

2018 Report for the Bergen Electronic Literature Research Group

Members

Leader: Scott Rettberg

Senior researchers: Jill Walker Rettberg, Daniel Apollon, Mia Zamora (Fulbright 2018-19), Chris Ingraham (Fulbright), Anne Karhio (20%)

PhD Candidates: Hannah Ackermans, Elisabeth Nesheim, Patricia Tomaszek

Postdocs: Maud Ceuterick, Álvaro Seiça

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Affiliates: Eric Dean Rasmussen (UiS), Alex Saum (UC Berkeley), Greg Niemeyer (UC Berkeley), Odile Farge (Paris 8), Reham Hosny (Minia University, Egypt), Andrew Klobucar (NJIT), Joseph Tabbi (University of Illinois, Chicago), Leonardo Flores (University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez), Søren Pold (Aarhus University), Christian Ulrik Andersen (Aarhus University), Lisa Swanstrom (U of Utah)

Responsible for research group website: Scott Rettberg

During 2018 the ELRG saw the first successful PhD graduate in our group, Álvaro Seiça, and his attainment of a Marie Curie Global Fellowship, in cooperation with UCLA. We also completed a Peder Sather cooperation project with UC Berkeley (including several events described below), organized an international seminar focused on the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base at UIB, and organized a seminar on “EcoDH” which has resulted in a number of publications. Scott Rettberg completed and published his monograph *Electronic Literature* (Cambridge and New York: Polity). We hosted visiting researchers Piotr Marecki and Andrew Klobucar, and hosted talks by Alex Saum, Greg Neimeyer, Leonardo Flores, Elli Mylanos, Joseph Tabbi, Lisa Swanstrom and Jay David Bolter as well as Elisabeth Nesheim’s Ph.D. master class. With KMD, we organized an exhibition “Hyperobjects” at the Joy Forum gallery. Much of the Autumn 2018 semester was occupied with the development of a consortium and production of a Marie Curie ITN network application for ECLIPSE (Electronic Literature and Creativity in the Public Sphere) submitted in 2019. The consortium includes seven beneficiaries (UiB, Aarhus U, Jagiellonian U, U of Jyväskylä, Paris8 U, U of Coimbra, UT Compiegne) and 25 secondment partners. ELRG members presented at a number of important international conference and published a book, book chapters, and journal articles.



Electronic Literature as DH workshop at UC Berkeley

Activities

Weekly meetings: The Digital Culture Research Group and the Electronic Literature Research Groups have held joint meetings every Thursday from 12:00-13:00 in HF:372. We have focused on establishing a collaborative environment where participants feel encouraged to share research ideas, and so the usual format is an informal roundtable discussion where everybody talks about their current research, with a little extra time for one or two people. This has been very successful, and we plan to continue this into 2019. In addition to weekly meetings, the research group organized the following larger events:

- Guest researcher talks (mentioned above)
- Co-organized “Electronic Literature and the Digital Humanities” workshop at UC Berkeley, with participants from UiB and six California Universities (April 5-6).
- Hyperobjects exhibition at KMD Joy Forum (April 23-May 5)

- ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base Symposium (April 26-27), including a panel debate on digital humanities and the UiB Humanities strategy 26.04.2018 (panelists: Elli Mylonas, Jørgen Sejerstad, Scott Rettberg, Marie-Carme Torras, Anders Fagerjord; debate led by Jill Walker Rettberg.)
- Guest lecturers on Electronic Literature in Spain (Alex Saum) and the Berkeley Center for New Media (Greg Neimeyer) (April 30-May 4)
- EcoDH seminar (June 12-12)

Externally Funded Projects Active in 2018

- **Peder Sather** collaboration grant between UiB and UC Berkeley for “Electronic Literature and the Digital Humanities” project
- **Marie Curie Global Fellowship** Alvaro Sieça, ARTDEL, 3-year postdoc.



Consortium for Electronic Literature at ELO 2018, Montréal

Funding from UiB

35,000 kr for ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base Symposium.

Applications for external funding submitted in 2018

- MSCA-EF-ST-2018: MIGRATING (2-year post.doc, Riham Hosny/Scott Rettberg)
- MSCA-IF-EF-CAR: ACTELIT (2-year post.doc, Odile Farge/Scott Rettberg)

Plans for 2019

The ECLIPSE MCSA ITN application was submitted Jan 14, 2019. This year we intend to apply for Department, SPIRE, and Peder Sather funding in order to develop and continue to develop some in-progress projects: most importantly a planned book project centered on electronic literature as a framework for the digital humanities, emerging from our Peder Sather project and in collaboration with a number of California-based academics, and to increase our collaboration with partner research groups at Brown University, MIT, UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz. Our efforts to support and sustain the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base will also continue. We will continue to develop the resource, and to press our case to the department and faculty that this key research and teaching infrastructure needs to be better supported in order to keep it sustainable: that digital humanities research infrastructure cannot go unsupported at serious research universities. A number of our group will also be attending and presenting e-lit and digital media aesthetics-based research at conferences such as the Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Transmediale, and ISEA. We also anticipate that Elisabeth Nesheim will submit her dissertation on Haptic interfaces and digital art by the end of the Spring 2019 semester and will defend it in the fall. Scott Rettberg is also working with Eamon O’Kane and Greg Niemeyer to develop a new version of the Hyperobjects exhibition in San Francisco. We are in the process of developing a possible SFF application (which will depend to a certain degree on who is hired in our currently advertised position and an anticipated hire in the area in the English Dept.). The SFF application would be focused on establishing a Center for Excellence in Digital Narrative. A good deal of effort this year will go into positioning and developing that proposal. We will continue our joint weekly meetings.

Scholarship published in 2018

- Rettberg, Scott. *Electronic Literature*. Polity Press 2018 (ISBN 9781509516773) 240 p.
- Rettberg, Scott. *Electronic Literature (Keyword)*. *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Literary and Cultural Theory*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018 ISBN 9781350012820. p. 456-457.
- Rettberg, Scott. *Panorama, Glitch, and Photospheres: Machine Vision and the Ghost in the Machine*. *Emerging Aesthetic Imaginaries*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018 ISBN 9781498571999.
- Rettberg, Scott; Coover, Roderick. *Voices from Troubled Shores: Toxi•City: a Climate Change Narrative*. *Electronic Book Review (EBR)*, 2018.
- Rettberg, Scott; Pold, Søren; Nesheim, Elisabeth; Andersen, Christian Ulrik; Swanstrom, Lisa. *Always Inside, Always Enfolded into the Metainterface: A Roundtable Discussion*. *Electronic Book Review (EBR)*, 2018.
- Sieça, Alvaro. “Kinetic Poetry” in *Electronic Literature: Contexts, Forms, and Practices*. West Virginia University Press, 2018 ISBN 978-1-938228-74-2.