Announcement - JHI-UTSC Digital Humanities Early Career Fellowships

The Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI) is delighted to announce that two JHI-UTSC Digital Humanities Early Career Fellowships have been awarded for 2020-21.

The JHI-UTSC Digital Humanities Early Career Fellowship is an 18-month scholarship that supports the development of research projects in the humanities and social sciences with a DH component at the University of Toronto Scarborough. It is supported by:

- Jackman Humanities Institute
- Digital Humanities Network
- University of Toronto Scarborough
- Digital Scholarship Unit
- Office of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean, UTSC
- Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation, UTSC

Mark V. Campbell | Project Title: AfroSonic Audio: Archival interruptions by hip hop’s esoteric and ephemeral arts

Mark V. Campbell (Ph.D. 2010, Sociology and Equity Studies, OISE/University of Toronto) is Assistant Professor of Music and Culture in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media. He is a DJ and Curator with research interests that include Afrosonic cultures, hip hop archives and DJ cultures. As founder of Northside Hip Hop Archive, Dr. Campbell and his work have been covered by various media outlets such as Toronto Life, The Globe & Mail, The FADER, CBC’s Q, Red Bull Music, CityTV, Urbanology Magazine, Pacific Standard, hiphopcanada.com, The Puritan, Now Magazine, the Washington Post and others.

AfroSonic Audio is a research creation project by which Dr. Campbell works at the intersections of Black studies, musicology and the digital humanities to produce two audio tracks utilizing archival materials from Toronto’s sonic lineage. In this project, Mark asks two main questions:

1. “How can the archiving of hip hop’s sonic innovations contribute creative and conceptual methodologies focused on decolonizing the archive?”
2. “Since digital technologies allow for a greater visibility and appreciation of black cultural repertoire, can the creative process of performing embodied black cultural knowledges remix notions of preservation?”

To answer these questions, his project is divided into three research and creative components.

Digitization: Thirty radio shows from the longest running hip hop radio show in Canada—the Masterplan Show (CIUT 89.5fm)—and thirty analogue mixtapes from Toronto and the GTA will be digitized and annotated.
Annotation & Ideation: After listening to all the audio, the project team will assign metadata attributes to the annotated archival audio, including capturing aspects of localism, vernacular and DJ techniques that speak specifically to the Toronto context. These annotations will be used as part of a course assignment and experiential DJ lab in Mark’s UTSC course.

Writing & Creation: Two new audio tracks will integrate audio samples chosen from the archival materials, with feedback and collaboration from DJs on the Masterplan Radio Show. Other outputs include an annotated bibliography and a journal article.

Alejandro I. Paz | Project Title: Visualizing Sources: The Intertextual Epistemics of News, MediaCAT & Digital Palestine/Israel

Alejandro I. Paz (Ph.D. 2010, Anthropology and Linguistics, University of Chicago) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

His research addresses the relation between language, public communication, media and citizenship, and regionally he researches Israel in the Middle East. Alejandro’s publications to date and work in progress are based on extensive ethnographic, archival and linguistic fieldwork in Israel/Palestine.

In his latest project, Alejandro considers the impact of Israeli English-language news websites on the digital dissemination of news about Israel and Palestine specifically, and about the Middle East more generally. He collaborates with others on an extensive digital component, in order to better track the digital dissemination of news online. The web-application they’ve been developing is called MediaCAT.

The last twenty years have seen decisive shifts in the production and consumption of news and information in the North Atlantic. This project explores new ways to visualize the intertextual knowledge that forms in this new media environment. In particular, he and his team will develop visualizations for a new digital tool, called MediaCAT, that creates a corpus to study the intertextual sourcing in contemporary journalism.

Alejandro’s project will link three existing research and pedagogical goals:

1. Improve on how we conceptualize the digital dissemination of sources, and the visualizations of digital intertextuality, by developing and publicizing new kinds of visualizations as part of an existing Digital Humanities tool developed at the UTSC called MediaCAT.

2. Enable analysis and publications based on a new corpus produced by MediaCAT on the impact of Israeli English journalism.

3. Promote the use of MediaCAT and contribute to a working group dedicated to examining Digital Palestine/Israel.

For more information, email JHI Director Alison Keith or JHI Communications Officer Sonja Johnston.