



Keynote: The Venice Time Machine Project

Archival cooperation and community building in the Digital Age

Date and time: Monday, 27.04.2015 from 14.00 – 14.45 p.m. in the Teresian Hall

Venue: Břevnov Archabbey - Markétská 28/1, 169 01 Praha 6, Czech Republic

Abstract: The Venice Time Machine Project

The Venice Time Machine is an international scientific programme launched by the EPFL and the University Ca'Foscari of Venice with the generous support of the Fondation Lombard Odier. It aims at building a multidimensional model of Venice and its evolution covering a period of more than 1000 years. Thanks to a partnership with the Archivio di Stato in Venice, kilometers of archives will be digitized, transcribed and indexed setting the base of the largest database ever created on Venetian documents. The information extracted from these sources will be organized in a semantic graph of linked data and unfolded in space and time in an historical geographical information system, both a "Facebook" and a "Google map" of the past.

Frédéric Kaplan *École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, CH*

Prof Frederic Kaplan holds the Digital Humanities Chair at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) and directs the EPFL Digital Humanities Laboratory (DH LAB). He conducts research projects combining archive digitisation, information modelling and museographic design. He is currently directing the "Venice Time Machine", an international project in collaboration with the Ca'Foscari University in Venice and the Venice State Archives, aiming to model the evolution and history of Venice over a 1000 year period. He is also conducting projects with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse, the Bodmer Foundation, the Musée de l'Elysée and participated to exhibitions in several museums including the Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.





Frederic Kaplan graduated as an engineer of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Telecommunications in Paris and received a PhD degree in Artificial Intelligence from the University Paris VI. Before founding the Digital Humanities Laboratory, he worked ten years as a researcher at the Sony Computer Science Laboratory and six years at the EPFL pedagogical research laboratory. He was also the founder and president of OZWE, a company that designed and produced innovative interfaces, now of one the world leading studio in immersive gaming.

Frederic Kaplan published more than a hundred scientific papers, 6 books and about 10 patents. He is the chief editor of Frontiers in Digital Humanities and co-directs the Digital Humanities book collection at EPFL Press. He created the first Digital Humanities Master course in Switzerland and is now taking an active role for shaping a complete new curriculum at EPFL. He was the co-local organizer of the Digital Humanities 2014 conference in Lausanne, the largest scientific meeting ever conducted in this domain.