Dr. Silvia Stoyanova, Trier University, Germany

Title: A digital research platform for the semantic reconstruction of Giacomo Leopardi's *Zibaldone*

Abstract:

The digital research platform for Giacomo Leopardi's intellectual diary addresses the *Zibaldone*'s hypertextual dimension of cross-references between related passages and of their allocation to thematic indexes, which Leopardi wrote with the intention to mediate his fragmentary notes into expository mode of discourse. The project's premise is that a significant hurdle to the author's intent to fashion a philosophical dictionary and articles on various humanistic subjects from his notes is the inadequacy of the paper medium to convey the interlaced texture of the material, as it captures the relativistic nature of phenomenal reality. Thus, the project's primary objective is to actualize and further develop the author's conceptual design for harvesting the *Zibaldone*'s intra-textual semantic networks by building a hypertext research platform, which would enable users to mine the text's structural complexity more comprehensively than is possible with a print edition or with its digital transcription. A secondary objective is to furnish the hypertext edition with an editorial apparatus that would allow to study the text more strategically and to reconstruct its contextual network of external bibliographic references. The XML encoding of the text and its indexes in TEI5 gives the possibility to access the *Zibaldone* modularly, in custom-selected layers of its encoded elements, to bring together and explore their interrelations through statistical charts, histograms, and network graph visualizations. The settings devised for navigating the research platform provide the option to view versions of the text that display or hide all or individual cases of authorial and editorial markup, thus giving users the choice to engage with a variety of modes of textual display and interpretations, as delimited by their research objectives. The research platform also offers a collaborative space, where users could add and share their own annotations to the text and contribute to the site's editorial apparatus, such as a database of its critical bibliography and expanding the author's analytical index. In its greater scope, the project aims to formulate a discursive, computational and interface model for the critical mediation of the genre of the intellectual diary by investigating the phenomenology of fragmentary writing and the advantages offered by the digital medium to represent its relativistic thought procedure.

C.V.

Silvia Stoyanova received her PhD in Italian Literature from Columbia University (2007) with a dissertation on „Giacomo Leopardi's ethical and aesthetic dialectics of ‚Care'", which received a nomination for the Best Dissertation in the Humanities Award. She has taught Italian language, culture, cinema and literature at Columbia University and at Princeton University. At Princeton University she was a member of the founding group of the Digital Humanities Initiative (2011-2013). She has been Editor-at-large for Digital Humanities Now since 2013. Since 2014 she is a postdoctoral fellow in Digital Humanities at the Trier Center for Digital Humanities, where she is coordinator of the Digital Humanities Reading Group and organizer of Trier University's Digital Humanities Autumn School (09.2015). Stoyanova has been engaged in projects employing the use of digital technology in foreign language pedagogy since 2001, for which she has received grants from the Mellon Foundation and the U.S. Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. She has published articles on modern Italian literature and on digital humanities, presented her research at over 20 conferences in the Unites States and in Europe, and has received fellowships and grants from the University of Minnesota, Columbia University, Princeton University, Brown University, the Open Annotation Collaboration, CLARIN-D, the Northeast Modern Language Association. Her current scholarship addresses the remediation of Giacomo Leopardi's *Zibaldone* as a hypertext research platform and the building of a theoretical model for the application of digital technology in the semantic reconstruction of fragmentary textuality.