

Women in Digital Work¹:

Academic and practitioner perspectives

22 May 2019, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Room 706, Adam Smith Building

Hosted by the Social and Digital Change Group, the event aims to:

- 1) strengthen the dialogue between scholarly understandings of the digital age and the everyday life of women who work with digital tools and
- 2) increase the visibility of women doing digital work.

Invited speakers:

Gabriele Griffin

Professor of Gender Research, Uppsala University

Abstract:

The Intersectionalized Worker in the 21st Century: Gender, Digital Humanities, and Disavowal

The focus of my paper is on women (and men) working in Digital Humanities (DH) in higher education institutions in the Nordic countries. When I talked with such DH practitioners, I was very struck by how many of them, even as they were Directors of Centres for Digital Humanities, disavowed their relation to DH (e.g. 'I'm not a DH scholar' was a very common phrase). A bit like 'I'm not a feminist but. . .'. In trying to understand this disavowal, I began to look at their professional life histories, their relation to technology, and their relation to their institutions. This led to thinking about intersectionality and feminist materialism, and the ways in which workers are constructed and construct themselves in the neoliberal university. Hence the notion of 'the intersectionalized worker'. That notion expands how we think about intersectionality: intersectionality is commonly aligned with the mantra sex-race-class but here I want to think about institutional as much as personal ontologies to suggest that the agency new forms of working suggest to the worker are also structured, indeed compromised, by organizational ontologies over which the worker has limited or no control. Disavowal then becomes a reasonable response to a complex and contradictory situation.

Biographical note:

Gabriele Griffin is professor in the Centre for Gender Research. Her current research focuses on women's cultural production, non-normative identities, higher education and disciplinization, and diasporic cultures. From 2017 she is Coordinator of the Nordforsk-funded Nordic Centre of Excellence NORDWIT in which she also researches on gender and the digital humanities. She also coordinates the

¹ This event is organised by the Social and Digital Change Group, University of Glasgow. More details will follow. For further information, please contact Greti-lulia.Ivana@glasgow.ac.uk

SIDA-funded capacity-building project on gender, with the partners Eduardo Montelane University, Mozambique and Free State University, South Africa.

Rachel Hamada

Co-founder and director of online investigative journalism outlet The Ferret

Abstract:

Time to Take Up Space: Women and the Journalism New Wave

Remote working, flexible hours and digital publication offer many opportunities for women to take up space in the new media world that is evolving as the traditional media industry contracts. So why are so many of these new projects still male dominated.

Rachel Hamada will speak about the structural challenges facing women working in the new wave of digital journalism and how she and colleagues are trying to tackle these so that more women and other marginalised groups can be more deeply involved in the participatory journalism process – and journalism can finally mainstream issues that matter to women instead of siloing them or ignoring them.

Biographical note:

Rachel Hamada is a co-founder and director of the online investigative journalism outlet The Ferret. She is also currently working for another online venture, the Bureau Local, which applies a highly innovative model of bottom-up journalism to allow stories to emerge more organically. The Bureau Local is funded by Google and has over 900 members. Rachel has also been involved in feminist news networks and running women-only workshops to counter the male-dominated atmosphere of journalism.

Katherine Rogers

The Digital Humanities Institute, The University of Sheffield

Abstract:

Katherine Rogers has worked as a software engineer for 20 years, both in the commercial sector and for the past thirteen years, as a research software engineer at the University of Sheffield's Digital Humanities Institute. Katherine will describe how, with a non-technical background, she pursued a career in the software industry. She will discuss how creativity and puzzle-solving attracted her to software development, as well as the overlap with her first degree (history) and her personal interests. She will contrast her experience of working within the private commercial sector with working in a research environment within a university. She will describe her personal experience of working in digital humanities on more than twenty projects. She will ask whether universities still have a gender imbalance with respect to technical (and specifically IT) roles, and if so, reflect on the causes of that imbalance.

Biographical note:

Katherine has 20 years' experience of software development and has worked, as a Research Software Engineer, at the University of Sheffield's Digital Humanities Institute for for 13 years, designing and developing software for digital humanities research projects. She has worked on more than twenty research projects and was also a Technical Reviewer for the AHRC for 8 years. She taught on the Digital

Humanities pathway for the University's MA Public Humanities. Projects she has led technical development on include Bess of Hardwick's Letters, Connected Histories, Tudor Chamber Books, Jaina Prosopography, and the Borthwick Cause Papers.

Catherine Lido

Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Glasgow

Abstract:

We will present the work of the EPSRC-funded VisNET project (PI Ann Anderson, Co-PIs Caroline Gauchotte-Lindsay, Helen Mulvana and Catherine Lido). VisNET was developed to support early career female academics (postdoctoral researchers), in engineering and related tech areas, to support their development of international networks, and industrial tech collaborations, using virtual and distance networking tools. The focus of VisNET is 1) To identify key barriers to international collaboration for early career female engineering academics 2) To design and demonstrate interventions and new best practices in networking and collaborations to define a new and more effective normal, in the digital age and 3) Evaluate such interventions using novel mixed-methodologies to visualise network and digital research impact growth. In sum, VisNET proposes virtual digital interventions to remodel the implicit 'rules' of networking and collaboration in engineering and tech-related career trajectories. The interdisciplinary academic (U. of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Strathclyde) and industrial consortium we have brought together will lead the way in developing, integrating and advocating a new approach to conduct these activities largely in situ (i.e. from the researchers' home institution), blurring the physical boundaries of conferences, research collaborations and outward dissemination.

Biographical note:

Dr Catherine Lido is a Social Psychologist in the School of Education, University of Glasgow, with more than 15 years' experience lecturing and researching the psychology of stereotyping, prejudice and diversity. She is Co-Investigator, and an educational researcher for Urban Big Data Centre, where she explores educational marginalisation, using big data and innovative technology. Dr Lido is also Co-Investigator on the EPSRC-funded VisNET project supporting early career women in STEM (the focus of this talk). Her PhD, from the University of Sussex, was in the area of gender stereotypes in occupational settings.

She recently delivered a keynote on big data implications for social inclusion to the Royal Society of Edinburgh- Ministry of Science & Technology 'Big Data Workshop' (Taiwan). Dr Lido collaborated successfully on an ESRC, IAA 'Visualising Life-wide Literacies', presenting innovative public engagement work at the ESRC Festival of Social Science, MossFest, BBC Radio Scotland and will feature on the cover of The Psychologist Magazine in June on 'Big data in the big city: Using novel technology to explore inclusion in Learning Cities'.

For further information on this event, please contact Greti-Iulia.Ivana@glasgow.ac.uk