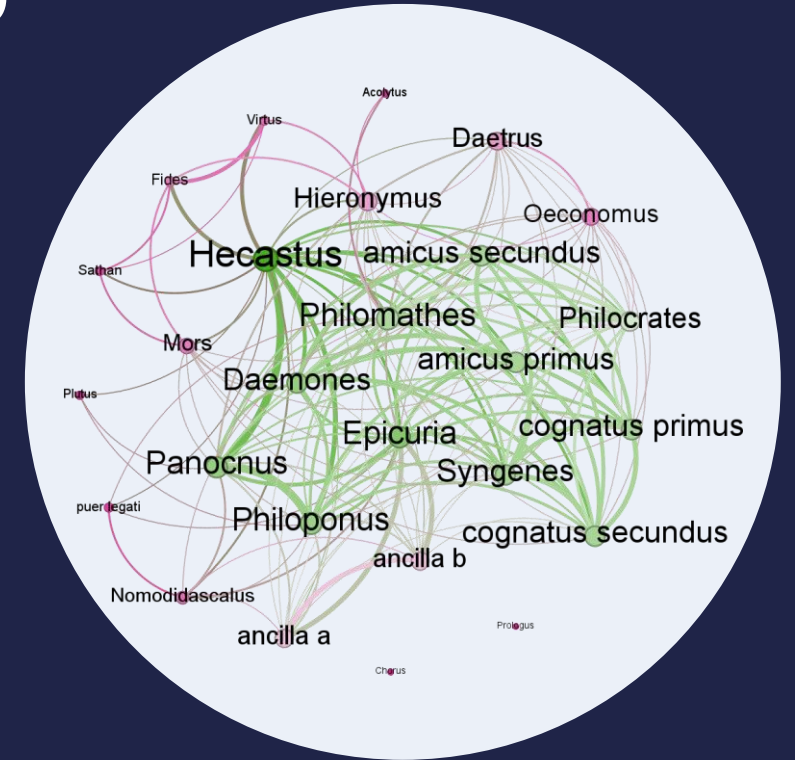


Building a Digital Neo-Latin Drama Corpus (NeoLatDraCor): Project Insights

Dr Julia Jennifer Beine

Digital Humanities Center
Universitätsbibliothek Bochum



Introducing DraCor

- DraCor is a digital infrastructure for programmable corpora.
- Content: 28 drama corpora including over 4,000 dramatic texts in 22 languages, dating from Greco-Roman antiquity to the 20th century (May 2025)



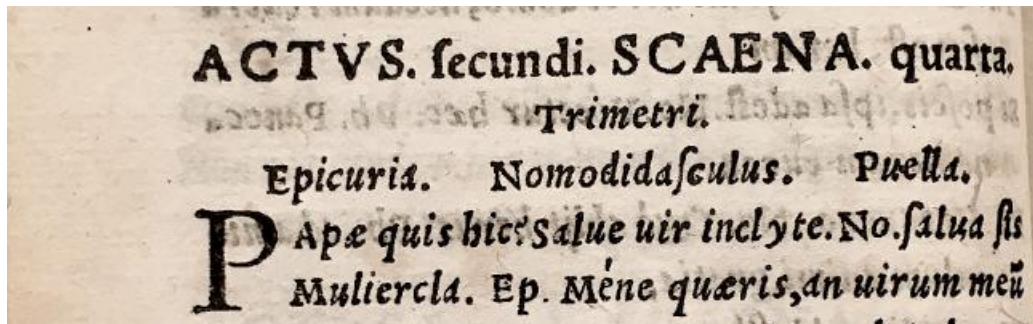
Introducing DraCor

- Data
 - TEI-encoded text files
 - Download section: additional files for each drama, respectively, e.g., network data, list of characters, spoken text per character, stage directions
- Access via
 - <https://github.com/dracor-org>
 - <https://dracor.org/>



Excursus: TEI Encoding

Text from Macropedius' *Hecastus*



markup/encoding

Detail from the related TEI file

```
<div n="4" type="scene">  
  <head>ACTUS secundi. SCAENA. quarta.</head>  
  <stage>Trimetri.</stage>  
  <stage>Epicuria. Nomodidasculus. Puella.</stage>  
  <sp who="#epicuria">  
    <l part="I">PApæ quis hic? Salve vir inclyte.</l>  
  </sp>  
  <sp who="#nomodidasculus">  
    <speaker>No.</speaker>  
    <l part="F">salua sis</l>  
    <l part="I">Muliercula.</l>  
  </sp>  
  <sp who="#epicuria">  
    <speaker>Ep.</speaker>  
    <l part="F">Mène quaeris, an virum meum</l>  
  </sp>  
</div>
```

Excursus: TEI Encoding

Detail from the related TEI file

```
<div n="4" type="scene">
  <head>ACTUS secundi. SCAENA. quarta.</head>
  <stage>Trimetri.</stage>
  <stage>Epicuria. Nomodidascalus. Puella.</stage>
  <sp who="#epicuria">
    <l part="I">PApae quis hic? Salve vir inclyte.</l>
  </sp>
  <sp who="#nomodidascalus">
    <speaker>No.</speaker>
    <l part="F">salva sis</l>
    <l part="I">Muliercula.</l>
  </sp>
  <sp who="#epicuria">
    <speaker>Ep.</speaker>
    <l part="F">Méne quaeris, an virum meum</l>
  </sp>
```

parse

DraCor full text view

ACTUS secundi. SCAENA. quarta.

Trimetri.

Epicuria. Nomodidascalus. Puella.

PApae quis hic? Salve vir inclyte.

No.

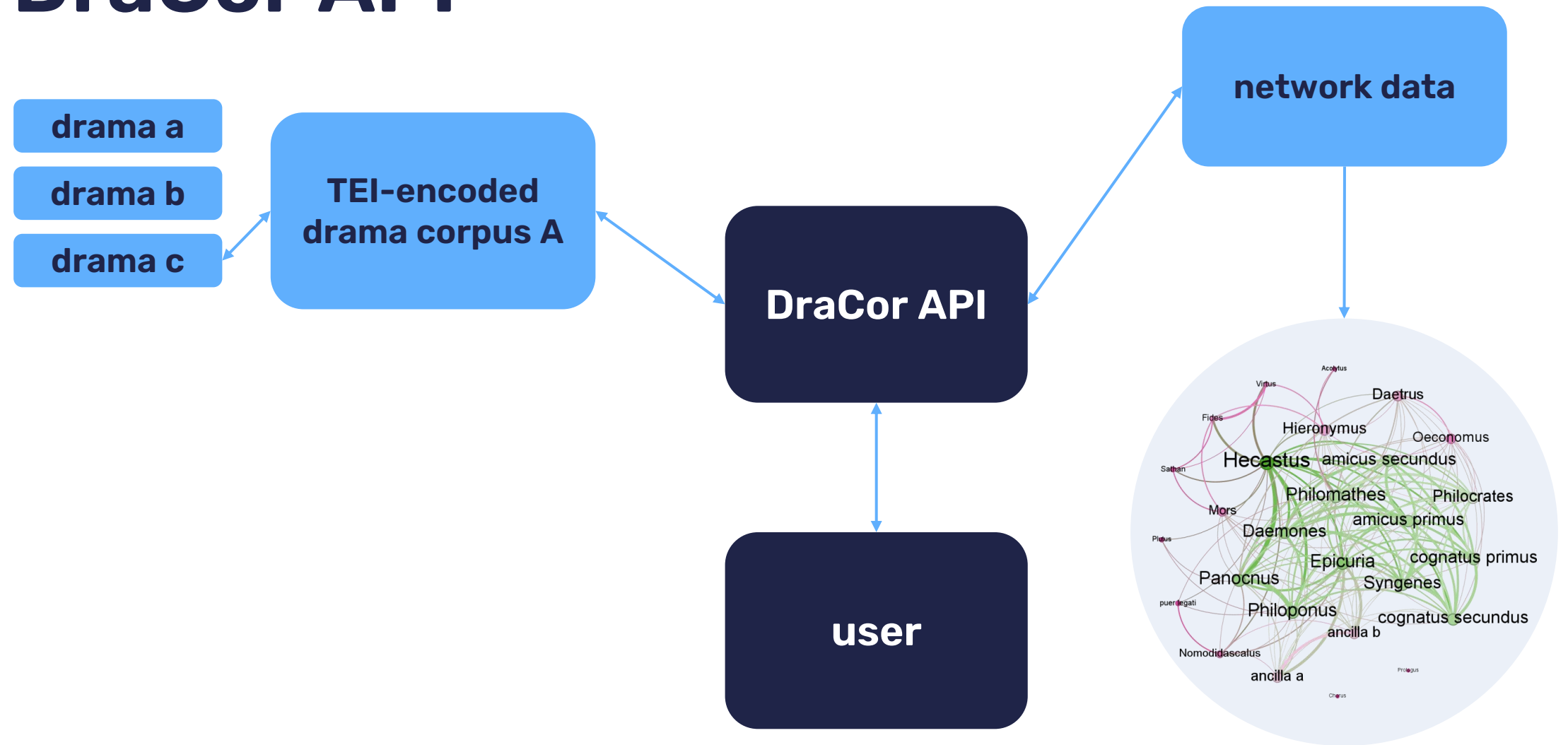
salva sis

Muliercula.

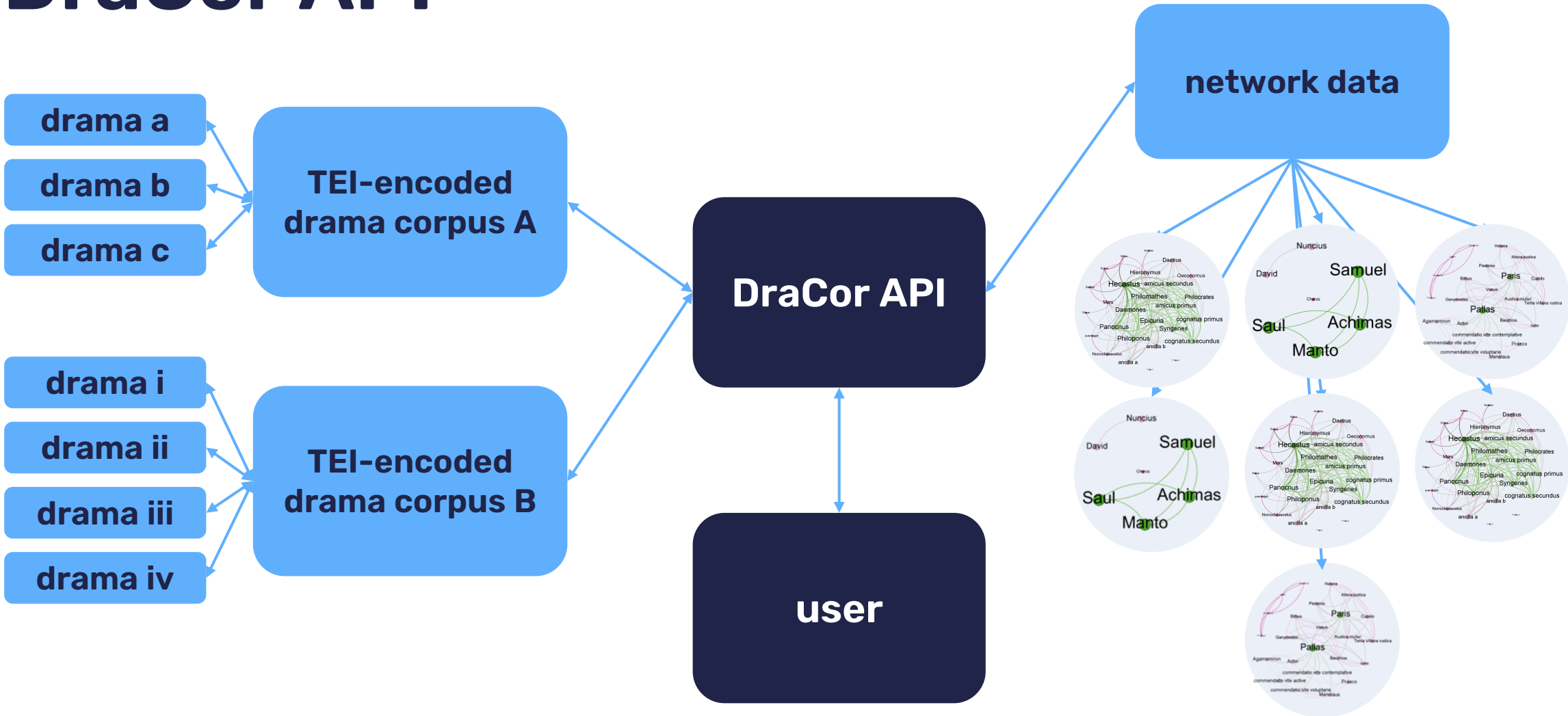
Ep.

Méne quaeris, an virum meum

DraCor API



DraCor API



DraCor API

DraCor API 1.0.2 OAS 3.0

[/api/v1/openapi.yaml](#)

[Terms of service](#)
[Contact the developer](#)
[MIT](#)

Servers

https://dracor.org/api/v1 ▾

public ▴

GET

/info

API info

▾

GET

/corpora

List available corpora

▾

GET

/corpora/{corpusname}

List corpus content

▾

GET

/corpora/{corpusname}/metadata

List of metadata for all plays in a corpus

▾

GET

/corpora/{corpusname}/metadata/csv

List of metadata for all plays in a corpus

▾

GET

/corpora/{corpusname}/plays/{playname}

Get metadata and network metrics for a single play

▾

DraCor Research Approaches

- Since 2024, more than 50 monographs and scientific articles have been published drawing on DraCor data.
- The DraCor websites provide a related bibliography.

Introducing NeoLatDraCor

- Scope: The corpus features Neo-Latin dramatic texts written and premiered across Europe from the 15th century onwards.

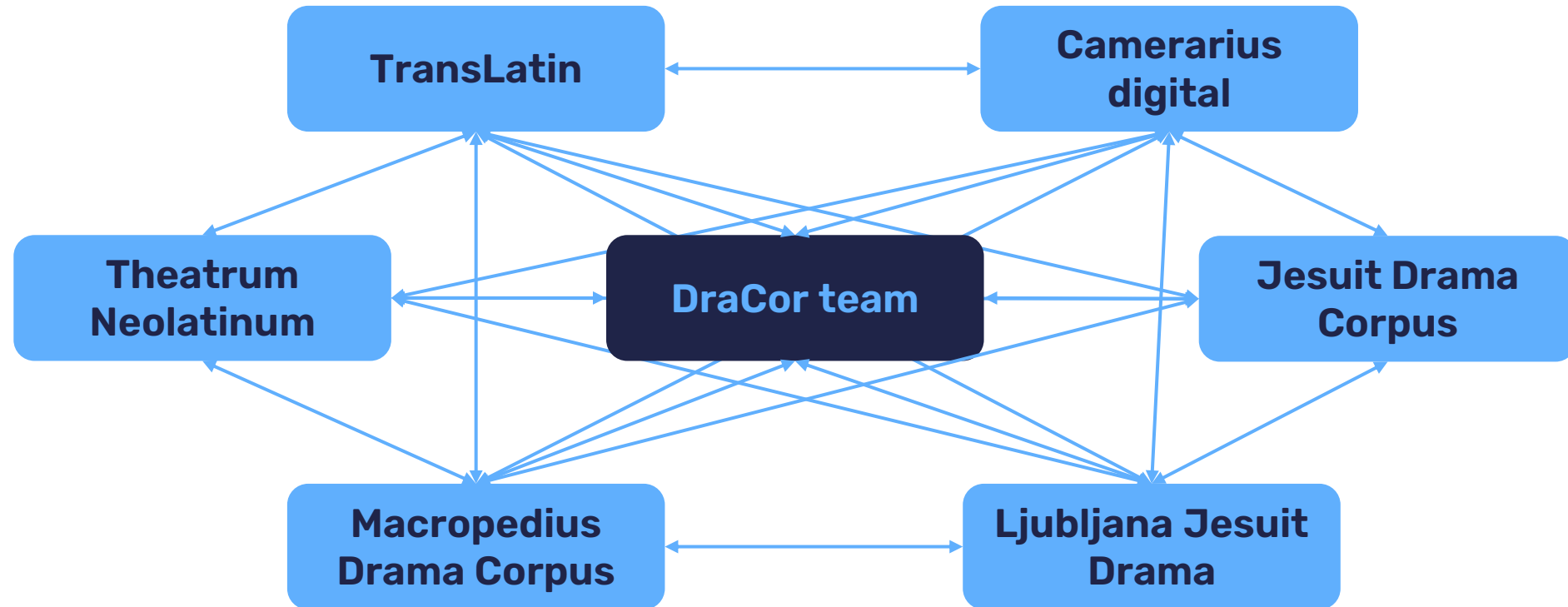
Introducing NeoLatDraCor

- Research perspective
 - NeoLatDraCor facilitates digital research on Neo-Latin dramatic texts.
 - Its incorporation into the DraCor infrastructure enables comparative analyses of Neo-Latin drama with plays in other languages within the larger context of European drama.

Introducing NeoLatDraCor

- Access and licensing
 - The DraCor infrastructure follows the FAIR principles.
 - DraCor generally provides the dramatic texts without critical apparatus, commentaries, or similar.
 - NeoLatDraCor is generally licensed under [CC0 1.0](#). Before contributing, all copyright issues must be cleared.

NeoLatDraCor Working Groups



Challenges and Solutions

- ? The working groups may have different individual project aims.
- 💡 Thus, the NeoLatDraCor group discusses the overall strategy at online regular jours fixes, considering the individual requirements of the working groups.

Challenges and Solutions

- ? The team members have different areas of expertise and technical skills.
- 💡 Thus, the NeoLatDraCor group organises workshops and hackathons on relevant methods, such as TEI-encoding.

Workshops

- 21/02/25: Introduction to XML, TEI and oXygen, online
- 28/02/25: Workshop on (semi-)automatic encoding of dramatic texts in TEI, online
- 22–23/05/25: 1st NeoLatDraCor hackathon, Prague

Encoding Scenarios

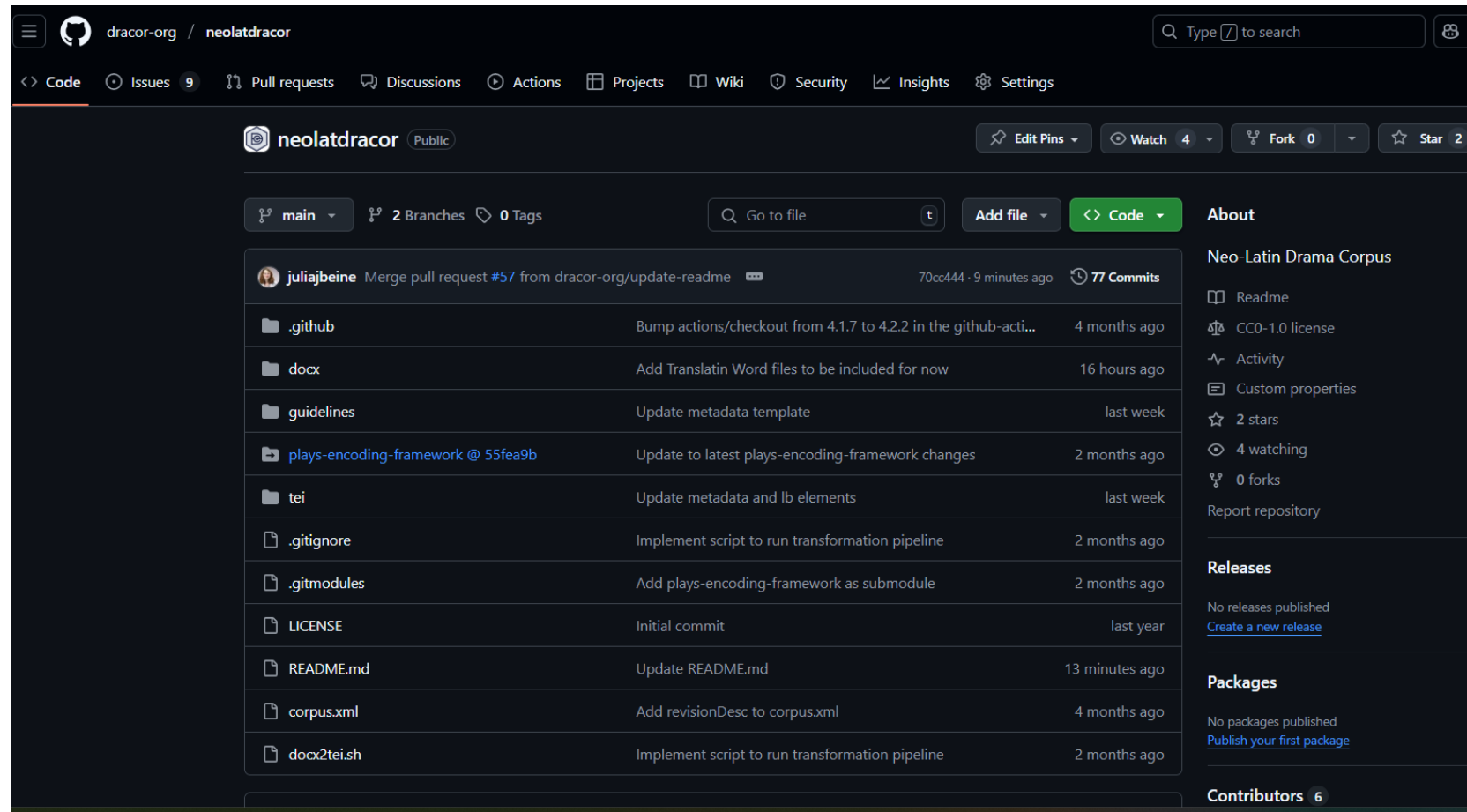
- Encode plays in TEI manually
- Encode plays in TEI (semi-)automatically
 - via transformation scripts (XSLT, Python script, etc.)
 - via LLMs (Claude, ChatGPT, etc.)

NeoLatDraCor Workflows

- Encoding Workflow with the DraCor oXygen Framework that supports manual encoding
- From Word to TEI Workflow that supports (semi-)automatic encoding via an XProc 3.0 pipeline
- To be developed: LLM Encoding Workflow

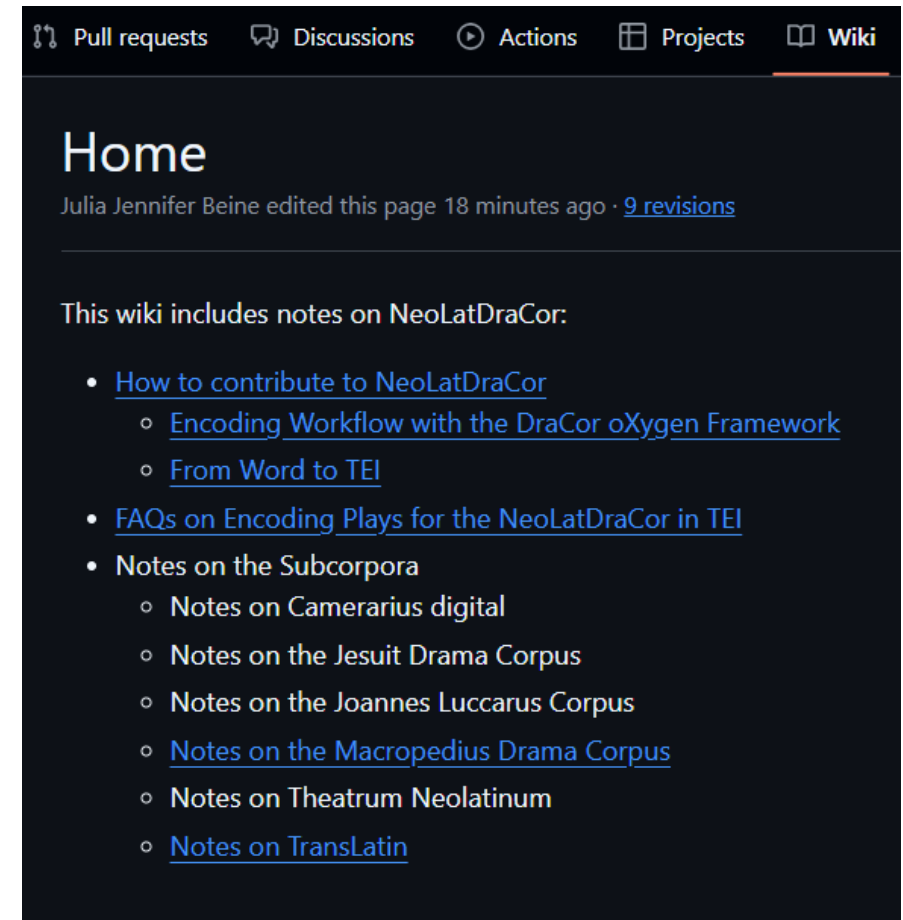
NeoLatDraCor Workflows

- neolatdracor repository on GitHub
 - version control
 - documentation
 - collaboration



NeoLatDraCor Workflows

- Wiki
 - detailed instructions on the workflows
 - FAQs on encoding plays for NeoLatDraCor
 - notes on the subcorpora



NeoLatDraCor Workflows

- Overview of Neo-Latin Dramas
 - 112 dramas ready to be encoded
 - 62 more dramas to be added
 - basis: central metadata file (work in progress)

Please note that this overview and a complete metadata file are a work in progress.

Author	Title	Printed	Written	Project	Current formats	TEI
Adamus Besnecker Q112501998	Amicitia usque ad aras necis non interrupta		1720	Theatrum Neolatinum	.pdf	
Adrianus Roulerius Q134470779	Stuarta tragoedia	1593		TransLatin	docx , tei (basic)	roulerius-stuarta
Andreas Rochotius Q55134115	Gedeon, comaedia nova, cum primis ad usum scholasticum et conditionem temporum accommodata	1607	1607	Theatrum Neolatinum	text, tei	
Andreas Rochotius Q55134115	Iosephiados comaedia ex Genesis lib. cap. 39. 40. 41.	not before 1606, not after 1607	1607	Theatrum Neolatinum	text, tei	
Andreas Anſchitz	Christus Patiens Rex Dolorum		1655	Ljubljana Jesuit Drama	JPG/TIFF (manuscript)	
Andreas	S. Pancharius		1655	Ljubljana	JPG/TIFF	

NeoLatDraCor Workflows

- Next steps
 - Maintain a central metadata file of dramas that may be added to NeoLatDraCor.
 - Generate TEI skeletons from the metadata file.
 - Encode more dramas.

How to Contribute

- Check out the neolatdracor repository.
- Choose a drama from the overview that you would like to contribute.
- Choose a suitable workflow from the Wiki.
- Start encoding.



Visit the informal NeoLatDraCor Introduction on **Wednesday, 16 July, from 2 pm to 3 pm**, in Aula E013 (EGGER building).



**I am looking forward to your
ideas and thoughts!**

julia.beine@rub.de

Bluesky: @juliajbeine.bsky.social

Bluesky starter pack for exchange: Neo-Latin Studies

Sources of the Network Data

Bastian, Mathieu: Gephi. Windows 10 Version 10.0. Version 0.10.1. 2023.
<https://github.com/gephi/gephi/releases/tag/v0.10.1> (last access 14/07/2025).

Beine, Julia Jennifer; Börner, Ingo; Fischer, Frank; Milling, Carsten (eds.): NeoLatDraCor. <https://github.com/dracor-org/neolatdracor> (last access 29/05/2025).

References

- Beine, Julia Jennifer; Börner, Ingo; Fischer, Frank; Milling, Carsten (eds.): NeoLatDraCor. <https://github.com/dracor-org/neolatdracor> (last access 29/05/2025).
- Fischer, Frank; Börner, Ingo; Göbel, Mathias; Hechtel, Angelika; Kittel, Christopher; Milling, Carsten; Trilcke, Peer: Programmable Corpora: Introducing DraCor, an Infrastructure for the Research on European Drama. In: Proceedings of DH2019. Complexities. Utrecht University. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4284002>.
- Macropedius, Georgius: Hecastus. In: Ton Harmsen (ed.): Ceneton. <https://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/Dutch/Ceneton/MacropediusHecastus1552.html> (last access 11/07/2025).