

2019 Report for the Bergen Electronic Literature Research Group (BEL)

Members

Leader: Scott Rettberg

Senior researchers: Jill Walker Rettberg, Daniel Apollon, Joseph Tabbi, Nick Montfort, Chris Ingraham (Fulbright 2018-19), Nora Madison (Fulbright 2019-20),

PhD Candidates: Hannah Ackermans, Elisabeth Nesheim, Patricia Tomaszek,

Postdocs: Maud Ceuterick, Álvaro Seica

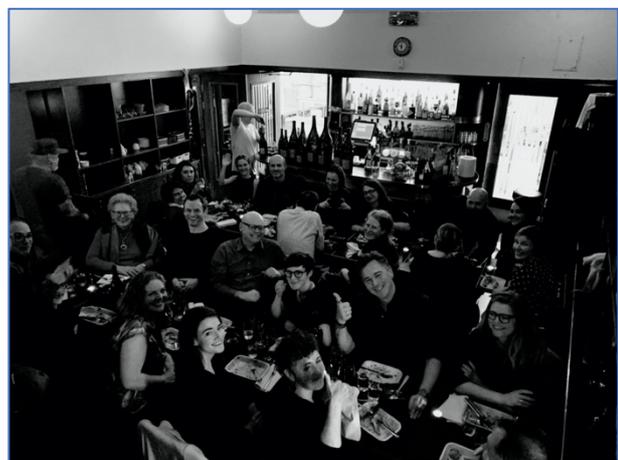
Database Developer: Stein Magne Bjørklund

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Affiliates: Eric Dean Rasmussen (UiS), Alex Saum (UC Berkeley), Greg Niemeyer (UC Berkeley), Andrew Klobucar (NJIT), Joseph Tabbi (University of Illinois, Chicago), Leonardo Flores (University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez), Søren Pold (Aarhus University), Judd Morrissey (SAIC), Christian Ulrik Andersen (Aarhus University), Lisa Swanstrom (U of Utah), Rob Wittig (UMD), Anne Karhio (NUIG), et al.

Responsible for research group website: Scott Rettberg

Highlights: During 2019, BEL led the Digital Narrative Network, a cross-faculty cooperation project which resulted in a number of events. Scott Rettberg's monograph *Electronic Literature* (Cambridge and New York: Polity) won the 2019 N. Katherine Hayles Award for Criticism of Electronic Literature. We hosted visiting talks by Søren Pold, Talan Memmott, Warren Sack, and others. The Digital Narrative Network resulted in a two-day conference, keynoted by N. Katherine Hayles, as well as art and library exhibitions focused on Digital Narrative. We also welcomed internationally renowned electronic literature researchers Joseph Tabbi (UiB English) and Nick Montfort (Professor II, Digital Culture) to our group. Our collaboration with UC Berkeley and the Berkeley Center for New Media has continued fruitfully. With KMD and UC Berkeley arts faculty, we organized new version of the exhibition "Hyperobjects" at the Worth Ryder Gallery in UC's campus. We further co-organized a workshop hosted a UC Santa Barbara on the Electronic Literature as Digital Humanities project, where we workshopped drafts of articles for a thread of publications in *electronic book review*, which will come out in 2020. We developed a collaboration and had a workshop on electronic literature databases with Brown University, which will result in record sharing and co-development of resources with Brown University electronic literature researchers and archivists. BEL members presented at a number of important international conferences (including three invited keynote lectures) and published a number of articles and interviews. A great deal of effort further went into grant writing, including initial development of an SFF proposal for a Center for Digital Narrative, two Marie Curie IF proposals, and revision and resubmission of the ECLIPSE ITN researcher training network proposal. Considerable effort was also expended on developing advertisements and recruiting candidates for two positions in Digital Culture (for associate professors in Electronic Literature and in Interactive Digital Narrative / Games Studies). We expect those positions to be filled by Autumn 2020. Maintenance, development and support of the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base continues to be a pressing concern, particularly with curtailed department funding for the indispensable international research database.



BEL celebrating the successful 2019 Digital Narrative Network Conference and Rewired Exhibition at UiB, November 2019

Weekly meetings and researcher training: 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 2020. Our PhD stipendiat made excellent progress on their dissertation research. Both Elisabeth Nesheim and Patricia Tomaszek are expected to submit their dissertations in 2020. We also held meetings specifically focused on the ELMCIP Knowledge Base on a quarterly basis.

Externally Funded Projects Active in 2018

- **Marie Curie Global Fellowship** Alvaro Sieça, ARTDEL, 3-year postdoc.
- **Marie Curie Fellowship** Maud Ceuterik, AFFIRMATIVE 2-year postdoc
- **POS and PES grants** in support of Marie Curie IF and ITN grant applications

Funding from UiB

200.000 NOK in support of Nick Montfort's appointment as Professor II.

100.000 NOK in support of the Digital Narrative Network

74.740K SPIRE funding for cooperation with UC Berkeley and Brown University

Applications for external funding submitted in 2019

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019 ECLIPSE, MSCA-EF-ST-2019: TECHNOCUL (2-year post.doc, Riham

Hosny/Scott Rettberg), MSCA-IF-EF-CAR-2019: ACTELIT (2-year post.doc, Odile Farge/Scott Rettberg)

Plans for 2020

The ECLIPSE MCSA ITN application was revised and resubmitted in January 2020. Grant applications will continue to be a significant focus for the rest of the year, with an NFR Fripro application "Extending Digital Narrative" (XDN) in the works as well as an SFF application for a Center for Digital Narrative. We have been granted SPIRE funding for a visiting research stay for Davin Heckman, which will take place in April 2020. Joseph Tabbi has also secured SPIRE and IF department funding for a seminar on Posthumanism and for development of the Digital Review, both of which will be relevant for our research group. For the BEL specifically we intend to apply for Department funding for a research group workshop to take place after the new hires are in place to plan collaborative work, and a small event focused on the release of *Post-Digital: Dialogues and Debates from the Electronic Book Review* (Bloomsbury 2020). We will publish the series of articles "Frameworks: Electronic Literature as Creative Digital Humanities" on the electronic book review, with contributions from five members of our research group. We will continue 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. Scott Rettberg is also working with Eamon O'Kane and Judd Morrissey to develop a new version of the Hyperobjects exhibition in collaboration with the School of the Art Institute, Chicago. We will continue our joint weekly meetings with the Digital Culture Group.

Scholarship and Creative Work Published in 2019 (partial list)

Ackermans, Hannah. "Narrating the Sociality of the Database: A Digital Hermeneutic Reading of *The Atlas Group Archive* and *haikU*." *Proceedings of the 30th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media*. 2019. (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3342220.3343654>)

Rettberg, Scott. *Cognitive Assemblages in Ecological / Digital Art. I: Proceedings of the 25th International Symposium on Electronic Art*. Gwangju, Korea: ISEA International 2019 ISBN 979-11-87275-06-0. s. 395-401

Rettberg, Scott. 2008: *Azeroth*. Lapham's Quarterly 2019 ; Volum 12.(2) s. 45-46

Rettberg, Scott; Aarstein, Kjersti; Ingraham, Chris; Tabbi, Joseph; Pold, Søren; Jones, Nathan. *Our Struggle: Reading Karl Ove Knausgård's Min Kamp*. *Electronic Book Review (EBR)* 2019

Rettberg, Scott; Jackson, Shelley. *Room for So Much World: A Conversation with Shelley Jackson*. *Electronic Book Review (EBR)* 2019

Karhio, Anne Sofia; Seça, Álvaro. *Hyperrhiz 20*. *Hyperrhiz: The New Media Culture* 2019 ;Volum 20.

Karhio, Anne Sofia; Seça, Álvaro. *Other Codes / Códigos: Re-thinking Context in Digital Literature*. *Hyperrhiz: The New Media Culture* 2019 ;Volum 20.

Seça, Álvaro. *Supressão*. São Paulo: Urutau 2019 (ISBN 978-85-7105-086-0) 270 s.

Seça, Álvaro. *upoesia v0.1 [demo]. I: Fobias - Fonias - Fagias. Escritas Experimentais e Eletrônicas Ibero-Afro-Latinoamericanas*. Edições Universidade Fernando Pessoa 2019 ISBN 978-989-643-155-6. s.292-321.