IQLA-GIAT Summer School in

Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data

6th edition

4-8 September 2023

University of Padua

Presentation

Distant reading, *text data science*, *digital humanities*, and *computational text analysis* are umbrella terms that refer to a wide range of methods that have a common aim: retrieving information from texts using quantitative methods and computer-aided tools. Today, text analysis refers to a number of qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods approaches. It is an object of research in many sectors of linguistics, computer sciences, social sciences, mathematics and statistics. Furthermore, it represents a research tool within many disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, sociology, sociolinguistics, education, history, political studies, literary studies, communication and media studies.

Digital sources that provide archives of books, documents, journals or disseminate information, such as newspapers and social media, now constitute an indispensable basis for many research studies. The increasing availability of large text corpora requires new tools to address new research questions. Recent developments in computational methods have rapidly changed not only the way research is conducted in the humanities and social sciences but also the way research is conceived and designed. The demand for data scientists is growing in all disciplines, both in academia and in many productive and commercial sectors.

A new generation of researchers must be trained to correctly apply data science methods in many application domains of humanities and social sciences.

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is characterized by three main elements:

1. A general part devoted to quantitative methods for text analysis;
2. A special issue addressed to a relevant methodological problem that has changed over time
    2023: Language Variation and Change from a Computational Perspective
    2021: Quality of Texts quality of News (online edition)
    2019: Data Science and Data scientists in Humanities and Social Sciences
    2017: Topic detection and authorship attribution in Elena Ferrante's case-study
    2015: Measuring style and computational stylistics
    2013: Measures and methods in authorship attribution
3. Lab-tutorials dedicated to the computer-aided analysis of textual data.

Objectives

Teaching activities at the School will raise questions that can be answered thanks to quantitative methods implemented within a text analysis framework and other procedures that may be used to identify and compare text characteristics. The aim is to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of quantitative methods for text analysis with postgraduate students, early career researchers and scholars from different disciplines. Recent studies have stressed the need for developing, adopting and sharing interdisciplinary approaches. The IQLA-GIAT

Summer School is an ideal environment for developing innovative analytical tools by pooling together the research methods from different disciplines.

The Summer School aims at:

1. sharing information on software, corpora, relevant literature and research results;
2. promoting dialogue among different disciplines on emerging research issues;
3. developing innovative analytical tools and integrated research methods;
4. introducing postgraduate students and early career researchers to new strains of research and applications;
5. sharing state-of-the-art techniques in methods for text analysis (topic detection, text classification, data visualization).

Does this School fit your needs?

Would you like to consider a large number of data including novels, transcriptions of open-ended interviews, scientific literature, or comments posted on social media in your research to identify patterns and trends in language usage? Are there definitely too many texts for any scholar to read them in a life span?

Why not trying to ask a computer to do this task?

A software package is not able to close read a text. On the contrary, using mathematical and statistical tools might be smart to distant read a text (i.e., collecting data, retrieving relevant information, summarizing features, finding patterns, etc.). Instead of close-reading a limited number of texts, why not working with thousands of texts, upload them into the memory of a computer and ask a software package to produce analyses and results?

Application and deadlines

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is open to **20 participants** including researchers, scholars and postgraduate students.

Applicants should send a file in pdf format including:

1. curriculum vitae
2. personal mission statement and research interests (max 500 words)

Applications should be sent to the following address: **qatd.school@fisppa.it**

Please note that this year there is **no selection procedure** and that the limited seats will be sold on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Deadline: **May, 31st**

Tuition fee: **250€**

The first 20 applicants will receive information to complete their registration with the payment of the tuition fee.

The tuition fee includes accommodation in shared rooms that will be assigned by the organizing staff. For any further expenses participant must provide by themselves.

Location

Complesso Polo Beato Pellegrino
Università degli Studi di Padova
Via E. Vendramini, 13
35137 Padova
Room 7

Schedule

The 6th edition of the IQLA-GIAT Summer School will take place **from Monday 4th to Friday 8th September 2023**. On Friday, the last two hours will be devoted to a final self-assessment.

Classes

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is a full-time intensive course. The Summer School is an in-person event and on-line attendance is NOT possible.

All classes are in English.

Teaching activities include lectures, tutorials, as well as Q&A sessions. Participants are requested to bring their own laptop.

Main topics: language variation and change, quantitative linguistics, computational stylistics, stylometry, profiling, text classification, text mining. Lecturers:

Dr. Dominique Brunato (CNR, Pisa)
Dr. Joanna Byszuk (Polish Academy of Sciences of Kraków)
Prof. Silvia Crafa (University of Padua)
Prof. Emmerich Kelih (University of Vienna)
Prof. Patrick Juola (Duquesne University, Pittsburgh)
Prof. Sébastien Lê (CNRS, Rennes)
Prof. George K. Mikros (Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha)
Prof. Stefano Ondelli (University of Trieste)
Prof. Adam Pawloski (University of Wrocław)
Prof. Matilde Trevisani (University of Trieste)

Final Evaluation and self-assessment

All participants will be requested to complete an evaluation questionnaire to express their opinions about the main aspects of the IQLA-GIAT Summer School (e.g., organization, teaching, materials, facilities and equipment, expectations, satisfaction rate, suggestions, etc.). It is worth mentioning that the sixth edition of the Summer School is organized also considering the results and suggestions obtained through the evaluation questionnaires done in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 editions.

All participants will complete a self-assessment questionnaire on technical skills and general knowledge including 30 multiple-choice questions (one correct answer out of four). Grades will reflect the sum of all correct answers (one point) according to the following range: A (29-30 points); B (25-28 points); C (21-24 points); D (17-20 points); E (15-16 points).

Website and social networks

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School will share information and teaching material with participants both via email and website. The IQLA-GIAT Summer School will be also active on social networks:

Twitter: @QatdSchool
Facebook: facebook.com/IqlaGiatSummerSchool

Credits

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School in Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data is organized by GIAT – Interdisciplinary Text Analysis Group (www.giat.org) in collaboration with the International Quantitative Linguistics Association (www.iqla.org).

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is a project funded by the University of Padua (www.unipd.it) and coordinated by Professor Arjuna Tuzzi. The School is managed by the Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology.

Info

For any further information and details about terms, deadlines, application forms and payment methods, please contact: **qatd.school@fisppa.it**
Call and details: **www.giat.org** → (English) → Summer School
link