

Stephen Ramsay

Susan J. Rusowski Associate University Professor

Department of English
303 Andrews Hall
P.O. Box 880333
Lincoln, NE 68588-0333
<http://stephenramsay.us/>

1845 B. St.
Lincoln, NE 68502-1636
(402) 613-0086
sramsay.unl@gmail.com

Education

Ph.D., English, University of Virginia, 2003
M.A., English, University of Virginia, 2000
B.A., *summa cum laude* in English, Rutgers University, 1992

Books

Reading Machines: Toward an Algorithmic Criticism. University of Illinois Press, 2011. “Algorithmic Criticism”—inspired in part by the scientific imaginary as it appears in twentieth-century art—reconceives computer-assisted critical analysis not as an empirical pursuit, but as an activity dependent upon self-conscious (and insistently subjective) reconfigurations of textual artifacts that can in turn prompt the analyst to new insight. In this view, the computer becomes not merely an efficient tool for undertaking pre-interpretive reorganizations, but a new lens with which we may gain alternative visions of the text. Freed from the strictures of scientism, the algorithmic critic seeks to create tools that enable critical engagement not through the adumbration of a heightened objectivity, but through the cultivation of a heightened subjectivity.

Major Research Grants and Projects

IC2Think. Co-PI on a project devoted to the development of curricular materials for cross-discipline computer science courses. Funded by the National

Science Foundation's CPATH program in 2011 (\$600,000) and the iUse program (\$873,251) in 2014.

Abbot. Co-investigator on a project aimed at facilitating collections interoperability for humanities materials (in particular, the TCP Collections, which include 70,000 texts from the first two-hundred years of English print culture). Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$250,000).

The MONK Project. Co-investigator (lead at UNL) on a multi-institutional effort to create an infrastructure for data mining and visualization of large literary corpora. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$900,000).

Evince. Co-PI on a project aimed at designing user interfaces for the inclusion of text-analytical information in richly-encoded humanities documents. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$50,000).

Renaissance Computing. Co-PI on a project to develop discipline-specific computer-science curricula (for the humanities, arts, music, engineering, and biology). Funded by the National Science Foundation (\$77,000).

Articles

"Hard and Soft Constraints: Designing Software in the Digital Humanities" (forthcoming). *Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities*. 2nd ed. Eds. Susan Schreibman and Ray Siemens. Oxford: Blackwell.

"Where Semantics Lies" (forthcoming) *The Shape of Data in Digital Humanities*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate.

"The Hermeneutics of Screwing Around; Or, What You Do with a Million Books" in *Pastplay: Teaching and Learning History with Technology*. Ed. Kevin Kee. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014.

"Who's In and Who's Out" and "On Building" in *Defining Digital Humanities: A Reader*. Eds. Melissa Terras, Julianne Nyhan and Edward Vanhoutte. Surrey, UK: Ashgate, 2013.

"Programming with Humanists: Reflections on Raising an Army of Hacker-Scholars in the Digital Humanities." *Teaching Digital Humanities: Princi-*

ples, Practices, Politics. Ed. Brett D. Hirsch. Cambridge, UK: OpenBook, 2013.

“Developing Things: Notes Toward an Epistemology of Building” (with Geoffrey Rockwell). *Debates in the Digital Humanities*. Ed. Matthew Gold. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.

“Open Access and Scholarly Values: A Conversation” (with Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Dan Cohen) and “Interdisciplinary Spaces.” *Hacking the Academy* Eds. Dan Cohen and Tom Scheinfeldt. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012.

“Algorithms are Thoughts, Chainsaws Are Tools.” *Electronic Book Review*, 2012.

(co-author with Soh, Leen Kiat et al.) “Renaissance Computing: An Initiative for Promoting Student Participation in Computing.” *Proceedings of the 40th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE)*. New York: ACM, 2009.

“Algorithmic Criticism” *A Companion to Digital Literary Study*. Eds. Susan Schreibman and Ray Siemens. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

“In Praise of Pattern.” *TEXT Technology*. 14.2 (2005): 177–90.

“Databases.” *A Companion to Digital Humanities*. Eds. Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, John Unsworth. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.

“Toward an Algorithmic Criticism.” *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 18.2 (2003): 167–174.

“‘On Not Knowing Greek:’ Virginia Woolf and the New Ancient Greece.” *Virginia Woolf: Turning the Centuries*. New York: Pace UP, 2000.

Papers and Presentations

Invited speaker, “Data and Interpretation.” Digital Scholarship Day of Ideas: Data. University of Edinburgh, May 2014.

Keynote speaker, “What is a Publisher?” Open Access Week. University of Iowa, October 2013.

- Invited speaker, "Stanley and Me: Text Analysis and Literary Criticism." Loyola University Chicago, December 2012.
- "Code-Generation Techniques for Document Collections Interoperability." Digital Humanities 2012. University of Hamburg, July 2012.
- Invited speaker, "What is Data Mining?" Jane Austen and Her Contemporaries (NEH Summer Seminar). University of Missouri, July 2012.
- "Centers are People." Digital Humanities Summit (sponsored by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation). University of Nebraska-Lincoln, April 2012.
- Invited panelist, "The Hot Thing." *Debates in the Digital Humanities*. Book Launch and Symposium. University of Pittsburgh, April 2012.
- Invited speaker, "Where Semantics Lies." Knowledge Organization and Data Modeling in the Humanities, Brown University, March 2012.
- Keynote speaker, "Found: Data, Textuality, and the Digital Humanities." Sustainable Data from Digital Research: Humanities Perspectives on Digital Scholarship. University of Melbourne, December 2011.
- "Code Generation Techniques for Document Collections Interoperability." Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, November 2011.
- Keynote speaker, "Textual Behavior in the Human Male." Inaugural Symposium of The Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures (The Humanities in a Digital Age), University of Virginia, November, 2011.
- Keynote speaker, "What You Don't Know You Don't Know: Librarianship and the Robot Uprising." Joint Annual Meeting of the Mid-America and Southwestern Association of Law Librarians, University of Kansas, November, 2011.
- Invited speaker, "Textual Behavior in the Human Male." Digital Humanities Seminar (speaker series), Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, September, 2011.
- Invited speaker, "Prison Art." Response to *Mining with Criminal Intent*. Digging into Data Challenge Conference, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC, June, 2011.

- “Who’s In and Who’s Out.” Panel Title: The History and Future of Digital Humanities. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, January, 2011.
- “The Meandering through Textuality Challenge: Reflections on the Humane Archive.” Panel Title: Digging into Data: Computational Methods of Literary Research. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, January, 2011.
- Invited speaker, “Care of the Soul.” Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, October, 2010.
- Keynote speaker, “Knowing It When You See It: Humanistic Inquiry in the Age of Big Data” Mind the Gap: Bridging HPC and the Humanities, University of Alberta, May, 2010.
- Invited panelist, “Centers of Attention.” Panel Title: Changing Centers of Digital Scholarship: Engaging Students and Faculty. Knowledge Futures Spring Forum, The Claus M. Halle Institute for Global Learning, Emory University, April, 2010
- Invited speaker, “The Hermeneutics of Screwing Around.” Brown University, April, 2010.
- Invited speaker, “The End of the World: Digital Humanities and the Transformation of the Disciplines.” The Future of Digital Scholarship: Preparation, Training, Curricula (symposium sponsored by the Council on Library and Information Resources), Emory University, April 2009.
- “Interoperabiliousness: A Learned Reflection on TEI and Interoperability.” Panel Title: TEI Analytics. TEI Members’ Meeting 2008, King’s College London, November, 2008.
- Invited speaker, Inaugural Symposium for the Digital Humanities Initiative at Buffalo. State University of New York at Buffalo, 2008.
- Invited speaker, “Rules of the Order.” Tool Development Workshop sponsored by the AHRC-ICT Methods Network. Kings College, London, 2007.
- Invited speaker, “Mining on the Fly.” e-Science for Arts and Humanities Research: An Early Adopters Forum, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Champaign, Illinois, 2007.

“High Performance Computing for English Majors.” Panel Title: High-Performance Computing and Textual Studies. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, 2006.

Keynote address, “TEI: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the DOM.” Text Encoding Initiative Annual Members Meeting, October, 2006.

“Distinguished Speakers: Keyword Extraction and Critical Analysis with Virginia Woolf’s *The Waves*.” Digital Humanities 2006, Université Paris-Sorbonne, July, 2006.

Invited Speaker, “Computerized Criticism (with Humans).” Brown University, April, 2006; SUNY Buffalo, April, 2006.

“Lies, Damn Lies, and Literary Criticism.” Panel Title: Textual Analysis: What’s Data Got to Do with It? Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, 2006.

“Tamarind: Scholarly Text Analysis.” Panel Title: New Technologies of Literary Investigation: Digital Demonstrations. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, 2006.

Invited speaker, “The Hermeneutical Project of Computing in the Humanities.” University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 2005.

Invited speaker, “Lists (And Other Low-Level Concerns).” University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 2005.

“Mining Shakespeare.” Joint International Conference of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Victoria, 2005.

“The Tamarind Project and D2K.” Panel Title: A Revolutionary Approach to Humanities Computing?: Tools Development and the D2K Data-Mining Framework. Joint International Conference of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Victoria, 2005.

Invited presentation, “The Hamilton Accords.” Text Analysis Summit (Text Analysis Developers Alliance), McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2005.

- Keynote address, “In Praise of Pattern.” The Face of Text: 3rd Conference of the Canadian Symposium on Text Analysis (CaSTA), McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2004.
- “Tool-Time Architectures.” Panel Title: TAPoRware: Simple Portal Tools for Text Analysis. Joint International Conference of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, Göteborg University, 2004.
- (with Geoffrey Rockwell, McMaster University), “The Rebecca Game.” Panel Title: Critical Gaming in the Arts and Humanities. Joint International Conference of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, Göteborg University, 2004.
- “Cybernetic Constructivism.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Diego, 2003.
- Invited presentation, “Distributed Computing in the Humanities: Simple Object Access Protocol vs. Representational State Transfer.” Mellon Digital Tools Meeting, University of Illinois, 2003.
- Invited panelist, “The Age of Tools.” Panel Title: Tools Development and Research. IATH 10th Anniversary Symposium. Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia, 2003.
- Invited panelist, “Some Historical Considerations Concerning Web Publishing: 1450–2003.” Panel Title: Update on the Globalization and Autonomy Compendium. 2nd Globalization and Autonomy Team Meeting, University of Toronto, 2003.
- (with Geoffrey Rockwell, McMaster University), “Writing as Programming as Writing.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Georgia, 2003.
- Panel session, “Peer Review of Humanities Computing Software.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Georgia, 2003.

- “OuLiPian Technology.” 20th-Century French Studies Colloquium, University of Illinois, 2003.
- Invited speaker, “Leonhard Euler and William Shakespeare.” Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Lecture Series. Middlebury College, Vermont, 2003.
- Invited speaker, “How To Do Things (To Texts) with Computers.” McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2003.
- “Toward an Algorithmic Criticism.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, University of Tübingen, 2002.
- “Relational Ontologies and the New Historicism.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers in the Humanities, University of Tübingen, 2002.
- Invited panelist, “Lawyers, Hackers, Professors, and Freedom.” Coalition for Networked Information Spring Task Force Meeting, Washington, DC, 2002.
- Invited speaker, “The Computer and the Critics.” University of Georgia, 2002.
- “Planning Obsolescence: Dynamic Architectures for Digital Scholarship.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Computers in the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, New York University, 2001.
- Invited speaker, “The Internet Jitters: Lessons from Technology Revolutions Past.” Sagan National Colloquium Series, Ohio Wesleyan University, 2000.
- “The Granby Suite.” eXtreme Markup Technologies, Montreal, 2000.
- “Designing Search and Delivery Architectures: The Implications of XML for Scholarship and Dissemination.” Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative, British Library, 2000.
- “The Forest and the Trees: Legal Documents as Data.” Law, Business, and Society Meeting, Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, 2000.
- Invited panelist, “Why XML Is Good for Programmers (And Why You Should Care).” American Library Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 1999.

Published Reviews

“Unit Operations: An Approach to Videogame Criticism by Ian Bogost. *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 22.3: 369–70.

Video

“Algorithms are Thoughts, Chainsaws are Tools” (23:47). *Vimeo*. Invited presentation for the Critical Code Studies Working Group, 2010.

(with Geoffrey Rockwell) “Writing as Programming as Writing” (14:19). *Vimeo*. 2003/2009.

Audio

Digital Campus is a popular podcast run by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University that features discussions of topics in digital humanities and education technology. I have appeared on the program five times: “Episode 25: Get with the Program,” “Episode 46: Theremin Dreams,” “Episode 49: The Twouble with Twecklers,” “Episode 58: Anthologize LIVE,” and “Episode 87: You Guys Sound Fantastic.”

Academic/Research Positions

Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (August 2009–present).

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (August 2006–August 2009).

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Georgia (August 2002–May 2006).

Senior Programmer, Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia (November 1999–May 2002).

Senior Programmer, Virginia Center for Digital History, University of Virginia (November 1999–July 2000).

Assistant Director, Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia (August 1998–November 1999).

Teaching

I regularly teach courses—for both the Department of English and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering—on programming and software engineering for students in the humanities (with a particular focus on text analysis and software design). I also regularly teach courses in drama, including both introductory surveys and upper-division courses on modern theater (1850–1950). I have in the past taught Shakespeare, digital narratives, and theory of new media, as well as general literature surveys (pre- and post-1700).

Academic Service

Coordinator for the Digital Humanities Minor (2014–present). Coordinator for the Digital Humanities Certificate Program (2012–2013). Elected member of the Executive Council of the Association for Computers and the Humanities (2004–2007), Chair of the ACH Employment Committee, and a member of ACH nominating committee (2004). Member of the Publications Committee for the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (2005). Member of the Executive Committee for the Discussion Group on Computer Studies in Language and Literature of the Modern Language Association (2005–2009).

Awards and Honors

Susan J. Rosowski Associate University Professorship, 2013–present.

Arts and Science College Award for Distinguished Teaching, 2013.

Academic Freedom Award (Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska), 2009.

Languages and Technical Skills

I have developed software architectures and production-level systems in C, Java, Ruby, Perl, Common Lisp, Clojure, Go, Javascript, and Scheme and have development experience with C++, PHP, and Python. Fifteen years of experience with the major markup technologies (XML, XSLT, and TEI), server-side UNIX programming, and system administration.

Reading knowledge of Latin and Greek.

Professional Memberships

I am a Fellow at both the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and the Canadian Institute for Research in Computing and the Arts (University of Alberta). I am also a member of the Association for Computers in the Humanities, the Text Analysis Developers' Alliance, the Modern Language Association, and the Association for Computing Machinery.