THURSDAY, APRIL 11
12:30 PM - 1:30PM
2339 FACULTY/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

As an inter-disciplinary group with backgrounds in language, literature, culture, anthropology and instructional technology we are developing an application (or app) that will inform students, scholars and community members about the cultural, linguistics, and historical background of different landmarks in Detroit.

The "Layars" app is an "augmented reality platform", that allows users to interact with points of interest within a larger environment. When scanning an environment with a smartphone or tablet computer, users can gather detailed contextual information about individual features within it. This contextual information - or in our case, cultural "layers", can be packaged in a combination of visual, textual, or audio formats - permitting a multimedia, multivocal, and diachronic engagement with a particular place. Layars has recently been used as a platform for cultural heritage, tourism, and community mapping in several cities in the U.S.

We propose to develop the Detroit Layars app focused on ethnic neighborhoods in Detroit. In this session we will begin with a project overview, visit the German Traces of New York City upon which our project is modeled, and then present plans for our pilot. We will discuss places of interest that will be included in our pilot and possibilities for inter-disciplinary collaboration and partnerships with other organizations.

This presentation is on behalf of the 2012-2013 Humanities Center Working Group “Layars” of Detroit: Creating Apps to Share Detroit’s Ethnic Heritage. We are an inter-disciplinary group consisting of four faculty members teaching Anthropology, German, Polish, and Russian, the Director of the Foreign Language Technology Center, and a doctoral student in German.