

## **Pixel perfections – the digital realities of Being Human**

Does technology help us to be human? With the intensive coverage of all things digital in the media and on social media, we could be forgiven for forgetting a basic tenet of education – that technology is just a tool. However, it seems that our digital tools are quickly outstripping the ability of most of us to exploit them fully.

But fear not if you can't yet, for example, re-create ancient buildings in virtual reality. Help is at hand with cutting-edge digital workshops like 'Clay, Marble and Pixels: the city' at the annual Being Human festival which takes place from 15–24 November.

It's that time when universities, research organisations and cultural and community groups, come together to share their innovative humanities research with the public in some 250 activities across the UK. The overall theme for the 2018 event is 'Origins and Endings' but Technology is also one of five strands – the others are Beliefs, Politics and Protest; Science; Culture.

The Technology strand includes:

- [Clay, Marble and Pixels: the city](#) - this interactive workshop will focus on the birth and development of inhabited spaces, bringing together an accessible approach to ancient history and a hands-on digital lab where participants will learn the basics of 3D modelling and create their own imaginary city and unique ancient house (19 November, 3–5pm).
- [Other Registers](#) - an immersive sound installation that uses software to transform official data about police violence in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, into sound. Visitors will be able to listen to the statistics, played through eight loudspeakers arranged in a circle (15 November, 5–8pm).
- [Heritage Hack](#) - join Hacksmiths (Goldsmiths, University of London) for a two-day invention marathon to create novel, impactful tech solutions that breathe new life into Lewisham's past. In a time when grassroots heritage organisations are struggling for resources, people of all abilities are invited to collaborate on projects addressing the digital challenges of four south London heritage organisations including the Horniman Museum (17–18 November, 10am–5pm).
- [Wavering Boundaries](#) - magical realism, augmented reality and literary archives come together in this hour-long guided walking tour by Newcastle University along the Ouseburn Valley into the creative world of David Almond, to explore the 'wavering boundary' between rationalism and superstition within his work (18 November, 1–2pm).

Led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, Being Human is now in its fifth year. This is just a sample of some of the 250 free-to-attend public events on offer by more than 73 universities, research organisations and cultural and community groups in and around 50 towns and cities across the UK. The festival programme has even gone international, with related events in Australia, Singapore, Rome, Paris and Princeton University in the USA.

Find out more about the festival at <https://beinghumanfestival.org> and follow the latest news on Twitter at [@BeingHumanFest](#).

### **Ends**

1. **For further information**, please contact: Maureen McTaggart, Media and Public Relations Officer, School of Advanced Study, University of London +44 (0)20 7862 8653 / [Maureen.mctaggart@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Maureen.mctaggart@sas.ac.uk).
2. **Being Human: a festival of the humanities 15–24 November 2018**  
Led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, Being Human is a national forum for public engagement with humanities research. The festival will highlight the ways in which the

humanities can inspire and enrich our everyday lives.

3. **The School of Advanced Study (SAS)**, University of London, is the UK's national centre for the promotion and support of research in the humanities. SAS and its member institutes offer unparalleled resources, facilities and academic opportunities across a wide range of subject areas for the benefit of the national and international scholarly community. Last year SAS welcomed 786 research fellows and associates, held 2,007 events highlighting the latest research in the humanities, received 24.4 million online visits to its research resources and platforms, and hosted 194,145 visits to its specialist libraries and collections. The School also leads Being Human, the UK's only nationwide festival of the humanities. Find out more at [www.sas.ac.uk](http://www.sas.ac.uk) or follow SAS on Twitter at [@SASNews](https://twitter.com/SASNews).
4. **The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)** funds world-class, independent researchers in a wide range of subjects: history, archaeology, digital content, philosophy, languages, design, heritage, area studies, the creative and performing arts, and much more. This financial year the AHRC will spend approximately £98m to fund research and postgraduate training, in collaboration with a number of partners. The quality and range of research supported by this investment of public funds not only provides social and cultural benefits to the economic success of the UK but also to the culture and welfare of societies around the globe. Visit us at: <https://ahrc.ukri.org>, on Twitter at [@ahrcpress](https://twitter.com/ahrcpress), on Facebook at Arts and Humanities Research Council, or Instagram at [@ahrcpress](https://www.instagram.com/ahrcpress).
5. **The British Academy** is the voice of the humanities and social sciences. The Academy is an independent fellowship of world-leading scholars and researchers; a funding body for research, nationally and internationally; and a forum for debate and engagement. For more information, please visit [www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk) or call 020 7969 5273. Follow the British Academy on Twitter [@BritishAcademy](https://twitter.com/BritishAcademy)
6. **The University of London** is a federal university and is one of the oldest, largest and most diverse universities in the UK. Established by Royal Charter in 1836, the university is recognised globally as a world leader in higher education. Its members are 18 self-governing institutions of outstanding reputation, and nine research institutes. Learn more about the University of London at <http://www.london.ac.uk>.