



Universität
Basel

Welcome@DH

Fall 2025

16. September 2025



Digital
Humanities
Lab

WHERE TRADITION MEETS TRANSFORMATION

THE LEADING DIGITAL
LABORATORY

THROUGH INNOVATION AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCELLENCE

Information about the Program

Agenda

History of the Lab

Research at a Glance

Structure of the Program

Seminar Paper

Internship

Master's Thesis

Master's Exams

Disclaimer: All information regarding exams and assignments has been taken from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. If this information has been changed in the meantime and differs from what is presented here, the faculty's information applies.

DH Lab

History

- Interdisciplinary institution of the University of Basel
- Roots in the “Department of Scientific Photography”, founded in 1924
- Task: Coordinating and promoting research, teaching, and infrastructure for digitization in the humanities and social sciences
- Teaching: Master's program & PhD
- Research foci:
 - Empirical Literary Studies
 - Virtual Research Environments and Digital Sustainability
 - Computer-aided Photography and Imaging
 - Digital Curation and Digital Cultural Heritage
 - Critical AI Studies, Critical Media Theory, Games Studies
 - Social Data Science, Machine Learning and Explainable AI

DH Lab

Location

Digital Humanities Lab
University of Basel
Allschwilerstrasse 10
4055 Basel
Switzerland



DH Lab

Professorships



Prof. Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal
Professorship DH and AI



Prof. Dr. Rosa Lavelle-Hill
Professorship DH and AI



Prof. Dr. Peter Fornaro
Head Research Projects



Prof. Dr. Lukas Rosenthaler
Lecturer



Prof. Dr. Moniek Kuijpers
SNF-Professorship

Research Glimpse:

Using Machine Learning & XAI in social sciences and humanities research

Prof. Dr. Rosa Lavelle-Hill

Associate Professor of Digital Humanities and Artificial Intelligence

Digital Humanities Lab and Department of Social Sciences

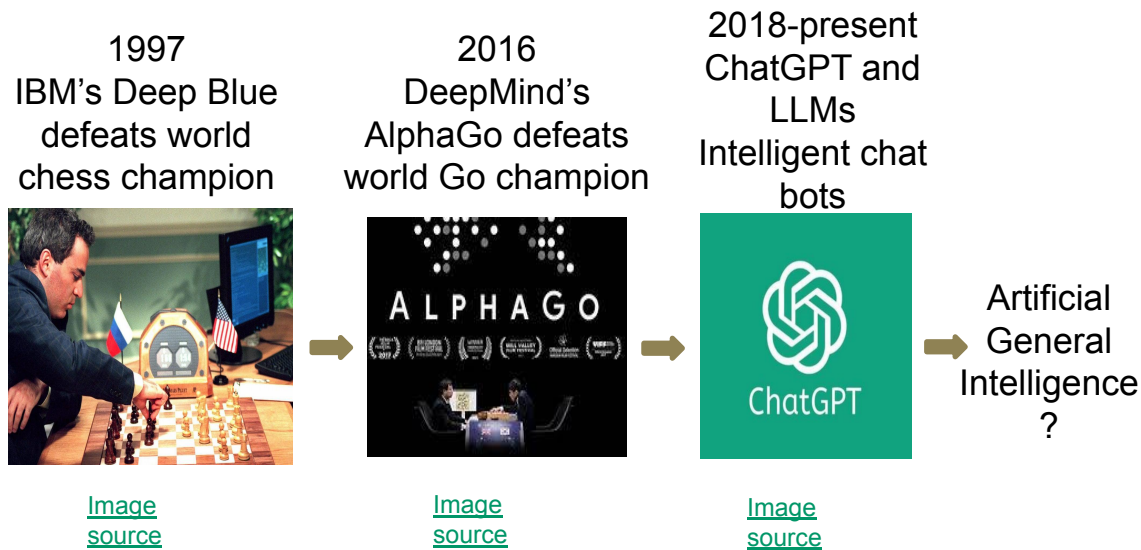
University of Basel

rosa.lavelle-hill@unibas.ch

www.rosalavelle-hill.com

What is AI and Machine Learning?

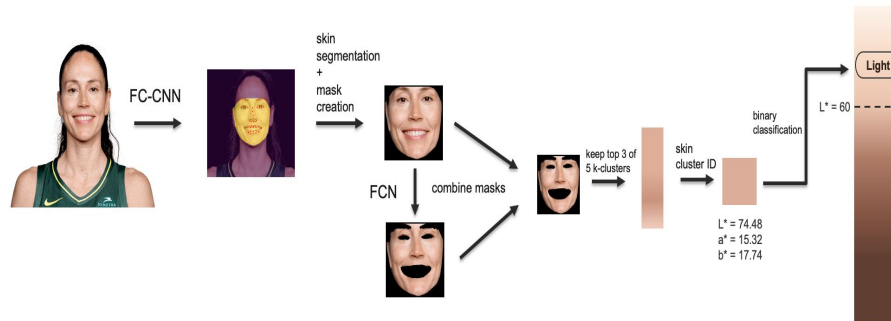
Artificial Intelligence (AI), is the broad field that encompasses the development of “intelligent” systems or machines.



Machine learning is the subset of AI which comprises of methods which enable learning from data

AI in social sciences and humanities research

1. ML can be used as a **tool** (e.g., to skin colour extraction or literature search)
 - Prediction is key, often unstructured (e.g., text, image) data



2. ML can be used as an **analysis method** (e.g., to find out what variables predict an outcome variable)
 - Interpretation is (also) key, usually tabular data
3. Critical AI studies (e.g., bias, AI fairness, responsible AI, data ethics)

Interpretable/ eXplainable AI (XAI)

Machine Learning models are often referred to as “black box” algorithms... and therefore not useful for understanding the relationship between X and y

In many ways, this is a miss-conception:

1. ML models can be interpretable (e.g., decision trees)
2. “Black box” ML models can be explained (using XAI methods)



Interpretable
models

Decision Trees

Artificial Neural
Networks



Explainable
models

□ Key for gaining insights from data and for responsible (applied) AI...

Examples from computer vision



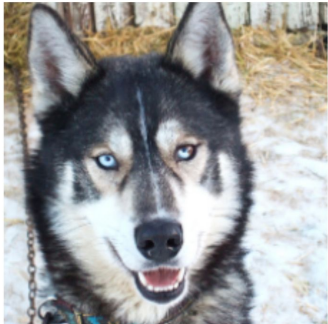
[Image](#)
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Examples from computer vision

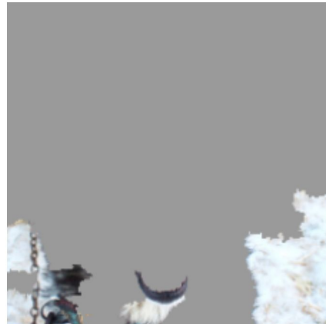


[Image](#)
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XAI explanation of important pixels:



(a) Husky classified as wolf



(b) Explanation

Examples from computer vision

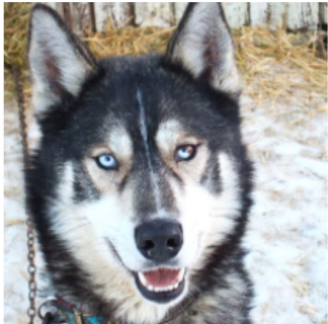


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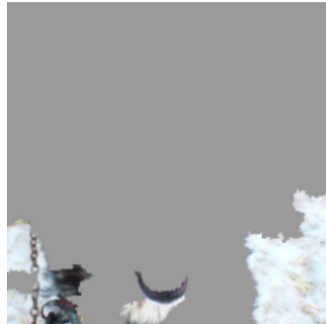


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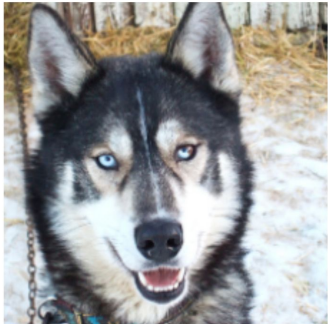
(b) Explanation

Examples from computer vision

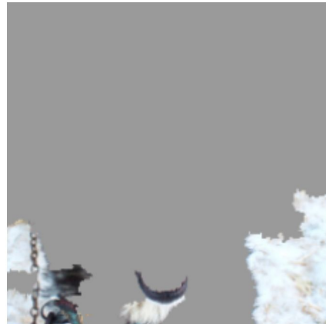


[Image source](#)

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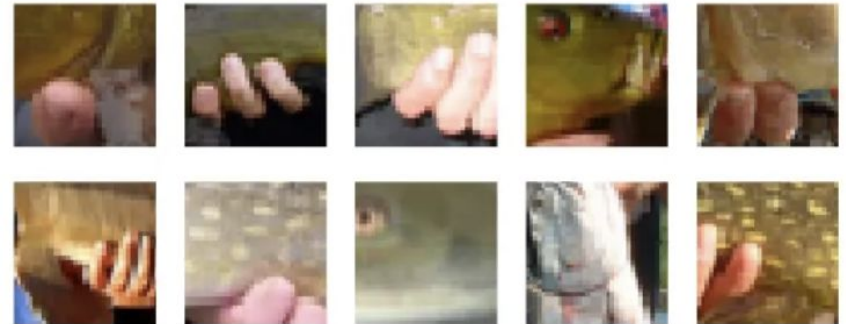
(b) Explanation

(Ribeiro et al., 2016)



[Image source](#)

XAI explanation of important pixels:



[Image source](#)

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JAMES RIVELLI	ROBERT CANNON
Prior Offenses 1 domestic violence aggravated assault, 1 grand theft, 1 petty theft, 1 drug trafficking	Prior Offense 1 petty theft
Subsequent Offenses 1 grand theft	Subsequent Offenses None
LOW RISK 3	MEDIUM RISK 6

[Image source](#)

Results from the COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions) algorithm to assess **risk of reoffending** found to be **racially biased** (Dressel & Farid, 2018)

My Teaching

Fall 2025

- Introduction to Digital Humanities – seminar
- Introduction to Python for Humanities – lecture and exercises

Spring 2026

- Introduction to Machine Learning in Python (for SSH research) – lecture and exercises
- Introduction to Social Data Science – seminar
- Social Data Science Methods in Python – exercise
 - Scraping and API use, online experiments, digital surveys

Thank you
for your attention.

And we looking forward to
welcoming you to the
DHLab 😊

Basic structure

Bestehen des Studienfachs, KP	Module	Erlaubte Lehrveranstaltungsformen
19 KP, davon - 6 KP aus dem Modul «Introduction to Digital Humanities», wovon - 3 KP Vorlesung mit Übung - 3 KP Seminar - 8 KP aus dem Modul «Creating, Analyzing and Visualizing of Data», wovon - 5 KP Praktikum - 3 KP Seminar 5 KP aus Seminararbeit aus einem der beiden Module	Introduction to Digital Humanities	Vorlesung mit Übung, Seminar, Seminararbeit
	Creating, Analyzing and Visualizing of Data	Praktikum, Seminar, Seminararbeit
8 KP, davon - 4 KP Vorlesung(en) - 4 KP Übung(en)	Humanities and Social Science Coding	Vorlesung ³ , Übung und gemäss Ordnungen der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät für das Bachelor- und für das Masterstudium
3 KP Lehrveranstaltungen nach Wahl	Digital Humanities, Culture and Society	Alle gem. § 7 Abs. 4 und 5
5 KP	Masterprüfung	
35 KP	Minor	
30 KP	Masterarbeit	
65 KP	Major	

Basic structure

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Are all modules filled in (correctly)?

> If you have any questions, please contact Irène Kälin!

Contact Persons



Rosa Lavelle-Hill
Prof. Dr. at DH Lab



Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal
Prof. Dr. at DH Lab



Irène Kälin
Administration



Sven Burkhardt
President Student
Association

Information about the Program

Internship - Administrative matters

- Part of the master's degree program in Digital Humanities
- 5 ECTS credits
- 4 weeks full-time, at least 150 hours (part-time possible, at least 30% workload)
- The “Praktikumsantrag Masterstudienfach Digital Humanities” form must be submitted at least four weeks before the start of the internship.
- Learning Contract (to be submitted to Prof. Dr. Peter Fornaro; in the module Creating, Analyzing, and Visualizing Data)
- Internship report & confirmation of employment must be submitted within 4 weeks after the internship.
- A longer internship period is possible at any time. No additional ECTS credits will be awarded for a longer internship.

Information about the Program

Internship - Content

The internship must be related to the field of digital humanities. Possible institutions include museums, archives, and other memory organizations, as well as providers of software in the humanities or social sciences, or scientific institutions and projects in both the scientific field and the private sector.

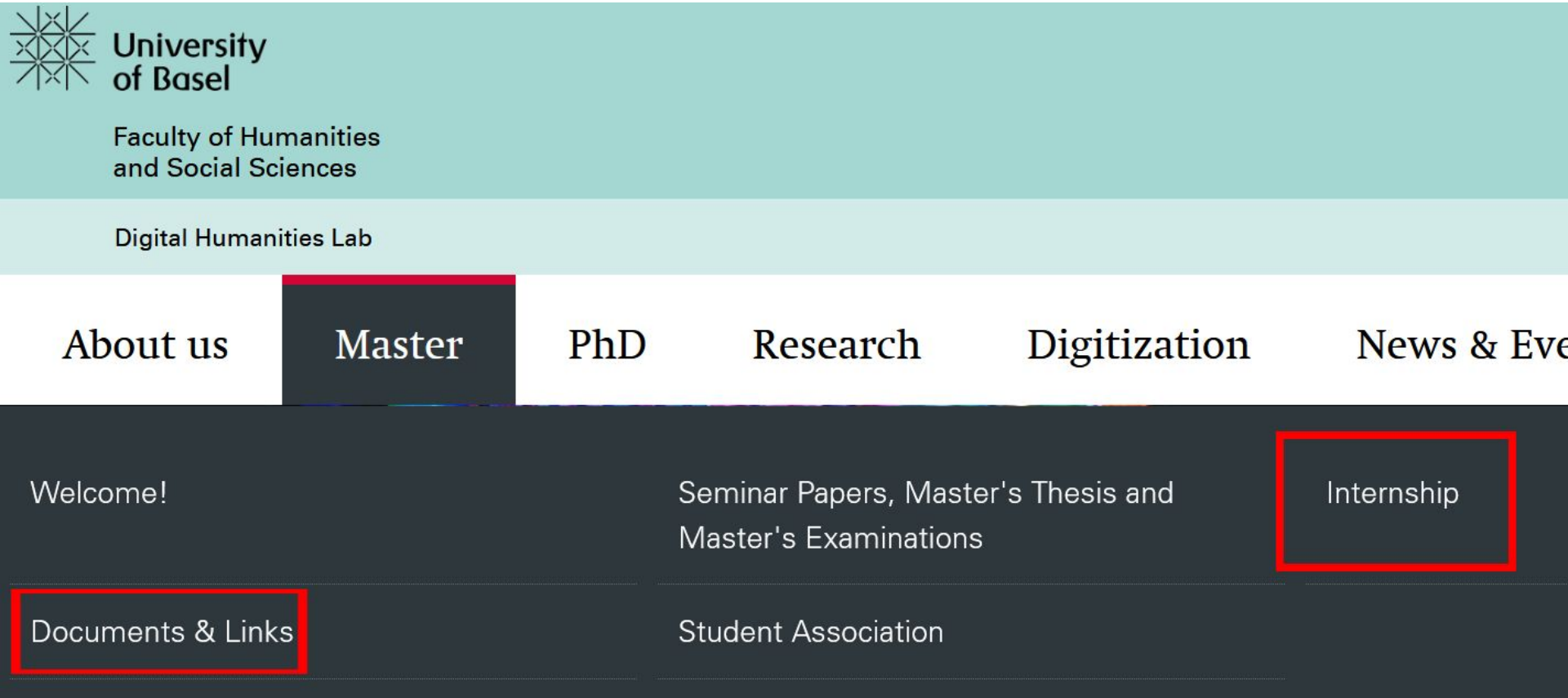
Who should I ask if I am unsure whether a position is suitable in terms of content?

- Prof. Dr. Peter Fornaro or Irène Kälin

Information about the Program

Internship

Details can be found on the homepage.



Information about the Program

Seminar paper & Master's thesis - Possible topics

[About us](#) [Master](#) [PhD](#) [Research](#) [Digitization](#) [News & Events](#) [Alumni](#)

[Home](#) > [Master](#) > [Seminar Papers, Master's Thesis and Master's Examinations](#)



Seminar, Master Thesis & Master Examination Digital Humanities

Seminar, Master Thesis & Master Examination Digital Humanities

On this page you will find all information about the seminar, master thesis and master exams in the MSF Digital Humanities.

The DH Lab is part of the Phil.-Hist. faculty of the University of Basel and the corresponding regulations and directives of the faculty apply. The current version of these guidelines can be found on the [Documents and Instruction Sheets](#) page of the Faculty of Phil.-Hist. If the information differs, the regulations and directives issued by the faculty apply.

Dates and deadlines

Templates for written assignments

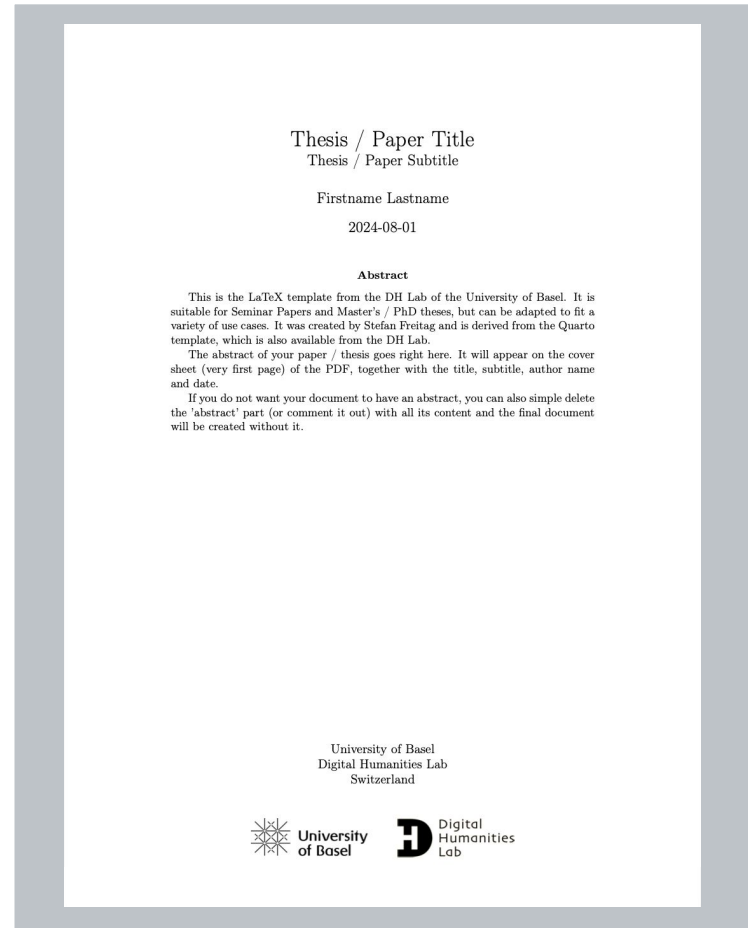
Assessment of Seminar & Master Theses

Ideas for seminar & master's thesis topics

Information about the Program

Seminar papers & Master's thesis - Template

- Official templates from the DH Lab
 - Browser based (Overleaf)
 - Local (Quarto)
- Quarto enables code execution
 - Display of code possible with both
- Automatic, flexible, and consistent formatting
 - Customizable to individual documents



Information about the Program

Master's thesis - Lecturers DH

Lecturers for master's thesis

- At least one (co-)examiner must hold a professorship, and the second (co-)examiner must have at least a doctorate.

An overview of all employees and their academic titles can be found on the “About us” page of the website.

Digital Humanities Lab

About us

Master

PhD

Research



About us



Our Team

Information about the Program

Master's thesis - Admission requirements faculty

Zulassungsbedingungen erfüllt:

- ☐ *Mind. 20 KP in beiden Fächern zusammen bzw. im Studiengang (offene Leistungen zählen nicht)*
- ☐ *Obligatorische Seminararbeit im Fach*
- ☐ *Keine Auflagen oder Sprachnachweise bzw. beides erbracht* *Auflagen Anzahl KP: _____*
- ☐ *Alle Unterschriften vorhanden*
- ☐ *ReferentInnen prüfungsberechtigt, ansonsten Antrag beiliegend*

Information about the Program

Master's thesis - Dates and Deadlines

Master Prüfung & Abschluss

Fristen und Termine Masterstudium (siehe Merkblätter unter [Dokumente und Merkblätter](#))

Masterarbeit

SEMESTER ÜBERNAHME, ABGABE	ÜBERNAHME HS 2023, ABGABE HS 2024	ÜBERNAHME FS 2024, ABGABE FS 2025	ÜBERNAHME HS 2024, ABGABE HS 2025	ÜBERNAHME FS 2025, ABGABE FS 2026	ÜBERNAHME HS 2025, ABGABE HS 2026
ANMELDEFORMULAR VERFÜGBAR AB	abgelaufen	08.04.24	30.09.24	07.04.25	29.09.25
ANMELDUNG MASTERARBEIT	abgelaufen	06.05. - 24.05.24	28.10. - 15.11.24	05.05. - 23.05.25	27.10. - 14.11.25
ÜBERNAHME DATUM	abgelaufen	24.05.24	15.11.24	23.05.25	14.11.25
ABGABEDATUM	abgelaufen	24.02.25	14.08.25	23.02.26	13.08.26
ABGABE BESTÄTIGUNGSFORMULAR MASTERARBEIT	abgelaufen	spätestens bis 03.03.25	spätestens bis 21.08.25	spätestens bis 02.03.26	spätestens bis 20.08.26
GUTACHTEN ABGABE DURCH DOZIERENDE	abgelaufen	20.06.25	19.12.25	19.06.26	18.12.26
NOTENMITTEILUNG UND GUTACHTENVERSAND	31.01.25	31.07.25	31.01.26	31.07.26	31.01.27

Information about the Program

Master's exam DH

- Examiners: Lecturers in the subject area who hold a doctorate
- The desired examiner can be approached early on in a course or contacted by email.
- Duration: 60 minutes
- Examination language: English or German, as agreed with the examiner.
- For the master's examination, two different topics from the modules “Introduction to Digital Humanities” or “Creating, Analyzing, and Visualizing Data” are agreed upon with an examiner. Both topics are covered in the examination.
- The current regulations (as of fall semester 2019) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel apply to the master's program.
- The deadlines and dates for the master's program at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences apply.

Information about the Program

Master's exams - Dates and Deadlines

Masterprüfungen für Studierende des Studienfachs und Studiengangs

SEMESTER	HS 2024	FS 2025	HS 2025	FS 2026	HS 2026
ANMELDEFORMULARE (>STUDIENFACH / >STUDIENGANG) VERFÜGBAR AB	abgelaufen	27.01.25	18.08.25	26.01.26	17.08.26
FRIST ANMELDUNG PRÜFUNGEN (WICHTIG: AB FS 2025 ANMELDUNG PER >PHIL WEB APP)	abgelaufen	24.02. - 07.03.25	15.09. - 26.09.25	23.02. - 06.03.26	14.09. - 25.09.26
PRÜFUNGSWOCHE	16.12. - 20.12.24	22.05. - 28.05.25	15.12. - 19.12.25	22.05. - 29.05.26	14.12. - 18.12.26
NOTENMITTEILUNG	10.01.25	13.06.25	16.01.26	12.06.26	15.01.27

Information about the Program

Website



<https://dhlab.philhist.unibas.ch/en/master-course/>

Contact Persons

Student Association Digital Humanities



Sven Burkhardt

*President Student Association
President Student Council skuba*

skuba ✖
Studentische Körperschaft
der Universität Basel



Paola Lechuga

Vice-President Student Association

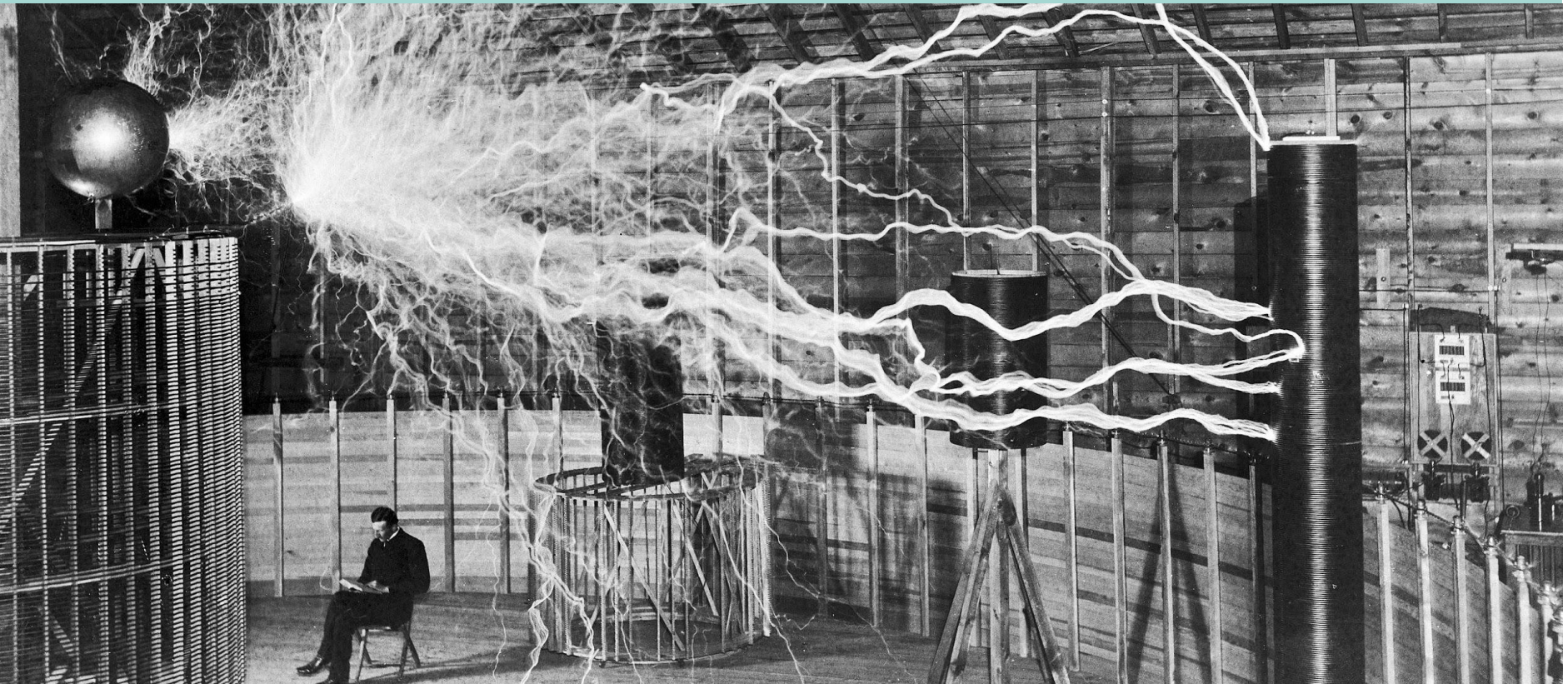




Universität
Basel

Thank you

for your attention & to a successful degree program!





Universität
Basel

From DHLab-Alumni to hello World

