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DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE STORICHE GEOGRAFICHE E DELL'ANTICHITA' – DiSSGeA

Mobility & the Humanities
Seminar Series
Nodo “Texts/Books”

Books in Motion and Digital Archives
University of Padua, 19 November 2019

Paul Nelles

Department of History
Carleton University, Ottawa

Title: *Jesuits, Mobility, and Writing*

Abstract: The paper examines the intersection of mobility and writing in the Society of Jesus in the sixteenth century. Defined from the beginning by an ethos of mission and mobility, Jesuits developed a number of written instruments to facilitate Jesuit movement at the regional, transnational, and global levels. The paper explores how the production and circulation of Jesuit written artefacts created a global communications circuit.

Daniel Bellingradt

Institute for the Study of the Book
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg

Title: *Books and Book History in Motion*

Abstract: In this paper I will present a book project, now a volume edited by myself, Paul Nelles and Jeroen Salman, with the title “Books in Motion in Early Modern Europe. Beyond Production, Circulation and Consumption”. The study offers a coherent volume of thirteen chapters in the field of early modern book history covering a wide range of topics and it is written by renowned scholars in the field.

All together we attempt to propose a new approach in book history, by demonstrating how the concepts of materiality, sociality and spatiality are all related to the mobility of the books in the early modern world.

Cornelis J. Schilt

Newton Mint Papers Project & Newton Project Transcription Manager
Linacre College, Oxford

Title: *Working with Isaac: Newton's Digital Archive and the Challenges for Digital Humanities*

Abstract: Thanks to the efforts of the Oxford-based Newton Project, most of Newton's manuscripts have now been reunited in the digital realm. For the first time since his death in 1727, a reader can study Newton's writings as if he or she were sitting behind his desk, in Trinity College or in his house in London, observing a genius at work. Only now can we make full-scale comparative, cross-disciplinary studies of how Newton's ideas evolved, and how the various projects he was working on connected and intersected. Only now are his writings truly available and accessible, and can we use

sophisticated digital tools and techniques to study and compare these in a fraction of the time it took scholars from the past.

At the same time, the digital reunion of Newton's archive poses questions about our concepts of text, manuscript, and edition. Archival designations, reflecting the travels of Newton's writings, turn out to be problematic or even meaningless when curating and using a digital archive, suggesting that we need to consider new, digital-born placeholders. Similarly, the roles of editor and user blend: text and apparatus are now fluid and allow a workspace where an editor-user can work with bespoke editions, created to answer specific research questions, be they topical, material, or even involving provenance. In this seminar, I will address these and related topics, making full use of the wealth of materials provided by the Newton Project and my own research into Newton's working practices.