

Virginia Humanities Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University
Thursday, March 31 - Friday, April 1, 2022

“Plot Points: Data, Humanities, and Transformation”

Please visit <http://vahumanitiesconference.org/> for information about the conference and to submit proposals.

The Virginia Humanities Conference invites presentations, panels, and creative arts that address the transformational possibilities at the intersection of arts and humanities, texts and data, and the digital and computational sciences. With data everywhere and texts reiterable the absolute moment after performance, we're being handed vast new worlds of information. The amount is mind-boggling, and in terms of pure quantity, overwhelming to the point of numbing. The humanities help us confront modes of knowledge or types of information we're not always trained or even know how to interpret. Transformation is not a purely data-based process; it's also about experiences, emotions, and stories. When looking for just solutions to our most critical social issues, humanities and the arts interact with collective data to lead to more just choices.

Topics may range and are not limited to:

- The role of the Humanities on issues of race, ethnicity, and social justice
- Is the role of the humanities to resist data, to contextualize it, to complicate or interpret it?
- Partnerships between arts and humanities and digital-based sciences which lead to great creative expressions, or unique research
- Critical Analysis for Social Justice
- Plotted points: quantifiable evidence of humanities' impacts
- How humanities contribute to transformative sciences for inclusive impact
- How design can inform awareness and develop actions for change
- Designing, analyzing, and reflecting trans disciplinary processes necessary to transformative science
- Constructive and emancipatory contributions that convey orientations for social action
- The role humanities plays in sustainability oriented transformative research
- Issues around the collection, creation, curation, and stewardship of data
- Humanities spaces as spaces for challenging or resisting
- Questions about discipline and method: How do different methodologies negotiate an encounter? how disciplines transform in conversation with each other?
- Spaces at the horizons of exciting new opportunities for creative expression
- Unexpected and untapped directions for research

- How do we expand our notion of the humanities to account for the types of data (social sciences) informing our work?
- Surveillance, privacy, and the “right to be forgotten”
- Narratives of coding and decoding
- Historical approaches to the management of data (i.e. archiving and curation)
- Digital redlining
- The environmental impact of big data
- Smart cities: urban planning and AI
- NFTs and artistic ownership in the age of big data
- Universities and data
- Data feminism
- Computing labor: data and employment
- The politics of broadband internet access
- “I’m on Signal”: activism, grassroots organizing, and resisting surveillance
- Data and democracy
- Medical humanities
- Data 4 Black Lives
- Indigenous Data Sovereignty