**NAPS 2016 Pre-Conference Workshops**

This year there will be three pre-conference workshops running from 9 a.m. 12 p.m. on Thursday, 26 May. Please see below for descriptions and instructions on how to register.

**1. Religion and Medicine, Disability, and Health in Late Antiquity**

Chairs: Heidi Marx-Wolf, University of Manitoba; Kristi Upson-Saia, Occidental College

At this workshop, participants will have a chance to get acquainted with other scholars working on topics related to religion, medicine, disability, and health in late antiquity. During the formal program, we will: 1) discuss available funding sources and possible collaborations; and 2) solicit feedback on an ancient medicine reader in preparation.

To register (free of charge), please RSVP at: <http://goo.gl/forms/rBVPrnKcMr>

**2. Digital Humanities Workshop: *sicut Augustinus dixit*: Computational Tools for Testing Authorship as an Introduction to “Distant Reading”**

Facilitators: Alex Poulos, Catholic University of America, and Paul Dilley, University of Iowa

This hands-on workshop is designed to introduce patrologists to one particular part of the burgeoning field of digital humanities: computational stylistics. Authorship attribution is a particularly pesky problem, and a number of computational methods have emerged over the past fifteen years that promise help to scholars of early Christianity, e.g., in sorting through vast quantities of pseudo-Augustine, or pseudo-John Chrysostom. Such methods, however, also have their limitations: they require machine readable texts (something not always available for patristic texts); and a known body of “authentic” work against which to compare; they generally do not work well if selected/designated texts belong to different genres; they are likewise monolingual in operation: allowing comparison of works preserved solely in the same language (though they work quite well even on inflected languages like Ancient Greek and Latin). After presenting the promise and limitations of computational stylistics to participants in this workshop, we will introduce them to “stylo,” a package built on top of “R”, a freely available platform for statistical analysis. We will first guide participants through the installation of *R* and the *stylo* package, then walk them through several different modes of analysis using corpora drawn from patristic literature. Our primary test case will be the Augustinian sermons, and our primary question will be to evaluate the evidence for Augustinian authorship of *Sermones contra Iudaeos, Paganos, et Arrianos*, which scholars now attribute to Quodvultdeus. Beyond this, we will consider the impact of genre by examining texts from Jerome and Augustine that belong to different genres. By the workshop’s end, participants will have the tools and knowledge needed to perform statistical stylometric analysis of their own texts.

Workshop attendees are asked:

1. To RSVP ahead of time using the form here: <http://goo.gl/forms/idx5LxOnpd>. The workshop is limited to 30 participants. Slots are reserved on a first come, first served basis.
2. To bring a laptop.
3. To install the R Software Platform and *stylo* module ahead of time (directions for this will be distributed several weeks before the conference).

**3. Digital Humanities Workshop: *Terra Biblica*: Creating Interactive Maps for Research and Classroom Use**

Facilitator: Sarah Bond, University of Iowa

A large part of the field of Digital Humanities involves the use of digital tools to create models that facilitate deeper understanding. This workshop take a hands-on approach to exploring the field of “spatial humanities” as it applies to the study of early Christianity, and asks how the use of maps to model and contextualize texts, data, and images can enhance both the classroom experience and research. In particular, we will focus on the use of GIS ([Geographic Information Systems](http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/globalgis/tutorials/what_is_gis.htm)) in the Digital Humanities. These computer systems have given academics new tools with which to associate previously disparate data and a means to visualize the written word, but they also allow scholars to uncover new relationships between various sources of information.

First, we will focus on the history, development, and use of GIS as a technology, and detail some ways in which it has been applied within digital humanities projects. Participants will then be introduced to the file formats used to save geospatial data (e.g., CSV files), the geographic tools used to visualize this data (e.g., Google Maps and Google Earth, ArcGIS, MapBox, Leaflet), and the notations used to express these geographic visualizations and annotations (e.g., KML, JSON, Shapefiles).

In the final part of the workshop, participants will work in pairs to organize, visualize, and interpret their own datasets using these tools.\* The ultimate goal of the session is not only to create a number of dynamic digital maps that can be printed out and placed on the kitchen fridge, but also to provide participants with the tools and resources they need to engage in thinking about texts, images, and data through a new, spatial prism.

Workshop attendees are asked:

1. To RSVP ahead of time to Sarah Bond (sarah-bond@uiowa.edu). The workshop is limited to 30 participants. Slots are reserved on a first come, first served basis
2. To bring a laptop or ipad if possible
3. To contribute 10-20 locations that they wish to map onto the workshop spreadsheet. Following email registration, you will be sent a link to the workshop’s spatial data sheet in order to add your locations