

# AI and Beyond: Critical Approaches and Practical Strategies for Academic Work

A practical workshop on navigating between  
established methods and new AI tools  
September 10th, 9-12AM

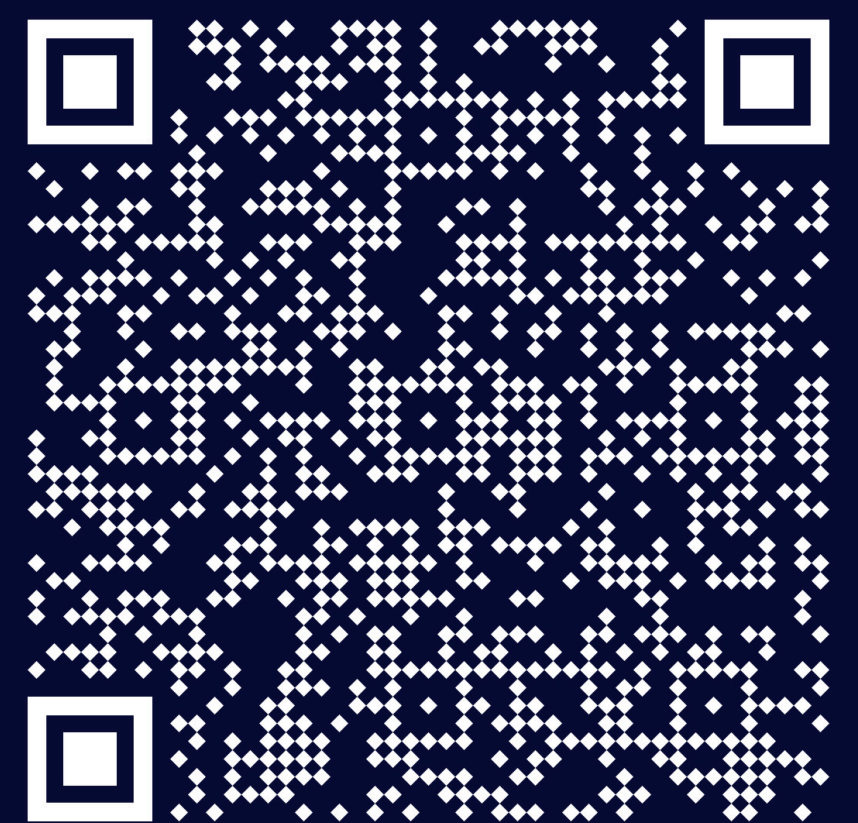
Philologicum, Veranstaltungsraum (004)

Registration and program via QR code:

Please register by September 5th

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<https://tinyurl.com/3t6tky22>



# AI and Beyond: Critical Approaches and Practical Strategies for Academic Work

The rapid development of digital tools is reshaping how academic research is conducted, how texts are conceptualized and drafted, and how scholarly work is communicated. From literature searches and translation to drafting different categories of texts and improving presentations, these tools offer new possibilities. At the same time, they raise pressing methodological, ethical, and practical questions.

This workshop is organized by PhD students and is based on the exchange of practical experience. It offers a space to explore and discuss how digital tools, including large language models, can be integrated by medievalists into their workflows. The goal is not to advocate for or against AI, but to strengthen digital literacy. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences, test tools, compare methods, and reflect on their strengths and limitations.

## 09:00 – 09:10 | Understanding AI

A brief introduction to large language models, their basic functioning, and their relevance in the humanities. We also touch on copyright issues and environmental impact. The aim is to encourage critical and mindful use, highlighting their limits as predictive language systems rather than promoting blind reliance.

## 09:10 – 10:00 | Conceptualizing Text Genres

This session compares traditional search methods and AI tools for understanding unfamiliar academic genres, such as abstracts or CFP responses. We explore how AI can be used to identify structural patterns, particularly in multilingual contexts. Emphasis is placed on using AI for support in structuring, not for text generation.

## 10:00 – 10:10 | Short Break

## 10:10 – 11:00 | Literature Research

This session presents strategies for finding secondary literature on topics related to medieval history. Participants will compare AI tools with more established research methods, including online databases and library catalogs. The session also introduces lesser-known digital resources and offers practical tips for streamlining and organizing the research process.

## 11:00 – 11:10 | Short Break

## 11:10 – 12:00 | Translations

A critical overview of digital tools used for translating both modern academic texts and historical sources. We consider different methods, focusing on their suitability for specific tasks and languages. The session highlights both the practical advantages of AI translation and the risks of inaccuracy or overreliance.