

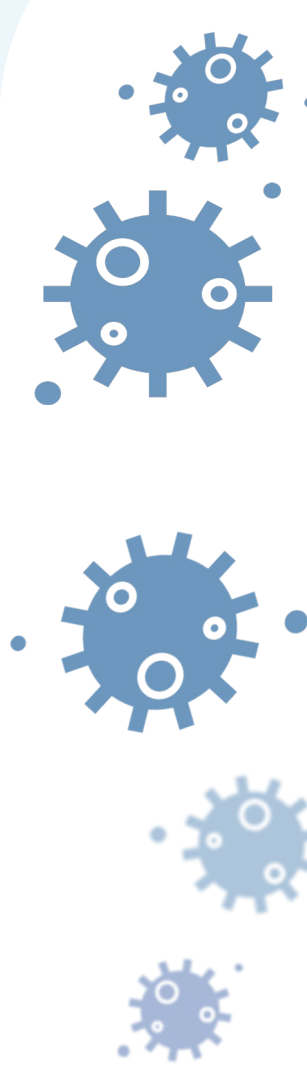


DH Virtual Discussion Group for Early Career Researchers in Belgium

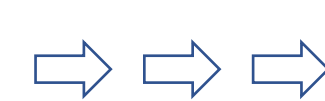
A joint initiative between Ghent CDH at Ghent University, KU Leuven Libraries Artes, and KU Leuven Faculty of Arts



2020

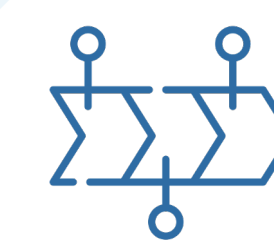
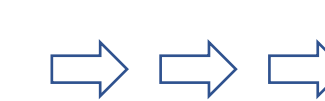


When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, telework became the norm. This left many in the Belgian DH community feeling **disconnected**. It also meant there were fewer ways to **welcome new members** into this creative and encouraging community.



Community Building in Challenging Times: The Idea for the Discussion Group

Within the Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities, there had been a desire to form a group focused on learning about **new DH tools, methodologies, and workflows** for some time. Julie Birkholz (Ghent CDH) and Merisa Martínez (formerly of KU Leuven Libraries Artes) formed a plan to start a DH Virtual Discussion Group for Early Career Researchers in Belgium to fulfill this need. The first edition of the discussion group kicked off in the fall of 2020 with great success.



Discussion Group History

First Edition: Fall 2020

Jointly organized by Julie Birkholz (Ghent CDH) and Merisa Martínez (formerly of KU Leuven Libraries Artes)

Second Edition: Spring 2021

Jointly organized by Julie Birkholz (Ghent CDH) and Merisa Martínez (formerly of KU Leuven Libraries Artes)

Third Edition: Fall 2021

Jointly organized by Julie Birkholz (Ghent CDH), Margherita Fantoli (KU Leuven, Faculty of Arts), and Leah Budke (KU Leuven Libraries Artes)

Fourth Edition: Spring 2022

Jointly organized by Julie Birkholz (Ghent CDH), Margherita Fantoli (KU Leuven, Faculty of Arts), and Leah Budke (KU Leuven Libraries Artes)



Benefits of Virtual

Initially, the virtual format allowed us to work around **lockdown constraints**, but we found it beneficial because it allowed many people from all over Belgium to attend. The online format continues to create a **unique networking opportunity**.



Format of the Sessions

Venue: **Virtual!** (via Zoom)

Timing: 1.5 hours

The first sessions were of a more traditional format with assigned reading and a group discussion

Later sessions transitioned into primarily an **"Under-the-Hood"** format

- Introduction
- Breakout Rooms – Networking Moment
- Sharing DH News and Opportunities with group
 - Supplemented with Padlet
- Under-the-Hood Session
- Q & A



- Special DH Benelux Session



Networking Moment

We utilize the breakout room capability to create an **informal networking moment** where attendees can share about themselves and their research with other members of the group.

There is also time set aside for **sharing any DH news or opportunities** with the entire group.

These moments are supported by the **Padlet**, where attendees can share not only their social media details, but also links to projects, events, job vacancies, and anything else DH-related.



Special DH Benelux Session

In the spring we hold a special DH Benelux session where we invite members from our community to do an **elevator pitch** of their DH Benelux contribution.

This **helps first-time presenters** manage the conference jitters, but it also helps our community stay up-to-date on current DH research. It also helps **promote and create awareness of the broader DH Benelux community**.

Are you an early career researcher in Belgium and want to attend the discussion group or present an "under-the-hood" session? Get in touch!

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Join our mailing list!

