



**DAH Digital Conference**  
**18 November 2016**  
**Trinity College Dublin**

## Digital Entanglements: the post-digital present

Digital humanities is now a well-established discipline; the use of digital skills in humanities research is not the new development it once was. Digital media potentially allow more public engagement with academic research, and more connections between different disciplines. The DAH Digital Conference 2016 seeks to explore whether we in the digital arts and humanities community (and the academic world more widely) have realised the potential of this engagement.

There is entanglement between technology providers and academia; between academia and the marketplace; between the traditional disciplines and between digital arts and humanities. Is this entanglement a source of increased academic and public engagement? Or does it sometimes reinforce the systems of power? In the words of Baudrillard: "Power itself has for a long time produced nothing but the signs of its resemblance." Digital technology has created instruments of empowerment as well as instruments of control. Which predominate in our disciplines and in our institutions? Additionally, what is the role of the analogue in the post-digital moment? The uneasy relationship between manuscript and print after the invention of the Gutenberg printing press shows that drawing lines within media history can obscure syntheses between fading and emerging modes.

These questions may be ultimately unanswerable, but in engaging with the complexities of these entanglements we may begin to unravel some certainties that can guide the future of digital humanities. Profound, engaged debate is the great skill that is learned and developed through the study of the humanities, and that will remain the same into the post-digital future. Over the past five years, the DAH programme has sought to

empower students and staff in the digital arts and humanities in Ireland, to collaborate and share knowledge. By bringing together the DAH community (and the wider Irish public), and engaging in focused exploration of these issues of digital entanglements and post-digital realities, we aim to establish how successful we have been in forming a blueprint for digital humanities engagement in the 21st century.