

Interdisciplinary Weblog-Workshop

Under construction.

Analyzing postcolonial weblogs with literary and computational methods

11th of July 2014, 10:00-16:00

The junior research group “From the Caribbean to North-America and Back” (Transcultural Studies, University of Heidelberg) and the Heidelberg Graduate School of Mathematical and Computational Methods for the Sciences are organizing the interdisciplinary workshop “Under construction. Analyzing postcolonial weblogs with literary and computational methods.” The workshop makes academic approaches to personal weblogs accessible which include the very divergent areas of postcolonial literary studies, computational and engineering sciences. The main object of the event is to mediate a dialogue between the various disciplines. For this purpose, three scientists will give us insights into their research: Prof. Dr. Dagmar Monett Díaz from the Berlin School of Economics and Law, who will talk about the Cuban Blogosphere and its census; Andreas Schieber from the Technical University of Dresden, who will discuss the method of content extraction in weblogs; and Chantal Marquardt from the University of Mannheim, who will elaborate on literary approaches to Francophone North African weblogs.

For those, who are interested in participating, please register via the following link:

http://hgs.iwr.uni-heidelberg.de/Portfolio_HGS/VERANSTALTUNGEN/reg_form/reg_form.php?id=98

For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Dr. Anne Brüske**: anne.brueske@uni-heidelberg.de or **Ana-Sofia Commichau**: a.commichau@stud.uni-heidelberg.de

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Understanding the Cuban Blogosphere: Retrospective and Perspectives based on the First Bloggers Survey

Dagmar Monett Díaz (Berlin School of Economics and Law)

The first survey of the Cuban blogosphere was conducted in 2009. Five years later, there is still no similar study about the Cuban bloggers and their blogs, disregarding the country of residence. Why? The purpose of the talk is two-fold. First, it will give insights about the main findings related to the Cuban blogger's practices and demographics, by investigating the analytics behind the collected data. The programs and techniques that were used in the survey will be presented, too. Second, it will provide a subjective evaluation about the feasible continuation of such a study, by commenting on its characteristics and future perspectives.

Content Extraction from Weblogs

Andreas Schieber (Dresden)

The presentation focusses on the methodical aspects of automatic blog content collection for analysis purposes. In order to analyze content from Weblogs, first of all it is necessary to collect and store relevant blog posts. Depending on the characteristics of the technologies used to create the weblogs, the process of data collection has to perform specific tasks in order to extract blog content correctly. The presentation shows three phases: extraction, transformation and loading of data in a repository specifically adapted for blog content extraction. It highlights the objectives in these phases, which must be achieved to ensure the correct extraction, and demonstrates the application with an example case.

A literary studies' perspective on weblogs

Chantal Marquardt (University of Mannheim)

Due to their autobiographical contents and concept, blogs are becoming more and more important in literary studies. The aim of my presentation is (I) to show how postings of personal blogs can be examined from a literary and media studies perspective. According to this point of view, the most important aspects are aestheticism, the fictional character of the text and the perception of the respective blogger as a literary author figure.

I will introduce my methodology by (II) explaining in detail my sampling approach based on the Grounded Theory (Glaser, Strauss 1998). After presenting my corpus, I (III) will exemplarily provide a detailed analysis of an ideal type of two personal blogs (*Fifillestunisiennes* and *Coeur et artichauts*) in order to show how a literary studies' approach can be realised.