

11:30 - 13:30

📍 Room 5818

חדר



910 - Communication and Print Culture in the Jewish History: The Affordances of Computational Research

Chair: Vered Silber-Varod

Jewish Broadsheets as In-House Literature

Hanna Gentili (H)

ההרצאה תבחן את קורפוס הדפים הבודדים המודפסים בתרבות היהודית, מהעת החדשה המוקדמת ועד העת החדשה, הן דפים שיצרו יהודים בלשונות היהודים והן דפים הנוגעים לעניינים יהודיים בלשונות אחרות. דפים כאלה קיימים מאז המאה ה-16 ואולי אף קודם לכן. הדף הבודד הוא יחידת ההדפסה הבסיסית, ודפים שימשו למגוון רחב של שימושים, ביניהם לימוד השפה, לוחות שנה, ליטורגיה, תקנות של קהילות, מוסר, הודעות על ספרים ועל יכולות של בתי דפוס, קמיעות, מכתבי הסמכה של שד"רים, טפסי תשלום, כתובות ועוד הרבה. דפים אלה נותרו בשולי המחקר, ובספריות רבות הם אינם מקוטלגים. על פי הערכה יש עד המאה ה-19 כ-10,000 דפים לפחות

פרוייקט המחקר בתמיכת הקרן הלאומית למדע, 'אוצר הדפים הבודדים', שבסיסו במעבדת המדיה של האוניברסיטה הפתוחה, מתמקד באיסוף ובמחקר של דפים כאלה מרחבי העולם. בהרצאה אסקור גם את הממצאים על הדפים, והסוגות שלהם, וגם את הכלים הדיגיטליים המשמשים למחקרם





The Historical Digital Analysis of Hasidic Stories until 1914

Gadi Sagiv (H)

Hasidic stories are invaluable sources for the study of Eastern European Hasidism. Stories provided an important vehicle in hasidic culture by which diverse followers from various social strata could experience and express their hasidic affiliation. Hasidic stories are thus unique in their constituting a mass corpus that captures the perspective of the rank-and-file followers of the hasidic movement. Preliminary research indicates that no fewer than 150 collections containing hasidic stories were printed from 1814, the year of the publication of the first collection of hasidic stories, up to the First World War. The number of stories is estimated at about 5000 literary units, totaling at about 15,000 for the whole period from 1814 till today. As a mass corpus of texts, hasidic stories seem to invite digital quantitative research that can be done on its complete corpus. However, thus far, research on hasidic stories has been done primarily employing qualitative methods and drawing from partial material.

The presented project employs the approach and methods of Digital Humanities on the corpus of all hasidic stories published from the emergence of Hasidism in the mid 18th century until 1914. In particular, the project aims to explore textual patterns that can shed light on significant aspects of the stories and culture in which they are embedded: historical changes in emphasis on various topics, personalities, places, and events; networks of people and ideas; and spatial dynamics. By applying computational tools on the complete corpus of all the stories, rather than a partial collection, the project intends to draw robust conclusions about the general nature of hasidic stories. Furthermore, the proposed projects approach will enable the introduction of, and response to, novel questions that could not have been addressed hitherto within the boundaries of qualitative research.





Periodicals in Motion: Textual Reuse and the Hebrew Journalistic Networks in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century

Zef Segal (H)

The second half of the 19th century saw the establishment of numerous Hebrew periodicals that would play a major role in constituting a modern Hebrew "Republic of letters". While previous studies of Jewish journalistic networks used qualitative research methods, this study uses computational tools to provide a wider perspective on the phenomenon of Hebrew periodical networks. The corpus consists of five Hebrew journals (HaTzfira, HaMagid, HaMelitz, HaLebanon, and Havazelet) published between 1874 and 1883.

The main problem in the analysis of historical networks is detecting the existence and structure of the networks. In this study, we identify and analyze networks through published texts and their similarities in exact phrasing and styles. One direct method of tracing similarity is to identify quoted texts within other texts. This study utilizes a commercial software, Originality, used by Israeli universities to check the originality of academic work, in order to trace textual reuse within the corpus.

A more nuanced connection between texts can be revealed by similarity in style. Stylometry, the statistical analysis of a literary style, is usually used to prove the authenticity of documents. This study uses stylo, an open R package, but instead of using it for authorship detection, it is used as a classification method, differentiating between literary circles and journalistic genres.

The evaluation of the results was conducted in a mixed-methods approach: edge weights and delta-similarity were used to identify proximity between journalistic items, network analysis to identify clusters, and close reading of a smaller sample to develop a typology of similarities.

This paper presents the research, its integration of multiple computational tools, and suggests a categorization of textual similarities and reuse: from linguistic conventions of the Hebrew language, such as reuse of biblical phrases, to outright plagiarism of articles.



Response

Ophir Münz-Manor (H)