



# FAIR Epigraphy



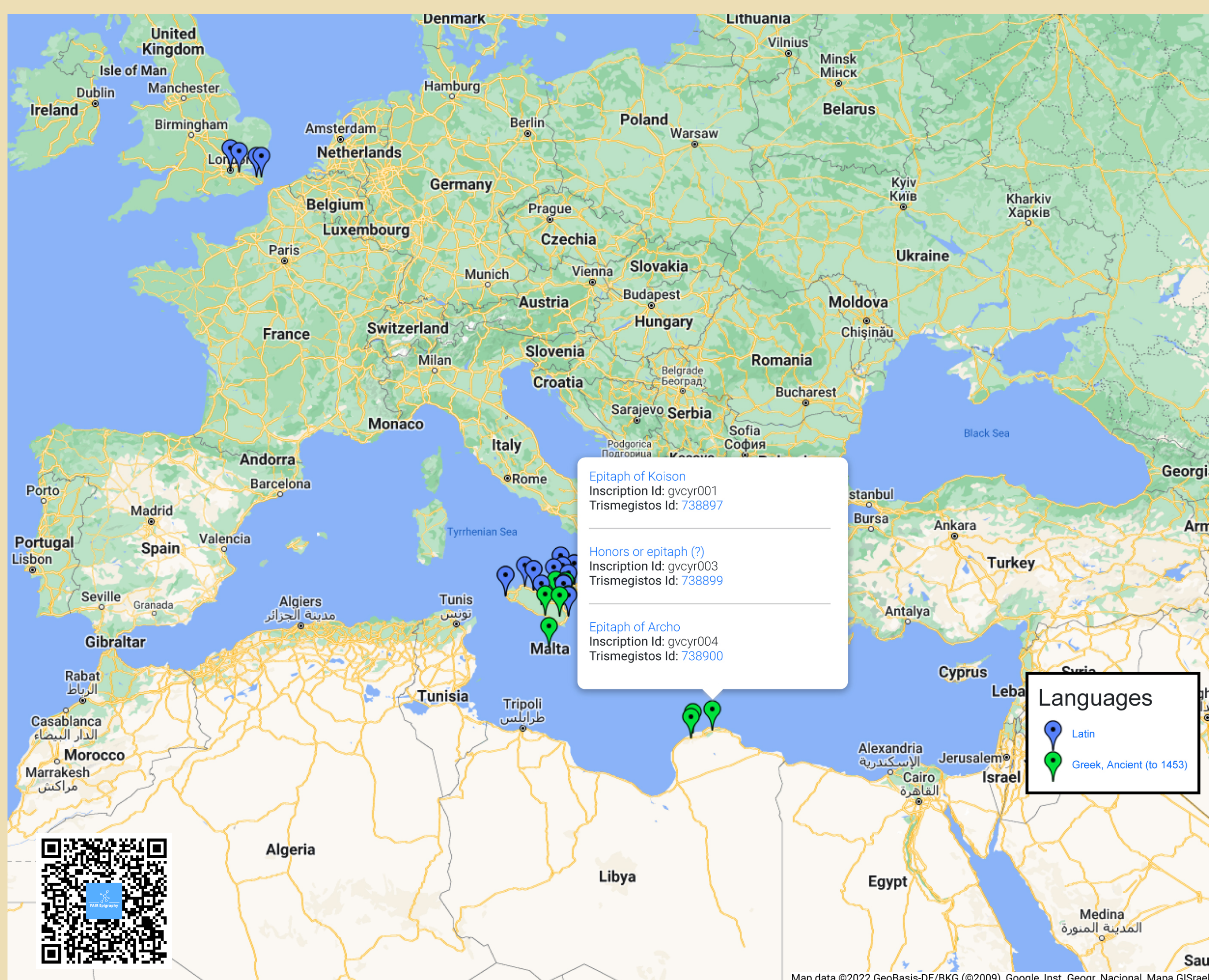
## Too many databases?

## ... or just not enough linked data?

### Why FAIR?

There are ever more digital epigraphy projects, adding more value and detail to our epigraphic knowledge every day. Their value will only be realised if they can be combined and connected. No-one will host or maintain all these projects, or manage a single 'master' corpus with this much data. To achieve connectedness we must adopt the FAIR Principles:

- Findable
- Accessible
- Interoperable
- Reusable

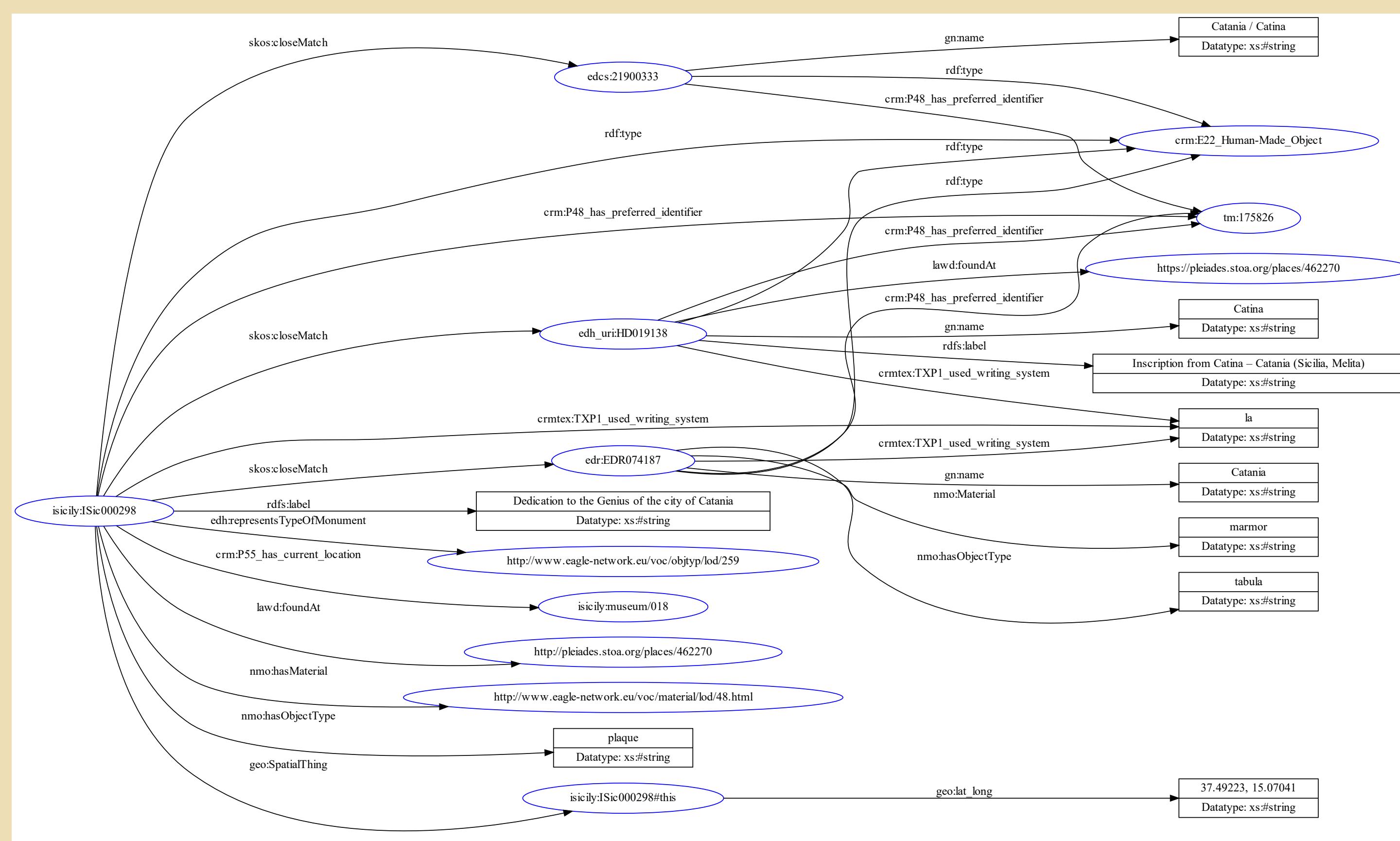


Sample inscription browser, presenting core data across 148 inscriptions from I.Sicily, IGCyr, and RIB  
[https://fair-epigraphy.github.io/RDF\\_pilot\\_1/all\\_in\\_one.html](https://fair-epigraphy.github.io/RDF_pilot_1/all_in_one.html)

### Why Linked?

To make data comparable, we use standard terminologies and classifications. To make data interoperable, computers need to be able to identify the points of commonality. Linking data points to agreed unique identifiers (e.g. a Trismegistos number, a Pleiades place, or an EAGLE object type), means a computer can identify which inscription records are the same, which objects come from the same place, or which inscriptions are on the same object types.

The example on the right shows the scale of such connections – but also the limits of existing data and where things still need to be improved!



Visualisation of the RDF graph of I.Sicily 000298 = TM 175826 = EDCS 21900333 = EDH 019138 = EDR 074187 (note that different projects record different data)

### Where next?

In order to understand where to focus our work in the next 3 years, in spring 2022 we undertook a survey of the state of digital epigraphy, including existing standards, methods and accessibility. The survey covered 40 projects, including established and new projects from across Europe and the US. We published the results on Zenodo in June 2022:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6610695>



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### Find out more!

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Come along to find out more:  
**19.00-21.00, Thursday 1 September**



We are:

Imran Asif (Software Engineer, University of Oxford)  
Peter Hermankova (Researcher, Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz)  
Marietta Horster (PI, Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz)  
Jonathan Prag (PI, University of Oxford)

<https://github.com/FAIR-epigraphy>