

Nouveau séminaire
Humanités Numériques Tourangelles



Mardi 4 février 2025

17h-19h - Tours, CESR - Salle Rapin
et en visioconférence

#6 Charting the Evolution of Early Modern Drama Aesthetics: *A Computational Approach*

Luca Giovannini - University of Potsdam

Luca Giovannini works as research coordinator for the Digital Humanities Network at the University of Potsdam. After studying in Turin, Warwick, and Cologne, he is currently completing a joint PhD in comparative literature in Potsdam and Padua. His research interests include computational literary studies and cultural analytics.

In recent years, computational literary studies (CLS) — the study of literary artifacts through quantitative and computational methods — has emerged as a central pillar of the digital humanities, and now boasts a robust infrastructure, including dedicated journals, conferences, and research communities. By employing 'data-driven' and 'data-assisted' approaches (Escobar Varela 2022), scholars have explored a wide range of questions in narratology, stylistics, and genre theory, developing a broad palette of methods to address such tasks (cf. Schöch, Dudar, and Fileva 2023).

A particularly compelling research strand within CLS focuses on the charting of literary history, often drawing on models and concepts from cultural evolution studies. In this talk, I will present an application of CLS methods to investigate the evolution of early modern European drama (ca. 1550–1700). By applying computational techniques to a multilingual corpus of plays, I will demonstrate how we can empirically follow the development of different theatrical aesthetics across the continent and how this can confirm or challenge traditional scholarship on the topic.

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Centre d'études supérieures de la Renaissance
59, rue Néricault-Destouches BP 12050 -37020 Tours Cedex 1
Contact - Elena Pierazzo / elena.pierazzo@univ-tours.fr



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