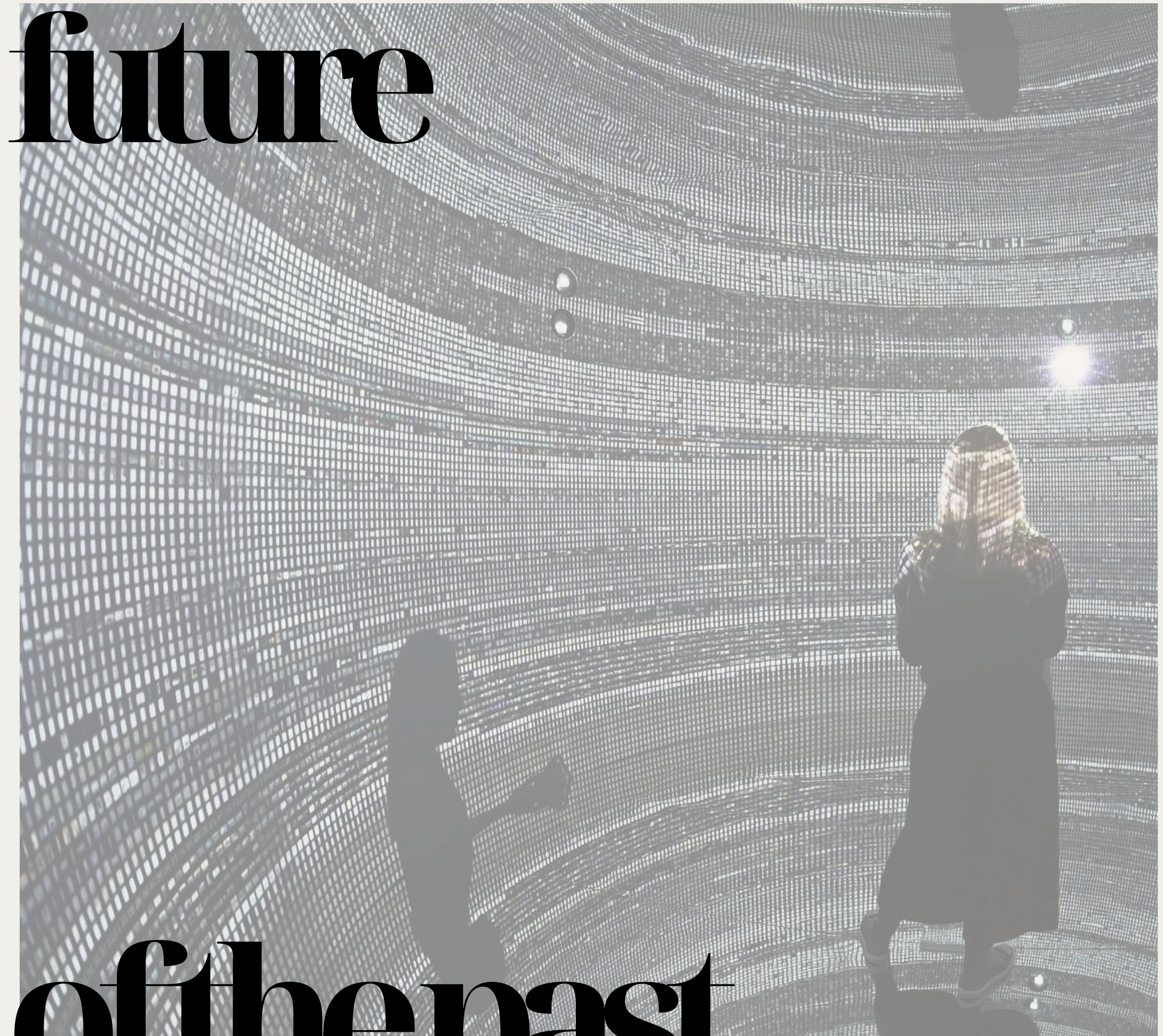# The future

10-12 December 2025
University of Pavia & online

ofthepast

Research pathways in
digital humanities and memory studies

1924 • 2024   1926 • 2026
100
SCIENZE POLITICHE • PAVIA

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY of INFORMATION

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with the patronage of

Società italiana
per lo studio
della storia
contemporanea

CONSULTA UNIVERSITARIA CINEMA

About the Winter School

The Future of the Past is an international program organized by the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Pavia, in collaboration with the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto and infoclio.ch, the Swiss portal for historical sciences, under the patronage of Consulta Universitaria del Cinema and Società Italiana per lo Studio della Storia Contemporanea. The Winter School explores the transformative impact of digital technologies on the humanities, with a specific focus on contemporary history and memory studies.

This first edition is structured around three core themes:
- Preserving memory
- Analyzing spaces of memory
- Generating memory

Participants will take part in lectures, panel discussions, and practical workshops led by internationally recognized scholars. The program offers both theoretical foundations and hands-on training, providing participants with the skills to critically address the ethical and methodological challenges of digitizing historical heritage, and to apply digital tools and methods in historical and memory-related research.

Program Structure

The Winter School will take place from 10 to 12 December 2025 in a blended format, combining both in-person and online participation options. The program includes a total of 24 hours of activities spread over three intensive days, allowing participants to join either on-site or remotely. All lectures and activities will be conducted in English.

Who can apply

The Winter School is open to graduate students and PhD candidates with an interest in Digital Humanities and Memory Studies. Students from the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Pavia will receive 3 ECTS upon successful completion.
 A certificate of attendance will be issued to all participants.

How to apply

Participation is free of charge. To help us better understand your academic background and to plan logistics effectively applicants are kindly requested to submit a current **short CV** (2 pages max) along with their application, specifying in their email their preferred **mode of participation**. Please send your application to the following email address: futureofthepast@unipv.it by 25 november 2025.
The Zoom link for online participants will be circulated closer to the start of the Winter School.

INTRODUCTION & FRAMEWORKS
Aula Foscolo

9:00 – 10:30
Registration // Welcome address

11:00 – 13:00
Digital Public History Practices: How Digital Technologies foster Community Engagement and Public Participation?
Serge Noiret (European University Institute)

PRESERVING MEMORY
Aula 3 Giurisprudenza

14:00 – 15:00
Archiving After the Crisis: Digital Memories in the Post-Pandemic Era
Enrico Natale (infoclio.ch)

15:00 – 17:00
Panel 1 - Archival Shifts: Digital Practices and Case-Based Reflections
Moderator: **Enrico Natale** (infoclio.ch)

- *The Digital Archive of "ATLas – Atlas of Local Televisions"*
  Luca Barra and **Emiliano Ross**i (University of Bologna)
- *Reconstructing an African Country's Printed Past: The National Digital Library of Eritrea*
  Massimo Zaccaria (University of Pavia)
- *Past, Present and Future. The Power of Archives between Dematerialization, AI, and New Ways of Research. The Experience of the Flamigni Archive (in Italian)*
  Ilaria Moroni (Archivio Flamigni)

17:00 – 18:30
Lighting the Windows of the Past: Considerations in the Critical Digitization of Cultural Heritage Materials
Claire Battershill (University of Toronto)

DIGITAL MEMORIES
Aula 3 Giurisprudenza

9:00 – 10:30
Guest lecture
Vincenzo Matera (University of Milano Statale)

11:00 – 13:00
Panel 2 – Digital Memory Studies
Moderator: **Elisa Lucente** (University of Pavia)

- *The Changing Dynamics of Narrative in Digital Memory Studies*
  Mónika Fodor (University of Pécs)
- *From Memes to Memory? Far-right memory activism and participatory culture*
  Katarina Ristic (Leipzig University)

ANALYZING MEMORY – SPACE (I)
Aula 3 Giurisprudenza

14:00 – 15:00
Walls, Memory, and Overcoming Border Binaries
Paul Richardson (University of Birmingham)

15:00 – 17:00
Panel 3 – Mapping the Past: Transdisciplinary dialogue in the Digital Age
Moderator: **Matteo Marinello** (University of Bologna)

- *Do the Maps Match the People? Toronto's "Ethnic Enclaves" and Residential Patterns through City Directories in the 1950s*
  Elisa Lucente (University of Pavia)
- *From Historical Archives to Digital Database: Romarcord. Social History of Cinema in Rome.*
  Luana Fedele (Sapienza University of Rome)
- *Lviv Interactive Platform: Presenting History & Architecture Via Map*
  Roksolyana Holovata (Center for Urban History of ECE)

17:30 – 19:00 – Aula Scarpa
Book Presentation: *Myths of Geography: Eight Ways We Get the World Wrong* (*Little Brown, 2024*) / *Le bugie delle mappe. Gli otto miti della geografia che capovolgono la storia* (*Marsilio Editore, 2025*), in dialogue with Elisa Lucente.
Paul Richardson (University of Birmingham)

ANALYZING MEMORY – SPACE (II)
Aula 3 Giurisprudenza

9:00 – 10:30
Gaps, Maps and Hacks: Using 19thcentury Historical Data with GIS
Katrina Navickas (University of Hertfordshire)

11:00 – 13:00
Workshop on GIS for historical analysis

"GENERATING" MEMORY – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEMORY STUDIES
Aula 3 Giurisprudenza

14:00 – 15:00
The Fragile Memory of Bytes: Addressing the Problem of File Format Obsolescence
Stefano Allegrezza (Università di Macerata)

15:15 – 17:00
Panel 4 – AI in the Halls of GLAM
Moderator: **Claire Battershill** (University of Toronto)

- *Digital Libraries and AI: Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats*
  Paul Gooding (University of Glasgow)
- *An investigation of the potential of AI for increasing access to Archives and Special Collections*
  Claire Warwick (Durham University)

17:15 – 18:30
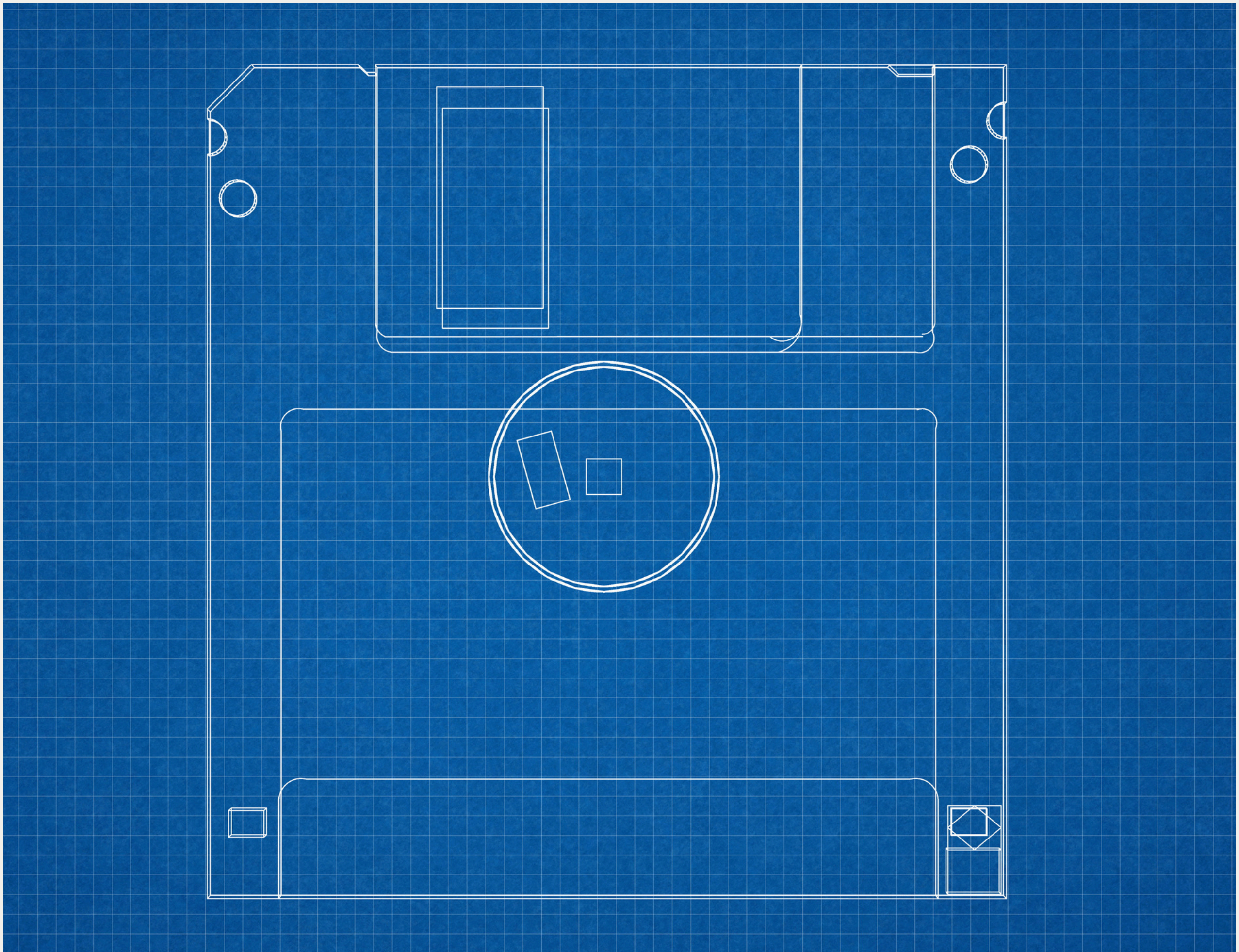**Panel 5 – AI, History and Memory Studies**
Moderator: **Federico Mazzini** (University of Padua)

- *RAG-Augmented Historical Research: Experiments and Reflections*
  Federico Mazzini (University of Padua)
- *Beyond historians? LLMs and historical research*
  Cindarella Petz (Leibniz-Institute of European History)
- *Generative AIs and Holocaust Memories in Ukraine*
  Mykola Makhortykh (Bern University)

From 19:00
Final networking event

Scientific committee: Elisa Lucente (University of Pavia - Coordinator);
Claire Battershill (University of Toronto); Enrico Natale (infoclio.ch);
Matteo Marinello (University of Bologna); Sofia Miola (University of Pavia)

For any information, you can contact us at <u>futureofthepast@unipv.it</u>

Image on front page: Anadol, Refik. Archive Dreaming [SALT Galata, Istanbul, April 20 – June 11, 2017], curated by Vasıf Kortun, Istanbul, SALT, 2017.