CeRch SEMINARS
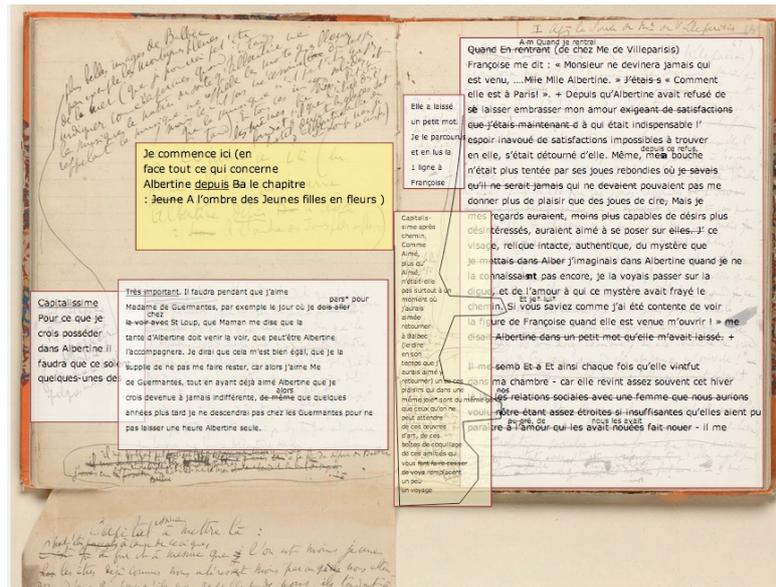## Centre for e-Research, King's College London

Elena Pierazzo, King's College London
Unpacking the draft page: time, space and gamification of digital scholarly editions

Tuesday 15th January, 6:15-7:30 pm Anatomy Theatre & Museum
King's College London, 6th floor King's Building, WC2R 2LS
http://www.kcl.ac.uk/innovation/groups/cerch/research/seminars/2012-13/unpacking.aspx

So far, the inspection of modern draft manuscripts has interested and engaged two distinct groups of people approaching such objects for very divergent reasons: the scholars of the particular author which produced the draft, and members of the general public who are fascinated by the sight of the handwriting of their favourite writer. The former tend to spend days, months, years on a particular artefact, in order to disentangle the intricacies of the writing and authoring process. The latter tend to spend only a few seconds on a particular document before being put off by the difficulty of reading the often obscure handwriting, or by the lack of insight into the cultural importance of the particular document.

The new documentary encoding introduced by the TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) in December 2011 may be able to offer some new approaches to the digital editions of draft manuscripts, making the fruition of the scholarship connected to their editions more interactive, enjoyable and finally fun, borrowing functions and concepts from computer games. One example of this new approach is offered by a prototype concentrated on the edition of a handful of pages of Proust's Cahier 46. This prototype has been created thanks to the substantial contribution of Julie André and it allows scholars for the first time to capture in TEI concepts such as time (i.e. the writing and authoring process) and space, in terms of distribution and layout within a bi-dimensional surface. From a scholarly perspective, these new possibilities have the merit of being able to incorporate in the editions concepts that are normally only accountable in words, within erudite essays. Furthermore, by keeping the scholarship close to the edited text a fresh look in such issues is enabled with yet unpredictable consequences.

The paper will present the scholarly rationale behind the development of the Proust prototype (available as an open source resource from http://research.cch.kcl.ac.uk/proust_prototype/), and will investigate what it takes to make user-friendly scholarly-quality digital editions.

Attendance is free and open to all, but registration is requested:
http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2139968704

The seminar will be followed by wine and refreshments.

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