



# IAS

INSTITUTE FOR  
ADVANCED STUDY

## Digital Scholarship Conversations

[www.ias.edu/digital-scholarship](http://www.ias.edu/digital-scholarship)

**Dr. Jaap Geraerts**

University College London

### “The Archaeology of Reading: Building a Digital Research Environment”

**September 27, 2018, 3:00 pm**  
West Building Seminar Room, IAS



The major aim of the four-year, international digital humanities collaboration, “The Archaeology of Reading in Early Modern Europe” (AOR), has been the creation of a digital research environment that enables systematic analysis of the immediate evidence of historical reading practices by scholar-annotators more than four centuries years ago. This presentation will address two pillars of that enterprise: (1) capturing, structuring, encoding, and making searchable the manuscript data contained in marginalia across a substantial research corpus; and (2) integrating images and allied textual materials into a dynamic and intuitive user interface.

The AOR project focuses on hundreds of thousands of manuscript marginalia from dozens of 16<sup>th</sup>-century books from the personal libraries of the Elizabethan rhetorician and aspiring courtier, Gabriel Harvey, and the mathematician, astrologer, and alchemist, John Dee. This project is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and is a collaboration between researchers at the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University, the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters at University College London, and the Princeton University Library.

*Jaap Geraerts, AOR Postdoctoral Research Fellow*, completed his Ph.D. in early modern European history at UCL (2015), and has primary responsibility for the production of the Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema and transcriber’s manual that govern the transcription and machine-readable tagging of manuscript annotations in Harvey’s and Dee’s books. He transcribes and encodes annotations in XML, and supervises and confirms the accuracy of transcriptions generated by the Research Assistants. His research interests include the history of religious tolerance and intolerance, Reformation and post-Reformation culture, and the history of reading. He is currently preparing the manuscript of his first book, provisionally titled *Patrons of the Faith: the Catholic Nobility in Utrecht and Guelders, c. 1580-1702*.