

## Digitally Raising the Dead: <code type="Gothic"/>

### 50-word abstract:

This roundtable explores three student-led Digital Humanities projects that “raise the dead” by coding Victorian ghost stories, horror tales by H. P. Lovecraft, and a real historic graveyard. We will discuss what text encoding reveals of the language and culture of death, and attendees will write code of their own.

### Description:

Roundtable panelists from two University of Pittsburgh campuses will discuss their related digital humanities projects to study linguistic patterns in Victorian ghost stories and in the writings of H. P. Lovecraft, and to digitize an historic graveyard in western Pennsylvania. Panelists will invite the audience to engage interactively with their projects, to look “under the hood” at the underlying eXtensible Markup Language (XML), and to reflect on possible next steps for the projects. Audience participants will work with panelists to code a short text from one of the projects (a gravestone or excerpt from a tale) and reflect on how the coding process alters the way we read, think, and write about literary texts and cultural artifacts. Keeping with the conference theme of *re-creation*, we will consider how computer coding gives “dead” texts an interactive rebirth. Since the three projects are being developed in the course of this year and explore related material on digitizing “the dead” of Gothic and graveyard, this panel is designed for discussion of intersecting interests and discoveries rather than separate presentation. Panelists and audience will investigate the following questions:

- Does the writing of computer markup change the way we read and discover patterns in texts?
- What patterns in Gothic texts can we mark and study with computational tools?
- What narratives about the dead are “unearthed” and made sharable by digitizing a graveyard?
- What new narratives do we add to historical artifacts and literary texts when we code them for sharing on the public web?

### Participants:

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4. Audrey Hunker, U. of Pittsburgh, Greensburg (AAΔ), [aah75@pitt.edu](mailto:aah75@pitt.edu)

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