# On the field: Gaia GPS

## Summer School on Digital Humanities

Web site: https://bit.ly/dt4h-gis

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# Using the Gaia GPS App

- Register to the service (use a free account for practice)
- Key activities:
  - Record a live track of an itinerary (line feature)
  - Record waypoints (point features)
  - Add notes
  - Add photos (general attributes)
- Gaia GPS supports all these activities
- Features can be exported as GPX, KMZ or CSV local files
  - for further use
- A companion Web service assists in processing features
  - on the Web
- Features can be imported too

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# Import a sample map

- On your smartphone, use the QRcode to reach the course material:

- Enter the GPX folder, and tap the file "PisaPonteDiMezzo.gpx"
- Select to "Open with" the GaiaGPS App
- The map is going to be used in the next steps

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# Gaia GPS: the *main* screen

# Processing the track on the Web service

- Sharing your GPX via GaiaGPS cloud storage allows easy track viewing on a computer
- Access the service at https://www.gaiagps.com/ with your Gaia GPS credentials
- Browse your profile to select a track
- Click on a track to view its map and update details

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# Gaia GPS Web Service

# Downloading the data to a PC

- In the left toolbar, select *Saved Items*
- Click on the feature to export
- Scroll the feature frame to find the *Export* menu
- Choose an export format from the list
- Save the file to your computer

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# Import a Gaia GPS track into QGIS

- After downloading the track to your PC:
  - Open QGIS and create a new project
  - Using the Data Source Manager add an OpenStreetMap layer
  - Layer -> Add layer -> Add vector and navigate to your GPX
  - Add, select all GPX, and close the form

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- After downloading the sample track on your PC:
  - Access the uMap Web service and create a new map
  - Press the import button on the right
  - Locate and select your GPX file

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# Recording a track with Gaia GPS

- Select "Map" view with the bottom bar
- Center map at your position with the a button in the left corner toolbar
- Start recording with the top/left red button
- While walking, record waypoints and take pictures using the + button
- Tap on the stop time to stop and save
- Access saved tracks via the saved button
- Tap a feature to export it in GPX, KML or CSV format
- The track is now available through the GaiaGPS Web Service seen above

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- Select "Map" view with the bottom bar
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- Start recording with the top/left red button
  - Running time is displayed
- While walking, record waypoints and take pictures using the + button
  - Open the camera
  - Take pictures with the camera
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  - Tap on the waypoint icon to add a waypoint
  - Tap on the pictures icon to take pictures
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# Track your walk: a Gaia GPS *'challenge'*

- Select a nearby point of interest (bridge, pub, or tower)
- Start track recording in Gaia GPS
- Walk to your destination, capturing photos and annotating points of interest in the app
- Upon returning, visit the Gaia GPS website and download your track as a GPX file
- Import your track into a new uMap project and/or
- Add it to the shared map at
  https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/it/map/dhss_2025_616270
- Include your photos in the waypoint descriptions:
  - Use the image link found on the GaiaGPS Web Site
  - Select a waypoint with an image
  - Scroll down and "Open Details Page"
  - Click on the image and right click again to select "Copy image link"