

Humanities Center | Digital Humanities Lecture

The Six Degrees of Frederick Douglass & the “Ladies of Harrisburg”

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at 12noon

Scheler Humanities Forum
200 Linderman Library



What can writers and activists teach us about our relationship to data? This talk begins with an overview of the data and digital archives created to represent nineteenth-century African American print cultures and activist communities. Among others, data about the Colored Conventions, the Black press, Vigilance Committees, and the Underground Railroad can show the sprawling social networks that surrounded Frederick Douglass and tens of thousands of his contemporaries. Yet these archives also raise many questions about how to contend with missing or incomplete data, or when we hear a mention only in passing of the “Ladies of Harrisburg.” What stories for advancing social justice might we tell with data that is absent, erased, invisible, or illegible? How can our work render these pasts accessible, useful, and open to wider participation?

Jim Casey is a Perkins postdoctoral research associate at the Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton University. He is a co-director of the Colored Conventions Project and co-editor of the forthcoming collection, *Colored Conventions in the Nineteenth Century* (UNC Press) with P. Gabrielle Foreman. The award-winning CCP has been made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Along with his work in the public and digital humanities, his book-in-progress is titled *The Invention of Editors, 1740-1872*. More at jim-casey.com or [@jimccasey1](https://twitter.com/jimccasey1).

LUNCH will be provided with RSVP to sus3@lehigh.edu by January 28

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