

2014-2015 History Department Colloquium Series Presents

Enchanting the Desert

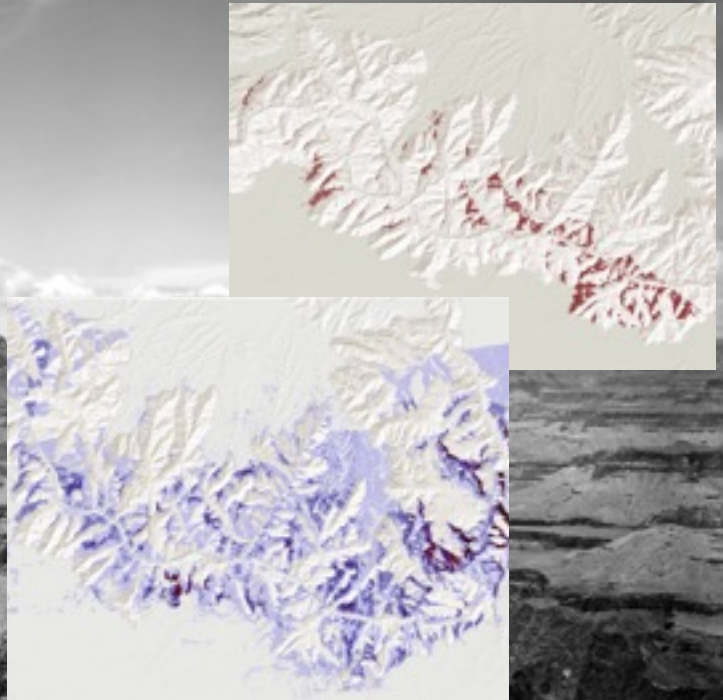
Spatial Narrative and the Digital Humanities

Dr. Nicholas Bauch

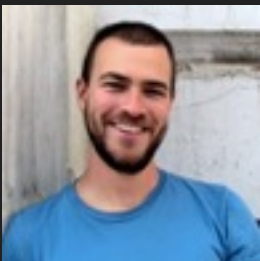
Wednesday, Feb. 25th

3:30-5:00

**History Dept. Library
(HMNSS 1218)**



The pilot project for Stanford University Press's [new digital publishing platform](#), *Enchanting the Desert* is the web-based revival of a photographic slideshow made in ca. 1900 at the Grand Canyon by commercial photographer Henry Peabody. The serial photographs persist as the earliest surviving mass-marketed visual representation of the region and a key historical document of the American West. Yet they also disorient the viewer and obscure the geography of what would become the most visited national park in the country. Combining novel cartographic design with a custom interface allowing readers to learn about the Grand Canyon, *Enchanting the Desert* offers an interactive, non-linear spatial narrative that explores this geography and breathes life into a historical document that in its own time aimed to enchant and enhance how people came to know the desert landscape.



[Nicholas Bauch](#) is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis and the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from UCLA, where he specialized in cultural and historical geography, and is the author of *A Geography of Digestion* (forthcoming, University of California Press) and the peer-reviewed, born-digital publication, *Enchanting the Desert* (forthcoming, Stanford University Press).

Cosponsored by the Public History Program and Critical Digital Humanities Group