Beyond the text: intertextual and hypertextual paths in *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*

The course offers an analysis of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* (1818) in the light of the most recent theoretical debate which has increasingly investigated notions of interconnectedness and interdependence in textuality. After a first module, which is designed to help students indentify the main narrative and poetic sources woven into the intricate literary texture of Mary Shelley’s novel, against the background of eighteenth-century scientific and philosophic discourse, attention will be focused on *Frankenstein’s* afterlife in cinema and new media. In particular, Shelley Jackson’s hypertext *Patchwork Girl, or a Modern Monster* (1995) will be investigated as one of the most remarkable examples of the new horizons that digital technologies have opened up in literature.

**Primary sources**

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* [1818] Penguin, Harmondsworth 1992
- Selected pages from:
  - M. Wollstonecraft, "A Vindication of the Rights of Men"
  - E. Burke, "Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful" (1756)
Reference texts
selected sections of the following texts will be indicated during the course