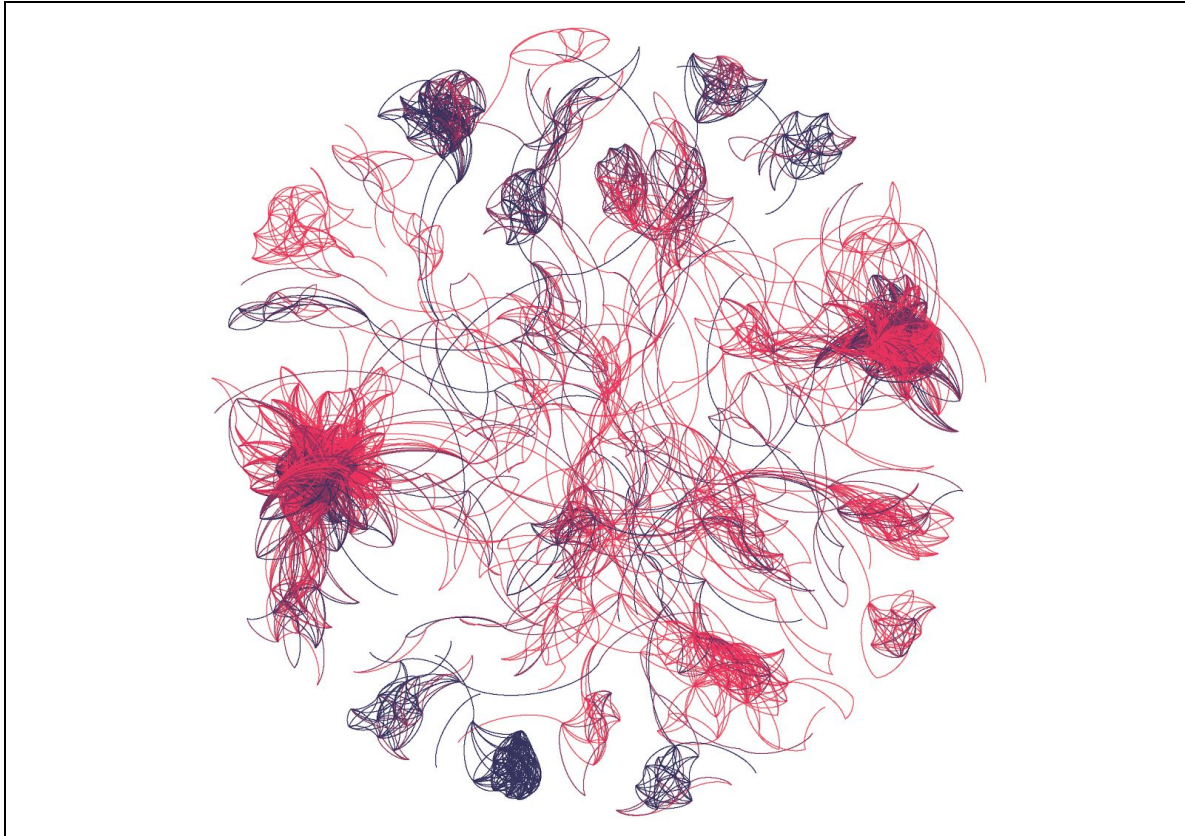


# Networks and Numbers: New Models for the Humanities?

Regina Schober  
(University of Mannheim, visiting scholar at UCSB)



'Microbial  
Selfie' by  
Francois-Joseph  
Lapointe

Thursday, February 16th  
1:00p | Sankey Room

With the rise of digital technology, new epistemological models have entered scholarly debates in the humanities. In her talk, Regina Schober will look at the concept of 'network' and 'quantification' as transdisciplinary phenomena that have increasingly been explored in the humanities. As a preferred metaphor and figure of thought in our current information age, the network serves to describe complex, recursive, and multilateral structures. At the same time, Big Data has brought forth a paradigm shift from qualitative to quantitative (self-)description. What does it mean if (US American) literature and culture not only address digital practices but also incorporate them into their narrative structure? How do these concepts challenge traditional assumptions concerning knowledge, subjectivity, and agency? And finally, what does it mean to adopt 'network' and 'numbers' as models for the humanities?