The Differences Digital Technology Makes: Humanities Scholarship in the Digital Age

New technologies are transforming the way humanities scholars question, research, interpret, communicate, and collaborate. To help make sense of these developments, Robertson draws connections between databases and keyword searches; the online collection, presentation, and dissemination of materials; and digital mapping, text mining, topic modeling, and network visualization software. These tools do not displace the scholarly practices that came before them, but the opportunity software offers to explore material on a much larger scale than was possible using traditional methods requires humanities disciplines to reconsider the questions they ask, the framing of evidence, and the presentation of scholarship.

Stephen Robertson is Director of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. He is author of Crimes against Children: Sexual Violence and Legal Culture in New York City, 1880-1960, co-author of Playing the Numbers: Gambling in Harlem Between the Wars, and a co-creator of the web site Digital Harlem.

Co-sponsored by The Graduate Student Organization and The History Graduate Student Association