

Digital Humanities at MIT  
Spring 2019 Speaker Series

# Beyond the Data Point: The Ethics of Visualizing Global Migration



## Roopika Risam

Risam will examine the challenges of creating visualizations of global migration. She argues that even the most well-intentioned data visualizations, created to promote empathy for forced migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, frequently undercut their own goals through project design and data. She will further discuss alternative approaches to visualizing migration that address such challenges to equity and justice, including her work on the team behind the immigrant detention data visualization project Torn Apart/Separados.

Roopika Risam is an Assistant Professor of English and the Faculty Fellow for Digital Library Initiatives at Salem State University. Her first monograph, *New Digital Worlds: Postcolonial Digital Humanities in Theory, Praxis, and Pedagogy*, was published by Northwestern University Press in 2018. Her research interests lie at the intersections of postcolonial and African diaspora studies, humanities knowledge infrastructures, digital humanities, and new media.

Thursday, 4/4 | 5:15PM-6:45PM  
Building 14-E304



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