welcome everyone to this webinar

entitle Digital Humanities new

approach to research and teaching for

the medieval Mediterranean.

It is really really wonderful to have

all you here

i see college friends so it's very

interesting to have all you here

My name is Nerea Fernandez Cadenas, I am the

organizer of this webinar

together with my colleagues Letizia

Barrionuevo Almuzarra

who is in the session

Leti, i am going to put your video okay

okay you have to accept the permission

for the video Leti

She is doing her phd about academic library

in digital humanities

and my other colleagues that helped me

to organize this this webinar

is Pedro Mateo Pelitero who is doing his

phd about archaeology but unfortunately he

canstay today with us.

 This webinar is sponsored by the Society for the

Medieval Mediterranean

and today we have the privilege to count

with the presence of Dr Antonella Liuzzo

Scorpo who is the co-president of the

society so antonella if you want to say

some words to the attendees i will be

delighted

Hello can you hear me yeah

and thank you Nerea and the organizing

committee for putting together

 such an interesting and certainly

timely event dedicated to digital humanities and new

approaches to research

and teaching, and event that I have to say

has become even more digital than we

originally planned for

um yet i think opening actually new

possibilities and certainly favoring

inclusion uh thanks to these new format

This event has been awarded the Simon

Barton Conference Prize 2020

by the society for the medieval

Mediterranean, a prize that aims to

assist

postgraduate students and early career

researchers with the organization of

conferences, symposia workshops and

outreach activities and public

engagement

that align with the aims and scope of

the society.

For those of you who might not know it is

dedicated to the academic study of

Mediterranean history

and culture from the 5th to the 15th

century

and the society has also got a journal

and a peer review international

peer-reviewed journal Al- Masaq

that is concerned with fostering

innovative and

cross-cultural and interdisciplinary

research in the field.

The Simon Barton prize was established

in 2017

by Professor Simon Barton himself who

was the former president

of the society for the medieval mediterranean,

 and for those of you who may

have met

simon he was actually a massive fan and

supporter

of early career scholar himself this was

one of his priorities and that's

why this grant is actually dedicated to

his memory

um applications are currently open for

the next round

for the 2021 uh prize uh that closes on

the

31st of january 2021 and so please do

check

our website to find out more details

about the deadline

uh the eligibility criteria uh

the policy diversity and inclusivity

policy and so for.

um along with the salon barton prize the

society for the medieval mediterranean

also organizes biannual international

conferences

with related travel grants for portfolio

students

we award biennial book and article

prizes

and more recently we have been

organizing a webinar series in

collaboration with

the wolf institute at Cambridge and

there are more events to come so again

do check our website and

follow us on twitter or facebook for

further updates

we'd like also to welcome new members of

course to join the society as

this will uh offer everyone the

opportunity not just to receive

obviously the journal Al-Masaq and to

vote at the agenda of the society

and but actually to become part of a

growing and dynamic community of

scholars

at different stages of their careers and

from

from a range of disciplines whose

research focuses on

the medieval mediterranean and i'd like

to conclude just with a personal

reflection

um i think that we all agree that 2020

has been a challenging

and in some aspects revolutionary year

for many disciplines

impacting the ways in which scholars

interact share and communicate their

research

and there's been a sudden shift i would

say to live

and work progressively more online

that has made all of us profoundly aware

of the benefits, the opportunities

but also the limitations of researching

and teaching

within a fully digital context i'm sure

that this event there was already

planned by the way

before all these happened and before the

more recent developments

will be very useful and inspiring to

reflect

upon the role and i think the new

meanings that digital humanities in

general is actually taking

for both our research and teaching

practices

so enjoy the rest of these inspiring and

stimulating event

thank you for listening and thank you

Nerea and the organizing committee once

again for doing this

okay Antonella, thank you very much for these kind

words i really really appreciate

it and i would like to thanks of course

uh to all the society members for

support

for the support you give to postgraduate

students and early career scholars

it is very very important for us

so thank you all

to all the society members

sorry

so now i would like to make a quick

introduction

of how this webinar works before i

introduce our distinguished

panelists as you know this webinar

is a split into two sessions this is the

first session

named a digital research this session will

last

one hour and a half more or less then we

will take a break

of about 30 minutes and after that the

second session Digital teaching will start

okay.

Regarding to the structure each

panelist will give a

paper of about 15 minutes

and at the end when all the panelists

have finished attendees

could ask some questions to them

okay

for about 1- 15 minutes you can type

your question in the q a portal that you

have at the bottom of the screen which

you if you could check it it's at the

bottom of the

screen so i encourage everyone to to

write either question in the qa and a

portal

and before i forget we are recording

this webinar so if you want to

re-watch it or to recommend

to someone

it will be available in YouTube and in

other platforms but

don't worry because we will inform you

about this by email okay later

okay so are you ready so let's start

with

with our panelists okay

our speakers speakers in this session in

the session digital research

are threel brilliant scholars who

are doing the research using digital

tools okay. I will introduce them in

order of appearance

so okay i am going to put the video of

okay so okay

so okay let's start with Dr David

Natal Villaza

David lecturer in history at Royal

Holloway in london

his current project analyzes how a

universal late antique church was

constructed

despite the end of the western roman

empire through

GIS software okay so

hi hi david thank you for stay here with

us

and the next the next panelist

is okay i'm going to put the next one

is Antonio Dr

Antonio Blanco Gonzalez who is lecturer

at the university of salamanca in spain

his focus on social and landscape

archaeology

using geographical information system in

his research okay

and last but not least

Evina Steinová

 who is post-doctoral

researcher

at the Huygens Institute of Netherlands History,

she is dealing with

the Early Medieval manuscripts of the

etymology of Isidore of seville

its innovation and the intellectual

networks that

served as channels for the spreading of

this innovation

okay so thank you everyone for accepting

the invitation of

stay here with us. So now

we will we will start with our first

speaker David

who will give a paper about connecting

clerics social network analysis

and the construction of the late antique

church. I hand over to you david

hello can you hear me yeah hi uh well

thank you Nerea for the introduction and

thank you the organizing committee for

putting together

this um webinar uh my presentation today

has

two different sections uh in the first

section i'm going to

provide a very brief overview of the

project i'm currently heading

and the second section is going to be a

um again a very brief overview of a case

study just to give you a flavour

of the kind of research we are

conducting

i'm going to share screens no

um

it's not working now? i don't know

i don't think it's working my screen

i think you need to do something Nerea

otherwise

i mean it's not that it's incredibly

important now i think

why i am sharing my screen you're

sharing your screen now

okay

oh so apparently you have disabled

attendee screen sharing for everyone

um well i can start my presentation

without the um

without the um powerpoint it's not super

important so if at some point

you realize that you can do it uh just

let me know

okay and i will start sharing the screen

so the um

as i said two sections the first section

is what the project is about so this is

one of these

ER projects running for five years um

and we are at this moment we are halfway

through

so um it's finishing at the end of 2022

and at the moment it comprises nine

members but this is a moment of change

um so some members joining some members

going on

But at the moment is five researchers

all of them based in the UK

two software developers based in the at

the austrian academy of sciences in

vienna

one dissemination an impact officer and

one intern

and the project as i already said is

based at two different institutions

um Royal Holloway university of london

where most of us

are based and the austrian academy of

sciences where the project was

originally launched

in january 2018. uh so the project

uh um the title

of the project is connected cleric so

slightly different to the uh

title i provided for today's paper uh

connected clerics

building a universal church in the late antiquity

west 380 to 604

and as the title suggests um this

project looks at the construction of

recreational institutions

in the later deep west so precisely at

the time when the western roman empire

was fragmenting

into um into smaller polities

as you can imagine this topic has

received a huge amount

of scholarly attention in the past

up to the 1950s most of this attention

focused on the structure of offices and

canon law

but after 1950s social history led

historians away from the knights of

institutions

and set the focus on individuals ideas

and processes

and social history has fundamentally

reframed our understanding of

how these institutions work uh primarily

by kind of revealing the fallibility of

institutions

and also by showing that a classical

authority is socially constructed and

it's not depending only on the title

so David sorry you could share now the

screen

okay thanks um

is that working now yeah there you go

um so this is essentially what i was

saying

so i don't know if i can do this yeah

there you go um um

so as i said social history has shown

the facilities of institutions

and how this authority is socially

constructed but

by moving away from the analysis of

institutions

um there are two questions that have

remained an answer

and is how these ecclesiastical

institutions

emerged over the new political borders

and also how how

the transition from informal

relationships to more formal structures

of law and policymaking came about at

this time

and similar processes have been

studied in sociology and political

sciences particularly

in the field of institutional theory

which was developed primarily in the

1980s and instead of looking at the

institutions and the structure of

institutions

this perspective looks at the rules

beliefs and conventions that support

these institutions

so essentially what are the laws what

are the narratives and what are the

patterns of behaviour that maintain

and and support institutions

and one of the most effectively um

one of the most demonstrably effective

methods to analyze

these rules belief and conventions is

social network analysis because

um it provides a more empirical

understanding

of the social relationships um that

articulate these organizations

so there's been some studies in

contemporary history

putting together these two approaches

but there's not been such a study in

late antiquity and that is what i wanted

to do when i wrote

this proposal and following these

approaches

and methods what we are trying to do

in the connect project is looking at how

the structure of clinical relationships

in late antiquity

shape the way in which ecclesiastical

laws different clinical behaviors and

different visions of the church were

disseminated

in western europe primarily so to to put

it in

in other words so how the clinical

relationships shape the way the church

was constructed

shaped the way people thought about the

church shaped the way people

related to ecclesiastical law and also

shaped the way people behaved within the

church and to what extent these

behaviours and rules

and visions of the church supported or

hindered the construction of focusing on

institutions

and uh following this approach service

as you see four different

sections um also the team

has four different strands so the visual

prosopography strand

um is looking at the

um networks in itself so trying to

analyze

these episcopal networks so in the

visual prosopography uh

strand um there are two software

developers are currently developing

our network software and one

postdoctoral researcher who is looking

at the connections in the letters of

Augustine there's the atlas ethical law

strand so um it comprises one PhD

student

and she's working on councils in

northern Africa from 390 to

420 um and this is a key moment in the

definition of a classical law because

there's almost

one council a year in north Africa and

what she's doing well she's doing two

different things um she's a philologist

and she's looking at Munoz edition of

these councils

and she has hypothesis that mania didn't

pay a lot of attention to the

subscriptions of this

council so that list of attendees uh in

these councils

so she's trying to to figure out if

these lists

are um correct according to the

manuscript tradition and then she's

trying to find

different alliances and different

factions in these councils

and and seeing how that shape the

ecclesiastical policy at this time in north

africa

the other strand is connected mind

strand and this is looking

at different visions of the church

um and it comprises one PhD student and

one postdoctoral

the phd student is Amal Shahada she's

originally from Alexandria and she's the

only person

working on the eastern Mediterranean

she's working on precisely Alexandria

because Alexandria design was this kind

of factory of ideas

and we were interested in seeing how

these ideas that emerge in a very local

environment which is Alexandria

how these ideas travel to the west and

reframe ideas of the church also in the

west

so she's looking at um populist

discourse

in Alexandria in the fifth century and

hate speech and how that created

different factions within Alexandria

and then they uh there's also a

postdoctoral uh researcher in this

strand

Alex Hickling and she's looking at

Gregory the great

pope regularly great so he died

precisely in 604 which is the

end of our project as well and

and she's looking at how Gregory

distributed

different ideas about the church how he

constructed the idea that the church was

a unified entity

with him at the top of it obviously and

he

how he distributed this in his letter

collection and then the ecclesiastical

government strung

is primarily focusing on patterns of

clinical behaviour

so to what extent different clerics in

different areas

despite being under different rules

different laws

um probably different um also ethnic

identities but they behave similarly

so, it comprises only one person which is

me

and I'm working on Leo the great um so

the pope

in the fifth century one of the key

figures of the construction of this

idea of universal church and I'm looking

at his epistles primarily

looking at how he um had a number of

adresses and how he distributed these

patterns of behaviour with

his different addresses through his

letters um

as this is a digital humanities webinar

i suppose you're more

interested on the digital aspects of

this

project so um this is the software

that we are not developing from scratch

the software already existed

it was developed by researchers and

software developers at the Austrian academy

of sciences

primarily for archaeological research

what we did is using what they already

had and transform it so it was more

useful for us and for

also for other historical projects

so this is the old interface it looks

much better now but

but it allows you to see connections

among individuals um which didn't

uh allow you to do previously but

this was primarily GIS software because

it was done by

archaeologists for archaeologists this

is the old interface again

but what we have done is including new

capabilities so

now you can visualize different

connections and networks

on the map and and it

also will have a timeline so you can see

how these different connections um

change over time and finally this is

an open access database um

so we are collecting the information

on letter exchanges in late antiquity at

the moment

it comprises the letters the whole

collection of Augustine

um this is Victoria Leonard who is a

preceptor researcher

in the visual prosopography strand and she

has

created all these entries for

Augustine's letters

including his ghost letter so letters to

which are augustine referred to

but are not part of his history so all

these letters are going to be

in this open access database Alice

Hickling has also included um the

letters of

Gregory the great and the plan is in the

future to include also Ambrose of Milan

and the letters of Leo the great um

and that is the end of the first section

and kind of quite nicely links to the

second section of this talk

which is going to be about Ambrose of

Milan this is a case study

a very brief overview of a case study

just to give you an idea of what we are

doing

so Ambrose um well this was part of my

PhD 10 years ago and if you think that i

should be tired of the man 10 years

after

well you're right I'm i'm starting to be

a bit tired of Ambrose but

it's kind of interesting because he was

a very prolific writer

and because he was so prolific, he has

completely

completely skewed our understanding of

the fourth century um ecclesiastical

politics in northern

Italy and i think there's room for

critically engaging with Ambrose still

much more than has been done even in the

past uh which has been down to a great

deal

oh well he was the bishop of Milan from

374 to 397 and he wrote

96 letters distributed in 10 books

plus, some letters outside the collection

book number 10 and the letters outside

the collection

are um have received a great deal of

Historiographical l attention because they

look at

um they look at politics with the

emperor and the usurpers

but the other nine books are is Ambrose

dealing with

his clerics and bishops around in

northern

northern Italy Ambrose has been

considered the first metropolitan

bishop in the west primarily because his

letters are so

uh so asymmetrical in in a word so his

Ambrose consistently

doing favours to his uh to his colleagues

in

in northern Italy and what i did was

visualizing this with network software

and

a different picture emerged so what I

did first was visualizing

Ambrose's history so his connections

with the other clerics and bishops in

northern Italy and this is the

this is what you have a star-shaped

structure so Ambrose in the middle

Ambrose most important note in this

network

but once you add the numbers of letters

or the frequency of interactions

you see some interesting patterns

emerging

so, for instance most of the letters were

sent to people in

Milan so these bishops here are

Indianas,

Irenaeus and Simpliciones all these are

bishops are clerics

sorry in the church of Milan the only

exception is subpoenas to which

to whom i will come back in a sec and

um what i wanted to do was also seeing

Ambrose

um in the um context of other

relationships

so i used councils um

council attendance from this period of

time there's not many

many sources for this period so once you

put together the letters of Ambrose with

council attendance at this time what you

get is this slightly more complex

picture

so many other bishops but still Ambrose

in the middle and one of the things that

network software allows you to do

is to remove uh one note in order to see

the connection of that

bypass this note so in this case Ambrose

is so dominant because he was so

prolific but what happened when Ambrose

is not there

so are these bishops still connected

among themselves

and what i got the is this um

which is Subpoenas of Piacenza is

actually, a very

central figure and this is interesting

for many

aspects um but um

Sabinas has been absolutely ignored by

historiography

but he's a central actor

in this network once you start digging

into his

persona in in his history so he attended

a number of

uh councils already before Ambrose was

there he was sent to the east

so he uh contracted to the Capadocian

fathers

then he came back to the west and by the

time Ambrose was

uh elected bishop sabinus was already

quite well connected in northern Italy

so he was kind of introducing Ambrose to

this network

and sabino's attended each and every

single

council ambrose are organized and most

of his friends also attended this

council so to

some extent if those councils were

successful is because sabinos was there

so he was kind of the broker of

relationships in

in Ambrose so this is um this is the end

of my presentation I'm very sorry that i

think I'm

all the time and that was a very quick

presentation but I hope

it has at least some ideas of what we

are doing

in this project thank you.

Excellent thank you very much David

please attend this do you use the q and

a portal to write questions to the David

that um

then later could ask them so please i

encourage you to

to write your question for david now and

at the end of the webinar

he can answer all these questions

So thank you David and now we go with

our second speaker so okay

i think that i have to no no no no

okay thank you Davis hehehe

okay our second speaker is Sntonio

and Antonio that we have you have to

unmute your microphone

okay and um Antonio will give a paper about

approachable and use of medieval

landscape

via Geographical

information system

so now it's your turn so whenever you

want

thank you so much can you hear me yeah

yeah

okay perfect thank you so much to

organizing committee

for inviting me to this

magnificently

organized event and for

for giving me the opportunity to present

 this small work we

 we conducted some some years ago

with doctor Iñaki Martin Viso who is

a lecturer in medieval history in the

university of Salamanca

well my presentation sorry

that's an initial clarification because

just a few notes to let you know that i

am not an

expert in in GIS I am only a

scholar with some interest in

sorry sorry for yeah

i am only a historian a historian with

with some

interest in different approaches to

to subjects we have been

tackled from only a few

techniques and i think there are a lot

of field

in order to to test other approaches

um this is

this is worth noting in the current

context

of academia where where there is a

strong specialization of every single scholar

in their own uh

parcel of research and there is also a

rampant

now vision allied with uh

with with some sophisticated really

sophisticated

tools like Gis and all the

i images and all the

the geodata special databases

which are available available on the

internet

in these days um the

the main point i would like to toto

make in this

in this presentation has to do with the

well not with the with the fact that not

always sophisticate is equal to

helpful or even pertinent in some

in some research uh topics

and this is all this is more

true in the case of of the digital

humanities where one one of them the missing

subject sometimes is

 the research questions which should

be the first the first the first thing

every single

scholar should approach

and i'm going to

make this try to make this point through

a case study which focus on

on uh inland Spain in the

in the tablelands of the meseta or the

the highland plateau of the in in middle

Spain

and in this this this is the

the studio region this is the Dr

Iñaki Martin Viso he's an expert on rock grave

towns these are graves which are

carved i into the rock and

Iñaki has been developing several

research projects

focusing on this on this phenomenon

well the historical context of these

these funerary

devices is the so-called Reconquista

in in central Spain and the studio area

is the central system where

in these times where a borderland

between different

is region, competing and emerging

powers

you can see the christian the

christian powers in

in the north and then the

islamic powers

in in southern Iberia and southern in

the south of

the iberian peninsula and

throughout the the Middle Ages

 you see how the lands of the of the the

meseta

of the capital lands are progressive

there is a progressive conquest and

political administration of these

regions

except some settings like the

the mountainous ones like

the central system which are

pretty beyond these lowland

statelets small really small polities

which are a

far these are they are far long away

from the the centers of power with

the capitals for example in Leon

or or Toledo and

we can see   the central

system like a shuttle zone of

peasant populations which are resistant

against the this consolidated or is stateless

this is a images of the

political movements and the

the main uh the main factins

in this in these days. okay

so the problem and the

subject of our research was where are the people

who are for example called the

"montaniar" or peoples of the hill . They

people which are beyond the

arm of the state and

and they follow um political and moral strategies which are

conflicting with the interests of the

states

they are against the game like uh the

the very well known uh title of a book by

by James C. Scott or

they are constantly on the move,

they follow opportunistic strategies

and they also practice a cementary way of

of organization which makes really

difficult, really tough for the state to

control and monitor these people

this is why they are really hard to

track even in the written

documentation but also in the

archaeology for example we

know almost nothing

about the household archaeology or the domestic

record of these peoples

They live in this mountainous

Settlements, and here you can see some

photographs of the most

apparent and visible of the romans

left by these pastoral

agropastoral groups

which are the the rock that uh

i can't see your screen we can't see

your screen

you have to to click share screen at

the bottom of the

of the screen

you haven't seen anything ?o

no i think that no sorry

ah sorry yeah

so we have enough

time if you want to….

well yes this one uh the image of the

the studio zone you can see is in

the middle of

of Spain this was the political

atmosphere

in these days it's a boderland

region and you can see how there are

many

pittyi stateless

which are focused on the lowland

settings

but they are far away from the from the

from the central region which is a

a hilly one and a peripheral one

okay so we have this these

small polities and we have the

the montanas the people who live in

the in the hills

which are escaping of the state and which

are practicing a

a peasant lifestyle

and these are the tombs the

graves which Dr Martin Viso had been studying for

some time

and there are

the study of this is

bit problematic

there are a lot of long-held prejudice

which have to do with the

traditional way of thinking and making

history which

is the positive and there are

a lot of cliché images for example the population

of inland Iberia or inland Spain in

this in this time period the awkwardness,

the isolation

or even the rudeness and

and sophistication of these people

and the most practical

way of studying these towns and

this funeral

record is by the typological one so

it's a evolutionary making evolutionary

charge with the chronotypological

typos r for every single time period

and region

and i find and and Iñaki finds

all these approaches really boring and

and irrelevant in terms of historical

analysis and this is why okay one of the

strengths of this manifestations are that the

rock dump the rocks did not move

and this is what

let us approach them from their

spacial patterning.

okay we have a lot of ethnohistorical

literature which suggests that t these

cemeteries all cementeries in

pre-industrial

societies are really important in

shaping the social life

in terms of for example a moral strategies

in order to reuniting communities

claiming rights in the case of

of the people who are

raising livestock or

or forming identities really fragmented

and isolated identities but communal

identities and even elite identities

among t the peasant communities

these are some of the research questions

 we are aiming too tackle

why are tombs dug out there?

What locations factors

important in these cultural

choice?

Prominency, visibility

the land use of these soils

around the tombs were important in

terms of the spatial patterning of these sites?

where are they landmarks as some of

scholars have

proposed really recently

and what can these cultural decisions

tell us about the

the people who were making and using

these stones?

What cultural regionals are

behind these manifestations?

 Well the aims of our

Project were to take a step forward

and beyond the simple

description of these

manifestations and explore

new avenues of enquiry and other

dimensions we have not been tested so

far with a special social emphasis in our

analysis. and this is why we resorted to GIS

okay there is no need and no time to

explain what is

GIS but these are some of the

of the reasons why we were resorting to

GIS

because we had to manage a lot

of spatial information and really

from different sources and really

difficult to handle together,

because we are not aiming at uh

reconstructing

anything at all, we our aim was only to

to test an experimental approach.

it's only to model, to

make a model of the or some geospatial

dates and then collate these

these observations through

a systematic and rigorous appraisal

and to get some quantitative

observations in terms of

statistical significance and we

can also make some

cool maps of course. This is the

 studio area you can see the

central system in Spain.

Iñaki Martin Viso divided the towns in two groups

into two groups

isolated graves and rural necropolis

which is the correlation of

several of these tombs

at this on the same surface or really

close environment

setting. You can see here

 the spatial pattern of all the

the villages documented i

in the first mentions in the textual sources

in 1250

where are the burial sites

and the different the different classes

of burial sites

in the studio area

iAn initial um

an intuitive visual glimpse

you can see how there is a central

large cemetery which is called lakova

which is a concentration of

over 40 tombs in a

in a high mountain setting and

there are no cemeteries around

in a buffer zone or five over five

kilometres from this area and you can find

small isolated tombs in the

periphery

of this center and

apparently there is something

more than a random uh locations here

We tried several statistical tests

and the funerary sites are

are grouped and there are some patterns

and we can differentiate some of them

for example

uh we can see how the large uh cemetery of Lacova is

in the middle of uh of uh original

regional uh quality or

regional order of the Sierra de Ávila

the part where this study

is focused on and

this is the the site of la

is completely different to the other

sides and there are

several groups of tombs

which apparently, they have to do with

the kingship organization of these

these people and this is something

really illuminating in terms of the social

organization of the these groups

it is also worth of not

knowing that like this in in terms of

of the the land uses of the

of the soils surrounding these

funerary sites

there are several tendencies

of trends. Well you can see here is a

classical

technique of study which is called as

site catchment analysis

and you can see how what we have done is

is to group the soils in three different

categories group one is the most in

intensive

shortfall agriculture with intensive

crops for example

group b is extensive agriculture

different agriculture

with low fallow crops and cattle

breeding and we have the group c soils

which are rocky soils really thin soils

which are only appropriate for silvo

forestal and

and forestry uses

well the statistical analysis of this information, or the

quantitative and

and the statistical analysis of these

dates(information)

give us no nuclear

relationship between the

the isolated graves and the rural

disorders cementeries

and the soils around them

group a a soils are

underrepresented in all the

the types of

sites and group the groups

c and b are in keeping with

their representation is far

higher than the other one and is

keeping with an interest with

in extensive and diversified strategies

which is in

also very much in line with peasant

lifestyles and the exploitation of the

of the setting

and these are only a glimpse some

glimpses of

some sight analysis we've done

that we conducted from the

funerary site you can see in in yellow

the yellow areas are the visibility

 which are visible from the from

the large cemeteries and you

can see how the the valley is the

the center

part of the of the study region which is

more most

most visible from these locations.

in contrast in the isolated graves

they are more focused on visibility

in these small north

south valleys we just in the northern

heights lobe of the study area

and this is also this is an

accumulated visibility between all the the side which have

been studied in this in this approach

and you can see how

they are very much interested in the valley

and in the regions which are far away

from the sites.

In order to conclude a

a fine way to summarize

this monuments

are like arms of the week is the

expression of James C.Scott

these are these rock times

are present monuments with ever-changing

meanings and roles, we

we cannot claims at all but which were

long lasting

and where a

and held cultural esteem for several

several times the

locate the location of these funerari

sites

were likely related with herding

with pastoralist groups

the more relevant location factors

link to the movement

probably to the movement of flocks and

the livestock and the people across the

has a

lot to do with the

traditional way of living here which has

to do with

with the with the transterminant (transhumance)

herders and there are not differences in

terms of

of a spatial patterning between the two

categories of tombs but

the organization of these of these

stones

are pretty much in keeping with

the kinship organization of these groups

so that

the isolated graves are most properly

related with

bilateral or cognatic group

and the cementeries are most likely

related to unilineal descent groups like

patrilineages

for example

and just to finish I would like to

highlight and this is

really important to resort to any

research tool

you have at hand especially when it is

cost effective

and i it has not been tested

before and it is also really

enlightening to

look for similar problems in other

fields of research

and that's all thank you so much

thank you Antonio thank you very much

there was brilliant

we leave uh then time for questions so

attendees please write your question

into the Q and Aportal

and thanks Antonio and then

okay i'm going to okay i have okay thank

you antonio

and now is the time for Evina

okay so

okay and finally our last finalist of

this first session

Evina Steinová who will

Give a talk about etymology.ms a virtual

handlist

of the pre-1000 manuscript of Isidore´s Etymologiae

so Evina are you ready? yes thank you

good evening everyone i'm here to

represent the manuscript people i think

so i will be talking about manuscripts

let me share my screen

yes i hope you see it yeah

great oh

okay

okay you see the loading right ah

yes oh it's almost there great

hmm that was strange okay yeah it loaded

twice

okay so hello everyone I'm going to talk

use this 15 minute to talk about

a digital database of manuscripts I

developed as a part of my project that I

call it etymology.ms

the database is not online yet it should

be ready

next year so i hope some of you will be

the users and for now I'll be talking

about work in progress

i'm also no authority on database

building so

i'm just sort of the simple user i'm one

of those people who have a project who

want to build a database and i

took the way and i've learned some

things along the way so i hope

what i will be talking about will be

enlightening to some of you

it will be mostly about my project and

my database but i also hope

to tell you something more about

manuscript databases that are out

out there and maybe what can you do if

you want to build one for yourself are

you considering one i don't know whether

that's the case

uh so let me tell you start by starting

talking about what is a manuscript

database

uh perhaps you have noticed that uh in

the last

decade 10 20 years there are more and

more websites and more web-based

projects which

include descriptions of manuscripts and

images of manuscripts

uh no the the manuscript database i

would say is not

every single of them i would say these

are just the kind of

websites or web projects uh which can be

compared to a printed catalogue or a hand

list of manuscripts they

are thus manuscript oriented uh oriented

towards manuscript as an object and

towards providing

a description about that

manuscript

i'm not including here digitalization

projects

because i think those are quite

different in the sense that they provide

mostly to a platform

for viewing digital images and that's

quite different from a manuscript

database as you will see the examples

there is not a project which actually

digitizes manuscripts

but either relies on what is digitized

or do not provide any images

so it's more like a catalogue or even a

smaller kind of

entity uh usually they are project-based

which means they're quite

humble or humbler than say digitization

projects which tend to be

larger and kind of have larger budgets

as well

and usually automatic in as far as the

project is oriented and this means we

usually have manuscript databases that

are genre-oriented or

oriented towards a specific author or

text um

or maybe towards a specific manuscript

feature

they're small in scale usually they can

mostly constitute

hundreds of manuscripts or thousands of

manuscripts at most and they're quite

not sophisticated in complexity

before this talk I tried to put together

sort of a small list in my head about

what kind of

manuscript databases I know or use

already and here are some that I could

think of I'm pretty sure they are not

all that are there but these are the

ones that I know and I use and

maybe you recognize some of them uh they

run in scale

from uh several hundred manuscripts I

think transsexual networks are

about 300 manuscripts marginal

scholarship around 300 manuscripts

two larger sets of uh I think your

donors is uh

yeah, your diagnosis is the largest with

about 14 000 manuscripts described

and also, the different sophistication

some of them are more static

some of them are more dynamic uh some of

them are uh author focus

in case of full amount here or uh genre

focuses

in case of the manuscript America some

of them are more about a specific type

of

feature for example uh old high German

glasses or

musical notation in manuscripts um

and my project also built the database

it will fit very much into this kind of

landscape it's also quite small

several hundred manuscripts and the main

kind of uh description

is that these are manuscripts that

contain uh the etymology of Isidore of

seville so the most

the most important latin medieval

encyclopedia that was there

so let me tell you a bit about the what

is inside the database of what will be

there once it's online

uh at the moment it's about 400 almost

450

manuscripts predating mid 11th century

that can transmit

this text it's not only manuscripts

strictly of the etymologies that's only

84 manuscripts

they're not to not more than that but

there are many other kinds of

manuscripts that contain

similar same material but different kind

there are some epitomes there are

fragments as well there are even

manuscripts that contain material from

Isidore in

as marginalia which are quite

interesting

um I'm doing this as a part of my

project

the project is called innovating

knowledge is a three-year post-doctoral

project that is running since February

2018 at Huygens ING, institute in Amsterdam

it should be officially ending in April

2021

and the focus of the project is

diffusion of innovations and

intellectual networks in the early

middle ages

and to study these intellectual networks

I decided to focus on

this encyclopedia the etymology because

I've noticed that the early medieval

manuscripts often contain

various additions and novel features

which are not original to Isidore of Seville

and that it actually not only that they

contain these kinds of

innovations but actually these

innovations tend to be shared and tend

to be exchanged and you can follow their

flow

to actually say something about how

intellectual network how

intellectual centers exchange new trends

and new ideas

and i'm trying to do it with the hope of

understanding a slightly bit better

that interesting phenomenon known as the

curling renaissance how these centres

actually

interacted and how this may have

contributed to that phenomenon

I'm using both traditional philological

approach but also network analysis you

perhaps

see here and the database is an integral

part of the research because it sort of

creates the base for sort of uh sort of

anchoring

all these interesting innovations and

and linking the manuscripts together

uh the demand the database is based uh

the

in this case uh I've started from a

printed handling so there's sort of a

printed resource at the back end

and that is this very useful handles uh

produced by Gustav Eduard

he was a German philologist who

produced notes on all known manuscripts

containing the etymology Isidore of Seville

he did it in the early 20th century

uh this is the first sort of source that

i used to

to just feed my database to be in terms

of data

but of course I used I had to use many

other resources because the original

hand list is not

entirely complete there are all kinds of

mistakes errors

and I was able to actually benefit from

all kinds of other digital projects

which are already there including from

manuscript digitalization projects I will

I can tell you for example they give us

leap if you know that

the digitized manuscripts of Vatican

library which do not have descriptions

you can still find

unidentified manuscripts there because

there are no descriptions for them

and of course I should say part of the

effort is also to do in-situ research

about one-third of those roughly 450

manuscript is not digitized and those

are manuscripts I

plan still to see in person at least

partially

I'm a bit prevented by coronavirus but I

still hope to go to places to

see some of the manuscripts and include

information and descriptions into my

database

um the resulting product will look

something like this for those who are

interested

this is by the way just an example for

now

i still must develop how the sort

of the record card for each manuscript

will look

it will be something like this there

will be some information about the

physical properties of the manuscript

state of origin place of origin so the

kind of thing you find in the catalogue

this is the part which contains

information about the presence of

material from the etymology which

chapters appear and where in the

manuscript

what additional content is there in the

manuscript if there is additional

content

in the second part of the record more

interesting for me parts

about a relationship between a

manuscript and any other manuscript

inside the database or outside of it

and some notes on presence of specific

innovations which are relevant to the

project

when I decided to develop this database

I was

I had a very clear idea that I did not

want to just digitally replicate the

hunchback's handlist uh sort of create

sort of a digital circuit for it

and make something which would be

primarily browseable like a book

i mean maybe some sort of index at the

back but mostly a book that needs to be

sort of linked

through but instead i wanted to create a

database and i think that's also the

important difference between a handlist

and a database is it's not oriented

towards browsing or going through or

reading through but

rather it is built around a some sort of

search functionality or

a search query functionality filtering

functionality so the main point is to

get

to the to the information not as text

but as data

and to work with them as data uh this is

of course, uh was a very costly decision

uh it's actually quite quite costly to

build a database rather than say a

handlist or something simpler

and in my case i had to rely on

dedicated developers i'm very lucky

because my institute has a digital

infrastructure department

and I have a group of programmers who

are actually cooperating with me

on building this thing and making it

work and this also means it

it's not just a one-person project but

actually, i really rely on these

technical specialists

we have to coordinate a lot we have to

plan a lot it takes a lot extra energy

than if it was just a simple research

project

uh so in terms of that uh I wanted to

tell you a little bit about the sort of

the

walk you through how it works and what

else will still happen with the database

how you actually

how did I go about building it there are

sort of three different layers

inside it uh the first layer is what I

provide as a researcher that's my data

and the first

step was of course data collection

formatting

and cleaning the cleaning is ongoing

that's the endless job you will have

and that was a choice of what kind of a

tool will I use for collecting my data

I chose excel that's quite easy and it's

actually, simple and good

uh that's only the data so that's what

the content what you saw the record view

that's all fed

entirely to the excel sheet but there

must be also a structure

a real database structure behind it the

proper relational database

it has to be built by a programmer and

my main program was my dart cruise from

our institute

and he built this progress database

as a sort of back-end so this is at the

back this is the engine that powers

everything he will want to see hopefully

online

uh this database you can't access as a

user unless you know programming

languages you can do

so so called sparkle queries

which I don't know and probably many of

you will not do so there is also a need

for a proper

user interface and that was built by

another dedicated developer Rob Zeman

who did

it in JavaScript if you wonder and this

is how it looks and I think

uh i don't think i can zoom in

unfortunately hmm

yeah well uh yeah i can show you share

slides afterwards if you want to look

deeply into it

there is a story there's a very strong

search for uh

search facets here and search options

here these are the results by clicking

it each on each of them and this is

probably very familiar to you you can

get to the record view

this is not yet the complete thing this

is just sort of a mock-up just sort of

an example because there will be a few

other features which i hope are very

interesting

above all I plan to have a download

button here because I

I believe very strongly in data export

from databases

and so it should be possible for you as

users potential users to

export data in one or two different

formats to

reuse for your own projects and for your

research

um I will see my big plan is maybe to

provide several different formats

including one that would be sort of an

e-book so

also have sort of a print-like

publication sort of wrap-in

maybe sort of a hand list sort of

hunchback too but you can print if you

rewind or read on your

reader as you would a book I also

there should be also which you haven't

seen there will be a triply viewer so

you should be able to see images of the

manuscript directly from database

and there should be some visually cool

visualization tools involved as well for

example map

and maybe a few others so there should

be also a map view

so let me I think I should be already

concluding so i would like to just uh

sort of reflect a bit

on pros and cons of building a digital

database and especially

in contrast to creating other kinds of

output from your project

and focusing on printed publication or

printing a presentation of data that are

generated in a project there are of

course lots of cool things about having

a database and above all the best thing

about it is

what differs what makes it different

from sort of a hand list or a printed

hand list

is that it's interactive and dynamic it

means that the people who

engage with your data are simply users

they just not only read or browse but

they use

and work with your data

if you prepare it well if you think

ahead uh you you should be thinking i

think everybody

should have a data export option

involved because it means that the data

can be easily extracted and

reused and that's something which is

very crucial which if you have a

publication think bishop's catholic of

9th century manuscripts

that's amazing publication but it's

actually really frustrating that you

can't get the data out of it very easily

it should be done with a database

another great thing is you can integrate

images these days especially it's quite

easy because of

if standards so you should be able to

integrate images directly into your

database which is something which is

always difficulty with a printed

publication

a huge advantage it generally is a huge

advantage that you can link out from

your database to many other

digital things which exist in the

ecosystem of internet

or you can actually link very

efficiently even within a database of

this kind

and you may be able to include all kinds

of cool tools and features

that of course cannot work with a print

for example think of maps and map all

kinds of mapping tools and

all kinds of statistical tools and last

but not least

uh the great the thing with books is

that they maybe once the moment they are

printed they are static they no longer

change

but a good digital database again if you

think about it if you plan for it

you should be able to sort of make it

dynamic in the sense that you can

add data and correct data and improve it

and also keep track of all the versions

and sort of publish the different

versions but also explaining what has

changed and how it changed which is

really nice to have such a dynamic

project

and now some disadvantages as well

because uh digital databases are not

better

as I should say when printed

publications they're just different

beasts

uh and you should know that they are not

a substitute or replacement of a printed

say handlist or catalogue

they just have some sort of sort of they

come with certain disadvantages or

certain problems which are still bundled

in

and I think these days the worst problem

with associated digital

projects in general is maintenance once

you plan a digital project you must

think about

where what will happen to it after your

project ends when once your funding runs

out

who is going to make sure that the data

stays online that the project goes

continue to live and when I was looking

for those examples

I showed earlier in fact I realized five

or six projects I knew about and

was very enthusiastic about actually

died in the meantime

so they're no longer there and their

data is presumably gone forever

which is uh or somewhere where you can

no longer reach it so

this is something you need to think

about when you have a printed book books

do not vanish once your funding vanishes

they stay on the bookshelf so this is

really important

hand in hand with that it's really great

to say that

the great thing about databases and

digital projects in general you can

continue to curate the data and

improve them as they age this is

something you also need to think ahead

otherwise

your data is going to be obsolete very

quickly

maybe it depends really like what kind

of data what kind of format you use for

example this can be a huge problem

after 5 10 50 20 years even if you

maintain the data somehow

you may also think that once you put

things online out there you actually

everybody has access to the data and the

data is more reachable than if you

publish traditionally in press but I'm

unfortunate

it's not exactly like that you may

actually, be putting your data out there

but nobody is

not it's not necessarily the case that

people will be finding it or

finding it easily or that they will be

connected your data will be well

connected with many other things

so, you can maybe actually putting data

there and will get lost more lost than

if it was printed

it may be also the case that you are not

reaching certain kind of audiences there

are always audiences which are more

reachable by print so you have to always

think about it what kind of audiences I

have in mind and

will they actually be able to use and

access my data if I put it out there in

specific formats maybe your database is

going to be really complex to use and

therefore, difficult to actually access

and another problem that the

current manuscript databases have to

some extent

I know I'm not the expert so this is my

my kind of layman's or a woman's uh

impression is that many of them are

built from a scratch or very often

through the case

they are very dissimilar from each other

and therefore, they are not interoperable

they do not share data very easily

uh and they exist in sort of their own

bubbles and there are many of them and

each of them has been developed from the

scratch so there's lots of energy

um and also it's very difficult to find

the connection between them this was i

think

a lot this was a problem with

digitalization early digitization efforts

as well

that's why we have standards like triple

is and i think maybe

maybe there are already standards in

place for digital databases as well

or we need them because we are getting

to the point where we have many small

databases which could be nicely

emerged together and that's not happening

and also again if you do not think about

data export and I'm a very big advocate

of data export always included somehow

your data may be simply inaccessible

it's very great to have things

interactive and on screen but sometimes

it's really good to have it

out there offline as well and to have

access to it

and of course, a huge disadvantage is

that often when you have a digital

project there is no print

and print is actually really good it's

not worth and it should be there and

again advocate for sort of a double

track to have both a digital component

and not do not forget about print or

print like medium as well

I will end here thank you for your

attention and

I hope you have some questions

thank you Evina for your interesting

paper

I would like to encourage people

to ask

all the questions that you have in the q

a that you have

at the bottom of the screen so please

ask every comment question that you have

as well as a speaker if you have

question each other you can ask as well

you can unmute your microphone so

we can start our comments

so now it's time for the questions

okay so we have a questions a few

questions coming in the

in the q a portal we have one question

of José Alexander Sousa

for David

that is what is the software

he used to build the relationship between

all that people and I see that David

has answered

but if you can or say anything more

about that David

Yes so there are

many different software available

um I think purists would say that gephi

is actually quite simple um so

a friend of mine and the person that

knows more

about networks um than

i don't know anyone probably he knows a

lot he's the person that started

implementing networks in

in um the um in byzantine history and

he never uses

gephi because he thinks it's very simple

and but for me because the

amount of data i'm using um is very

limited

gephi is more than enough because the

only thing i want to see is

um i'm not i don't want to use um this

software as a quantitative tool i just

want to see

how these networks look like who is the

person there if i can model these

networks a bit

play around and see how it changes and

if that

helps me to understand go back to the

sources and understand them differently

and read the sources differently

then it's fine but i'm not going to base

my analysis on

quantitative data because it wouldn't be

representative

so i think it really depends on the

nature of the data you're dealing with

um if

ask me you are working with limited

information which is probably the case

um in Early Medieval and in the west then gephi is more than enough

and it's really

easy to use uh there are a thousand

tutorials on youtube that you can

uh watch and it's very very easy to use

so that that would be my answer

okay

thank you so whereas people are thinking about

their questions

i have a comment for Evina

i think that is very important what you

say at the end of the

of the speech that is very important to

think

as you know database are

disseminate these days we have the

database of about everything but

the principal problem is the funding

that because when the funding ends um

many times the database

ends as well so this is a big problem

because we have in

in internet a lot of databases that are

ending and that costs a lot of money so I think that your project is very

interesting to have all

of this manuscript in this database but

I would like to ask you if you have

a solution that could be applied to this

to this problem to the end of funding

what can we do with that what can we do

for database to survive when funding is

ending thank you Evina.

 Right this is a really

important question and there are several

different answers to it

one of them is of course to have

different policy and general different

mindset about what needs to be done

about this for example to have sort of

funding not only for projects and not

only for building databases but also to

for maintenance

which is not the case right now right or

not exactly not directly you cannot

apply for

either maintaining or even extending or

expanding

that may be quite difficult to ask like

I want to get extra money to

make this database in better or

something

I think it depends a lot on the policies

of institutions you are cooperating with

because your data is sitting on

somebody's server and the server belongs

to somebody

and at least for example in my institute

there is a policy that

before we start on project they

stipulate how long is the data going to

be maintained who is going to maintain

it and this is something you

in theory should be able to sort before

you start or as you are starting

and again, understand that this may be

something difficult for researchers

especially if they are not very familiar

with how particular institutions work or what

is the data management strategy at

all or whether five years or 10 years or

20 years are good

but another thing which is a completely

different way looking at it is that you

need to make your data

available because even if the database

dies

and the data is there and even for

example the script for making it

from the scratch again then that you can

always reconstruct it

especially and especially the data is

there that's the important thing and

that is something that doesn't die with

a project so

as long as you take care of it and think

ahead that right my project ends in five

years or three years

the data must be published ideally

somewhere and make available so other

people can work with it irrespectively

of whether the database works or not

that's like a layman's lay woman's

perspective because i think

everybody would tell you something

similar yeah

yeah thank you I really appreciate

that you are

thinking in the future of this database

not only in creating

it but also in the future of that

so thank you for the answer and

i have now some questions for Evina

so don't , put your video

it's a question it's a question for

Evina from Sita Sequel she

said read project do you plan to map a

visualized relationship between related

manuscripts

and transmission communities as well so

are you registering

all co-transmitted texts of etymology

in short the answer is yes that was the

plan of the project to actually sort of

map and visualize the relationships

especially relationships which are not

so philological but more like a

different kind that maybe show different

sort of links

[

yes and i'm definitely registering all

co-transmitted text of the etymology and

that's part of what is

desirable to be mapped and in the short

the longer answer is it's of course a

bit too difficult for a three-year

single person project so I have a lot of

data but

I was planning to publish it in

the database but it's not going to

happen i'm afraid

but the data is there and at least some

projects are

on the way so there will be for example

a good visualization and mapping of a

transmission of glosses and annotations

which i think is good for start

this is related as well with the

question that Ainoa Castro have for

you

that is could you spoil us with some of

the exciting news discoveries you've

made already?

oh okay oh okay I can already tell you I

could tell you so many things but it's

like for 30 minutes a different talk

the most interesting for me was the

discovery so I was looking for what I

would call

redactions so medieval redaction so the

cases when my medieval people actually

put

decided to create a new text sort of a

new text version to circulate and maybe

actually push to other centres

and I so far located five five different

uh redactions which are super

interesting because none of them is

actually carolingoam

i think coming from the carolingian area

but there

is a spanish one there are there's one

or two italian ones and two german ones

which is really great and there will be

an amazing article

coming out about the german ones because

they're they're from St. Gallens and

they're absolutely amazing though

i love St. Gallens monks because they

were super cool and in producing these

things so that's one of the great

findings yeah.

Okay thanks Evina now we have a

question

for Antonio from Daniel Justo who said

is there an efficient way to check the

place from where tombs were visible using

GIS because it seems to me a good way to

complete the information given from they

use it an analysis and i used to do it

manually

creating reverse points in a given area

but maybe you know

all other better way so it's a good

question Antonio

I can't hear you

antonio now now yeah okay

so thank you so much for the question

the answer is really simple you can go

to the field

and then put there and see what you can

see from this point

but we are we our the

potency

of the important thing of the GIS is

that

you can make a model of everything and

then you can

recreate these circumstances and

situations so it's not a reconstruction

of anything because they the paleo-

landscapes

do not exist anymore so the only thing

we can do is

to recreate these circumstances and

in this case the more efficient way to

do so is

is using GIS

we are not aiming of a factual

experiment is it's only a model of the

the geographical setting.

I have another question Antonio for you

then I continue with the next questions

uh

that is related with the next session

with digital teaching what do you think

that geographical information system is not

teaching at the university level

if it is so important to apply them in

our research

what do you think that is not teaching

in the higher level ?

well in in international level for

example the

the GIS the heyday of the gis was

where the the 90s and

and they have been developing courses

and classes for others in this

necessity

but right now there are several in

spain

for example there are several

universities which are developing

uh specific courses for GIS

in related to to history or

archeology

so there are at least in Spain right now

there are

five five universities with which has in

the in the curriculum

they have a specific

studies on this subject

it's interesting because we need all

this knowledge so

thank you antonio and now i ha we have a

question we have

i think that five minutes more of

discussion so we have a question

uh for David from Susana Zhernakova and

Susanna said

I have a brief experience with OpenAtlas

 and I encountered

an issue with updates made to the

software design

by developers made it practically

unusable for my

purpouse is this something you can avoid

when working on a long term project?

um yes

so well in theory you should be able to

change the

database and tailor, it to your needs

yourself uh but it is i agree that is

not as evident

as it should be uh but once you are

working with them and also because we've

been working for a long time

um yeah so they they are taking care

of kind of doing everything that we need

um even I think the contract is ending

just before the end of our uh project so

we will have that support almost until

the end

but even after because we've been

working on a very close relationship

even after

that time we will still have so for

small changes we'll

still have the support and kind of

linking with the previous question about

where all these digital projects are

going to be hosted um

this is going to be hosted at the

Austrian academy of sciences they are

going to provide the long-term

uh maintenance and um and curate the

data and everything so this is why also

they are interested on

uh updating the software and keeping it

kind of making it working for our

project even in the long run

Thanks David and we have time for another

last question

that is for Evina from Thorstein

Estevan and it says

did you learn about the redaction from

metadata

more than from philological examination

quite interesting question

it's a very nice question uh depends on

which redaction some of them were more

visible from the metadata

some of them were actually quite visible

from the metadata others I

had to do physic the philological

examination it was like three to two

so both words and there were other

things which you could see from the

metadata very nicely and from

basically the bigger sort of look the

zoom out that is allowed by big

like big set corpus of data

Thank you so

I am afraid but it more or less the

end of our time it's almost half past six

which means I must close this first

session so thank you very much to all

the speakers and attendees for joining

it

so now we will have a short break of

about 30 minutes

for coffee tea or whatever you want i

see you later to our second session that

is digital teaching

remember that you must join it with the

other link that I sent you to

the email with the link of the second

session and

thank you very much at all

thank you, bye see, you in the second

session.