DiGA Kickoff Event: Workshop Invitation

Online event | Date: 7 to 8 February 2022 | Venue: Zoom

Abstract

The first DiGA workshop aspires to establish and consolidate dialogue among scholars variously engaged in South Asian studies and Digital Humanities. Drawing sharp borders between disciplines and fields of research negatively affects the progress of knowledge; at DiGA we advocate for interoperability and exchange.

The DiGA project does not intend to exist in isolation; it aims at exploring similar initiatives, focusing on the common objective of bringing collections to the Digital Space. The first DiGA workshop wants to showcase examples of best practice in South Asian studies in connection to the use of digital tools for dissemination, sharing and preservation of cultural heritage. Such an approach has long been adopted for manuscripts studies both in Buddhist and Brahmanic contexts; these results and ongoing endeavors cannot be ignored by archaeologists and art historians. This is particularly relevant when bridging collections of images and texts, one of DiGA's objectives. Key to the interoperability between databases of collections originally in various media is the implementation of vocabularies.

The DiGA workshop is organized in four thematic sessions and includes two roundtables for end of the day discussions. Our project will be introduced at the opening, then the floor for the following sessions is left to invited experts. The first session, devoted to Gandharan studies, will present recent studies and projects dedicated to this specific cultural area from the point of view of material culture. In the second session renowned experts in Digital Humanities will share their best practices and present a range of digital possibilities that have the potential to improve research in Gandharan studies and more broadly in South Asian studies. The third session includes projects focused on South Asia to surpass over-compartmentalization and aiming at a full interchangeability of data. The fourth and last session, is dedicated to current projects of Digital Humanities in Greater Gandhara and Central Asia, and shows how this field continuously progresses into the Digital Space. DiGA is already part of a network of DH applied to Buddhist studies, but intends to further cultivate its network, opening to other facets of digital South Asian studies, archaeology, art history, Indology. The sessions are split over two days, and, on both days, discussions will be concentrated in group roundtables that will invite participants to converse about selected topics. A key objective of the roundtables is to generate a network of scholars sharing common views on the future of South Asian studies and to build a community with a common interest in the intersection between South Asian Studies and Digital Humanities.

Program
DAY 1 - 7 February 2022

h 10:00-11:00	**Greetings and DiGA Project Presentation (DiGA Team)**	
h 11:00-11:15	Coffee Break	
h 11:15-12:45	**Session 1 – Ongoing research on Gandhara (Jessie Pons)**	
h 11:15-11:45	Abdul Samad (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Directorate of Archaeology and Museums)	Recent Developments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa archaeology: an overview
h 11:45-12:15	Stefan Baums (Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich)	Gandhari.org – A Corpus and Research Environment for Inscribed Gandhāran Artefacts
h 12:15-12:45	Peter Stewart (University of Oxford)	The Classical Art Research Centre: Resources for Ancient Greek and Gandharan Art in Oxford
h 12:45-13:45	Lunch Break	
h 13:45-15:15	**Session 2 – Digital Humanities: Best practice (Frederik Elwert)**	
h 13:45-14:15	Gethin Rees (The British Library, London)	Connecting Gandharan Places using Pelagios Methods
h 14:15-14:45	Florian Kräutli (University of Zürich)	Bridging Digital Collections
h 14:45-15:15	Isabella Nicka (University of Salzburg)	Modelling Visual Narratives. Insights from the REALonline and ONAMA Projects
h 15:15-15:30	Coffee Break	
h 15:30-16:30	**Roundtable: Technical strategies and interoperability of Data - Present and Future**	
h 16:30-17:00	**Concluding remarks**	

DAY 2 - 8 February 2022		
h 11:00-12:30	**Session 3 – Digital Humanities in South Asian Studies (Serena Autiero)**	
h 11:00-11:30	Cameron Petrie (University of Cambridge)	Introducing the MAHSA [Mapping Archaeological Heritage in South Asia] project: collaborative mapping of the distribution of archaeological heritage sites in South Asia by combining analysis of historic maps, legacy data and remote sensing imagery with ground truthing
h 11:30-12:00	Csaba Kiss ("L'Orientale" University of Naples)	From typing text to creating text: Experiments while editing the Śivadharma corpus
h 12:00-12:30	Camillo Formigatti (Bodleyan Library, Oxford)	Behind Digital Humanities, or Glimpses into the Cabinet of Shame
h 12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
h 13:30-15:00	**Session 4 – Digital Humanities in Greater Gandhara and Central Asia (Cristiano Moscatelli)**	
h 13:30-14:00	Jason Neelis (Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo)	Prospects for Digital Preservation of Upper Indus Petroglyphs and Inscriptions in Northern Pakistan
h 14:00-14:30	Laurianne Bruneau, Martin Vernier, Ani Danielyan and Philippe Pons (East Asian Civilizations Research Centre (CRCAO, Paris, France)	An introduction to the Himalayan Rock Art Database (HiRADa)
h 14:30-15:00	Ines Konczak-Nagel and Erik Radisch (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities)	The Digital Information System of the Project "Buddhist Murals of Kucha on the Northern Silk Road" of the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities
h 15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
h 15:30-16:30	**Roundtable: Heuristic value of digital strategies and impact on disciplines in South Asian studies**	
h 16:30-17.00	Concluding remarks	

IN COOPERATION WITH

SPONSORED BY THE

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

UNIVERSITÄTS-BIBLIOTHEK HEIDELBERG

I S M E O

Digitization of Gandharan Artefacts. A Project for the Preservation and the Study of the Buddhist Art of Pakistan (DiGA)

Ruhr-Universität Bochum | CERES | DiGA-Project | Universitätsstr. 90a | 44789 Bochum | Germany | www.diga.ceres.rub.de/en/