



DIGITAL DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

EXPLORING NEW AVENUES
FOR RESEARCH, TEACHING,
AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF
SCHOLARSHIP



THE OBJECTIVE

The goal of this workshop is to introduce students and faculty to the variety of digital, hybrid, and practice-based/led dissertations, and to provide participants with tools to envision, plan, and execute their own digital dissertation projects.



Why Digital Dissertati ons?

Digital and hybrid dissertations are gaining popularity in the humanities, especially as researchers continue leveraging digital technologies and modalities to make arguments, create communication that expands beyond traditional alphabetic texts, and prepare for careers 'outside' the academy.

While the concept of digital or hybrid dissertations is becoming increasingly popular, more models are needed to help students, advisors, and researchers to better understand the implications, exigencies, and requirements of incorporating digital production in academic work.

This workshop will present strategies for exploring new avenues for collaborative research, teaching, the production of scholarship, and its distribution.

"We often ignore the best resource for informed change, one that is right in front of our noses every day—our students, for whom the most is at stake." ~ Martin Bickman, "Returning to Community and Praxis"

TOPICS

Things we will talk about in this workshop



- Different motivations for hybrid dissertations (e.g. preparing for a career outside of academia, publicly facing humanities, exploring new ways to research and make research accessible)
- Examples of hybrid/digital dissertations
- Overview of different approaches (digital, hybrid, practice-based, practice-led)
- Tools and technologies that can be used to create a digital or hybrid dissertation
- Making the most of your graduate experience (using seminars and pre-ABD work to hone "digital skills")
- Challenges and affordances of creating digital or hybrid dissertations
- Finding funding mechanisms to support digital or hybrid dissertations
- Collaborating with participants and navigating consent in digital or hybrid dissertations
- The prospectus writing process
- Meeting Department guidelines while working on digital or hybrid dissertations
- The defense committee & the defense
- Finding support outside your department and your university
- (Non-)Academic publishing (accessibility and sustainability)

EXTRAS

You can also decide to combine the workshop with one or more of the following activities:

- A screening of *Wanderlust*, the feature documentary which forms part of my digital dissertation
- Individual consultations with faculty and/or students about specific projects and programmatic goals
- Community-tailored workshops about digital production (e.g. filmmaking 101)
- Have something in mind you do not see here? Please let me know!



"Dr. von Petersdorff facilitated a digital dissertation workshop for our Ph.D. students at The University of Texas at El Paso, and I can say with confidence that I've never seen our students so engaged in a workshop. They left the discussion with Dr. von Petersdorff confident in their own potential, excited about the future of their work, and knowledgeable about opportunities for applying and sharing their research both in and outside of academia. Dr. von Petersdorff led a tailored workshop, engaged with our students in both formal and informal settings, and shared her film in a private screening, after which she answered questions from our students and faculty about the production of her own dissertation and possibilities for future work. We all left incredibly inspired and ready to make changes in our program to better support our students' potential."

*Laura Gonzales, Assistant Professor of English
at The University of Texas at El Paso*

ABOUT ME

I received my Ph.D. in German Studies and Digital Humanities from Michigan State University where I found support and inspiration to create my own hybrid dissertation which consists of two equally weighted parts: *Wanderlust, cuerpos en tránsito* (2017), a bi-autobiographical travel documentary, co-directed together with Maria Pérez-Escalá, and a theoretical-historical exploration of film aesthetics.

Previous to attending graduate school in the US, I studied International Tourism, Leisure, and Strategic Business Management (BBA at the NHVT Breda and Vrije Universiteit Brussels) and Culture and Media Studies (MA at the University of Flensburg,). I also learned, worked and lived in Mexico, Spain and Cuba, produced TV commercials for international brands like NIVEA and Lindt, drove a forklift truck in the Netherlands, supervised teenagers in a summer camp in Croatia, and decided that being a multi-phenated human being, connecting people and merging experiences and skills, is the way I can best create, learn and contribute inside and outside the academy.



ABOUT WANDERLUST

Wanderlust, Cuerpos en Transito (2017) is a 97-minute, bi-autobiographical documentary film that forms part of my PhD dissertation. The film has been invited to several international film festivals in Europe and Latin America and aired on national TV in Argentina. (learn more here: wanderlustlapelicula.com)

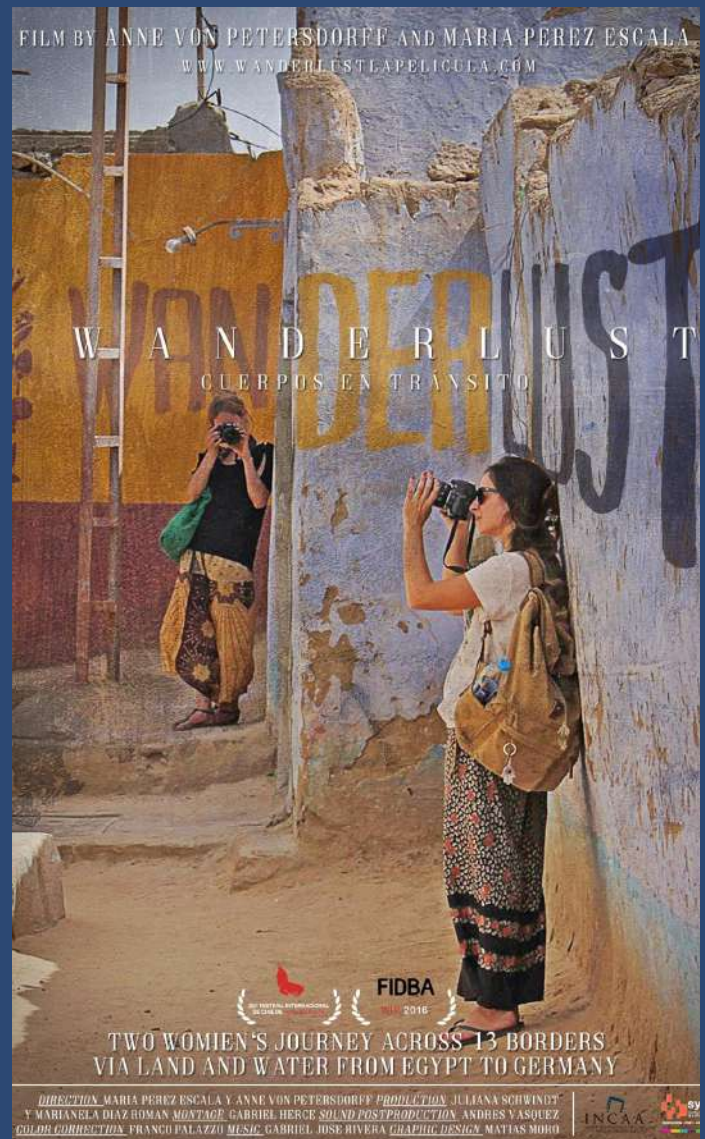


The film provides an example of collaboration across countries and disciplines, how hybrid dissertations can prompt scholars to experiment with a variety of different (non-) scholarly voices (and languages), and how collaboration can open the door to different type of professional networks and alternative sources of funding.

SYNOPSIS

Between May and July of 2014, Maria and I embarked on a two-month-long journey between Egypt and Germany to document our travel experiences as women. The resulting documentary film records our joint journey via land and water across 14 countries and three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe.

In our multiple joint roles as protagonists, cinematographers, and directors, we each operated a small DSLR camera, which we used to conduct interviews with each other and the people we met throughout our journey. The narrative structure of the film is similar to those of road movies: two protagonists embark on a trip from one place to another and their experiences along the way contribute to the individual development of each traveler, but also to their developing relationship.



Themes

Possible themes and disciplines the film deals with:

- Feminist film studies & Gender studies -
- Autobiographical scholarship -
- Postcolonial theories of representation -
- German film history -
- Memory Studies -
- Migration -
- Global studies -
- Writing and Rhetoric -

CONTACT

If you are interested in organizing a workshop and/or a screening please get in touch with me.



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www.annevonpetersdorff.com

For a screening link to watch
Wanderlust please send an
E-mail to:
info@wanderlustlapelicula.com