

2026-04-01

Data in the Humanities

Wk. 09: DH and the Environment



Today's Plan

1. Campus Events
2. Workshop Presentations: Enur & Kaylee
3. Discuss Readings: Amy Presents!

Workshops

Getting Started with LaTeX, Thu 4/2
(PUL)

Publishing Yr Research Data, Fri 4/3
(PUL)

Local LLMs for Fast, Cheap, and
Reproducible Inference, Fri 4/17 (DDSS)

Talks

Electroshocking the Past: Art History and
the Political Project of Non-Generative
AI, Tue 4/14 (CDH)

Columbia: Climate Impacts of AI:
Alternatives to Techno-Utopianism and
Doom (4/21)

Readings

Photini Vrikki and Güneş Tavmen, "Rewiring Digital Humanities through an Ethics of Ecological Care," *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 019, no. 3 (2025).

Javier Cha & Ian M. Miller, "Digital Humanities and the Energetics of Big Data," *Critical Infrastructure Studies and Digital Humanities, Debates in Digital Humanities* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2026), 113–131.

James O'Sullivan and Mark Kelly, "Environmental Contradictions of Large Language Models in Higher Education," UNESCO IdeasLAB, December 16, 2025.

Tianqi Xiao et al., "Environmental Impact and Net-Zero Pathways for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence Servers in the USA," *Nature Sustainability* 8, no. 12 (2025): 1541–53.

Karen Hao, *Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI* (Penguin Press, 2025). Chapter 12: Plundered Earth.

Bonus: R. Stuart Geiger's BartlebyGPT

Misc. Resources

Digital Beacon: "Calculate the environmental impact of a web page, see the breakdown and learn what measures can be taken to improve it."

Epoch AI data & visualizations on data center construction, 2021–2029, by total facility power in MW

ML.Energy Leaderboard

French Ministry of Culture's compar:AI chatbot arena,