

The Seminars on “Information Technology Outlook” – PhD Program in Computer Science and Mathematics



Michaela A. Mahlberg

Full Professor,
University of Birmingham, UK

Thursday April 13, 2023
15:30



Aula Hume
Dept. Computer Science

Questions at the interface of humanities and computer science

Computers are becoming increasingly central in the digital world. While there are fears of AI replacing human agency there is also alarm about the decline of humanities subjects and humanities university degrees. Much more collaboration is needed between the humanities and computer science. An area where different fields do come together is ‘digital humanities’. In this talk, I want to look at some of the types of questions that researchers in digital humanities are interested in, especially when the digital data is textual data. There are fundamental properties of language and text that can be observed and better understood with the help of computational techniques, including frequencies and co-occurrence patterns. Such patterns or formal properties of texts need to be described in their socio-cultural contexts. It is at this point, where the collaborative nature of digital humanities faces non-trivial tasks, and more awareness is needed as to what makes data ‘humanities data’.

*Michaela Mahlberg is Professor of Corpus Linguistics at the University of Birmingham, UK. Her publications include the monograph *Corpus Stylistics and Dickens’s Fiction* (Routledge, 2013), and she has been leading the development of the CLiC web app for the study of literary language. CLiC is now used in over 100 countries world-wide. Michaela is the editor of the *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* (John Benjamins) and together with Gavin Brookes she edits the book series *Corpus and Discourse* (Bloomsbury). She is the Vice President of the international Dickens Society, she is a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute in London, and she hosts the podcast “Life and Language”.*