



***2018 Annual Report for the  
Lewis and Ruth Sherman  
Foundation***



**Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship**  
**McMaster University Library**  
**2018 Annual Activity Report**

**2018** was yet another remarkable year for Sherman Centre, and also one marked by significant changes to the leadership and staffing of the Centre. Our focus continued to be on maturing the graduate residency program, developing a sustainable model for providing introductory DH experiences in undergraduate courses, and growing our 'Do More With Digital Scholarship' workshop series.

The work completed in 2018 is outlined below. It is not an exhaustive list of our activities, but indicates the breadth and nature of the Sherman Centre's impact and role on campus and beyond.

## STAFFING

### **2018 staff (*and staffing changes*)**

- Dr. Andrea Zeffiro, *Academic Director (on leave May 6, 2018-May 13, 2019)*
- Dr. Catherine Grisé, *Acting Academic Director (August 1, 2018-May 13, 2019)*
- Dr. Dale Askey, *Administrative Director (outgoing)*
- Dr. Jay Brodeur, *Administrative Director (incoming)*
- John Fink, *Digital Scholarship Librarian*
- Gabriela Mircea, *Digital Repository Librarian (outgoing)*
- Dr. Mica Jorgenson, *Post-Doctoral Fellow (outgoing)*
- Melissa Elliot, *Administrative Support*

### **Academic Director**

Dr. Andrea Zeffiro accepted a tenure-track position with the Department of Communications Studies and Multimedia (CSMM), and she will continue to serve as Academic Director for the Sherman Centre for 5 years, bringing three-years of experience to the role. Andrea was on maternity leave from May 6, 2018 to May 13, 2019.

### **Acting Academic Director**

Dr. Catherine Gris , Associate Professor in the Department of English and Cultural Studies served as Acting Academic Director in from August 1, 2018 to May 13, 2019. Dr. Gris  has been engaged with the Sherman Centre for a number of years, and brought to the Centre expertise in digital pedagogy. Working with the postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Gris  moved core programming forward and supported the workshops series and the graduate residency program.

### **Administrative Director**

Dr. Dale Askey's tenure as Administrative Director of the Sherman Centre ended in July 2018 as he moved to the University of Alberta to assume the position of Vice-Provost (Learning Services) & Chief Librarian. The Administrative Director position was vacant until November 2018, when Dr. Jay Brodeur was appointed to the role. Dr. Brodeur brings considerable knowledge of, and experience with the Sherman Centre, having served as its inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow in 2012 and 2013, and having worked closely with the Centre over the past 5 years through his previous position as Manager, Maps, Data, GIS in the McMaster University Library.

### **Postdoctoral Fellow**

The postdoctoral position is integral to the Centre's outreach and support work in regards to training, research, and teaching at the Sherman Centre. The Sherman Centre was delighted to welcome Dr. Mica Jorgenson to a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship position beginning in August 2018. As a graduate of McMaster's History Doctoral Program and a former Sherman Centre graduate resident, Dr. Jorgenson brought to the position connections to many graduate students and faculty members across campus, and considerable knowledge of the Centre's mission and activities. Dr. Jorgenson's initiative and familiarity allowed her to assume a leadership role in coordinating the Centre's DMDS workshop series and its graduate residency program during the 2018/2019 academic year. Mica's relationships with faculty in the History Department was critical in expanding the Sherman Centre's integration with undergraduate courses in Humanities, through delivery of introductory DH workshops in multiple sections of HIST 2HI3. Dr. Jorgenson

also taught the Sherman Centre's introduction to Digital Humanities course, HUMAN 2DH3. In this offering, Dr. Jorgenson used an experiential learning approach to introduce second-year humanities students to a wide variety of methodologies and resources for digital scholarship research. In May of 2019, Dr. Jorgenson left the Sherman Centre to pursue a permanent position as Senior Advisor, First Nations Relations with the BC Government's Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

### **Administrative Support**

Melissa Elliot has been with the Library since 2012 working primarily to support Campus Classroom Technology. As of 2018, part of her time has been spent supporting the administrative needs of the Sherman Centre. Melissa has helped us streamline tasks associated with resident onboarding and advertising and organizing the DMDS workshop series.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### **Advisory Committee**

The Committee was established in 2015 to provide advice to the co-directors with regard to scientific or scholarly priorities and direction for the Centre. We hold one Advisory Committee meeting per term. The Sherman Centre Advisory Committee membership now includes:

- John Bell, *Director, Humanities Media Computing, Faculty of Humanities*
- Dr. Michelle Dion, *Director, Institute for Quantitative and Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science*
- Dr. Elzbieta Grodek, *Assistant Professor, Department of French, Faculty of Humanities*
- Dr. Victor Kuperman, *Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages, Faculty of Humanities and Canada Research Chair in Psycholinguistics*
- Dr. Paul McNicholas, *Director, MacDATA Institute, Canada Research Chair in Computational Statistics, and Professor and University Scholar, Department of Mathematics & Statistics*
- Dr. Ian Milligan, *Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Waterloo*
- Dr. Ranil Sonnadara, *Executive Director, Research and High Performance Computing, Special Advisor to the Vice-President (Research), and Director, Education Science & Associate Professor, Department of Surgery*
- Dr. Netina Tan, *Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences*

# RESEARCH SUPPORT

## **Researcher in Residence**

The Sherman Centre is exploring a 'Researcher in Residence' program' in 2019. Dr. Catherine Gris e will be in residency in 2019 with a focus on digital pedagogy in partnership with the Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching. During the 2019/2020 academic year, Dr. Gris e plans to pursue potential collaborations with graduate students, researchers, and other Centres and Institutes on campus.

## **Graduate Residency**

Each year, the Sherman Centre accepts up to 12 graduate students to participate in its Digital Scholarship Graduate Residency Program. As participants of the program, residents are provided support through:

- dedicated cubicle space in the Sherman Centre;
- technical and project consulting, both with Sherman staff, as well as with other Library units;
- bursaries for digital humanities related conferences and training institutes;
- professionalization and training workshops; and,
- networking with graduate students and faculty.

Students admitted into the program are selected based on the strengths of their application. Candidates are asked to submit as part of their application package the following: 1) a personal statement that explains how the residency supports and compliments their graduate research and training; 2) A project proposal that provides a succinct description of what they wish to undertake during the residency; 3) A current curriculum vitae; 4) two references.

As part of the program, residents are expected to:

- be in residence at the Sherman Centre 20 hours a month;
- attend Sherman Centre graduate resident meetings;
- attend at least 2 workshop per term in the Do More with Digital Scholarship workshop series;
- present a research talk as part of the Sherman Centre's Graduate Colloquium;
- author 'public scholarship' blog posts on the Sherman Centre blog; and,
- with support from staff, create a visualization of an aspect of their work to display on the Sherman Centre multimedia entryway.

The residency program is an integral component in the Sherman Centre's activities. We are recognized on campus as providing graduate students with skills and expertise they cannot find alone in their home departments or disciplinary domains. Sherman staff play a fundamental role in assisting graduate students refine their project ideas through consultation and training. Increasingly, the academic director is sought out as an advisor and committee member for graduate theses. Graduate students see the program as an elite element of their education and there is intense competition for residency. Departments routinely recruit graduate students by foregrounding the Sherman Centre as a reason to come to McMaster.

This year's call returned a pool of applicants from across the University, including health sciences, engineering, social sciences, and the humanities. After reviewing the applications, we selected 8 residents:

- Samantha Clarke, *PhD Candidate, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities*
- Melda Cocksun Karadag, *PhD Candidate, Department of Linguistic and Languages, Faculty of Humanities*
- Katherine Eaton, *PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences*
- Channah Fonseca-Quezada, *PhD Candidate, Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities*
- Kristine Germann, *MA Candidate, Department of English and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities*
- Michael Johnson, *PhD Candidate, Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences*
- Stephen Surlin, *PhD Candidate, Communication, New Media and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities*
- Sarah Whitwell, *PhD Candidate, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities*

# CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

## **HUMAN 2DH3: Introduction to the Digital Humanities**

The Sherman Centre again offered this three-credit semester-length course for a fifth time in the winter 2018 term. Taught by Dr. Mica Jorgenson, the course was redesigned to provide students with a broad introduction to the field of digital humanities, including some of the methods, tools, resources, and debates informing DH scholarship. This year, the course listing in the calendar was made open to non-Humanities students in order to make it easier for students from across campus to enroll.

## **Do More With Digital Scholarship (DMDS)**

A focus in 2018 was on diversifying and growing our 'Do More with Digital Scholarship' workshop series. For the 2018/2019 academic year we offered 10 workshops led by Sherman staff and affiliated individuals within the McMaster Library. Attendance continues to increase steadily and our audience has broadened to include faculty and students from fields and programs in humanities, social sciences, engineering, science, business, and health sciences. Workshops in this series also regularly attract members of the local community. Topics covered in the 2018/2019 academic year included:

- Introduction to Digital Scholarship
- Time Management and Digital Organization
- Introduction to GIT
- Introduction to R
- Time Management II - Journaling
- Finding and Mapping Data About Your Community
- Turning Paper Maps Into Interactive Layers
- Integrating Digital Pedagogy
- Introduction to 3D Printing
- Video as a Means of Storytelling

## **Research Data Management**

The Sherman Centre continues to play a key role in developing institutional and national capacity to support research needs for Research Data Management. For example, the 2018 McMaster Research Data Management Forum ([library.mcmaster.ca/research-data-2018](http://library.mcmaster.ca/research-data-2018)) was a day-long event hosted in the Sherman Centre. The purpose of the event was to encourage discussion around the common challenges that researchers face with their data and promote the development and use of shared solutions to these needs. The event welcomed nearly 100 guests from McMaster University and surrounding academic institutions.

## **Electronics for the Rest of Us (ERU)**

We continue to offer both an introductory and advanced version of this course for undergraduates in the Integrated Science (iSci), Arts & Science, and Life Sciences programs. Taught by Dr. Jay Brodeur, this 20-hour, one-unit course introduces students to the basics of coding and electronics using the Arduino platform; students create a working device prototype as their final deliverable.



*Students in Electronics for the Rest of Us, Part 1 share their electronic device creations with their peers.*



### **3D Design and Printing**

Building on previous 3D printing workshops, we offered for the first time a short course in 3D design for printing within the experiential learning track co-sponsored by the Integrated Science (iSci) and Arts & Science (ArtSci) programs. The course introduced students to 3D design tools such as Tinkercad and OpenSCAD to create new designs or modify existing designs and it also familiarized students with design principles that lead to successful and robust printed objects. The course was co-taught by Dale Askey and John Fink and was offered February 8-10, 2018.

### **Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI)**

The Sherman Centre, in conjunction with the University Library, supported three of our Sherman Graduate Residents to attend DHSI in Victoria in June 2018. We provided additional financial support to these students for travel to Victoria.

### **DH@Guelph**

The Sherman Centre, in conjunction with the University Library, supported five graduate students to attend the 4-day workshop series at the University of Guelph. The Sherman Centre was DH@Guelph's first institutional sponsor, and we look forward to continuing to support and collaborate with Dr. Susan Brown and her team at the Humanities Interdisciplinary Collaborative (THINC) Lab.

# OUTREACH

## **Sherman Graduate Colloquium**

Held annually for the past few years, the Sherman Centre Graduate Colloquium provides a friendly and collegial environment for graduate students to practice and refine their research presentation skills, and it showcases to the University community the breadth of digital scholarship research supported by the Sherman Centre.

This year's colloquium featured seven talks by Sherman Centre graduate residents spread over three panel sessions. A summary of the panel sessions and abstract for each talk can be found at <https://scds.ca/events/colloquium/>.



*Melda Cocksun Karadag presents at the 2018/2019 Sherman Centre Graduate Student Colloquium*

## **McMaster Experts**

Sherman Centre staff continued to contribute significant time and expertise to the McMaster Experts project in 2018. McMaster Experts (<https://experts.mcmaster.ca>) represents a major knowledge mobilization project that uses state-of-the-art Web technologies to distill and present accurate representations of the research performed at McMaster to the global community. Gabriela Mircea, John Fink, Dale Askey, and Jay Brodeur participated as core project team members who helped the project reach sustainment status in 2018. Experts clearly demonstrates the value that the Sherman Centre and the University Library can bring to solving campus-scale problems. Additionally, Experts creates a platform that allows the full spectrum of research to be equitably represented, which is critical for researchers, particularly those in the humanities and social sciences, who engage in new forms of digital scholarship.