DHSS Hub NEWSLETTER

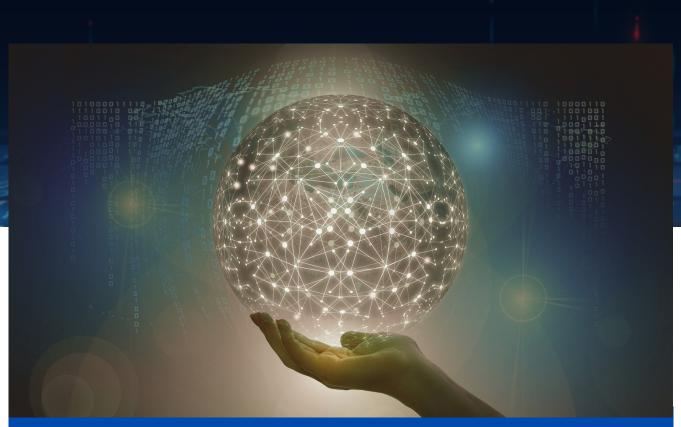**Digital Humanities and Social Sciences**
The Open University of Israel

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The Magic of Network Analysis

Everything is connected in one way or another, but understanding how things are connected and what secrets can the connections reveal requires a special way of looking at the world. Through Network Analysis we can uncover this hidden dimension and draw insights about the subject of our research.

Although Network Analysis is originally a branch of mathematics, with various applications such as in epidemiology, physics and economics, it has been proven valuable for humanists as well as social scientists. Whether it is the relation between real people or fictional characters, between words or topics, between hashtags or articles, Network Analysis can be of use. (Learn More about NA: **Gephi**, **Cytoscape**, **Visone**).

If you are interested in incorporating Network Analysis in your research, you are invited to **contact us**.

Research Spot: Metaphor Detection in Hebrew Piyyut

Distinguishing between literal and figurative language is essential for computers in order to understand language. However, machine learning models mainly focus on non-poetic texts and none deal with Hebrew. In this research, Prof. Ophir Münz-Manor in collaboration with computer scientists from the Technion seek to fill this gap by developing tools for automatic detection of metaphors in poems written in the Galilee between the 5-8th centuries CE.

Hebrew is an especially challenging language for computer analysis, since it is morphologically rich. To overcome this difficulty, Münz-Manor used a trained encoder, combining it with a language model called AlephBert, fine-tuned with labeled dataset of metaphors. In order to improve the success of the metaphor detection, Münz-Manor works on a classifier that will incorporate BEREL, a language model that was pre-trained on Rabbinic texts. **For further reading, p' 521**

Upcoming Events

Launch Event for the Art Catalogue of "The Gatekeeper" by Alon Porat: You are cordially invited to join us for the launch on October 13, Friday, at 11:00, in the gallery of The Open University. **Register Here**

DHSS Hub Seminar
Dr. Nurit Melnik will open our annual seminar on October 23, Monday, at 9:30, with a lecture on "What Can We Learn about Language When a Machine Learns it?" (**For More**)