Digital Methods for Internet Research

Digital Methods Initiative
Prof. Dr. Richard Rogers

The Digital Methods Initiative (DMI) develops medium-specific methods for internet research. It achieves that aim, first, by building software tools for collecting, analysing and visualising online data for researchers worldwide. Secondly, it organises workshops for empirical research projects and to train students and scholars in using the tools. Thirdly, DMI researchers disseminate their work by publishing widely in scientific journals and academic presses, exhibiting at media arts spaces and galleries, writing reports, making presentations and providing workshops for governmental, non-governmental and academic audiences.

Research themes

- Links, likes and other natively digital objects
- Website as archived object
- Engine critique and search as research
- Cross-spherical analysis as comparative media studies
- National web studies
- Wikipedia as cultural reference
- Social media data and post-demographics
- Digital methods for issue mapping
- Digital methods theory
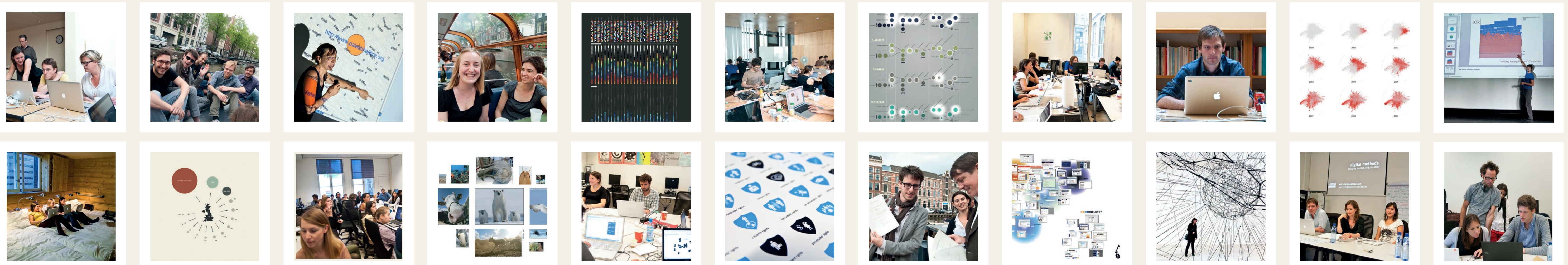
ENVISAGED RESULTS

DMI has nine research themes, each of which comprises PhD and post-doc projects, software tools, and ongoing academic or field projects with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Digital methods is also taught in MA courses titled Digital Methods for Internet Research and Issue Mapping for Politics. Additionally, DMI members contribute to EU and other funded research projects.

WORKPLAN & TIME SCHEDULE

The Digital Methods Initiative organises annual Winter Schools in January and Summer Schools in June/July, together with occasional Fall and Spring data sprints and symposia. The Winter School includes a mini-conference and a workshop. The Summer School offers training in online data collection, software tool use, data visualisation and communicating results.

SOCIETAL RELEVANCE

DMI develops tools and methods for social and cultural research with the web, which are applied worldwide by scholars and practitioners. Much of DMI's research focuses on mapping social issues, such as climate change, censorship, counter-jihadism and ageing, and is used by academics, funders, governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, artists, issue professionals and journalists.

Members

Dr. Almila Akdag Salah, KNAW Post-Doc
Dr. Anat Ben-David, NWO Post-Doc
Erik Borra, PhD candidate & scientific programmer
Liliana Bounegru, EU-funded researcher
Marieke van Dijk, EU-funded researcher
Nadia Dresscher-Lambertus, PhD candidate
Dr. Carolin Gerlitz, Assistant Professor
Anne Helmond, PhD candidate
Eric Kluitenberg, PhD candidate

Sabine Niederer, PhD candidate
Simeona Petkova, PhD candidate
Dr. Bernhard Rieder, Associate Professor
Natalia Sanchez Querubin, EU-funded researcher
Michael Stevenson, PhD candidate
Marc Tuters, PhD candidate
Lonneke van der Velden, PhD candidate
Esther Weltevrede, PhD candidate
External members
Prof. Bruno Latour, Dr. Noortje Marres
and **Dr. Tommaso Venturini**

Facts & Figures

Current PhD projects: **10**
Current Post-Docs: **2**   Summer Schools: **6**
Founded in: **2007**   Winter Schools: **5**   Publications: **40+**
Visualisations: **250+**   Nationalities: **13**   Tools created: **60+**
Boat trips: **7**

Summer school certificates awarded:
16 (2010) | **27** (2011) | **38** (2012)