April 2022 1PM - 5PM

3:45pm: Making sense of Facebook's ad model: exploring the meaning of Facebook's 'ad interest' keywords

Facebook describes each individual user's interests and preferences by hundreds to thousands of 'ad interests' keywords. In this contribution we explore a sample of 81 users' keywords and discuss what these keywords represent. Cedric Courtois is a senior lecturer in Digital Analytics and Data & Society at the School of Communication and Arts.. http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/25908

3:50pm: Hate Speech Online

I have an ARC DP on 'hate speech online' in which I am investigating the scale and scope of this phenomenon, and interrogating it definitionally. This builds on my career of work on hate speech. I have also worked with Facebook (Australia, UK and Canada) and am plugged in to other international organisations trying to tackle this problem. Kath Gelber is Professor of Politics and Public Policy, and Head of the School of Political Science and International Studies.

https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/2422

3:55pm: The vibe and flow of harmful industries advertising on social media platforms

In this project, with our partner VicHealth, we used a participatory digital method to work with 204 young Australians aged 18 to 25 to collect 5169 examples of alcohol, gambling and fast food advertising from their social media feeds. We analyse the collections of advertisements each participant sent us. The patterns across participants' collections illustrate how social media platforms' advertising models 'learn' to reflect and reproduce the identities and subject positions of participants. We need to conceptualise advertising on social media not only using concepts of 'targeting' that imply the precise identification of our characteristics, but instead as a complex feedback loop between the refinement of ad content and themes, the data-driven optimization of audiences, and our reflexive and fluid identities, interests and aesthetic sensibilities. Nicholas Carah is a Associate Professor and Deputy Head of School in the School of Communication and Arts at The University of Queensland, and the Director of the Digital Cultures and Societies Hub. https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/1512

4:00pm: Group 6 Q&A

4:20pm: Group Discussion, Patina for drinks

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at digitalcultures@hass.uq.edu.au