

Caroline Bruzelius and Rachael Brady

Duke University



Monday, January 30, 2012

4:00 - 5:00 PM (Q & A from 5:00 - 5:30 PM)

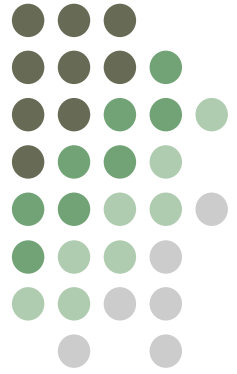
UMass Amherst Computer Science Building, Room 151

“Crossing the Divide: Engaging Students in Technology Through Material Culture”

Where can a Computer Scientist/Engineer find areas of common interest with an Architectural/Urban Historian? Are there projects of common interest that can stimulate interesting questions for teaching and research in both disciplines? With the advent of modeling and mapping tools such as Google Sketchup and Google Maps, Humanities scholars are discovering that visualization technologies allow them to ask new questions about their research and explain their results in a clear, compelling manner. Similarly, the kind of data that comes from the Humanities (heterogeneous, incomplete, ambiguous) poses new challenges for computer scientists. As founders of the Wired! Group at Duke University, Caroline Bruzelious and Rachael Brady have initiated a series of courses and projects that interweave problems and questions from both disciplines. The process has had an impact on what we teach and how we teach it, and has resulted in a series of long-term projects that are creating chronologically and geographically referenced maps and models from historical data. The Wired! team believes that teaching with technologies transforms our ideas about learning, and that the next generation of scholars in the Humanities should be trained with digital tools to map, model, and publish their research in a form that is engaging to a public audience and exposes the sources and limits of knowing the past. In this talk we will discuss our efforts to engage students with technology, and more importantly our journey, growing pains and lessons learned in working collaboratively.

Caroline Bruzelius is A.M. Cogan Professor of Art and Art History at Duke University. Between 1994 and 1998 she served as Director of the American Academy in Rome. She is an historian of medieval architecture and sculpture in France and Italy.

Rachael Brady is the Director of the Visualization Technology Group at Duke University and a Senior Research Scientist of Computer Science, Senior Research Scientist in the Pratt School of Engineering and Adjunct Associate Professor of Visual Studies.



Co-sponsored by UMass Amherst Computer Science
and Mt. Holyoke College Art Department