

# Seminars in Digital and Public Humanities

Seminars series organized by Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities (VeDPH),  
Department of Humanities, Ca' Foscari University Venice

9 December 2020, h 17:00 | Abhishek Dutta & Matilde Malaspina

## **1516: A Visually Searchable Database of Printed Illustration from the 15th and 16th centuries**

### **Abstract (150 words max.)**

1516 is an online database of illustrations printed in the 15th and 16th century. This database can be searched using an image as a search query as well as using text keyword for searching metadata assigned to the illustrations. Such a visual and text search capability allows research scholars to track and investigate the production, use, circulation and copying of woodblocks, iconographic subjects, artistic styles, within 15th and 16th-century printed illustrated editions. The database is publicly accessible and accepts contributions of new illustrations and metadata from research scholars from all over the world. The 1516 project is an evolutionary next step of the existing 15cILLUSTRATION database, which is based solely on illustrations printed in the 15th century. The possibility of searching together images printed in the 15th and in the 16th century represents a natural and novel step forward, as woodblocks and iconographic themes travelled well beyond chronological boundaries. The 1516 database is being developed by Dr Abhishek Dutta, Dr Matilde Malaspina and Dr Barbara Tramelli under the guidance of Prof. Andrew Zisserman and Prof. Cristina Dondi.

### **Biography of Speakers (100 words max.)**

**Abhishek Dutta** is a Senior Research Software Engineer in the Visual Geometry Group (VGG) of the Department of Engineering Science at Oxford University. He develops, maintains and supports open source software tools that are based on computer vision research. He also manages a large number of interdisciplinary academic projects and industrial applications that rely on these software tools. Examples of such interdisciplinary projects include the 15cILLUSTRATION project and the 1516 project. More details about his background and his work are available at <https://www.abhishekdutta.org>.

**Matilde Malaspina** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Copenhagen (November 2020), working on the library of Hernando Colon. In 2019 she completed her PhD at the University of Oxford, where she was a member of the 15cBOOKTRADE Project (ERC 2014-2019). Prior to that, she got her BA and MA from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan, Italy), where she specialised in Medieval and Humanistic Philology.

During her PhD, together with Prof. Cristina Dondi and in collaboration with the Visual Geometry Group, she conceived and created the 15cILLUSTRATION, a database to track the use and reuse of printed illustrations in 15th-century editions.