

Caitlin A. Marley; Bowling Green State University

Bio:

Caitlin A. Marley graduated from the University of Iowa in May 2018, with her thesis titled *Sentiments, Networks, Literary Biography: Towards a Mesoanalysis of Cicero's Corpus*. She analyzed Cicero's corpus and life through distant-reading techniques, including a stylometric analysis of Cicero's entire corpus, a sentiment analysis of his orations, and a hybrid network-and-sentiment analysis of his letters. In order to do this, she created a Latin sentiment lexicon influenced by Stoic theories. She is currently an Assistant Teaching Professor at Bowling Green State University.

Presentation Title:

Ciceronian Networks: A New Approach to Old Letters

Abstract:

While studying works that are millennia old, consistently it is growing more difficult to offer new perspectives on them, especially when it comes to the works written by Marcus Tullius Cicero, who has the largest corpus of Classical Latin. Fortunately, the burgeoning field of Digital Humanities allows for new avenues of textual exploration even amidst the over-picked rubble that is the Classical World. Through the use of R and Gephi, I was able to “read” Cicero’s works from a distance and gain a much broader view of his character than I could through a traditional close reading of a few texts. For example, when I applied these digital tools to Cicero’s *Epistulae ad Familiares*, a work of over four hundred letters to his family and various acquaintances, I was able to assess how Cicero felt about and interacted with his peers. This was possible through the merging of a sentiment analysis with his social network and through cataloguing of names mentioned in every letter. From these analyses, one could finally see a different side to a man that scholars have known for thousands of years. This presentation will be an overview of the process of assembling a Latin sentiment lexicon and a catalogue of people in Cicero’s letters and forming the data into two comprehensible networks.