

Academic and Social Media in the Humanities

From Open Science to social networks

History in the making: the end of Twitter as a social network?



Massive brain drain from Twitter



[Picture in context](#)

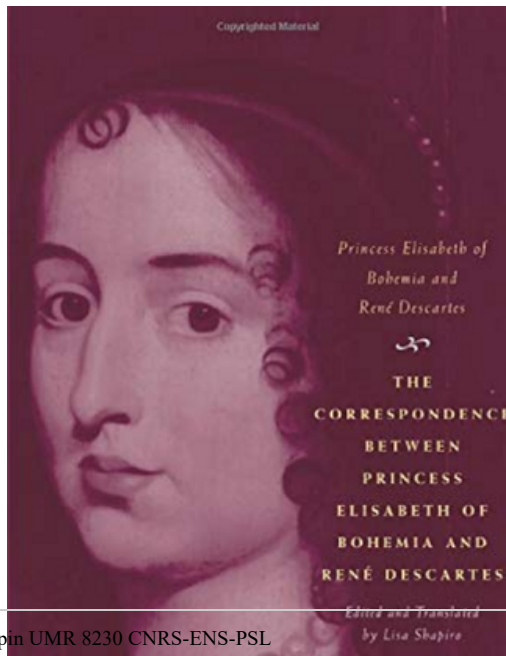
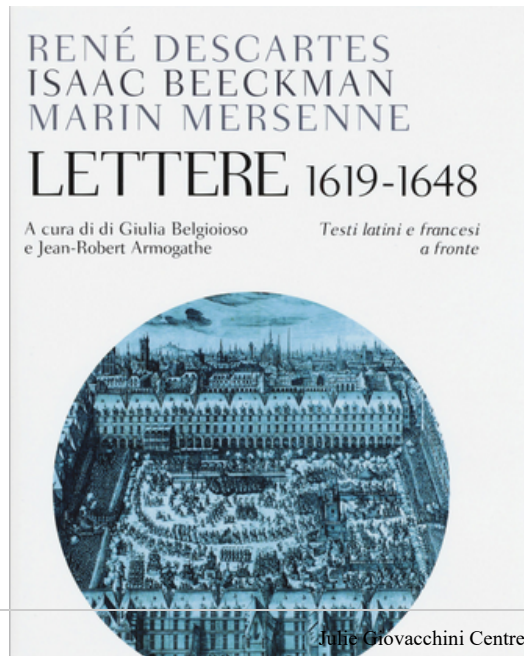
[Is an other Digital World possible?](#)

A step backwards: social networks and Open Science

*Open science is the movement to make scientific research (including publications, data, physical samples, and software) and its dissemination accessible to **all levels of society, amateur or professional**. Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks. It encompasses practices such as publishing open research, campaigning for open access, encouraging scientists to practice open-notebook science, **broader dissemination and engagement in science** and generally making it easier to publish, access and communicate scientific knowledge. [Wikipedia: Open Science](#)*

The scholarly correspondences, ancestors of the social network?

Peer-to-peer dialogue is the historical fuel for scientific research.





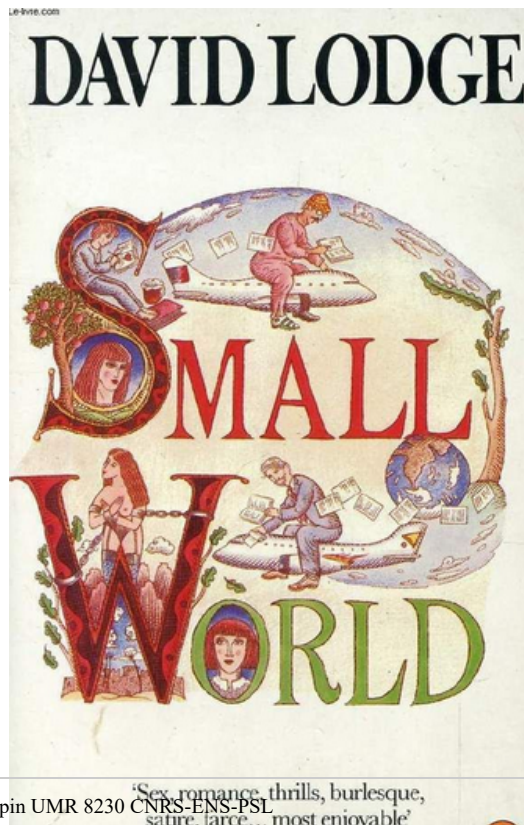
Nils Forsberg (1842-1934) After Pierre-Louis Dumesnil the Younger (1698-1781) Dispute of Queen Cristina Vasa and René Descartes

From left to right: Queen Christina, Prince of Condé, Elizabeth of the Palatinate, Descartes, Marin Mersenne.

Modern scholar as a socialite?

David Lodge, ([interview 1999](#))

I was intrigued by the conjunction of high-level academic discussion with a certain amount of partying and tourism; by the mixture of cultures; and by the idea of people, all of whom know each other, converging from all over the world on various exotic places to talk about fairly esoteric subjects, and then flying off, only to meet each other again in another exotic venue.



Julie Giovacchini Centre Jean Pépin UMR 8230 CNRS-ENS-PSL

Traditional scientific media

BRILL Over three centuries of scholarly publishing

Phronesis

A Journal for Ancient Philosophy

Founded in 1955, *Phronesis* is the oldest and most authoritative scholarly journal for the study of ancient Greek and Roman thought (ancient philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, logic and the philosophy of science and medicine) from its origins down to the end of the sixth century A.D. *Phronesis* offers the reader specialist articles and book notes from top international scholars. It publishes work in English, French, German, and Italian.

All queries regarding new submissions should be directed to Dr. Alexander Long. Please see the Instructions for Authors in the Submit an Article tab.

European Science Foundation Ranking A.

BRILL *Over three centuries of scholarly publishing*

Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy

Editor-in-Chief: Gary M. Gurtler

The *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy* are published annually. Each volume brings together the papers and commentaries to reflect the dialogical spirit that characterizes the meetings of the Boston Area Colloquium. The authors are encouraged to revise their presentations in the light of discussion, and their papers are sent to external referees for peer review.

This is the electronic version of the yearbook of the same name. Each volume presents the papers of the colloquia of the year in question with the responses given. The new e-journal contains all previously published back volumes as well as each new volume as it is published. See also *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*[Hardback].

Social network as a game changer

← Brill Classics
996 Tweets

Classical Studies

BRILL

Brill Classics
@Brill_Classics

The latest on Brill Publishing's Classical Studies program. Also follow @BrillPublishing for general company news.
[Traduire la biographie](#)

Leiden and Boston [brill.com](#) A rejoint Twitter en novembre 2011

159 abonnements **3 855 abonnés**

Suivi par Anders Dahl Sorensen, HISoMA et 34 autres personnes que vous suivez

Tweets Tweets et réponses Médias J'aime

← Discussion

Daniel Mendelsohn
@DMendelsohnNYC

Today, after four years of work, I finished my translation of the #Odyssey.
[Traduire le Tweet](#)

5:57 PM · 18 mars 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

334 Retweets 79 Tweets cités 7 277 J'aime

Twitter, paradigm of social network for scholars

- a laboratory for academic uses of a social media
- allows all the different uses mentioned above: social networking, leisure, scientific exchange between peers, science popularization

The material conditions for change: CMS technology

CMS (=Content Management System) are used by all the social applications we use to converse and exchange online. Understanding how they work can also give us some insight into our digital behaviour.

A CMS is a software (or a software suite) designed to **produce dynamic web content**, making it possible to collaborate simultaneously on the same content, to structure this content, to moderate interventions on this content, and to **dissociate back-end and front-end**.

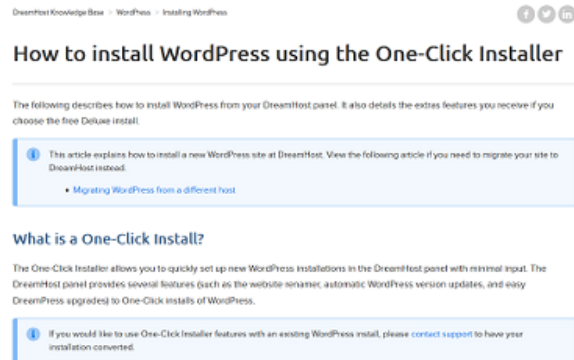
=> the CMS has created a revolution in the production and distribution of written content comparable to the invention of the printing press.

How does it work?

Three simple technical principles:

- web interfaces => no local installation + data output format is standard (HTML and related mark-up languages).
- the back-end database is dissociated from the front-end web application: the developer/administrator/writer works in the back-end and the user/reader only accesses the front-end.
- the database is not built, hosted and maintained by the user, who only intervenes in the web directory and the content of the fields.

=> CMS allows us to publish without having to program.



DreamHost Knowledge Base > WordPress > Installing WordPress

How to install WordPress using the One-Click Installer

The following describes how to install WordPress from your DreamHost panel. It also details the extra features you receive if you choose the free Deluxe install.

i This article explains how to install a new WordPress site at DreamHost. View the following article if you need to migrate your site to DreamHost instead.

- [Migrating WordPress from a different host](#)

What is a One-Click Install?

The One-Click Installer allows you to quickly set up new WordPress installations in the DreamHost panel with minimal input. The DreamHost panel provides several features (such as the website rename, automatic WordPress version updates, and easy DreamPress upgrades) to One-Click installs of WordPress.

i If you would like to use One-Click Installer features with an existing WordPress install, please [contact support](#) to have your installation converted.

A somewhat misleading easiness

Hosting and building a website yourself is complex. SEO also requires skills to make your work visible. Using a CMS solves all or part of these problems: appearance, structure, referencing, hosting are all supported.

Two consequences:

- keeping users in a situation of technical ignorance
- a form of enslavement to monopolistic and unethical tools and infrastructures

Specific features on Twitter

- use of # as pointers for a specific topic or trend topic
- shortness: as Twitter is intended for micro-blogging, for a long time the maximum size of a tweet was 140 characters; this size has recently been increased and one can now write tweets of 280 characters.
- no possibility of editing a tweet
- anybody can follow and interact with a public account
- in addition to the *like* option, there are two different features for sharing a tweet: the retweet, or the quote with a comment (which is a feature used for both cheering and criticizing, and is therefore involved in most of the violent controversies on the network).

As such, Twitter is a network that promotes immediacy, publicity, accessibility and the social construction of continuous academic *performance*.

Scholar's staging of the self

From authority to expertise?

The **scholar** has authority on a subject and is therefore allowed to speak in his field of competence; the **expert**, on the other hand, is expressly asked to give his opinion.

On social networks, the passage from one to the other of these positions is frequent, sometimes imperceptible, and sometimes also dangerous.

Sometimes the expert is asked to give his opinion for the wrong reasons; sometimes the scholar allows himself to speak in a field that is not his own.

It also happens that the expert presents a false discourse, which only other experts are able to discredit. In this situation in particular, the social network is a place of validation or invalidation where markers of legitimacy and credibility will clash, some of which are visible to the general public, others not.

The Didier Raoult case: a model of false credibility

An expert? ...

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter thread. On the left, a tweet from Alexander Ruebben, MD (@AlexRuebben) is visible, discussing how a physician was pushed out of a hospital for saying the truth about COVID. On the right, a reply from Vanessa Beeley (@VanessaBeeley) is shown, containing a video clip of Didier Raoult. The video clip has English subtitles that read: "If you like the more you test the greater the increase in cases..". Below the video, a news banner from "Le Monde" is partially visible, stating "CORONAVIRUS - 1 938 CAS POSITIFS EN 24H EN FRANCE".

Tweet

Alexander Ruebben, MD
@AlexRuebben

Incredible one of the best physicians is going to be pushed out of the hospital as he always said the truth about COVID and saved many lives with early treatment: Didier Raoult poussé vers la sortie par les partenaires de l'Institut hospitalo-universitaire de Marseille

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

11:26 PM · 23 août 2021 · Twitter Web App

158 Retweets 13 Tweets cités 321 J'aime

vanessa beeley
@VanessaBeeley

[#Covid_19](#) in [#France](#) - no longer the same disease, considerably weaker. (subtitles in English)

Dr Didier Raoult - Didier Raoult is a French physician and microbiologist specializing in infectious diseases.

[#EndLockdown](#)

[@PiersRobinson1](#) [@2ndNewMoon](#) [@Charlotte3003G](#)

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

If you like the more you test the greater the increase in cases..

PROFESSEUR DIDIER RAOULT DIRECTEUR DE L'ITU MEDITERRANEE

CORONAVIRUS - 1 938 CAS POSITIFS EN 24H EN FRANCE

... Or a fraud!



Nick Brown
@sTeamTraen

Why are there so few deaths among COVID-19 patients in the hospital where Didier Raoult gives them all hydroxychloroquine? Because it has no ICU, so if someone gets badly sick they are sent to other hospitals, and if they die they are counted in those hospitals' numbers.

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



Mathieu M.J.E. Rebeaud @Damkyan_Omega · 8 oct. 2020

"L'établissement spécialisé faisant partie intégrante de l'AP-HM, les cas graves de Covid-19 sont transférés en réanimation dans les services appropriés de l'AP-HM. De quoi expliquer le taux très faible de mortalité liée au Covid-19 à l'IHU Méditerranée." actu.orange.fr/france/marseille...

[Afficher cette discussion](#)

7:06 PM · 8 oct. 2020 · Twitter Web App

60 Retweets 7 Tweets cités 200 J'aime



Prof. Peter C Göttsche
@PGttsche1



Didier Raoult has sued a leading expert in scientific misconduct and harassed her seriously in other ways. Her fault? She correctly pointed out that Raoult's "study" on hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 is seriously flawed and totally worthless

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



theguardian.com

World expert in scientific misconduct faces legal action for challenging integrity... Australian and international scientists publish open letter defending Dr Elisabeth Bik and calling for science whistleblowers to be protected

3:58 PM · 24 mai 2021 · Twitter Web App

196 Retweets 35 Tweets cités 538 J'aime

The trap of adversarial debate: should science be debated?

Should we debate with flat-Earthists? should we debate about climate change?

How can we establish a scientific discourse that does not rely solely on authoritative arguments or external markers of credibility that are sometimes fallible, but that can be addressed to people who do not have our disciplinary habits and who will not approach the discussion with the same expectations and methods as we do?

Eternal paradox of scientific popularization

- Either science is for experts, or it is not;
- If it is, popularization can only be based on authoritative arguments;
- If it is not, the expert must accept to lose control of his method of discussion and his expertise.

A real community: twitter as the academic coffee break

[An example: the "paleography_help" community.](#)

=> jokes and real co-working

Works in progress and self-documentation

[Emily Wilson's translation of *Odyssey*](#)

← **Dr Emily Wilson**
4 404 Tweets

Dr Emily Wilson
@EmilyRCWilson

Writer, classicist, translator. In progress: Iliad & Plato.
3 cats, 3 kids, 1 dog
she/her/ they
emilyrcwilson.com
youtube: EmilyRC Wilson (note weird space)
[Traduire la biographie](#)

📍 Philadelphia, PA classics.upenn.edu/people/emily-w...
📅 A rejoint Twitter en décembre 2017

528 abonnements 33 k abonnés

👤 Suivi par Dr Marie Frey Rébellié-Borgella, Anders Dahl Sørensen et 18 autres personnes que vous suivez

Disseminate and Communicate: personal and institutional communication

[@EnDirectDuLabo](#): a researcher, often a doctoral or post-doctoral student, explains and describes his/her work for a whole week.

[DH2022 #](#): follow a big event in Digital Humanities community from the beginning to the end

[DiSSGeA](#)

From communication to Data Science

A good structuring of the information flow on twitter, which systematically uses # and unambiguous character strings, can allow relational, semantic, lexical, etc. data extractions and analyses quite easily.

One of the best programming libraries (in Python) for this is twarc2 which allows to query the twitter API with a command line. Twitter now offers researchers to apply for an academic account allowing them to query the full API archive for free. With a simple user account, one only has access to the archives for the past week.

Dark side of the CMS: how and why should we leave an "Elon Musk social media"?

Facebook, Twitter, Academia, ResearchGate => mass media for the academic world, increasingly easy to use in an increasingly controlled environment.

CMS farms and the economic monopoly of a few very large web giants were already a retreat from the original spirit of the documentary internet.



Let's talk about Net Neutrality

Net neutrality is the general principle that prohibits Internet service providers from limiting or controlling the quality of the Internet according to the economic weight of the users, their equipment or the use they make of the service. For the moment, this material neutrality is only very occasionally questioned. Should access to certain bandwidth-hungry services, such as video streaming, be limited? Should certain accesses be regulated to deal with security threats, for example?

A more problematic infringement of net neutrality, and one that is likely to be singularly increased for twitter if the takeover by Elon Musk is confirmed, is the growing **concentration and centralisation** of services.

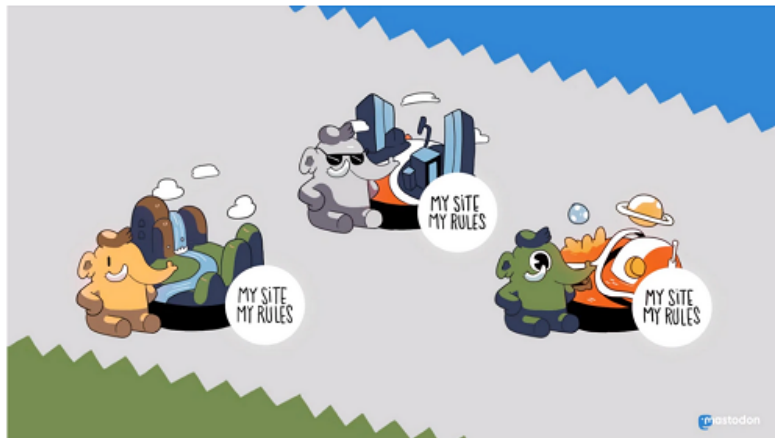
The problem with centralisation

"The Internet was designed to be decentralised, to have lots of small units sharing information and exchanging information with each other and not at all to have a big unit at the centre; that's the Minitel model, in fact, a big unit at the centre and things around it. And it's quite unexpected to find ourselves in this situation. We really had our heads turned upside down at one point and we find ourselves faced with players who are now insane, against whom, perhaps, we didn't know how to fight at one point when it was still possible. Today we are faced with huge things. "
(Oriane Piquer-Louis. [Translated from French](#))

Today, concentrations are not only technical, at the level of access providers; they also concern applications, services and content. This multiplies the risks of service failure on the one hand, and of political control, unethical use of personal data, censorship, etc. on the other.

Mastodon, a decentralized alternative to Twitter

"Mastodon is a microblogging platform akin to others you may have seen, such as Twitter, but instead of being centralised it is a federated network which operates in a similar way to email." [source: Mastodon Blog](#)



Mastodon was made by a 26-year old Eugen Rochko

Photo Credit: Mastodon