**DIGITAL PUBLIC HISTORY IN A DIVIDED WORLD: STORIES, COLLABORATIONS, COMPLEXITIES, FUTURES**

**Centre for Public History, Queen’s University Belfast**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024**

**12-13 September 2024**



  



 

**Outline**

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**Programme Overview**

**Thursday, September 12th, 2024**

* **Location**: Lanyon Building 0G/074, Queen’s University Belfast, University Rd, Belfast

| **Time** | **Event** |
| --- | --- |
| 9:00-9:30 AM | Registration |
| 9:30-10:30 AM | Welcome and Keynote Address:‘Mapping Divides? Connecting Public Histories through Digital Cartographies’ by Prof. Keith Lilley (Queen’s University Belfast) - Chair: Leonie Hannan |
| 10:30 AM-12:00 PM | **Storytelling –** Chair: Angela Rogan |
| 12:00-1:00 PM | Lunch / Special Collections Tour |
| 1:00-2:30 PM | **Mapping -** Chair: Nik Ribiansky  |
| 2:30-3:00 PM | Tea |
| 3:00-5:00 PM | **Collections - 2 hour session -** Chair: Maurice Casey |
| 5:00-6:00 PM | Keith Jeffery Wine Reception (Senate Room) |
| 6:00-7:30 PM | **Keith Jeffery Lecture**: ‘Digital Chaos’ by Prof. Julia Laite, Birkbeck (Emeleus Theatre) - Chair: Maurice Casey |

**Friday, September 13th, 2024**

* **Location**: Lanyon Building 0G/074, Queen’s University Belfast, University Rd, Belfast

| **Time** | **Event** |
| --- | --- |
| 10:00-11:30 AM | **Digital History in Public -** Chair: Keith Lilley (Queen’s) |
| 12:00-1:30 PM | **Gaming -** Chair: Esther Wright  |
| 1:30-2:30 PM | Lunch |
| 2:30-3:30 PM | Poster Session |
| 3:30-4:30 PM | **Lecture**: ‘Generative AI as a Social Collaboration Tool: An Investigation through Interface Theory’ by Prof. Alexa Alice Joubin (George Washington University) - Chair: Briony Widdis |
| 5:00-6:30 PM | **Exploring Difficult Histories through Video Games** (Seamus Heaney Centre) |

**Conference Schedule**

**Thursday, September 12th, 2024**

* **Location**: Lanyon Building 0G/074, Queen’s University Belfast, University Rd, Belfast

| **Time** | **Session** | **Details** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9:00-9:30 AM | Registration | Lanyon 0G/074 Foyer |
| 9:30-10:30 AM | Keynote Address | Prof. Keith Lilley (Queen’s University Belfast), ‘Mapping divides? Connecting public histories through digital cartographies’ |
| 10:30 AM-11:30 PM | Panel 1: Storytelling | Chair: Angela Rogan**Aleena Din** (University of Bristol): Digitising British-South Asian Histories: Visualisation, Access and Storytelling**Rūta Kazlauskaitė** (University of Helsinki): From Victimhood Stories to Victimhood Storyliving: Embodying Past Suffering in Polish Virtual Reality Storyworld**Kirsten Riley and Georgina Sutherland** (English Heritage): Reframing Reality: Storytelling with XR |
| 12:00-1:00 PM | Lunch / Special Collections Tour | Lanyon 0G/074 Foyer |
| 1:00-2:30 PM | Panel 3: Mapping | Chair: Nik Nibiansky**Shriya Dasgupta** (Purdue University): Lost Dreams and Lost Homelands: Documenting Tales of Refugee Revolutionaries in Post-Independence India through Digital Storytelling**Alisea Williams McLeod** (University of Chicago): The Last Road to Freedom Project: A Fourteen-Year Reflection (Online)**Cheryl Thompson** (Toronto Metropolitan University): Mapping Ontario’s Black Archives and Digital Mapping of Space, Place, and History through Storytelling (Online) |
| 2:30-3:00 PM | Tea | Lanyon 0G/074 Foyer |
| 3:00-5:00 PM | Panel 4: Collections | Chair: Maurice Casey**Elena Almangano and Chiara Carosi** (Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici): Arbeiter Illustrierte Zeitung: A Digital Edition**George Gyasi Gyesaw** (University of Ghana): Beyond the Paper Trail: African Archiving in the Digital 21st Century (Online)**Christopher Lawton** (Georgia Tech): Writing the Lives of Enslaved Georgians: Reckoning with the Past through Student-Authored Public History. (10 mins only)**Laura Nelson** (Princeton University): Centering the Enslaved: Seenunseenbook.com as an Archival Corrective. (10 mins only)**Kristen J. Nyitray** (Stony Brook University) and **Dana Reijerkerk** (USA): Prophesying AI in the Archive: Archivists’ Emotional Labor, Public Encounters, and Private Personas – (Online) |
| 5:00-6:00 PM | Keith Jeffery Wine Reception | Emeleus Lecture Theatre |
| 6:00-7:30 PM | Keith Jeffery Lecture | **Prof. Julia Laite** (Birkbeck), ‘Digital Chaos’ |
| 8:00 PM | Dinner | Canada Room |

**Friday, September 13th, 2024**

* **Location**: LANYON BUILDING 0G/074 Building, Queen’s University Belfast, University Rd, Belfast

| **Time** | **Session** | **Details** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10:00-11:30 AM | Panel 2: Digital History in Public | Chair: Keith Lilley**Leanne McCormick** (Ulster University) and **Elaine Farrell** (Queen’s University Belfast): Reimagining Bad Bridget: Historians, Digital Technology and Stories from the Past**Petros Apostolopoulos** (University of Luxembourg): Crafting Digital and Public History: Experiences of Wikipedia Editors (Online)**Wacław Kulczykowski** (University of Gdańsk, Poland): From Archaeological Video Games to Historical Game Design Classes – How We Do It at the University of Gdańsk |
| 12:00-1:30 PM | Panel 5: Gaming | Chair: Ester Wright**Vinicius Marino Carvalho** (Universidade Estadual de Campinas): Past Epidemics and the Problem of Historical Agency: How Videogames Can Help Us Rethink the History of the Black Death**Shu Wan** (University at Buffalo): Making The Past Gameable: Virtual Realization of Oral History (Online)**Victoria McCollum, Andrew Sneddon, Brian Coyle, and Sabrina Minter** (Ulster University): Islandmagee Witches 1711 Creative and Digital Project |
| 1:30-2:30 PM | Lunch | Lanyon 0G/074 Foyer |
| 2:30-3:30 PM | Poster Session | Lanyon 0G/074 |
| 3:30-4:30 PM | Keynote | **Prof. Alexa Alice Joubin** (George Washington University), ‘Generative AI as a Social Collaboration Tool: An Investigation through Interface Theory’ |
| 5:00-6:30 PM | Difficult Histories and Video Games | **Simon Parkin, Esther Wright, Holly Nielsen and Paul Dillon**MediaLab. Location: Seamus Heaney Centre |

**Poster Presentations**

| **Presenter** |
| --- |
| Aine Poland: 'Examining Historical Reconstituted Female Networks Through Social Network Analysis |
| Marnina Winkler |
| Briony Widdis |

**Plenary Speakers**

| **Speaker** | **Affiliation** | **Topic** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prof. Keith Lilley | Queen’s University Belfast | ‘Mapping divides? Connecting public histories through digital cartographies’ |
| Prof. Julia Laite | Birkbeck | ‘Digital Chaos’ |
| Prof. Alexa Alice Joubin | George Washington University | ‘Generative AI as a Social Collaboration Tool: An Investigation through Interface Theory’ |

**Speakers and Biographies**

**Plenary Speakers**

**Keith Lilley (Queen’s University, Belfast)**

* **Title:** ‘Mapping divides? Connecting public histories through digital cartographies’
* **Bio:** Professor Keith Lilley is an historical geographer at Queen's University Belfast in the Department of Geography. His teaching and research focuses on maps and landscapes, and straddles history, geography and archaeology. He has led funded research projects for more than three decades, exploring historic landscapes of towns and cities, as well as the evolution of maps and map-making. In 2018, he received the Cuthbert Peek Award from the Royal Geographical Society, "For advancing geographical knowledge through the application of contemporary methods, including GIS and mapping." He is co-director of the IRC-AHRC-funded bilaterial digital humanities 'OS200' project and is currently writing a book called 'In the Field: A Cartographic Journey', for Reaktion.

**Julia Laite (Berbeck University)**

* **Title:** Digital Chaos’
* **Bio:** Julia Laite is Professor of History at Birkbeck, University of London. She researches and teaches on the history of gender, crime and migration in the nineteenth and twentieth century British world. Her most recent book [*The Disappearance of Lydia Harvey*](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bookdepository.com%2FDisappearance-Lydia-Harvey-Julia-Laite%2F9781788164429%3Fref%3Dgrid-view%26qid%3D1619685595524%26sr%3D1-1&data=05%7C02%7Ccph2024%40qub.ac.uk%7Cf749a272ae6145fca30408dca4f2bdfb%7Ceaab77eab4a549e3a1e8d6dd23a1f286%7C0%7C0%7C638566609703298948%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BtQHa6OokHg1E%2BY%2B60lTT9l8px17boF%2BaH0nmhnJKJY%3D&reserved=0) (Profile, 2021) won the Golden Dagger for Non-Fiction from the Crime Writer’s Association. Her new book project will entangle family history, material history and imperial history to re-tell the life story of Shanawdithit, the so-called ‘last’ of the Beothuk people of Newfoundland.

**Alexa Alice Joubin (George Washington University)**

* **Title:** ‘Generative AI as a Social Collaboration Tool: An Investigation through Interface Theory’
* **Bio:** As a Public Interest Technology Scholar Program fellow and an affiliate at the National Science Foundation Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law and Society (TRAILS), **Alexa Alice Joubin** is a leading voice in generative AI, the humanities, and social justice issues. She is the inaugural recipient of the bell hooks Legacy Award and holder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. She is Professor of English, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Theatre, International Affairs, and East Asian Languages and Literatures at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she serves as founding Co-director of the Digital Humanities Institute and the Co-director the Taiwan Education and Research Program.

**Storytelling**

**Aleena Din (University of Bristol)**

* **Title**: Digitising British-South Asian Histories: Visualisation, Access and Storytelling
* **Bio**: Aleena Din is a historian of gender, class, and race in modern Britain. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bristol, part of the research team for the digital humanities project ‘Remaking Britain: South Asian Connections and Networks, 1830s to the Present’. Her research interests include women’s paid and unpaid work, community, family, resistance, and generational change.

**Rūta Kazlauskaitė (University of Helsinki)**

* **Title**: From Victimhood Stories to Victimhood Storyliving: Embodying Past Suffering in Polish Virtual Reality Storyworlds
* **Bio**: Rūta Kazlauskaitė is a postdoctoral researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. Trained as a political scientist, she works at the intersections of memory studies, media and communication studies, and political psychology. Her scholarly work has been featured in prominent academic journals, including Rethinking History and Memory, Mind & Media.

**Kirsten Riley and Georgina Sutherland (English Heritage)**

* **Title**: Reframing Reality: Storytelling with XR
* **Bio**: Kirsten Riley is Senior Digital Curatorial Manager at English Heritage. She has a DPhil in Art History from the University of Glasgow.
* Georgina Sutherland is an Interpretation Manager for English Heritage with an MA in Cultural Heritage Studies from UCL. Both have extensive experience in the heritage sector, focusing on AR, VR, and digital storytelling.

**Digital History in Public**

**Leanne McCormick (Ulster University) and Elaine Farrell (Queen’s University Belfast)**

* **Title**: Reimagining Bad Bridget: Historians, Digital Technology and Stories from the Past
* **Bio**: Leanne McCormick is a Senior Lecturer in Modern Irish Social History at Ulster University.
* Elaine Farrell is a Professor of Irish History at Queen’s University Belfast. Both have collaborated on the Bad Bridget project, focusing on Irish women accused of criminal behavior in North America.

**Petros Apostolopoulos (University of Luxembourg)**

* **Title**: Crafting Digital and Public History: Experiences of Wikipedia Editors
* **Bio**: Petros Apostolopoulos is a historian with expertise in digital and public history. He is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Digital History and Historiography at the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH) at the University of Luxembourg.

**Wacław Kulczykowski (University of Gdańsk, Poland)**

* **Title**: From Archaeological Video Games to Historical Game Design Classes – How We Do It at the University of Gdańsk
* **Bio**: Wacław Kulczykowski is an archaeologist in the Department of Historical Education at the Institute of History of the University of Gdańsk. His research focuses on modern forms and methods of popularizing historical knowledge.

 **Mapping**

**Shriya Dasgupta (Purdue University)**

* **Title**: Lost Dreams and Lost Homelands: Documenting Tales of Refugee Revolutionaries in Post-Independence India through Digital Storytelling
* **Bio**: Shriya Dasgupta is an incoming PhD scholar at the Dept. of History, Purdue University. She co-founded Agnijug Archive, a digital archive documenting the tales of Bengali revolutionaries.

**Alisea Williams McLeod (University of Chicago)**

* **Title**: The Last Road to Freedom Project: A Fourteen-Year Reflection
* **Bio**: Alisea Williams McLeod is former Chair of Humanities at Rust College and a Senior Associate Researcher at the Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago. Her work focuses on African American Emancipation and public scholarship.

**Cheryl Thompson (Toronto Metropolitan University)**

* **Title**: Mapping Ontario’s Black Archives and Digital Mapping of Space, Place, and History through Storytelling
* **Bio**: Dr. Cheryl Thompson is an Associate Professor in Performance at The Creative School, Toronto Metropolitan University. She is the author of several books and the Creative Lead of MOBAProjects.

**Collections**

**Elena Almangano and Chiara Carosi (Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici)**

* **Title**: Arbeiter Illustrierte Zeitung: A Digital Edition
* **Bio**: Elena Almangano is a librarian, she received her master's degree in librarianship from the Vatican School of Library Science in 2021. Since 2022, she has been working at the Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici (Italian Institute of Germanistic Studies) in Rome, first, in a project to enhance the library's holdings and now in the digitisation of a German illustrated historical serial: Arbeiter Illustrierte Zeitung.
* Chiara Carosi is a dedicated professional with a diverse background in European history and library science. She holds a double Master of Arts degree in European History from King’s College London and Roma Tre University. In 2022, Chiara furthered her expertise by obtaining a Master’s degree in Librarianship from the Vatican School of Library Science. Since 2018, Chiara has collaborated with the Fondazione Gramsci's library in Rome and since 2024 she’s working on the digitization of a significant German illustrated historical serial, Arbeiter Illustrierte Zeitung.
* Elena Almangano and Carosi are involved in the digitization of the historic illustrated serial Arbeiter Illustrierte Zeitung.

**George Gyasi Gyesaw (University of Ghana)**

* **Title**: Beyond the Paper Trail: African Archiving in the Digital 21st Century
* **Bio**: George Gyasi Gyesaw is an archivist at the University of Ghana. He works at the J. H. Kwabena Nketia Archives, focusing on manuscripts, photographs, and audiovisual heritage materials.

**Christopher Lawton (Georgia Tech)**

* **Title**: Writing the Lives of Enslaved Georgians: Reckoning with the Past through Student-Authored Public History.
* **Bio**: Christopher Lawton is a historian at Georgia Tech, focusing on the cultural and social history of the American south.

**Laura Nelson (Princeton University)**

* **Title:** Centering the Enslaved: Seenunseenbook.com as an Archival Corrective.
* **Bio:** Laura Nelson is a PhD candidate in history at Princeton University, interested in African American and legal history.

**Kristen J. Nyitray (Stony Brook University) and Dana Reijerkerk (USA)**

* **Title**: Prophesying AI in the Archive: Archivists’ Emotional Labor, Public Encounters, and Private Personas
* **Bio**: Kristen J. Nyitray is Director of Special Collections and University Archives, and University Archivist at Stony Brook University (State University of New York), USA. Her current research and publications explore how archives interface with emotions, public memory, and the production of knowledge. She is a Certified Archivist (CA) accredited by the Academy of Certified Archivists and holds a Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certificate from the Society of American Archivists. She is a graduate of Stony Brook University (BA, Sociology) and Queens College, City University of New York (MLS, Library and Information Science).
* Dana Reijerkerk is a digital asset manager, video game designer, and writer based in the USA. Her research, indie games, and interactive designs explore sociotechnical issues in data, radical acceptance, decolonization, and user experience design. Her most recent release is Hear Me, Hear You (2024), a fully voice acted josei body horror adventure video game. As a data freelancer and consultant, she offers creative digital solutions in digital asset management, data migrations, and UX/UI Design for data-driven projects. She holds a Masters of Information (University of Michigan) and a degree in American Indian Studies (University of North Carolina at Pembroke).

**Gaming**

**Vinicius Marino Carvalho (Universidade Estadual de Campinas)**

* **Title**: Past Epidemics and the Problem of Historical Agency: How Videogames Can Help Us Rethink the History of the Black Death
* **Bio**: Vinicius holds a PhD in economic history from Universidade de São Paulo and is a collaborative researcher at Universidade Estadual de Campinas. He specializes in the history of 14th century Ireland and the development of historical simulations.

**Shu Wan (University at Buffalo)**

* **Title**: Making The Past Gameable: Virtual Realization of Oral History
* **Bio**: Shu Wan is a doctoral student in history at the University at Buffalo. His research focuses on the potential of VR technology in changing the traditional format and landscape of oral history.
* **Victoria McCollum, Andrew Sneddon, Brian Coyle, and Sabrina Minter (Ulster University)**
* **Title**: Islandmagee Witches 1711 Creative and Digital Project
* **Bio**: Victoria McCollum is senior lecturer in Cinematic Arts (UU) and an internationally recognised educator and researcher who writes books on films, TV shows and video games (especially horror), to explain why popular culture matters in helping us gain a deeper understanding of our moment in time. She has collaborated on projects with Apple, Cartoon Network, Cinemax, Facebook, HBO, New Line Cinema, RTE, Sky Atlantic, Telltale Games, Time Warner, Twitter and Universal Music Group.
* Andrew Sneddon is senior lecturer in History (UU) and has written/writing widely on the on the history of witchcraft and magic in Ireland, including the first monograph on an Irish witch trial, *Possessed by the Devil..* about the Islandmagee Witch Trial of 1711. Apart from the current w1711.org project, he is a leading exponent of the public history of Irish witchcraft, having led and consulted on numerous TV and Radio programmes, podcasts, and blogs for national and international broadcasters.
* Brian Coyle is a senior lecturer and course director for Games Design at Ulster University (UU). Brian is a specialist in the use of game technologies and is an authorised unreal instructor with epic games. Brian specialises in both game design theory and technical game design, utilising game engine technology to develop rapid game and application prototypes.
* Sabrina Minter is a lecturer in Games Design (UU) and her specialisms include 3D game art, games design and UX/UI development. She has experience delivering and teaching industry standard technical game workflows and pipelines as well as the theory behind their processes.