

ACADEMY

Advancing African Digital Humanities Ideation Hub
(AADHIH)

Empowering Scholars for the Future



SEMINAR: THE RISE OF THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES (DH) IN SOUTH AFRICA

Digital Humanities (DH) remains a relatively young field of research in South Africa. While this presents certain challenges, it also creates significant opportunities for innovation and growth. In this presentation, Prof. Menno van Zaanen will outline the historical development of DH and highlight examples of current research in the South African context.

By foregrounding this history, the presentation aims not only to showcase existing work but also to stimulate critical reflection on the potential of DH approaches. In particular, it seeks to encourage scholars to consider how digital methodologies might be meaningfully integrated into their own research practices, thereby contributing to the ongoing development and contextualisation of DH in South Africa.

Guest Speaker Bio:

Menno van Zaanen is a Professor in Digital Humanities at the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR). His academic background is rooted in computer science and computational linguistics, and his research spans a broad range of disciplines. He has published on diverse topics, including gesture studies, music, language learning, social networks, and computational literary studies, reflecting a sustained engagement with both technical and humanistic dimensions of digital scholarship.



Join us for a rigorous and timely seminar on the emergence of the Digital Humanities in South Africa

Date

Date Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Time 18:00 (SAST)

Delivery MS Teams

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