SPATIAL HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES

The *Pleiades* Gazetteer Data Model: Going Off-Road in the Spatial and Digital Humanities

Tom Elliott, INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, NYU

March 25, 2016 • 12:00 NOON

Patrick Ma Digital Scholarship Lab, ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY

THE *PLEIADES* GAZETTEER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD — HTTP://PLEIADES.STOA.ORG — arose out of work on the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*. It now provides open access to the most comprehensive geospatial dataset for antiquity available today, serves as a key component of at least 40 other important digital humanities projects, and constitutes a core resource for classroom activities focused on ancient geography.

Since its inception, *Pleiades* has been repeatedly reconceptualized in response to technical challenges and opportunities. The resulting digital publication can be hard to characterize by genre or function. Is it historical? Is it archaeological? Is it a GIS or a digital gazetteer? Is it an "Un-GIS"? A reference work? A controlled vocabulary? A Linked Data graph? In this talk, Elliott will unpack the *Pleiades* data model and the content curation process that supports it, highlighting the major decision points and criteria in its development history. A key theme of the talk will be conceptual flexibility and reinvention in a digital humanities project.

TOM ELLIOTT is Associate Director for Digital Programs and Senior Research Scholar at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at NYU. He has broad experience in Digital Humanities and has played leading roles in the Epidoc community, the Pleiades Project, and ancient world linked data initiatives.

UPCOMING LECTURE

April 8, 2016 **Bill Rankin**

HISTORY OF SCIENCE, YALE UNIVERSITY

BROWN