



## Héloise – European Network on Digital Academic History international workshop

Pécs, 31 August 2023

### ABSTRACTS

**Jean-Philippe GENET** (Laboratoire de Médiévistique Occidentale de Paris (LAMOP) - Université Paris' Sorbonne-Panthéon)

#### **Studium parisiense and the beginnings of the schools in Paris**

The database starts with some names (8 at the moment) of XIth scholars: only two of the have certainly studied or taught at Paris ... This is both one of the limitations and advantages for the database: on the 2519 individuals it contains for the period 1160-1300, only 1135 have been attested Parisian scholars. But the other people are also interesting: of these, 853 are classified as „uncertain”. Most of them are „masters”; but is it a title or a grade? And where have they obtained it? There is no doubt that some of them got it in Paris. This study will try to explore these unsatisfactory data, and their interpretation could be made more satisfactory. These statistics will also throw light on how, before the development of the college movement, the developments of the schools issued from the growth of the school of Notre-Dame after they start to spread on the Montagne Sainte-Geneviève combine with the monastic schools, especially those of the regular canons of Saint-Victor to make Paris an essential intellectual center, as is demonstrated by the wide circulation of the production of some of its masters.

**Thierry KOUAMÉ** (Centre Lucien Febvre - Université de Franche-Comté)

#### **The Quest for Origins: Academic Filiations in the *Studium Parisiense* Database**

The *Studium Parisiense* database contains the prosopographical records of over 23,000 members of the schools and universities of Paris between the 12th and 16th centuries. The database provides the basis for a wide-ranging analysis of the filiations between masters and students within the Parisian *studium*. We will begin by outlining the nature and limitations of the sources



that provide us with information on this type of academic relationship. Secondly, we will consider the different structures that emerge from the analysis of the data in the database.

**Kaspar GUBLER** (Universität Bern – Repertorium Academicum /REPAC/)

### **Hungarian Students in the Repertorium Academicum Germanicum (1372-1526): Data analysis in the context of a digital prosopography.**

The Repertorium Academicum Germanicum (RAG) is a long-term digital project on students and scholars from the Holy Roman Empire (1250-1550). The RAG can be described as a pioneering project of digital prosopography. It began in 2001 and was purely digital from the start. Since 2019, the RAG has been operated under the umbrella of the Repertorium Academicum (REPAC). Since 2018, the RAG has been using the nodegoat research environment, following an extensive database migration. Currently, the RAG contains around 62,000 individuals with their approximately 400,000 biographical life points, which took place in 24,000 places and institutions. A special feature of the RAG is the source situation regarding the university registers. For the Middle Ages, these have been preserved in series almost exclusively for the universities in the Holy Roman Empire, all of which were evaluated in the RAG. The matricula thus form the essential data basis of the project. The lecture will provide an insight into the possibilities of the RAG's data analysis. The use of digital analysis tools will be explained and results of the data analysis on Hungarian students and scholars in the RAG will be presented.<sup>1</sup>

**Gergely KISS – Péter BÁLING** (University of Pécs)

### **The DeLegatOnline project: Online prosopographical database of papal representatives**

The DeLegatOnline research programme was launched in 2014. It aims to create a prosopographical database of papal envoys active in medieval Hungary. The first three years of data collection were from the 11th to the 13th century, and the most recent period was up to 1378. The data, based on primary sources and secondary literature, will not only be recorded and made available to users as a simple data sheet, but a dedicated system will be developed to record and present the basic units (events) that constitute the activities of the papal envoys in a hierarchical structure. Particular emphasis will be placed on the reconstruction of the network of relationships between persons according to different segments (kinship, familiaritas) and on the spatial visualisation of activities.

The paper will briefly present the scientific concept of the project, the structure of the database, the challenges and the solutions adopted, and a brief outlook on the future tasks and perspectives.



László SZÖGI (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, University History Research Group)

### Repertorium Academicum Hungariae

Die erste Universität wurde in Ungarn im Jahre 1367 gegründet, doch unsere mittelalterlichen Gründungen hielten nicht lange. In der Neuzeit wurde unsere erste Universität, die noch immer in Betrieb ist, im Jahre 1635 gegründet und war bis 1872 die einzige Universität Ungarns. Mittlerweile gab es in Ungarn jedoch eine ganze Reihe von Hochschulen, Akademien und Kollegien, etwa 100 an der Zahl, die irgendeine Form der Hochschulbildung anboten. Wir wissen, dass zwischen 1150 und 1918 etwa 101.000 ungarische Studenten an europäischen Universitäten und Hochschulen eingeschrieben waren.

Deshalb war es wichtig, genau zu ermitteln, wie viele ungarische Studenten in den vergangenen Jahrhunderten im Ausland und im Inland studiert haben. Wir haben diese Forschung vor mehr als drei Jahrzehnten unter meiner Leitung begonnen, und Daten in rund 254 Sammlungen in 27 Ländern im Ausland gesammelt. Vor 10 Jahren begannen wir mit der Erforschung der Archivquellen ungarischer Hochschuleinrichtungen und verarbeiteten alle Materialien bis 1850. Wir sammeln derzeit weiterhin inländische Daten von 1850 bis 1918.

Wir haben eine Datenbank mit den Personal- und Studiendaten der Studierenden erstellt, die Daten der ausländischen Hochschulbesuche werden bis Ende September dieses Jahres bis 1850 im Internet verfügbar sein. Inländische Daten werden im Jahr 2024 ins Internet hochgeladen. Wir haben die gesamte Datenbank Repertorium Academicum Hungariae genannt. Dies bedeutet, dass alle im historischen Ungarn geborenen, im Ausland oder im Inland eingeschriebenen Studierenden, unabhängig von ihrer Nationalität oder Religion, in die Datenbank aufgenommen wurden. Dementsprechend wird die Datenbank nicht nur für ungarische Historiker, sondern auch für Historiker aller mitteleuropäischen Länder von Interesse sein. Daten zu ausländischen Hochschulbesuchen haben wir bereits in 27 Bänden veröffentlicht. Bisher haben wir in 30 Bänden Daten zu den wichtigsten Einrichtungen des inländischen Hochschulbezirks veröffentlicht. Das Wichtigste ist jedoch die Internetkommunikation, damit jeder auf die Daten zugreifen kann. Wir haben bereits 9 Bände zu diesem Thema in Rumänien, Serbien, Österreich, der Slowakei und der Ukraine veröffentlicht.

Zusätzlich zu den 101.000 ausländischen Immatrikulationen verzeichneten wir zwischen 1585 und 1850 etwa 273.000 inländische Immatrikulationen, und zwischen 1850 und 1918 werden weitere 218.000 Immatrikulationen erwartet. Nach 1918 forschen wir vorerst nicht mehr, da aufgrund von Grenzänderungen die bisherige Forschungsmethodik nicht mehr anwendbar ist.

Péter HARASZTI SZABÓ (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, University History Research Group)

### Possibilities and results about prosopographical researches of Medieval Hungarian Peregrination

In my presentation I will demonstrate, what kind of literature and contemporary sources are available in order to explore the medieval Hungarian Peregrination. In the current state we know about 12800 enrolments between 1100 and 1526, and we were able to clarify their further career



after their studies nearly in 20%. Thanks to the systematical researches these number will certainly increase. Despite of the fact that most of graduate student didn't used their degrees after their studies, the prosopographical researches has many other ways to reveal their identities and postgradual career. Various inscriptions in University sources makes it possible to identify the students, in connection with the reviving ecclesiastical and secular archontology researches in the previous decades. Charters of the Hungarian National Archives before 1526 (more than 200 thousand pieces) are available online for every researcher. Short extracts were also prepared for a significant part of them, which makes easier the researches in the beginnings. On the other hand a considerable part of manuscripts and early printed books from the medieval Kingdom of Hungary (around 90%) are lost or perished thanks to the Ottoman-Hungarian wars in the 16-17th centuries, however several catalogues were made of the remaining sources, in addition in Hungary (Csaba Csapodi-Klára Gárdonyi Csapodiné: *Bibliotheca Hungarica I-III*) or in Slovakia (Julius Sopko: *Codices latini medii aevi Bibliothecarum Slovakiae; Codices medii aevi, qui olim in bibliothecis Slovaciae asservabantur et nunc in Hungaria et Romania asservantur*) too. There are remarkable notes in these kind of sources which can be related to medieval universities and students, which also makes it easier to follow their postgraduate life too. The research of individual social groups, especially the nobility, is greatly aided by the genealogical researches conducted by Pál Engel in connection with the Hungarian noble families of the Middle Ages. In this regard, we are constantly mapping and expanding the number of students of noble origin. At the end of my lecture, it becomes visible through a few examples how these sources and the literature complement each other and how students' careers can be built from them.

**Márta FONT** (University of Pécs)

### **Hope of Success and Causes of Failure: Founding Universities in Medieval Hungary**

The study focuses on the circumstances of establishing of medieval Hungarian universities and analyses the problems of their short period of activity. The author applied many different points of view for the comparing first Hungarian university with the contemporary foundations in the neighbour countries. The author followed the comparative method also in the case of later founded Hungarian universities and made own conclusions. The latest research results on the field of history of universities were also used in the study.

**István LENGVÁRI** (chief archivist, director, Pécs University Archives)

### **Pécs University Almanac: Aims and Results**

Studying in the social history of the citizens – either students or professors – of universities has a significant tradition, and has produced serious results both within Hungary and abroad. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this research: university instructors themselves are decisive members of the knowledge elite and through higher education they have the greatest influence to determine who gains access to this elite group.



The University of Pécs's Almanac has a twofold purpose: on one hand it presents the academic achievement of higher education in Pécs, and on the other it provides help for the researchers of the various professions and social history. The first volume,<sup>2</sup> which covers the period from the beginning until the 1950s, was published in 2015, the second volume, which contains data until 2000, was released in 2017<sup>3</sup>. The third is under preparation, covering the heads of departments, faculties and the university between 2000 and 2020 and it is due to be published in 2023. The database containing these volumes can be accessed online with a multi-criteria query.<sup>4</sup> The database only collects data on scientific work, specifically, on scientific work carried out at today's university and its legal predecessors, so it does not include data regarding religion, the parent's/guardian's name or social status, for example.

Who was included in the database? The requirement for inclusion was the existence of an academic title (nowadays, the title of PhD). Only full-time employees of the university were admitted into the database, but not only from the faculties, but also from the library, or the offices if the person in question had an academic title.

In summary: the Almanac project can assist in historical research but only in conjunction with the use of data gathered from archival documents and texts of recollections, correspondence and other sources. In order to gain data about social mobility, for instance, researchers need to carry out additional gathering work, but our database can serve as a solid ground. It also helps non-historians of the university constructing their departments' or faculties' past.

**Róbert ACÉL** (Chief Archivist, Pécs University Archives)

### **Technical implementation of the Pécs University Almanac**

The Almanac project aimed to create a book and database of teachers with an academic degree from the University of Pécs and its predecessors. To enable data collecting, we first designed and constructed a database system with a web-based client. Then a group of researchers collected the information that was obtainable about the teachers and entered it into the database. The following phase involved data unification and revision.

It took two steps to create a book using the database. It was first exported using a thorough script into Word files, which the editors then looked over and reviewed. After that, a desktop publishing program was used to add the photographs and various appendices to the raw text, creating the final book.

**Stefania ZUCCHINI** (University of Perugia)

### ***„Onomasticon, Prosopografia dell'Università degli Studi di Perugia”: present database features and future challenges***

The discussion will start from the purposes of *Onomasticon* database and the scientific research behind the database. The history of the database will then be briefly illustrated: *Onomasticon* was created in 2008 by a small research group for the 700 year anniversary since the foundation of



Perugia University (1308); in 2011 it entered in wild *Heloise* and in 2015 it was completely restructured.

On the technical level, the second version of *Onomasticon*, created by Giulio Quaresima, is OrientDB graph database, installed on an Apache Tomcat server. The first part of the discussion will therefore focus on the database features.

On the scientific level, the first version of the database focused only on individual professors and on the evolution of the University of Perugia, from its origins to the early modern period; in the 2015 a new section relating to students has been added, as well as new features (maps, graphs, new search possibilities). The second part of the discussion will focus on the aspects related to the contents of the database and the methods used to combine historical research and IT tools. This part will highlight the potential of using information technology in historical research. Specifically, some examples related to the analysis of massive amounts of data will be shown, which in some cases produced unexpected results.

Finally, the third part of the discussion will be dedicated to the problems faced over the years and to the future challenges, two strongly correlated aspects.

The main problem related to the contents of the database lies in the nature and reliability of the data itself, deprived of its context and of any historiographical reflection which characterize traditional research works. We exposed this and other problems at the “Heloise” 2020 workshop, proposing a series of solutions, which we have started to apply. Finding solutions to increase the reliability of the proposed data and analyses, together with connecting this data with the resources offered by the web (sources and digitized bibliographic works, other sites and databases) represent *Onomasticon*'s challenges for the future.

## **Geert KESSEL – Pim VAN BREE (LAB1100)**

### **Nodegoat as a general purpose tool for prosopographical studies**

The open-source software nodegoat (<https://nodegoat.net/>) is used at over 160 institutes by over 2500 scholars for storing and analysing historical data. nodegoat is a research environment that allows scholars to define any amount of object types that can have any amount of spatially and temporally attributed properties and relationships.<sup>5</sup> These contexts can be created by assigning an Object (e.g. 'Person') with Sub-Objects (e.g. 'Place of Residence', or 'Capacity'). Users can decide to implement an existing ontology or a custom data model. The flexible nature of nodegoat makes it difficult to define it as a type of database as it has elements of relational, graph, and document databases. This versatility has resulted in a large variety of research projects that use nodegoat to create historical datasets.<sup>6</sup>

One strand of research for which nodegoat is particularly well suited is prosopography. nodegoat allows scholars to describe any kind of relationship and to contextualise these relationships in space and time. Spatial contextualisations can be relationally described by referring to locations of relevant institutes or relatives.<sup>7</sup> Temporal contextualisations can be made by referring to earlier life-events or events of related people.<sup>8</sup>

Some key prosopographical projects that use nodegoat are related to the history of universities: the 'Repertorium Academicum Germanicum'<sup>9</sup>, the 'Bo2022, uno strumento per la storia della mobilità accademica'<sup>10</sup>, the Atelier Heloïse data harmonisation project.<sup>11</sup> Other prosopographical



nodegoat projects are related to the shared networks of European intellectuals,<sup>12</sup> or the lives of diplomats.<sup>13</sup> At ELTE/ABTK nodegoat is used to map Hungarian emigrant communities during the Cold War.



## Notes:

- 
- <sup>1</sup> The term 'Hungarian students and scholars' refers to persons from the countries of the Crown of St. Stephen.
- <sup>2</sup> LENGVÁRI István (ed.), *Pécsi egyetemi almanach* [Pécs University Almanac] I. 1367–1950. Pécs, 2015.
- <sup>3</sup> POLYÁK Petra (ed.), *Pécsi egyetemi almanach* [Pécs University Almanac] II. 1950–1999. Pécs, 2017.
- <sup>4</sup> <http://almanach.pte.hu>.
- <sup>5</sup> Pim van Bree, Geert Kessels (2013). nodegoat: a web-based data management, network analysis & visualisation environment, <http://nodegoat.net> from LAB1100, <http://lab1100.com>. For an introduction see <https://nodegoat.net/guide.s/112/basicprinciples>.
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.zotero.org/lab1100/tags/nodegoat/>.
- <sup>7</sup> <https://nodegoat.net/guide.s/131/storingspatialdata#location-reference>.
- <sup>8</sup> <https://nodegoat.net/guide.s/44/storing-relational-chronology-statements>.
- <sup>9</sup> <https://rag-online.org/>.
- <sup>10</sup> <https://www.mobilityandhumanities.it/bo2022/>.
- <sup>11</sup> Kaspar Gubler, Pim van Bree, and Geert Kessels, 'Server-side Data Harmonization through Dynamic Data Ingestion. A Centralized Approach to Link Data in Historical Research', in Gian Paolo Brizzi, Carla Frova, and Ferdinando Treggiari, eds., *Fonti per la storia delle popolazioni accademiche in Europa. Sources for the History of European Academic Communities. X Atelier Héloïse* (Bologna, 2022), pp. 9–14.
- <sup>12</sup> Christophe Verbruggen, Florian Deroo, Hans Blomme, Thomas D'haeninck, Amandine Thiry, Lisa van Diem, Jan Vandersmissen, Eline Mestdagh, Bo Billiet, Judith Wolff, Sally Chambers, Pieterjan De Potter, Julie Carlier, Carmen Van Praet, Chris Leonards, and Nico Randerad, 'Social Reform International Congresses and Organizations (1846–1914): From Sources to Data', *Journal of Open Humanities Data*, 8 (2022), p. 13.
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.pyramidsandprogress.be/>.