

## Annual Report SIG-DLS June 2019

### ADHO-Special Interest Group (SIG) "Digital Literary Stylistics" (SIG-DLS)



In the following we report the activities carried out by the SIG-DLS Steering Committee since April 2018.

We are happy to report a steadily growing **membership**. Presently, the SIG-DLS has 79 members. The initial membership included 30 scholars, at the time of writing the 2018 report, we had 65 members. <https://dls.hypotheses.org/about/organisation> The mailing list for communicating within the DLS community has currently 130 subscribers (April 2018: 95 members). <http://lists.lists.digitalhumanities.org/mailman/listinfo/sig-dls>

In the course of the last year, the SIG-DLS has started a [reflection on DLS practices](#), with tested and tried methods, software, and tools. As a result, we launched the [Tool Inventory](#) initiative, a collectively edited list of tools that have been used for literary stylistics, with relevant use cases.

A further result of this reflection on practices is the **upcoming SIG Pre-Conference Workshop** at DH 2019 "[DLSTool Criticism. An Anatomy of Use Cases](#)", with talks by [Clémence Jacquot](#) (Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, France), [Mike Kestemont](#) (University of Antwerp, Belgium), and [Steffen Pielström](#) (University of Würzburg, Germany).

Further activities will follow (to be discussed at the members' lunch meeting following the morning workshop at DH2019 on 9 July), such as a **paper on the Tool inventory and the Anatomy**, as well as a conference on replication cases. Along the same lines, the Steering Committee has published a statement in response in the *Journal of Cultural Analytics* to a polemic article that attacks "computational literary studies" by Nan Z. Da (2019). <https://culturalanalytics.org/2019/05/response-by-the-special-interest-group-on-digital-literary-stylistics-to-nan-z-das-study/>

The SIG has been joined by the **international group Plotting Poetry**, founded in 2017 by Anne-Sophie Bories and now steered by Anne-Sophie Bories, Petr Plecháč (Czech Academy of Sciences) and Pablo Ruiz Fabo (Université de Strasbourg). A Plotting Poetry workshop was organised at FU Berlin in September 2018 (funded by the Volkswagen-Stiftung). A Plotting Poetry conference will take place in Nancy in September 2019, and a 2020 edition is already planned in Prague. The group Plotting Poetry has 58 members, most of which have also joined the SIG. <https://dls.hypotheses.org/activities/about/plotting-poetry>

Following the suggestion by Patrick Juola at the **members' meeting at DH2018** in Mexico City, we started the **organization of the "Scavenger hunt"** initiative, intended as a call for stylometry datasets in the form of a competition. We set up a team composed by Simone Rebora, George Mikros, Joanna

Byszuk, Jonathan Reeve, and Suzanne Mpouli, and collected information about storing facilities and possible sponsors. The initiative is planned to take place in the first months of 2020, with presentation of the winners during the DH2020 Conference.

In November 2018 a **SIG-endorsed** [International workshop at DH Lab Basel, 8-9 November 2018](https://eng.inn.no/conferences/raam-2020/conference-calls/call-for-pre-conference-workshop-proposals) was organized by Berenike Herrmann at Basel University titled “**Intensive Training for Manual and Algorithmic Approaches to Metaphor**”. A follow-up workshop is planned co-located with RaAm 2020 <https://eng.inn.no/conferences/raam-2020/conference-calls/call-for-pre-conference-workshop-proposals>. A full-day **SIG-endorsed** workshop was held at DH2018, organized by Greta Franzini, Mike Kestemont, Marco Büchler, and Enrique Manjavacas on “**The re-creation of Harry Potter: Tracing style and content across novels, movie scripts and fanfiction**”. See the report on our blog <https://dls.hypotheses.org/238>

We have undertaken a variety of **outreach activities**. This includes introducing the SIG-DLS at national and international conferences (e.g., Strasbourg, [Montpellier](#), IGEL 2018); liaising with other, relevant initiatives such as IGEL, PALA and the COST Action “Distant Reading”, as well as presence on twitter (hashtags [#sig\\_dls](#) [#sig-dls](#) [#sig](#) [#dls](#)), and a blogging initiative <https://dls.hypotheses.org/dls-blog> on our website <https://dls.hypotheses.org/>

We have started an **initiative geared towards MA and graduate DLS students**: <https://dls.hypotheses.org/activities/ydls-young-digital-literary-stylometrists>

We organized the [election of part of the Steering Committee](#) among the SIG-DLS membership, using a sophisticated election procedure. Elected were Anne-Sophie Bories and Simone Rebora. Two SC members left, Natalie Houston and Christof Schöch, and were thanked for their efforts! The remaining three members stayed on the SC, Francesca Frontini, Jan Rybicki, and Berenike Herrmann (speaker). To coordinate activities, the Steering Committee convened in a number of Skype meetings and where possible in person.

The SIG-DLS was represented at the annual **SIG conveners’** meeting at DH2018 in Mexico City in June 2018. It will be represented at the SIG-conveners’ meeting in Utrecht DH2019. The SIG-SC took part in discussing the ADHO governance model propositions.

On behalf of the Steering Committee 30 June 2019  
J. Berenike Herrmann