

Reimagining African Histories Through Digital Arts

Theatre-making, Digital Humanities and Libraries

Dr. Sanjin Muftić
Digital Scholarship Specialist
University of Cape Town Libraries



sanjin.muftic@gmail.com
sanjinmuftic.com



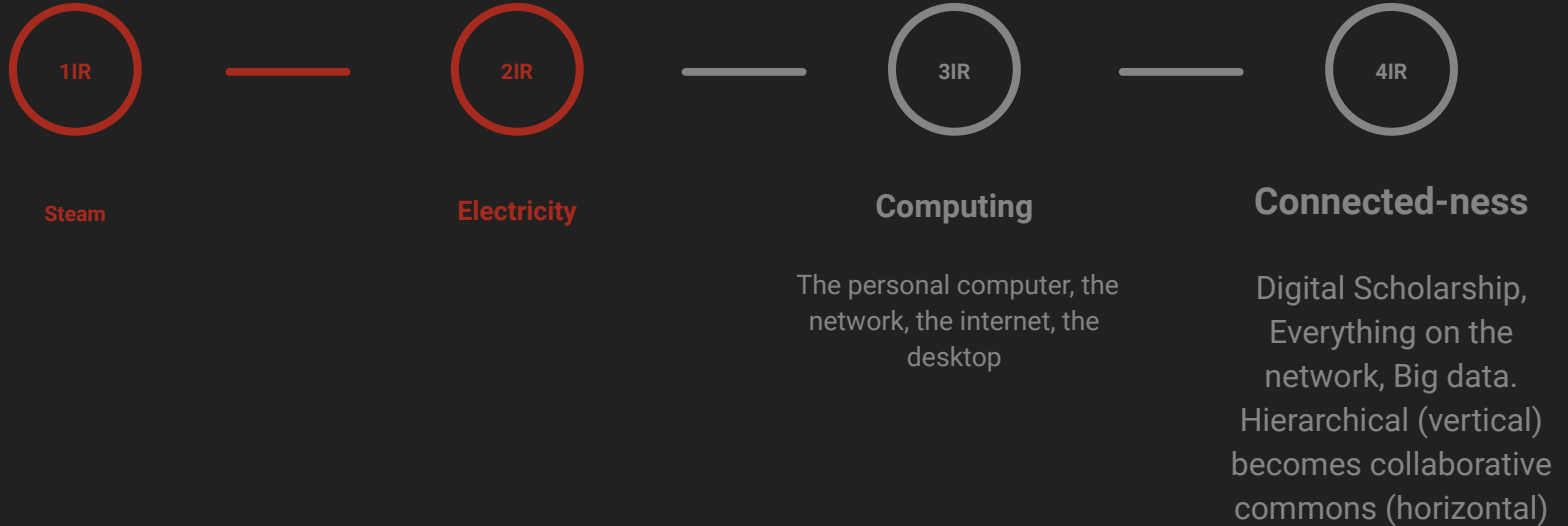
ukubekindlebe

- listen closely

Hear the story of 200 years ago told by the [voices of today](#)



The 4IR



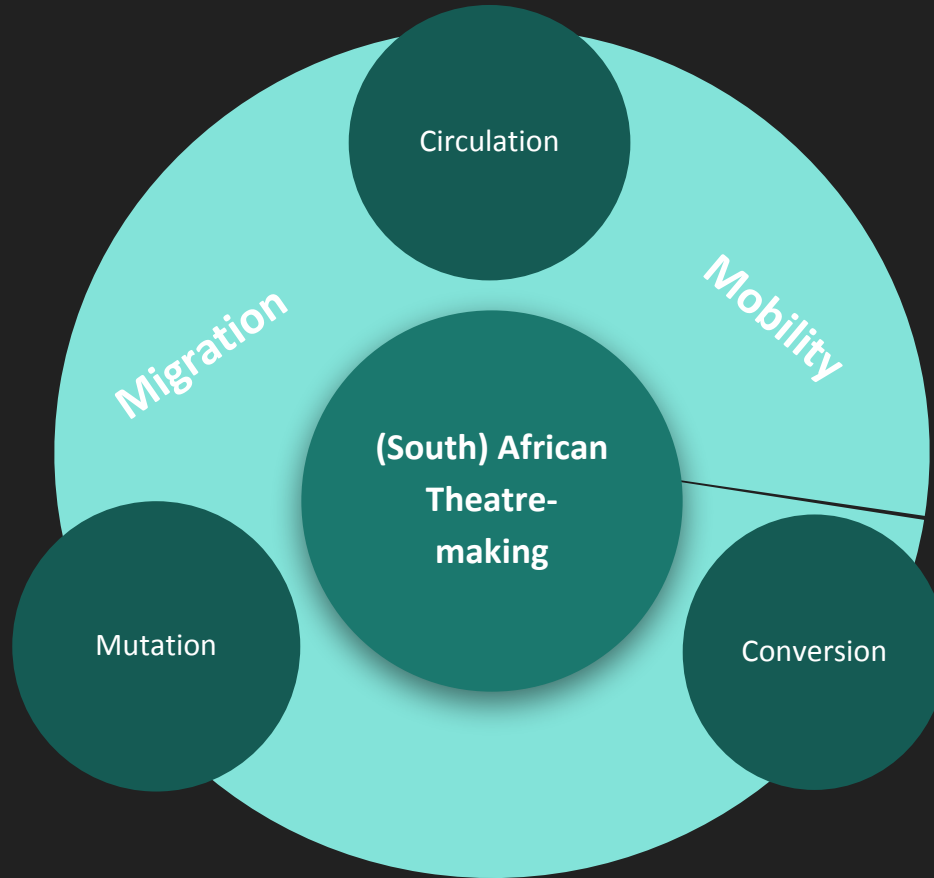
Source: <https://www.salesforce.com/blog/2018/12/what-is-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-4IR.html>

The African Continent

Africa is a fertile ground for the new digital technologies, because the **philosophy** of those technologies is more or less exactly the **same as ancient African philosophies**. This **archive of permanent transformation, mutation, conversion and circulation** is an essential dimension of what we can call African culture.

(Achille Mbembe, 2015)

“Ancient African Philosophies” and the 4IR



“Ancient African Philosophies” and the 4IR

This flexibility and this capacity for constant innovation, **extension of the possible**, that is also the spirit of the Internet... the digital, and it is the same spirit you will find in pre-colonial and contemporary Africa.

(Mbembe, 2015)

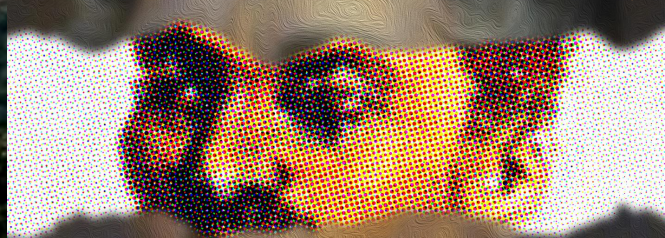
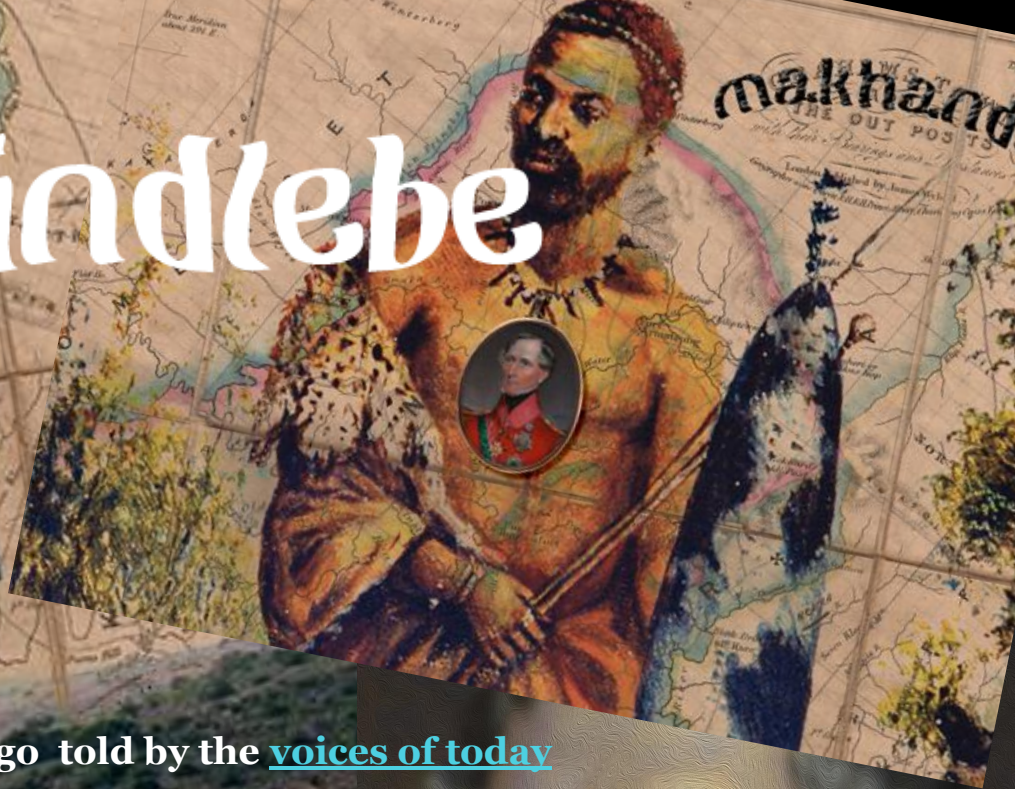
African Digital Art in 4IR

...the 'glocalisation' of culture that becomes possible through the use of digital technologies has given us **unprecedented access to voices, stories, ideas and views from cultures** other than our own, thus resisting cultural hegemony and homogenization. [...]
digitization has the potential to make **Africans producers and exporters of indigenous information**, rather than merely passive consumers of imported knowledge. Digital art has enabled African cultures to affirm their **creative identities in a global space**.

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N2
Grahamstown 11
makhanda 211

Hear the story of 200 years ago told by the [voices of today](#)



The Histories

Abengcongolo Collective in association with Mud&Fire Parables
Supported by UCT's Centre for Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies
Presents

2019

Nguvu yambegu... entabelanga

1921 Bulhoek Massacre



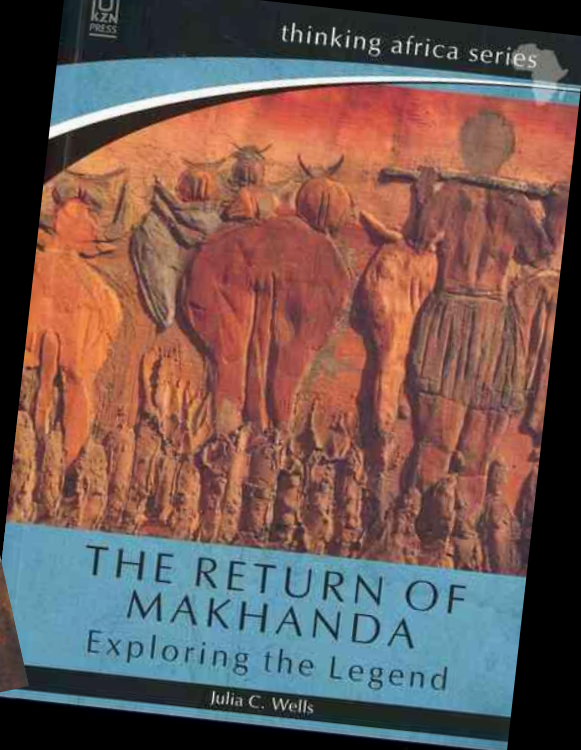
Directed by Mandla Mbothwe
Created by past & current cast
Choreography by Mzokuthula Gata
Original sound by Elvis Sibeko
Performance Coaching by Chuma Sopotela
Featuring Anathi Rubela; Katlego Lebogang Mhlongo; Lunie Macanda;
Lungile Lallie; Luthabo Maduna; Mmello Makhetha; Zizo Solontsi

27 & 30 June 19:00
28 & 29 June 12:00
01 July 16:00

Gymnasium

CTDPS
Centre for Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies

MUD & FIRE PARABLES



The Digital



ukubekindlebe Town

Title

ukubekindlebe Town

Description

Hear the story of 200 years ago told by the voices of today.

This is an opportunity to hear an imagined past. The past in question: the 1819 Battle of Grahamstown. By walking through the streets of Makhanda with your

Publish Status

public

Are you interested in selling your walk?

ECHOES offers the capability for walk creators to sell their creations through our apps.



7

Title

7

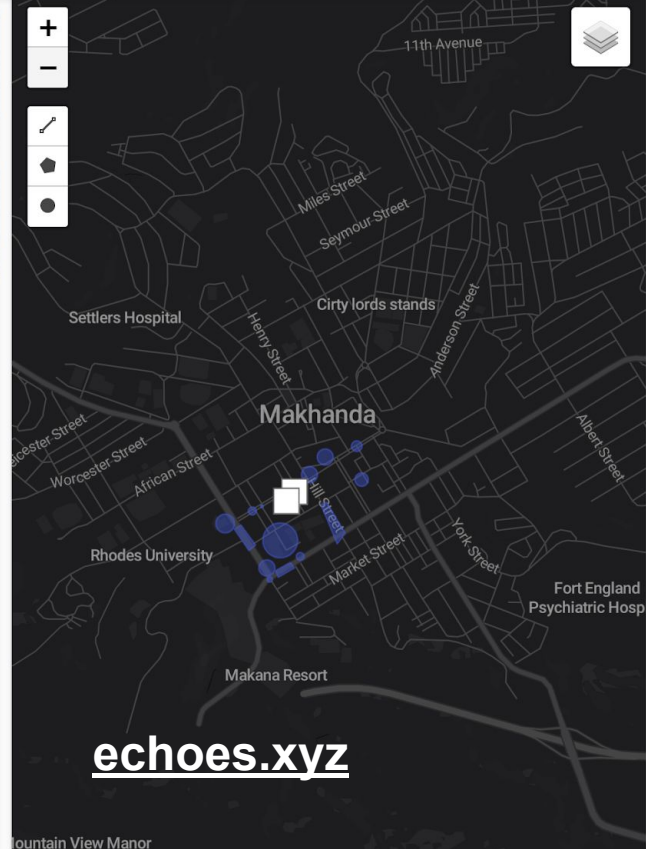
Description

☐ Hide player

☐ Hide zone

ELEMENTS

Sound



Digital Humanities

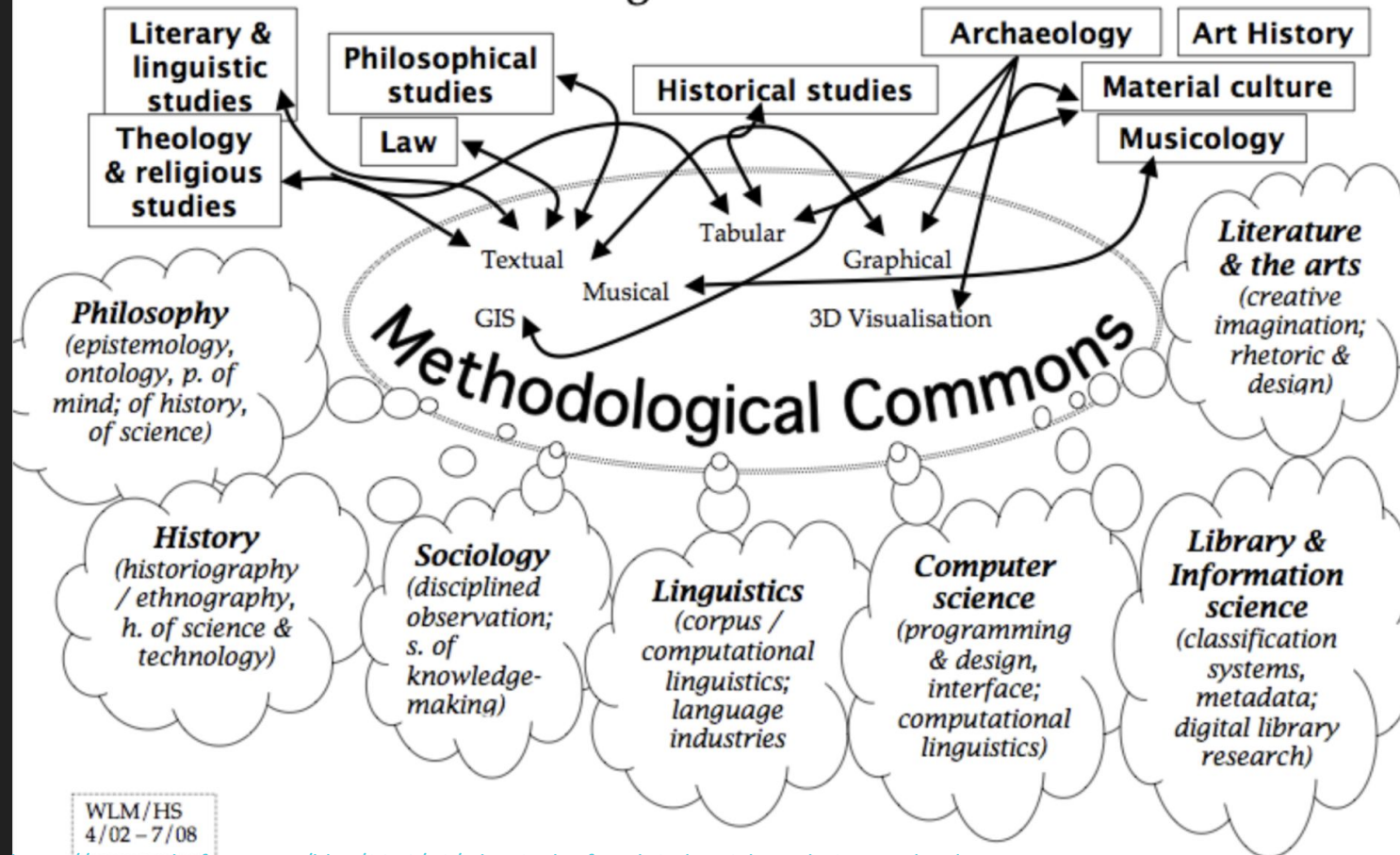
- Humanities meets computing (interdisciplinary)
- Started with 3IR but taking off in 4IR
- Can involve
 - the digitization of historical texts
 - Critical reflection on how technologies shape society
 - The use of VR and the digital reconstruction of objects
- Suggests a culture of working that is more agile, open and shared

Digital Humanities

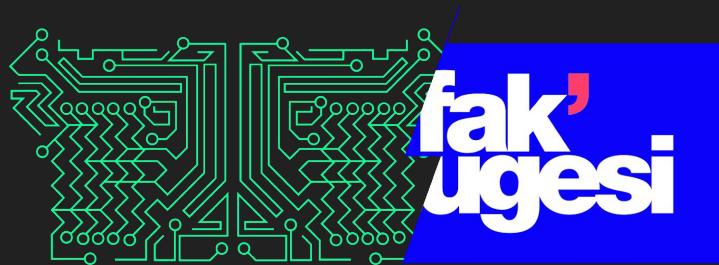
Of all scholarly pursuits, DH ... is obsessed with **varieties of representation**, the **organization of knowledge**, the **technology of communication and dissemination**, and the production of useful tools for scholarly inquiry. But DH is also, itself, a scholarly activity – concerned not just with presenting knowledge or helping to locate it, but with **creating it**.

(Steve Ramsey cited in Munoz, 2012).

An institutional, professional, disciplinary & intellectual map for the digital humanities



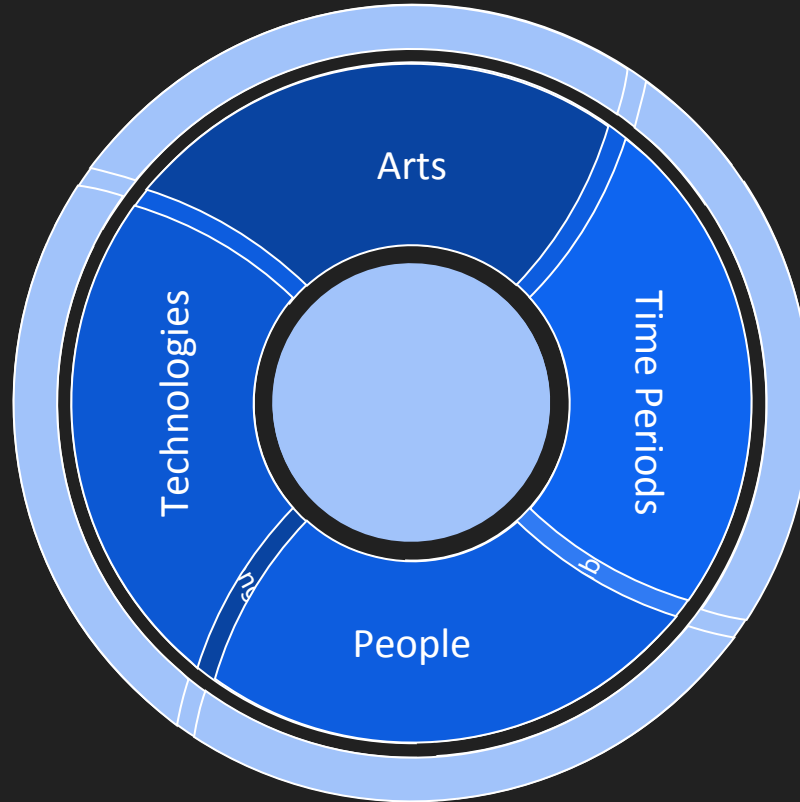
Examples of DH _(+related) within South Africa _(non exclusive)



**AFRICAN DIGITAL
INNOVATION
FESTIVAL**

**Braamfontein
30 Aug to 8 Sept 2019**

Transformation, mutation, conversion and circulation



How do we foster connectedness?

- **Digital**
 - Digital object architecture that identifies and resolves digital objects
- **Education**
 - Increase interdisciplinarity projects across Humanities and STEM
- **Arts**
 - Bring arts to new technologies, but also allow art to bring its methodologies
- **The library**
 - The (virtual) space for encounters and directions towards plasticity, migration and transformation

The New Digital Library

...enable new forms of research that were difficult or impossible to undertake before [...] to explore facsimiles of rare works and correspondence [...] to count word/phrase occurrences or do syntactical analysis...across a whole body of works [...] to reflect multiple interpretations of works, authors, or ideas alongside each other – a realization of decentered critical authority [...] to...engage in new activities that we haven't yet envisioned.

The African (Digital) Library?

And what needs to be done is to **construct the encounter**, the **reconciliation between those forms** and the **cultural archive** that is still part of everyday life, with the purpose of building a society that is Afropolitan, and that is committed to ideals of freedom and liberty.

(Mbembe, 2015)

Thank you

sanjinmuftic.com
sanjin.muftic@gmail.com

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