

Kathleen Collins
DH Section Deputy

February 2024



Social Networks

Culture or Technology?

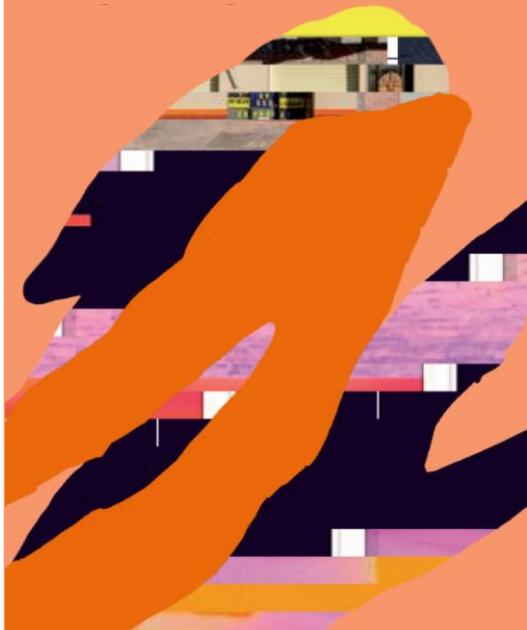


Music

Culture or Technology?

Video Games

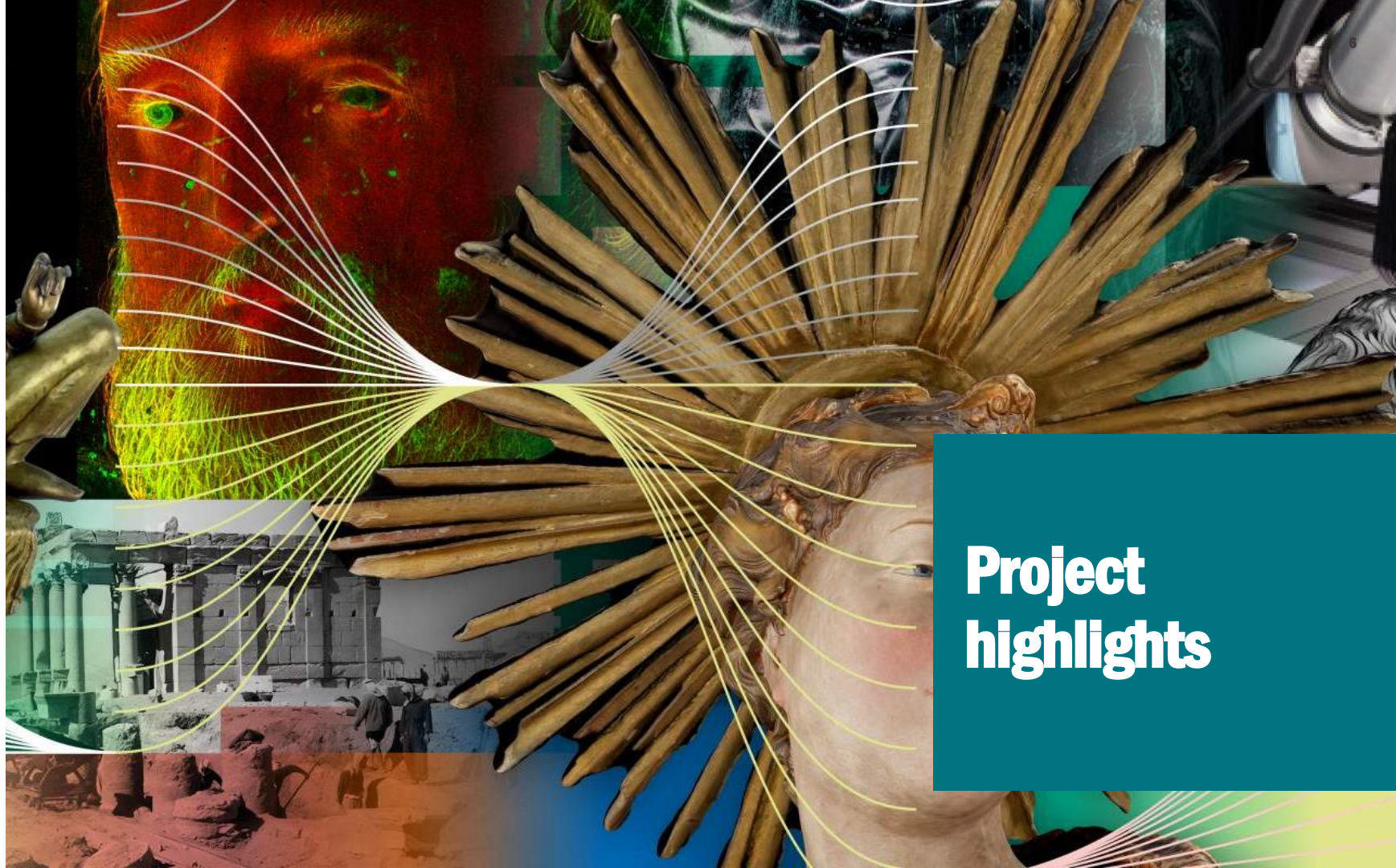
Culture or Technology?





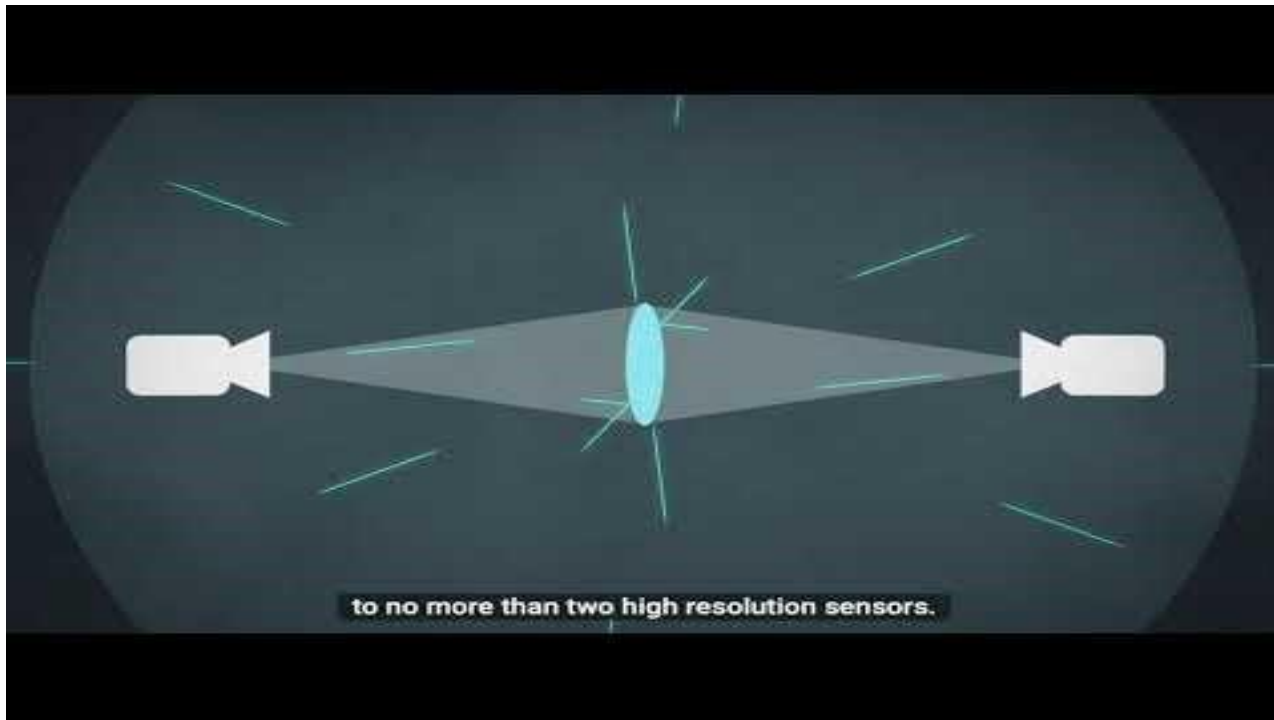
Museums

Culture or Technology?



Project highlights

Thanks to the support of the Swiss National Fund NRP 75 Big Data, the ScanVan project has developed a new “spherical” camera and a dedicated vehicle to allow the easy digitisation of Swiss and European cities.



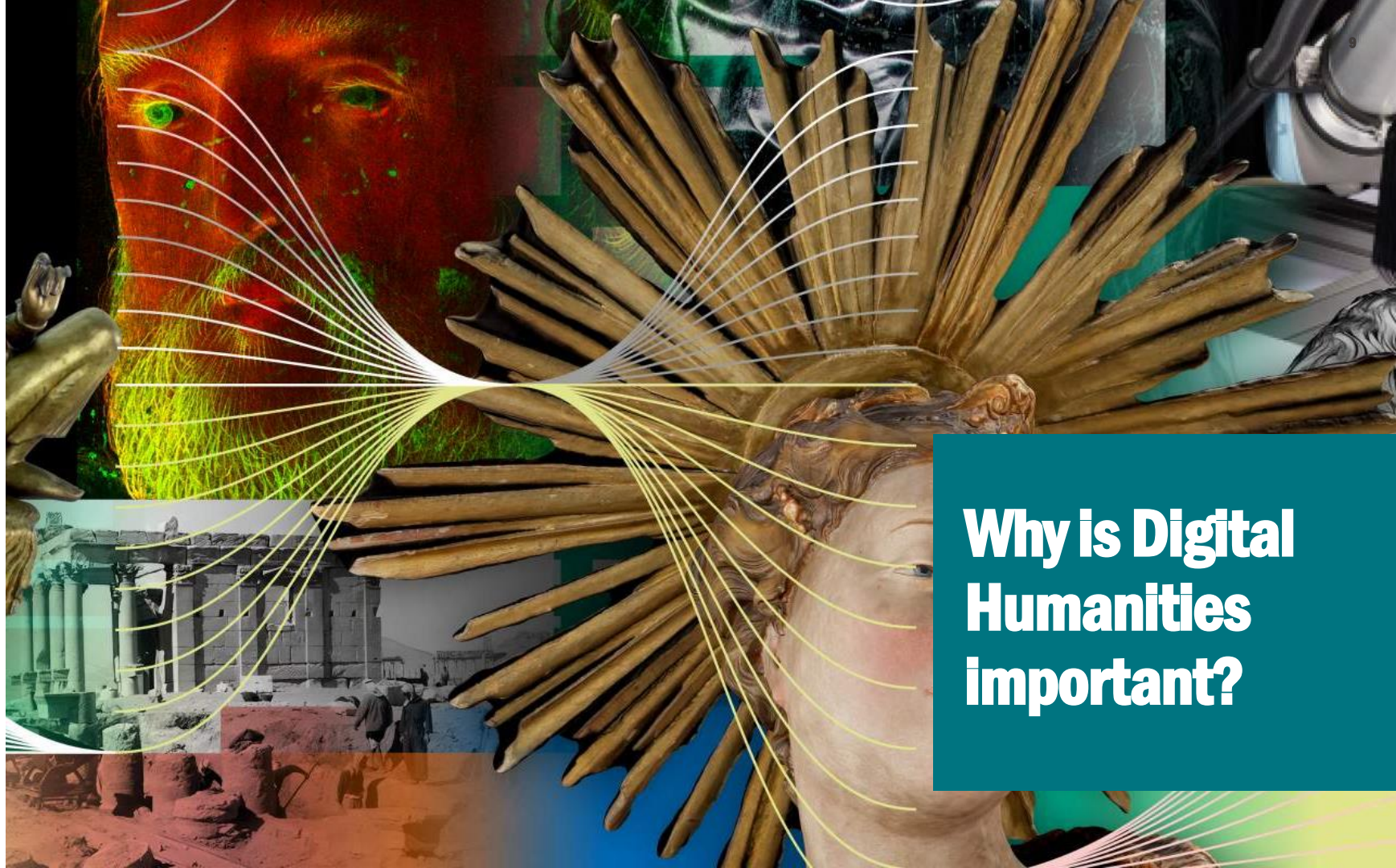
2:15 minutes

Decoding Beethoven's music style using data science

What makes Beethoven sound like Beethoven? Researchers from the Digital & Cognitive Musicology Lab have completed a first analysis of Beethoven's writing style, applying statistical techniques to unlock recurring patterns.



2:35 minutes



**Why is Digital
Humanities
important?**



- **Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI)**
- Cultural and creative studies in European universities are mostly focused on the ‘creative part’
- **Graduates** are not always ready to enter the modern labour market as they **lack cross-sectoral** (entrepreneurial, **digital** and financial management) **skills**.
- **These skills are needed for innovation** in both emerging sub-sectors and very mature ones that undergo a profound digital transformation.

The CCSI includes...



Architecture

Audiovisual
(including film, television,
software, video games,
multimedia and recorded music)

Cultural
Heritage
(tangible and
intangible)

Creativity-
driven high-
end industries
and fashion

Advertising

Design

Music

Libraries
and
Museums

Radio
and
Visual Arts

Literature

The Arts

Festivals

Books and Publishing
(newspapers and magazines)

Archives

Performing
Arts
(including
theatre and
dance)

Artistic Crafts

Our graduates meet these needs: Industry, PhD, teaching



DH Alumni

First DH Alumni event in 2023



not as a doctor.

4:04 minutes

What are they doing now?



"I really liked the Cultural Data Sculpting class by Prof. Kenderdine at the Laboratory of Experimental Museology, and now I'm doing my PhD there."

— Giacomo Allata, PhD Student – EPFL



"I work in a mapping company. I analyze the data and look into how people actually behave in organizations, what are their roles and how they distribute work amongst each other."

— Robin Szymczak, Data Scientist – Peerdom



"I'm mainly doing work related to front end development in this Lausanne based startup."

— Yuanhui Lin, Web developer – quanthome SA



"I build machine learning models to create value for the company in the logistic process."

— Hakim Invernizzi, Data Scientist – Digtect Galaxus



"I am doing my PhD at the Digital Visual Studies Lab researching computer vision methods and links to AI, to art and art history."

— Ludovica Schaerf, PhD Student – University of Zurich / Max Planck Institute

DH Alumni testimonies



I am the **Head of Data** in a music industry start-up in Paris (it's called Groover).

I am running a team of Data Scientists and Engineers to **create Machine Learning applications** such as a recommendation system matching artists and music industry professionals or an audio tagging tool to help artists understand the genres and trends they are operating in.

My day-to-day consists of staying up to date with **ML research** through paper presentations and prototypes, setting and maintaining **production infrastructure** for our current models, **creating analytics** for everyone in the company and provide external data to take **strategic decisions** with respect to the company's competition.

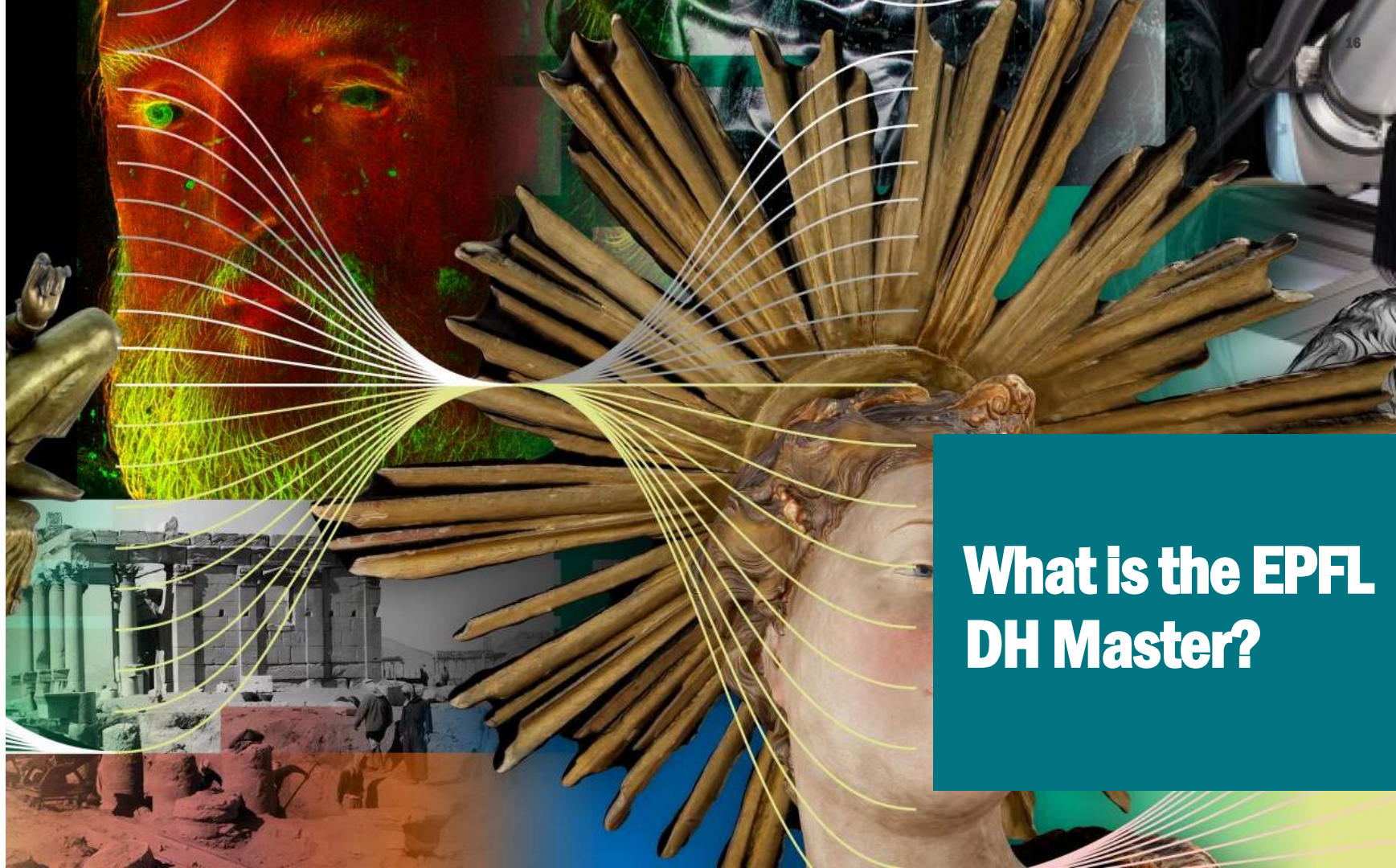


I am an **Information Management and Data Science Officer** at the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

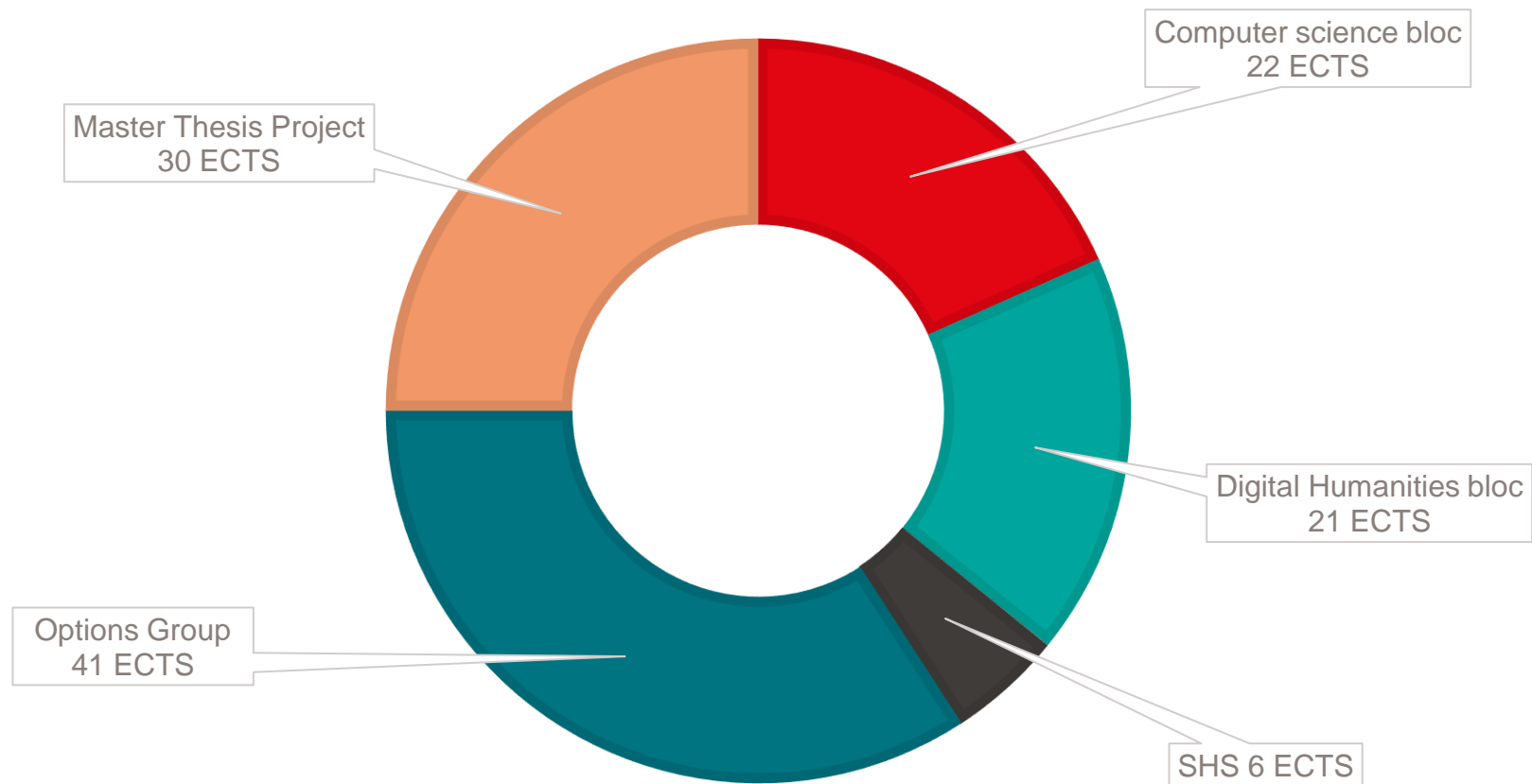
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is recognised for responding to disasters around the globe, and their Information Management teams are the ones in charge of **providing data insights to operational teams** in shape of maps, dashboards, analysis and platforms.

In my current role, I support with **data science projects** aimed to improve the effectivity of our operations. This goes from **technical developments** to strategic alliances, from **processing big data** and proposing **machine learning models**, passing through the design and management of platforms for early warning, to university-industry partnership management.

Being a data scientist at the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has been an honour, and although it was a quite unique opportunity at the time, I think now **opportunities are only growing**, searching for profiles that besides being technically capable are **informed and interested on the social implications of their solutions** - and I think digital humanities engineers are in a good starting position to offer that.



**What is the EPFL
DH Master?**



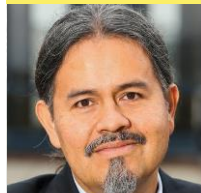
DH Master curriculum

Allows for maximum flexibility

- Unique offer of core, project-based courses
- Students can choose optional courses out of a large list of classes from many other sections
- Students can choose to do a semester project in the options group
- Credits can be taken outside of the study plan, for example classes at UNIL (maximum 15 ECTS).
- The mandatory internship can be done:
 - Short 8-week summer internship
 - One semester internship (4 to 6 months)
 - Master thesis project done in industry or in an institution

Core courses and faculty

Computer Science Block



Daniel Gatica-Perez
Computational
Social Media



Frédéric Kaplan
Foundations of
Digital
Humanities



Mathieu Salzmann
Machine
Learning for DH



Bob West
Applied Data
Analysis

Digital Humanities Block



Jérôme Baudry
History and the
Digital



Nicolas Henchoz
Design research
for digital
innovation



Sarah Kenderdine
Cultural Data
Sculpting



Martin Rohrmeier
Digital
Musicology

New optional DH classes



David Javet
Game Design &
Prototyping



Johan Rochel
Ethics and law of
AI

Internships

In industry or media/cultural institutions - 3 options :

- 8-week internship over the summer
- One semester (4 to 6 months)
- Master thesis project

Internships can be in many different industries in Switzerland and abroad :

- Media & cultural institutions
- Industry
- Humanitarian organizations

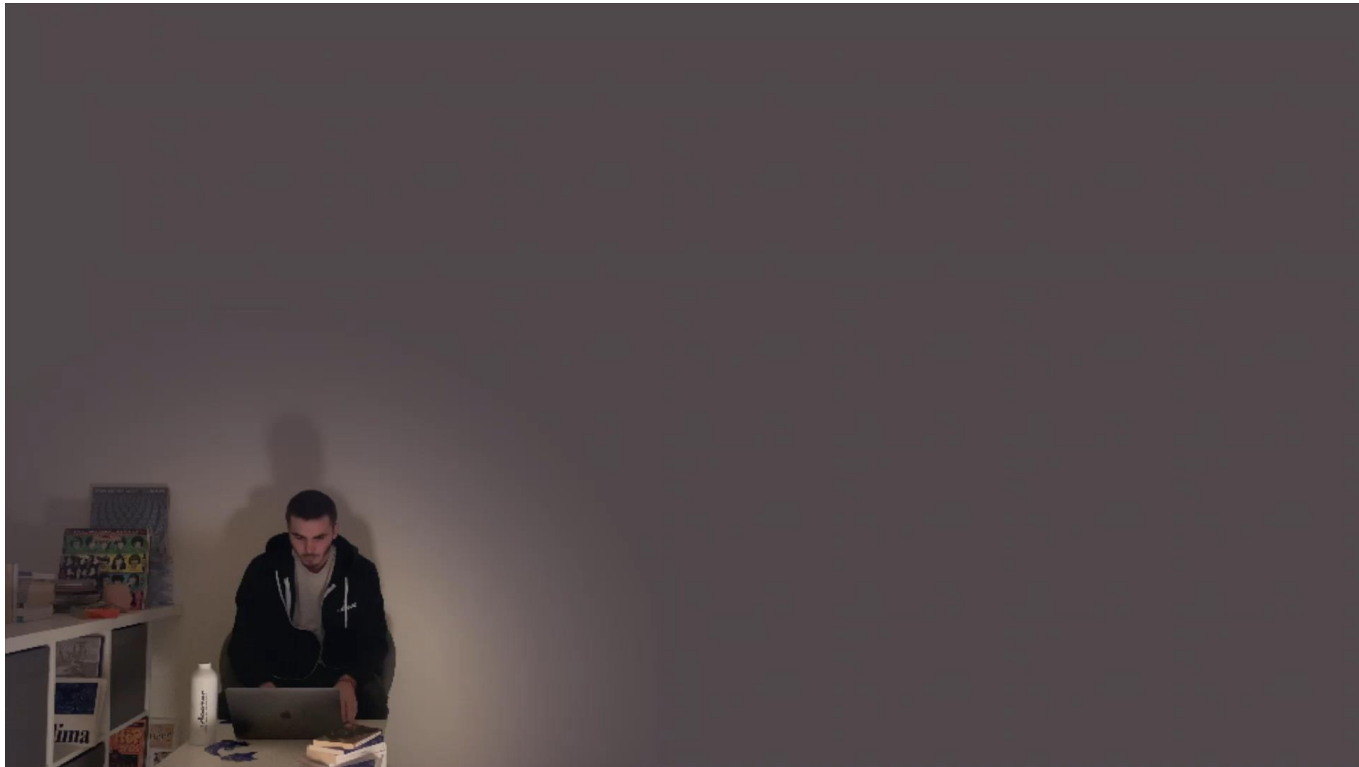
See what our students did during their internships –
3 minute video reports

<https://go.epfl.ch/dhinternships>

Internships - examples

Music Industry - Deezer

Research project in natural language processing

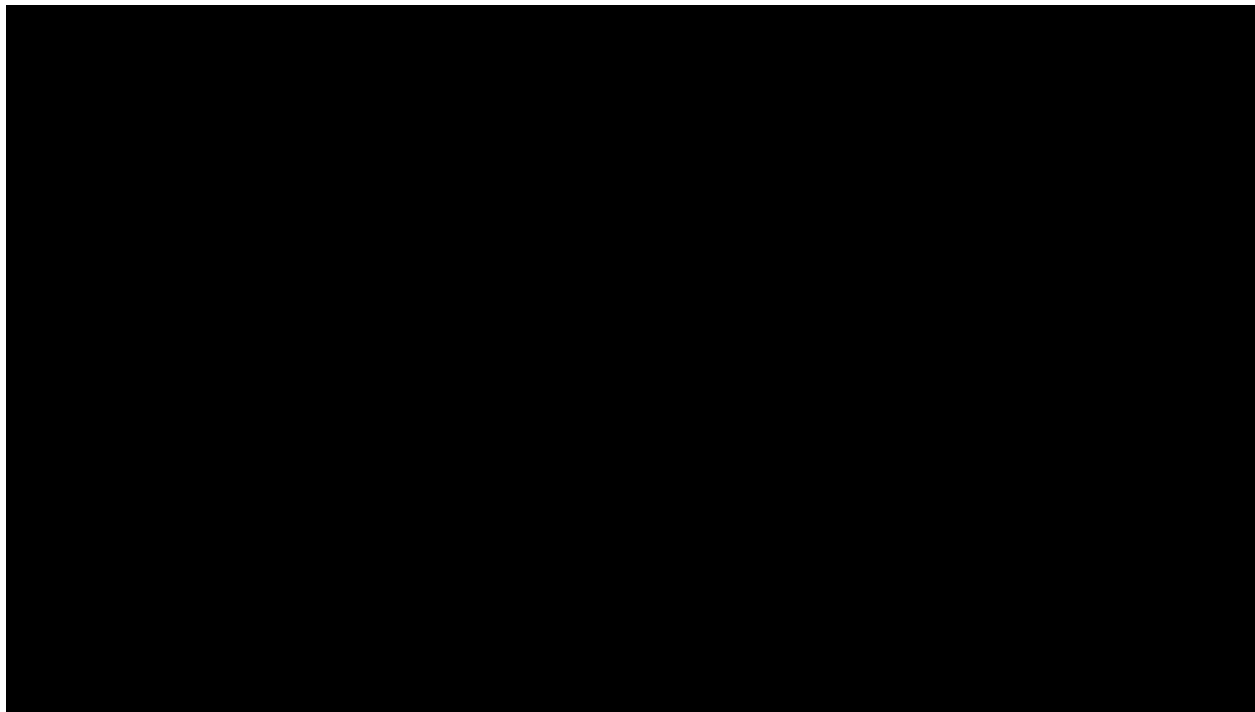


58 seconds

Internships - examples

Cultural institution – Institut d'Histoire de l'Art, Paris

Creation of a machine readable dataset of Paris' city directories



40 seconds

Internships - examples

Film industry – Largo a.i (start-up in EPFL's quartier de l'innovation)

Project in artificial intelligence working on neural network architecture



32 seconds

Examples in Media & cultural institutions

- RTS – Radio Television Suisse, Lausanne
- Art Recognition AG (evaluation of art authenticity), Zurich
- Peter Lang Group AG (publishing company), Bern
- Largo Films SA (startup in the film industry), Lausanne
- Agence Mediafaune, (Digital Communication), France
- Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Italy
- Centre Allemand d'Histoire de l'Art, France
- BnF - Bibliothèque Nationale de France, France
- Harvard Library, USA
- INHA - Institut national d'histoire de l'art, France
- Dunhuang Academy, China
- Archives de l'Etat du Valais, Sion
- CERN, Geneva
- EBU – European Broadcasting Union, Geneva
- Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History, Italy

Examples in Humanitarian organizations

- Int. Federation Red Cross (IFRC), Geneva

-

Examples in Industry

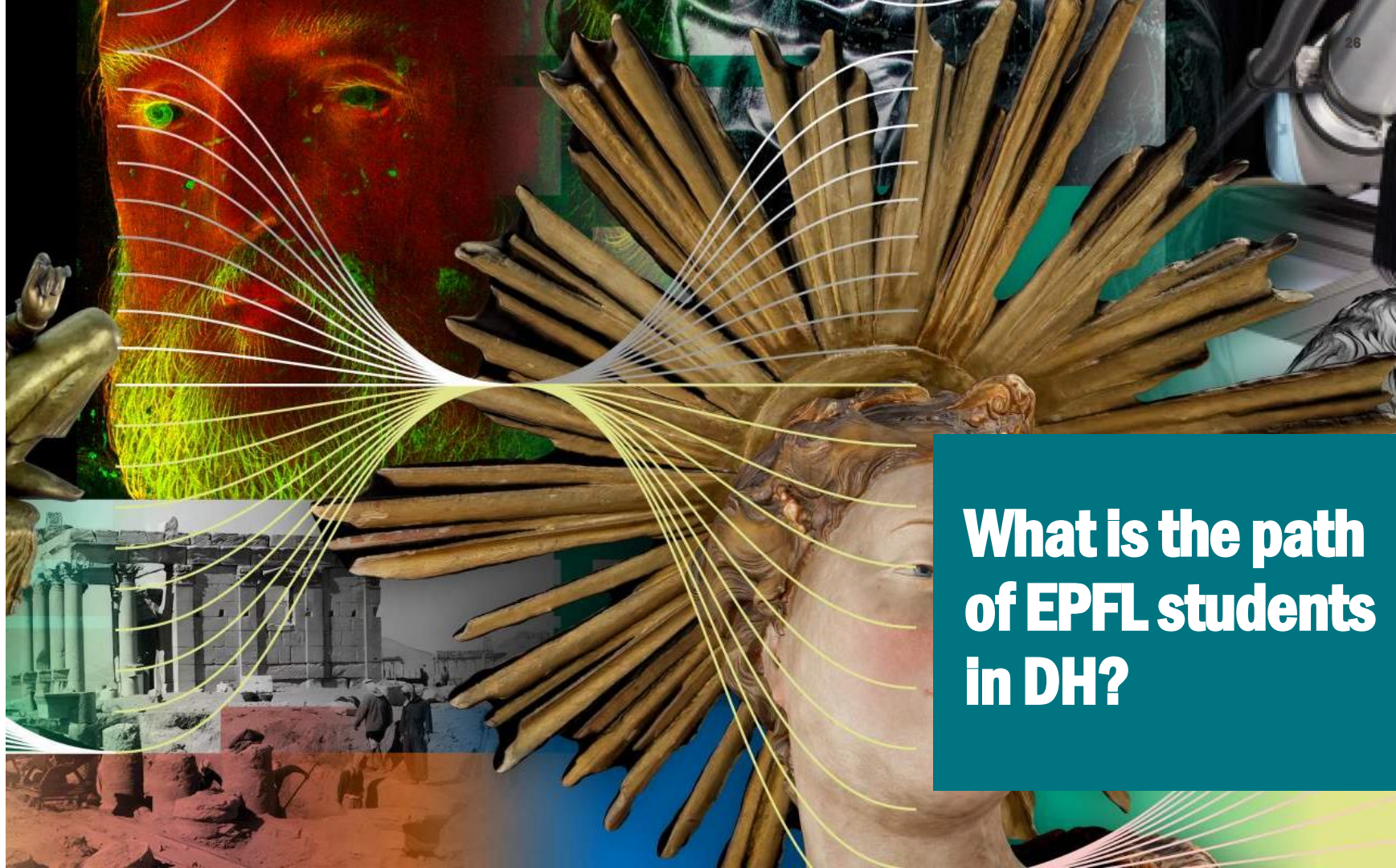
- DataGalaxy (NLP & UX), France
- Yang Technology AG (Oppo), Zurich
- Tencent AI Lab, China
- Visium Technologies (ML & AI), Lausanne
- Allegro (on-line e-commerce platform), Poland
- Alibaba Cloud, China
- ABB, Baden
- AXA insurance, Lausanne
- Philip Morris International, Lausanne
- Oracle, Zurich

Examples in Financial institutions

- Pictet Asset Management (private banking), Geneva
- BNS – Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich
- MET AG (Trading Company), Zug

Recent examples

Student name	Graduation year	Publication type (journal, conference, workshop, book chapter)	Publication title	Author list	Publication details
Yuanhui Lin	2022	Journal	Characterizing Swiss Alpine Lakes: from Wikipedia to Citizen Science	Y. Lin and D. Gatica-Perez	ACM Journal on Computing and Sustainable Societies, Vol. 1, No. 2, Dec. 2023
Haeeun Kim	2022	Conference	Referencing in YouTube Knowledge Communication Videos	H. Kim and D. Gatica-Perez	ACM International Conference on Interactive Media Experiences (IMX), Nantes, Jun. 2023.
Aurel Maeder	2023	Conference	Learning about Social Context from Smartphone Data: Generalization Across Countries and Daily Life Moments	A. Maeder, L. Meegahapola, and D. Gatica-Perez	ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), Honolulu, May 2024



**What is the path
of EPFL students
in DH?**

Some examples

Bachelor

- Computer Science



Internship

- Institut national d'histoire de l'art, France



Domain of work today

- Archiving and records management consulting services

Some examples

Bachelor

- Life Sciences



Internship

- BnF - Bibliothèque Nationale de France



Domain of work today

- PhD student at EPFL

Some examples

Bachelor

- Technology Management
- 

Internship

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Switzerland
- 

Domain of work today

- IFRC - Data Analyst in the humanitarian sector

Some examples

Bachelor

- Computer Science + Digital Media



Internship

- Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Italy



Domain of work today

- PhD student outside EPFL

Some examples

Bachelor

- Economics major & informatics minor



Internship

- BNS – Banque Nationale de Suisse



Domain of work today

- BNS – Banque Nationale de Suisse

- A new Minor in Digital Humanities, Media & Society will be offered as of Fall 2024
- Follow us on Instagram (@epfldh) or on our website for details.

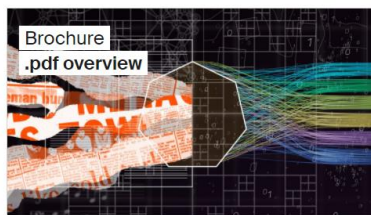
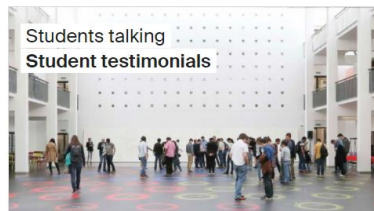


How to
prepare for **DH**

- SHS classes
- Semester projects in DH Labs
- Summer in the Lab
- DH events
- Dhelta (DH student association)

<https://go.epfl.ch/dhpourbachelors>

Website & contact



<https://go.epfl.ch/dhmaster>

Kathleen Collins

- Section Deputy
- Tel. 021 693 64 27
- INN137
- kathleen.collins@epfl.ch

Prof. Daniel Gatica-Perez

- Section Director
- Tel. 021 693 19 51
- INN138
- daniel.gatica-perez@epfl.ch



Q&A



@epfldh

#epfldh



Thank you and keep in touch!