

Transforming the Pietist Tradition: Disciplinary Innovation through Linked Digital Engagement

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Introduction

The panel has as its focus how collaboration in and implementation of DH methods has opened up a) new knowledge networks in the (traditionally conservative) field of Pietism and Religious History and b) transformed understandings of traditional disciplinary structures and hierarchies. In the field of the history of religion, especially the subfield of the study of pietism, traditional disciplinary hierarchies in Europe and the US very much have determined the shape and breadth of scholarship, viewing with distrust the forays into DH that some, usually younger, scholars have pursued. (Hutchings / Clivaz 2021) Although the demand for developers with a deep understanding of the needs of humanistic thinking is great, the number of practitioners of DH in the area of Pietism is woefully small. Furthermore, often when DH approaches have been accepted, they have been firmly inscribed in the realm of the archive and the library. Breaking with this conservative tradition in Pietist Studies, the recently published *Pietismus Handbuch* includes as its second entry an essay on the potential and practice of Digital Humanities in the study of Pietism. (Faull 2021) Following this impetus, this panel will focus on how the process of opening up the discipline, despite resistance, is moving forward and fostering innovation through active links of collaboration. In the field of textual scholarship, network analysis, sonic analysis, mapping, and cultural heritage, the methods of digital humanities have been very successful in fostering new directions of critical inquiry. (Eyerly 2022, Faull 2022, Sciutti, 2022) The separate pa-

pers in this panel will echo the question posed in the latest issue of the *Journal of Moravian History*, by the scholar of religion Dr Rachel Wheeler who introduces the Forum on “Digital Moravians” claiming that although digital scholarship invites collaboration, it does not necessarily entail equal access to collaborative relationships. (Wheeler 2022) How can we change this? To attempt to model collaborative partnerships across disciplines, ranks, and expertises this panel brings together a senior US scholar whose institutional support has allowed her to teach US undergraduate students DH approaches to Pietistic materials; two younger scholars from Germany whose work opens up new ways of accessing and analyzing archival materials and the networks of their writers; and an established academic and library professional from a technical university and state library whose work revolutionizes approaches to mission history, historical linguistics, and cultural heritage. All four papers examine individual projects that focus on aspects of Pietist research and DH methodologies and that are also collaborative partners in a transatlantic knowledge exchange network. The hope is that this panel will open up discussions of the paths towards collaboration between scholars across the ranks, across disciplines and languages, and across the Atlantic.

Linking Pietists and Moravians: Building and Sharing Knowledge Networks

Katherine Faull

As DH projects are developed around the globe, how can we connect digital collections of historical documents across continents? Given the geographically but not necessarily theologically close relationship in the 18th century between the Pietists in Halle and the Moravian Church based in Herrnhut, Saxony and in the expansive transatlantic missions it is extremely desirable to examine the connections between the two movements and their adherents. Linking these sources would allow comparative studies in the various fields and debates in which Halle Pietists and Moravians were active, such as missions, ecclesiology, questions of race and gender, sexuality, or educational practice. The field of Linked Open Data offers a set of design principles for sharing machine-readable interlinked data on the web; but to what extent are we able to effect data integration?

To some extent, geo-data sharing has already occurred between some projects that focus on geographically adjacent areas, such as “moravian soundscapes” (<https://moraviansoundscapes.music.fsu.edu>) and Moravian Lives (<https://moravian.bucknell.edu>), or projects where person data can be linked (Moravians at Sea (<https://www.moravians-at-sea.uni-jena.de>) and Moravian Lives). However, the ability to link Moravian manuscript sources and documents from repositories of other Pietist and Anabaptist movements would provide a powerful example of LOD in the field of Pietism.

Examining the data structures behind the Digital Francke portal (<https://digital.francke-halle.de>) and Moravian Lives, this paper will investigate how such a knowledge network might be established, what beginnings have already been made, and what obstacles lie in the way.

Collaboration through reuse: Analyzing letters explored by others

Philipp Tögel

August Hermann Francke was an integral figure in Pietism. After coming to Glaucha, a suburb of Halle (Saale), in 1695, he founded an orphanage and a school for the poor. In the subsequent years, the so-called “Glauchasche Anstalten” (today “Francke Foundations”) flourished and were complemented by the addition of multiple schools and business ventures. Following Francke’s death in 1727 his son Gotthilf August Francke and Johann Anastasius Freylinghausen became the directors of the Anstalten. (Breul

2021: 126–130, Drese 2021: 174f.) How this transition of power affected the structure and composition of the correspondence network of the Anstalten is investigated based on the sources available in the Foundations archive (<http://archiv.francke-halle.de>) through historical network analysis.

This analysis is made possible by the past explorations of others. Nearly 80,000 letters have been analyzed for form and content by multiple DFG-funded projects as well as the Foundations archive, which is making the sources available and is collaborating with scholars. Although this corpus is available, the use of digital methods is an as-yet unbeaten, but promising path. As letters have been of great importance for male and female Pietists from almost every social class – because Pietists were part of their local community and an international society of believers – the analysis of these letters promises fruitful results to complement prior research. (Jakubowski-Tiessen 2004: 203)

The paper analyzes the vast amount of sources available in Pietist archives in an unprecedented way in the field. Furthermore, it addresses the advantages of collaboration between scholars and archives as well as making research data openly accessible for analysis.

Moravians@Sea: Collaboration as a Chance and Risk Factor for smaller DH Projects

Martin Prell

During or after the transatlantic voyages of members of the Moravian Church in the 18th century, travel diaries were written to “document the experiences made on the voyage and the signs of divine activity on the high seas for the community leadership and the brothers and sisters in faith.” (Mettele 2021: 406, trans. Martin Prell) The diaries form the basis for the reproduction and visualizations of the transatlantic voyages of the Moravians in the portal *Moravians@Sea* (<https://www.moravians-at-sea.uni-jena.de>). One main principle of the ongoing pilot project is the reuse and integration of a lot of online accessible resources and services, to build a meta-portal that brings together distributed research on Pietism and spatiotemporal visualization techniques to reimagine scholarly editions of source materials as deeply collaborative and evolving, rather than fixed.

The paper will discuss, taking into account one’s own project experiences as well as those of others, (see Carius et al. 2021) the opportunities on the one hand, but also the dangers on the other hand, of the predominant re-use of already available tools instead of developing one’s own tools and the integration of online resources. In a second part, it will be outlined, which conditions must be served for a still more fitting merging of the data of the individual providers, in order to generate the greatest possible benefit for the users and under the condition that the independent projects involved are able to work together with as little effort as possible.

Exploring Moravian (Text) Worlds

Alexander Lasch, Juan Garcés

This paper combines (1) the indexing of manuscript sources (e.g., the *Gemein-Nachrichten* from 1765 or holdings from the Moravian Archives (Bethlehem)) with a focus on the North American mission and (2) the creation of virtual excursions for teaching and research contexts in order to make the worldwide network of the Moravian Church accessible on a textual basis and to make it possible to experience it at the virtual, historical location. First, among the most important sources for our research field in the 18th century are the handwritten *Gemein-Nachrichten* (*Moravian Congregational Accounts*) which now constitute part of an agile and multimodal next-generation reference corpus (N-ARC) being built in cooperation with the Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden (SLUB) in the Moravian Knowledge Network (MKN) (<https://dhh.hypotheses.org/>).

This corpus (N-ARC1) will comprise textual, cartographic, and audiovisual sources as well as other artefacts, which will be interconnected, continuously (partially) machine-enriched as open research data, and made publicly available and reusable in a virtual research environment.

Virtual excursions provide access to our multimedia and multimodal data with which we are progressively enriching 3D-models. (<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=WjbW5bc3FCj>) In cooperation with our colleagues at Bucknell University, PA, we plan to expand the virtual excursions into virtual paths, creating connectivity between sites, buildings, gardens, interior furnishings, and our textual sources. The documents and traces of the Moravian Church offer the ideal starting point for this. They give interdisciplinary research access to research subjects from the most diverse scientific perspectives – linguistic, geo-informatic, cultural-historical, land-historical, landscape-architectural, botanical, theological, etc. – and to understand the global effects of European expansionism.

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