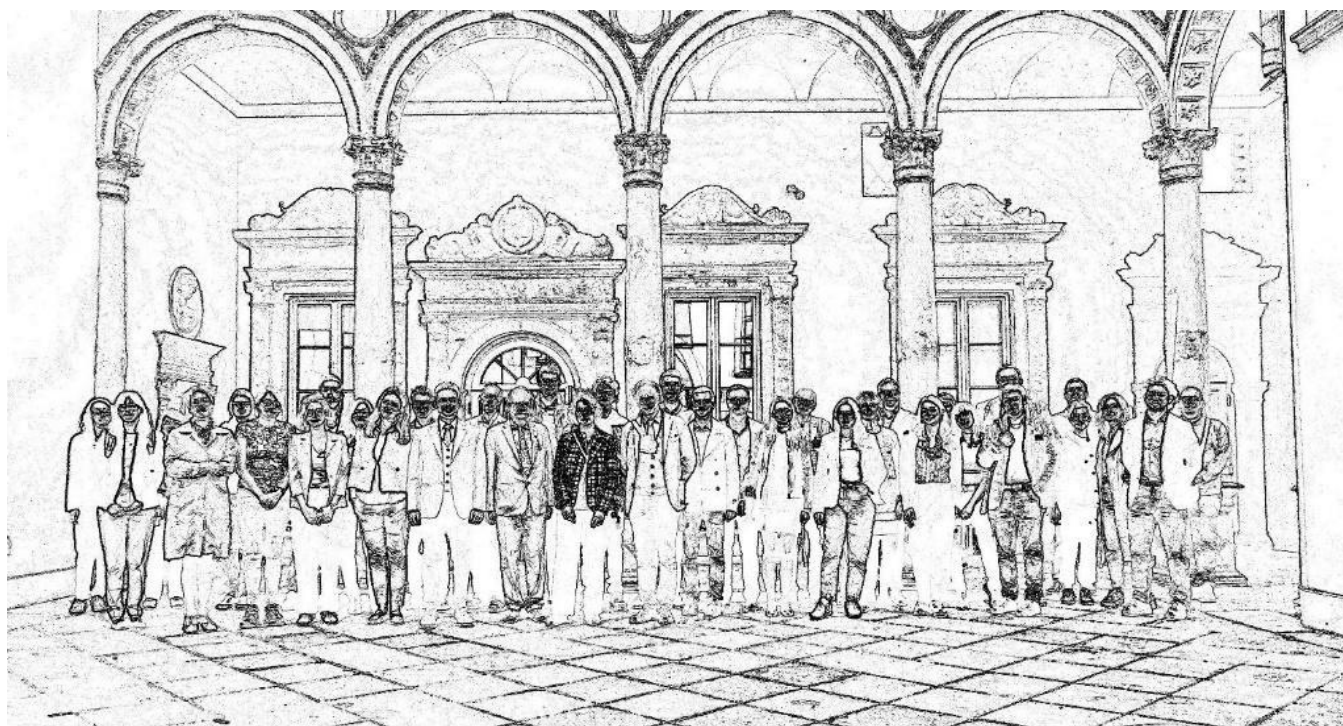
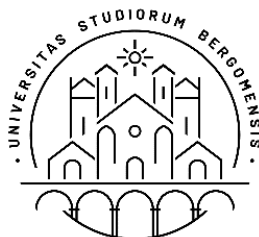


PROSOPOGRAFIE 2024

*Atti delle giornate di studio,
Università degli Studi di Bergamo,
16-18 maggio 2024*



A cura di Elena Gritti



Università degli Studi di Bergamo

2025

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Prosopografia e digitale

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The Next Frontier: A Digital Edition of *PLRE*

Introduction

"Please list me all women who plotted to kill their husbands between 500 and 641 CE". This would be a daunting and time-consuming task if one must work with hard copies of the *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire* (*PLRE*). But what if there were to be a digital edition? A plethora of projects in the field of Late Antique Studies have taken the digital turn, including those with a prosopographical focus (see, for example, *Clerical Exile*, *Cult of Saints*, *PASE*)¹. Yet, our project Connecting Late Antiquities (*CLA*) is the first to take on the task of creating a digital edition of *PLRE*, and to expand it into what will eventually become the *Connecting Late Antiquities* digital platform.

The main aim of *CLA* is to provide open, digital prosopographical resources for the Roman and post-Roman world between the third and seventh centuries CE and a way to link existing databases and tools, raising their accessibility and utility. The first step towards achieving this goal is the digitisation of the *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire*. Eventually, however, *CLA* is intended to expand beyond the criteria of the original *PLRE*.

The current project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in the UK and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in Germany and it is conducted by a team based in Bonn, Exeter, and London. The principal investigators of the project are Julia Hillner and Richard Flower. The positions of co-investigators are held by Charlotte Tupman and Gabriel Bodard, who, as experts in Digital Humanities, oversee the digital aspects of the project. Two postdoctoral researchers work on the project in Bonn: Jessica van 't Westeinde (responsible for *PLRE* III) and Jeroen Wijnendaele (responsible for *PLRE* II); and one in Exeter: Aleksander Paradziński (responsible for *PLRE* I).

In its three volumes *PLRE* covers the period from 260 to 641, focusing mainly on imperial and senatorial elites, civil and military officials and various *literati*. It is one of the main prosopographic resources for the study of Late Antiquity next to its French 'twin' the *Prosopographie chrétienne du Bas-Empire*. Both prosopographies originate from an idea originally proposed by Theodor Mommsen². In 1901 together with Adolf Harnack, he initiated a project that was to be a continuation of the *Prosopographia Imperii Romani saec. I.II.III*, covering the period from the ascension of Diocletian in 284 to the death of Justinian in 565 under the auspices of the 'Kirchenväterkommission' at the Preußische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin. The project sought to cover both secular and ecclesiastical figures. Mommsen took upon himself the secular part of the endeavour, while, on Harnack's recommendation, Adolf Jülicher coordinated the ecclesiastical

¹ For *Clerical Exile* see <https://www.clericalexile.org/> [last accessed 15.08.2024]; for *The Cult of Saints* see <https://cultofsaints.history.ox.ac.uk/> [last accessed: 15.08.2024]; for *PASE* or the *Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England* see <https://pase.ac.uk/> [last accessed: 15.08.2024].

² S. Rebenich, *Theodor Mommsen und Adolf Harnack: Wissenschaft und Politik im Berlin des ausgehenden 19. Jahrhunderts. Mit einem Anhang: Edition und Kommentierung des Briefwechsels*, Berlin 1997, 247–321.

branch of it, with many other historians, philologists and theologians offering their contributions.

The project of the *Prosopographia imperii Romani saec. IV, V, VI* (PIR IV–VI) survived Mommsen's death in 1903, with Otto Seeck taking over from Mommsen. However, organisational and methodological hurdles, as well as the outbreak of the First World War, and Seeck's death in 1921 proved too big of a challenge. The 'Kirchenväterkommission' put an end to the secular part of the project after Seeck's passing. A similar fate befell the ecclesiastical part in 1928, after Jülicher's retirement from the project. The attempt at revival by Hans Lietzmann in the 1930's yielded little result. The surviving material of this incomplete undertaking was made available and transferred by the DDR's Akademie der Wissenschaften to the PLRE team in the United Kingdom in 1965 (see below). However, it was scarcely used and it largely returned to Germany in 1982. The PLRE team had passed on the material on ecclesiastical figures to the French team behind the PCBE project. This was sent back to Germany only in the early 1990s³. All these materials, which can be labelled as the 'archive' of the unpublished PIR IV–VI, is currently the subject of a study conducted by Julia Hillner and Dorka Kintli, facilitated by Stefan Rebenich⁴.

Mommsen's idea only took physical form once the first volume of the *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire* rolled off the press in 1971, after A. H. M. Jones and Harold I. Bell had revived the project in the United Kingdom in 1948⁵. In 1950 British scholars involved in the PLRE project met with Henri-Irénée Marrou and other French researchers who would work on the above-mentioned *Prosopographie chrétienne du Bas-Empire* to establish common guidelines. The first volume by Jones, John R. Martindale and John Morris appeared in 1971, followed by the second one by Martindale in 1980. At this point in time authors did not anticipate the possibility of their work taking a digital form. Even though that may have changed by the time of the publication of the third volume in two parts in 1992 by Martindale, the PLRE design remained one intended as a physical book⁶. The challenges encountered during the process of transforming and interpreting this work of scholarship into a digital form is the subject of this article.

It is important to flesh out a significant distinction between the PLRE stage of the CLA project, and many other digital databases that focus on Late Antiquity. The digitisation of the PLRE should not be understood as a creation of a new prosopographical database. It is rather a rendering of the existing PLRE into a digital form. What it means is that the categories deployed need first to reflect the interpretation of the primary source material that the authors of the PLRE entries made, rather than the current team's notions about the realities of the Later Roman Empire and Late Antiquity. However banal of a statement this may appear, it has many significant theoretical and practical aspects. In this case the digitisation effort may be equated with interpreting the interpretation. This entails its own unique set of challenges, which can be

³ S. Rebenich, *Mommsen, Harnack, and the Prosopography of Late Antiquity*, «Medieval Prosopography» 17, no 1 (1996): 149–167; Rebenich, *Theodor Mommsen und Adolf Harnack cit.*, 324–326.

⁴ For more information on this project, see <https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/research/connecting-late-antiquities> [last accessed: 17.12.2024].

⁵ For a detailed historiographical study of the coming about of PLRE, see R. Mathisen, *The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, in *Fifty Years of Prosopography: The Later Roman Empire, Byzantium and Beyond*, cur. A. Cameron, Oxford – New York 2003, 25–41.

⁶ Unlike the PLRE, the successor project, the *Prosopography of the Byzantine Empire*, which began in 1989, was from the very beginning conceived as a digital endeavour, see <https://pbe.kcl.ac.uk/data/help/aboutfr.htm> [last accessed: 03.12.2024].

demonstrated by means of a number of examples that we will discuss in this article such as creating an accurate data schema, interconnecting types of data (e.g. locations) with other databases, or issues emerging in the process of marking up the text.

In what follows, first, we will discuss the methods and tools we adopted: OCR, markup, XML-tagging, Recogito, and the creation of a data schema. Subsequently, we will look at two specific challenges that have emerged from developments in modern scholarship that potentially affect the way we mark up the *PLRE* text.

OCR

In order to begin the preparation for turning the *PLRE* into a digital dataset, an OCR (Optical Character Recognition) process has been applied first to the scans of the three volumes of the *PLRE* in a PDF format provided by Cambridge University Press to produce a digital version of the text. A Digital Humanities Lab intern worked under the direction of Charlotte Tupman to apply OCR to the PDFs using Abbyy FineReader, an optical character recognition application. The OCR converts a PDF file into a Word document that can be processed, edited, and tagged up whilst looking exactly like the original. The first task of the postdoctoral members of the *CLA* team was to edit the Word-documents that FineReader had produced, and to make sure that nothing from the original, particularly source quotes and text marks, was missing or incorrect.

The Exeter digital experts trained FineReader in order for it to be useful for us. Yet, even with training, the software could not really cope with (amongst others) the amalgam of languages that appears in *PLRE*. As a result, we spent the first six months or so of the project correcting the errors in the Word documents FineReader had produced.

Narses 3 patricius and praepositus (sacri cubiculi) 565/578

A eunuch, owner of a *domus* at Constantinople in the days of Justin II and Sophia, builder of a hospice, an infirmary for the aged and a church περὶ τοῦ Ὁῤῥα<psiou; *Patr. Const.* in 94 (to 8e Ναπουο οἰκο\$ ρῖν Ναπαου •n-aTpiKtou Kai -TTparTroaiTou euvouxou; on to Napaou, see Janin, *Const. Byz.*, 365-7, *Eglises et monasteres*², 422-3 - it was 'on the slope descending from the Bazaar to the Golden Horn'). Said also to have built a church dedicated to Sts Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus; *Patr. Const.* HI 95 (6 OCUTOS Napaps). He allegedly built a harbour with Troilus 2 at Justin's request and was honoured with a statue there; *Patr. Const.* in 37 (Ναποπν τοῦ ΤταTpiKiov Kai TTpaiiroaiTov). The same source also mentions a brother of Narses TrctTpiKios under Justin II and Tiberius; *Patr. Const.* HI 116. The source is late and unreliable; the information may be partly invention, partly garbled confusion between Narses 1 and 4.

Narses 4 sacellarius 565/574; spatharius 565-581

Inscr.) Zbornik Rad. Viz. Inst. 12 (Belgrade, 1970), 1-8 (an inscription on the Rhegion Gate at Istanbul).

Of Armenian origin, to judge by his name.

GLORIOSISSIMVS CVBICVLARIVS ET (?PROTO-) SPATHARIVS a. 565-581 : bodyguard of Justin II in late 565, Coripp. *Iust.* 111 220 (armiger interea, domini vestigia lustrans), 226-7. On Jan. 1, 566, he attended the emperor's consular inauguration; Coripp. *Iust.* iv 368-9, cf. 366 ensipotens, and 373 terga tegens domini, clans fulgebat in armis. A favourite of Justin, he founded the so-called *domus* of Narses and the monastery TWV KaOapcbv at Constantinople; Theoph. AM 6063 (0 KOu|3iKOuXapio\$ Kai

Figure 1: Faulty Word-Documents by Abbyy.

The figure clearly shows some of the most common errors that FineReader had produced, including Roman numerals converted into Arabic numerals, Latin letters, or even Greek letters. Headers, footers, and pagination were discombobulated, with headers or footers at times appearing in bold, misprinted, or as an image.

FineReader did not convert small caps but read it as regular capital letters or bold print. In addition, it showed it was struggling by throwing in random capitalisation of letters, such as AgapiuS for Agapius; JungflelSh for Jungfleish, and MaX Conf. for Max. Conf. Numbers were not the AI's favourite either, with the number 0 often transcribed as o (31o, 6o), the 4 read as + (61+ for 614), and 8 often mistaken for a 6 which was particularly tricky to pay attention to as one easily risks missing it. Sometimes, FineReader threw in random Greek letters for numbers. At times, the AI tool appeared almost human in its mistakes, triggering the image of a pesky, bored, and rebellious teenager: it would render Isidore of Seville correct five times in a row, but the sixth was clearly too much and Isidore became Lidore of Seville.

FineReader also had great difficulty understanding more than two languages in one document. As a result, they all came out pretty bad: this was the case for modern languages like French and German (for example éçñiè for écrite), but worst of all was the Greek.

THOMAS 6

comes Armeniae Tertiae 536

Appointed governor of the newly formed province of Armenia Tertia on March 18, 536; he had already held offices in Armenia; Just. Nov. 31.2 (eupovTES Toivuv Ocopav TOV psyaAo-n-perrECTTcrov, q8q psv ap/as ETTI Tris 'AppEvicov avuoavTa X“pa\$, xai TaAAa 8E avSpa xpT)crrdy xai yvqoiws qpTy uirripETriadpEVOV TE xai uirqpETOUMEVov, aurov ETTI Tfl TT)S apxqs TOUTTIS rrpopaAAopEOa Sioucqasi). The new province had Melitene as its metropolis and the governor, combining military and civil powers, bore the title of comes Armeniae Tertiae; cf. Nov. 31. praef. 2 and cap. 3.

Possibly identical with Thomas 2, but the epithet pEyaAotrpEirECTTtorros is against identifying him with an MVM while the recorded activities of Thomas 2 were in Lazica, not Armenia. See however Stein, *Bas-Emp.* n 471, n. 2.

Figure 2: Abby completely misread Greek quotes and role names.

Naturally, it did not appreciate transliterated semitic languages either. Diacritics were not read correctly (for example: e.g. Kitab aE Unvan for Kitab al-‘Unvan, Said ibn Batnk for Sa‘īd ibn Baṭrīk). This proved a problem with almost all accents, umlauts, semicolons, and macrons, resulting in for example Γ for d’, ð almost always read as ω or ó, άπο for άπό, ‘A or ‘I for Α Ι, ú for ù (same with other vowels α ι ο).

Since FineReader proved so temperamental, we experimented with other AI software to try improving our OCR files. An Exeter cooperation with Bruce Robertson of Mount Allison University prompted us to trial his Lace tool on our PDF documents⁷. With Robertson's valuable input into the process this resulted in a significantly more accurate OCR-reading for the ancient Greek across the three volumes. Lace2 was

⁷ <https://github.com/brobertson/Lace2> [last accessed 31.03.2025].

tested on the volumes, and the Greek output was certainly much improved. Lace was easier to train than FineReader, because it could work based on a raw dictionary of later Greek words. That is to say, one could create a list of accented words with all forms and all variations. With Linux Uniq, this could be done fairly easily. The more time-consuming method would be to build a dictionary based on the editing that we were doing, and then re-process other volumes based on that new information. Whenever we would correct a few pages, Lace would generate training data from that, and then this could be used either to build a classifier from scratch with Kraken⁸, or to augment one of these existing classifiers. However, the Lace file also proved a bit hit and miss. Accentuation was generally better, but it had trouble distinguishing letters; sometimes it ignored Greek and mangled the remains of it while trying to read words in the Latin alphabet as Greek, or some English words were turned into 'Greek'. Another problem was that if we worked with the Lace file we had to copy-paste everything into Word, because it did not generate Word files. The plain-text download option meant that all original *PLRE* markup and layout was removed, so we could not use this for our purposes.

These problems occurred to a greater extent in volumes 3A and 3B because of its inclusion of lengthy quotes in Greek, as well as the presence of semitic languages (Arabic in particular), and source material from Byzantine seals.

By the time Jessica van 't Westeinde got to the stage of correcting volume 3B we had resolved to stick with FineReader. Our DH team had set FineReader to focus on the English and the Latin, and then the Lace output could be used for the Greek. Theoretically, this meant that one could work on the basis of the Word file created by FineReader and copy across the Greek passages from the Lace output as needed. It turned out to be more time-consuming copying the Greek citations from Lace into Word than it was to just type out the Greek from scratch, so this is what was settled for in the end.

What proved most difficult perhaps was dealing with seals that were included in the third volume of the *PLRE* and are referenced in the entries. The images of these seals appear in an appendix to the volume, but the entries themselves include transliterations of these seals. However, these extremely odd fonts were impossible to read for FineReader, and near impossible to correct.

Theodosius 27 chartularius et discursor (discussor?) VI/VII

©EO SOOTOU x°tpTouAapiou Kai SiaKOupooos; Zacos 1060 (seal; obv.: 06OA/OCIO/V; rev.: XAPT8/A/SAIC/K3P). Two further specimens occur in Zacos' series, one of which is Dumbarton Oaks seal 55.1.2157. Cf. Theodosius 48. On *discursor*, see Theodorus 168.

Theodosius 28 honorary consul VI/VII

©EoSocnou and UTTOTTCOV; Zacos 1058 (seal; obv.: +06/OAO/CI3; rev.: ATTO/VITA/TON), 1059 (seal; obv.: +06O/AOCI/OV+; rev.: AnO/VnAT/WN; perhaps the same man). A second specimen of 1059 occurs in Zacos' series, and a similar one is in Panchenko, *Katalog*, p. 91, no. 261.

Figure 3: Abbyy's attempt to read an inscription from two seals.

⁸ Kraken, or Kraken AI is an advanced natural language processing tool, see <https://kraken-ai.netlify.app>. [last accessed: 07.11.2024].

Theodosius 27 chartularius et discursor (discussor?) VI/VII

Θεοδοσίου χαρτουλαρίου καὶ δισκούρσορος; Zacos 1060 (seal; obv.: ΘΕΟΔ/ΟCΙΟ/Υ; rev.: ΧΑΡΤΘ/Λ/SSΔΙC/ΚΘΡ). Two further specimens occur in Zacos' series, one of which is Dumbarton Oaks seal 55.1.2157. Cf. **Theodosius 48**. On *discursor*, see **Theodorus 168**.

Theodosius 28 honorary consul VI/VII

Θεοδοσίου ἀπὸ ὑπάτων; Zacos 1058 (seal; obv.: +ΘΕ/ΟΔΟ/CΙΘ; rev.: ΑΠΟ/ΥΠΑ/ΤΩΝ), 1059 (seal; obv.: +ΘΕΟ/ΔΟCΙ/ΟΥ+; rev.: ΑΠΟ/ΥΠΑΤ/ΩΝ; perhaps the same man). A second specimen of 1059 occurs in Zacos' series, and a similar one is in Panchenko, *Katalog*, p. 91, no. 261.

Figure 4: PLRE's original rendition of the inscription from the same seals.

Not only did they seem impossible to correct, but they were also impossible to replicate using a standard Microsoft Word program. At times we resorted to trying to find characters that best resembled the printed version in *PLRE*, sometimes with quite a bit of imagination needed.

Theodosius 27 chartularius et discursor (discussor?) VI/VII

Θεοδοσίου χαρτουλαρίου καὶ δισκούρσορος; Zacos 1060 (seal; obv.: ΘΕΟΔ/ΟCΙΟ/Υ; rev.: ΧΑΡΤΘ/ΛSSΔΙC/ΚΘΡ). Two further specimens occur in Zacos' series, one of which is Dumbarton Oaks seal 55.1.2157. Cf. **Theodosius 48**. On *discursor*, see **Theodorus 168**.

Theodosius 28 honorary consul VI/VII

Θεοδοσίου ἀπὸ ὑπάτων; Zacos 1058 (seal; obv.: +ΘΕ/ΟΔΟ/CΙΘ; rev.: ΑΠΟ/ΥΠΑ/ΤΩΝ), 1059 (seal; obv.: +ΘΕΟ/ΔΟCΙ/ΟΥ+; rev.: ΑΠΟ/ΥΠΑΤ/ΩΝ; perhaps the same man). A second specimen of 1059 occurs in Zacos' series, and a similar one is in Panchenko, *Katalog*, p. 91, no. 261.

Figure 5: Correction in Word-document by author.

In the end, we decided for the sake of clarity not to try to recreate these inscriptions but to reproduce them as images instead, with the possibility of interlinking them with other digital image databases such as the *DigiByzSeal* project at the University of Köln⁹.

Datasets, interconnectivity, and Recogito

One of the aims of both the digital *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire* and its anticipated successor, the *Connecting Late Antiquities* platform is interconnectivity and interoperability. Connecting these datasets to other databases and gazetteers that

⁹ For more information about this project, directed by Claudia Sode, Claes Neuefeind, and Alessio Sopracasa, see <https://ifa.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/forschung/byzantinistik-und-neugriechische-philologie-forschung/drittmittel-projekte/digibyzseal> [last accessed: 03.12.2024].

are already available, such as *Pleiades*, *Roman Inscriptions of Britain* etc., or cooperating with projects that are currently constructing their own databases (such as the above-mentioned *DigiByzSeal*), offers opportunities for creating a truly versatile and exhaustive set of tools for the study of Late Antiquity¹⁰.

We had the opportunity to explore some of the challenges this task entails thanks to the methods we used in markup of geographic and administrative locations in the text of the *PLRE*. The Recogito tool provides a more user-friendly way to encode information about geographical locations than general XML editing software such as Oxygen XML Editor (see below).



Figure 6: A map generated with Recogito based on locations tagged in the *PLRE* text.

Recogito is built as part of the Pelagios toolset, an online platform for Semantic Document Annotation, which allowed us to tag locations with disambiguated references and coordinates using mainly the *Pleiades* resource – a crowdsourced gazetteer of ancient places – at times supplementing it with other gazetteers such as *DARE* and *Geonames*¹¹.

This process brought along its own set of challenges. The team spent many hours discussing how specific and precise places needed to be tagged: do we include instances of poetic description, do we mark up the reference ‘urbs’ which could imply Rome or Constantinople, do we distinguish between Upper and Lower Thebaid, and if so, how? We decided to tag interpretation, not poetic description; likewise, we refrained from tagging ‘urbs’ since this would become extraordinarily complex, and we will create global tags for the offices with specified territorial jurisdiction eventually. However, these issues were just the tip of the iceberg.

The underlying problem with a significant portion of these challenges was one of ontology. It is a dilemma often encountered by researchers dealing with geographic datasets, especially in the context of interoperability with other databases¹². Even

¹⁰ *Roman Inscriptions of Britain* Online <https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/> [last accessed 20.02.2025] hosts several corpora of Roman inscriptions found in Britain and aims to make every inscription of such kind accessible on its website.

¹¹ <https://pleiades.stoa.org/home> [last accessed 20.02.2025]; <https://recogito.pelagios.org/> [last accessed 20.02.2025].

¹² See for example F. T. Fonseca - M. J. Egenhofer - P. Agouris - G. Câmara, *Using Ontologies for Integrated Geographic Information Systems*, «Transactions in GIS», 6.3 (2002), 231-257; P. Gammeltoft, *Place-*

though our dataset is mainly of a prosopographical nature, the significance of locations for the study of individuals, their backgrounds, careers, and networks cannot be overstated¹³. At the same time, the complexity of typologies of location-focused data schemas is comparable to the prosopographical ones. It was necessary that we recognise all those factors in the process of connecting our dataset to the already existing gazetteers of Pleiades, DARE, and Geonames since they come with their own defined data standards and ontologies. Therefore, these may differ from the semantics of the original *PLRE* or the *CLA* requirements concerning this type of data, which may lead to misunderstanding or erratic representation. One could divide issues caused by this tension into two categories: external, stemming from the different aims of the gazetteers in question; and internal, arising in the process of digitising and therefore introducing a greater degree of specificity into *PLRE*.

The Pleiades dataset is mainly built on the basis of the Barrington Atlas, and it has been subsequently expanded through crowdsourcing. This variety of sources and inputs leads to inconsistencies such as polyonymy. Polyonymy is the use of many names for the same location, or it may refer to the use of the same name for multiple locations and types of location. Pleiades suffers from the former type of polyonymy, yet as we will discuss below the *PLRE* itself is prone to the latter kind of it. Another known weakness of the Pleiades dataset is variance in detail and specificity of presented information¹⁴. Some of these were amended in the most up-to-date online version of the gazetteer, but the version 0.2 of the Pleiades Datasets package available through Recogito at the time of conducting this stage of our project – in Winter and early Spring of 2024 – did not contain many of these corrections.

For example, the Recogito version of Pleiades used the Latin spelling of 'Palaestina' for the region and pre-Diocletianic province respectively, but 'Palaistine' for the post-Diocletianic provinces of Palaestina I, II and III¹⁵.

Other problems were caused by the lack of certain locations, particularly administrative units. One could point to prefectures of Italy, Gaul, Oriens, and Illyricum that are missing; or to various provinces, such as Epirus (prior to division into Vetus and Nova), Britannia Inferior, or Cappadocia Prima and Secunda to name but a few. Nevertheless, the Recogito tool certainly sped up the process of marking up geographic locations and connecting them to an already existing dataset.

However, it led to the emergence of several issues relating to our dataset created on the basis of the *PLRE*. One of the most critical issues was the matter of precision. The authors of the *PLRE* normally did not specify whether the placename they invoke is

Name Databases: A Spatio-Temporal Mess, in *Digital Spatial Infrastructures and Worldviews in Pre-Modern Societies*, cur. A. Petrulevich, S. Skovgaard Boeck, Leeds 2023, 137-157.

¹³ A. Foka – E. Barker – K. Konstantinidou – N. Mostofian – B. Kiesling – L. Talatas – O. Cenk Demiroglu – K. Palm, *A Digital Periegesis: Implementing Spatial Research Infrastructures for Classical History and Archaeology*, in *Digital Spatial Infrastructures and Worldviews in Pre-Modern Societies*, cur. A. Petrulevich, S. Skovgaard Boeck, Leeds 2023, 205-223, especially 218.

¹⁴ Issues arising from variety of sources of Pleiades dataset and differences in inputting it were already recognised by others, see J. Weiland, *Review: Pleiades*, «Society for Classical Studies» (2021, March 12) <https://classicalstudies.org/scs-blog/jon-weiland/review-pleiades> and Foka – Barker – Konstantinidou – Mostofian – Kiesling – Talatas – Cenk Demiroglu – Palm, *A Digital Periegesis*, 216: "Aforementioned global gazetteer initiatives, such as the Pleiades Gazetteer of the Ancient World and the Digital Atlas of the Roman Empire, facilitate the alignment and disambiguation of ancient place information in documents in Recogito, but, though comprehensive, the spatial information is at times incomplete, relates to other periods, or is not granular enough in a cartographic sense".

¹⁵ This particular issue is not one to be found in the current online version of the gazetteer itself, see <https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/1001939/>; <https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/1001940/>; <https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/1001941/> [last accessed 25.11.2024].

intended to be a name of a geographic region or an administrative unit such as a province. However, when one attempts to tag and link it to a specific entry in Pleiades, (which has distinct categories of entries differentiating between provinces and regions), this necessitates an interpretation on our part. This is like the cases of ambiguous dates and relationships that will be discussed in subsequent sections of this article. Peder Gammeltoft made a case for a deeper understanding of placenames and their character, which he calls “deep mapping”¹⁶. He points to three essential aspects of a placename that are necessary in order to achieve such a level of deeper understanding: location, reference, and time. Coincidentally, these are the three aspects that posed the greatest challenge in our material.

The problem of location can best be illustrated by the issue of differentiating between a province or any other administrative unit and a region, sharing the same name, although not necessarily covering the same area¹⁷. Cilicia appears in the entries included in the *PLRE* as a province in some instances and as a region in other ones. Both types of locations have their separate entries in the Pleiades gazetteer¹⁸. To illustrate, in the case of Domitius Eutropius 5 (*PLRE* 1), who is listed as ‘praeses Ciliciae’, we will tag the location as a province¹⁹. On the other hand, in the entry of Euphronius 2, we find Cilicia mentioned as his place of origin; therefore, in his case, we will tag the region Cilicia²⁰.

To make matters more complex still, we must look at the entry of Demonicus. Demonicus is speculated to be a military commander in Cilicia or Isauria in 392, and here we have a less clear-cut case of what type of location ought to be tagged²¹. Choosing a provincial entry may ascribe a more defined interpretation to the structure of military command in Cilicia than the one intended by the authors of the *PLRE*. In this particular case, therefore, we chose the region entry to connect the *PLRE* record to in order to maintain a certain level of ambiguity that we believe is more in line with the original intent. Another solution would be to connect such placenames to more than one possible Pleiades entry, however the team made the decision to refrain from (excessive) double tagging for the sake of clarity within the dataset.

Let us come back once again to the example of Palestine. Mentions of the province of Palestine demonstrate the challenge of referencing. The need to interpret and define arises in instances of the *PLRE* not specifying which province is meant. For example, in an entry on Cyrillus 1, *PLRE* 1 differentiates between Palaestina Salutaris and Palaestina Prima, but that is not the case in the entry on Proculus 6, who is named just as ‘governor of Palestine’²². Which Pleiades reference for Palestine we choose to use is again a matter of our interpretation. The original version of the *PLRE* may employ this ambiguity to handle evidence difficult to interpret with precision without always having to admit it. However, markup for a digital edition requires greater transparency on the part of the editor.

Another example is Hermopolis. Whenever this location is given in *PLRE* 3 – mostly following the evidence of the papyri – it is never specified which Hermopolis is meant, and the map shows multiple options.

¹⁶ Gammeltoft, *Place-Name Databases*, 139.

¹⁷ Gammeltoft, *Place-Name Databases*, 140.

¹⁸ Cilicia as province <https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/981514>; Cilicia as region: <https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/658440> [last accessed 25.11.2024].

¹⁹ *PLRE* 1, Eutropius 5, 318.

²⁰ *PLRE* 1, Euphronius 2, 299.

²¹ *PLRE* 1, Demonicus, 249.

²² *PLRE* 1, Cyrillus 1, 237–238 and Proculus 6, 746–747.

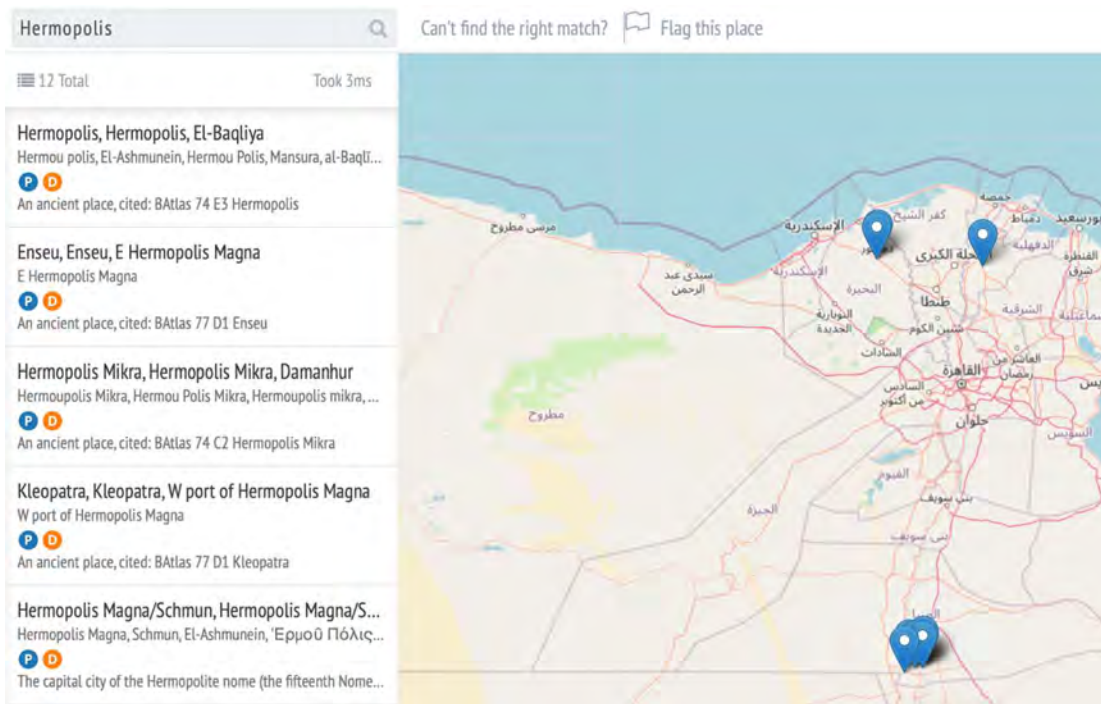


Figure 7: Search results for 'Hermopolis' in Egypt using Recogito.

In these cases, we assumed the Hermopolis meant was the capital of the Hermopolite Nome, i.e. Hermopolis Magna, but we cannot be entirely certain.

Unspoken ambiguity is hardly an option for a digital rendition where such a piece of data is meant to be connected to other datasets and databases²³. This necessitates an interpretation on our part. We need to understand the reference and make our call about the location it reflects in a particular moment of time. Where the Pleiades gazetteer has issues with polyonymy as a use of many names for the same location, the problem we encounter in the *PLRE*, as noted above, is characterised by the other meaning of this term – that is, the use of a name that could apply to many administrative locations or geographic regions.

This is a serious issue considering that connecting an administrative unit to an entry that seems in accordance with established reconstructions of the administrative divisions of the Empire may in certain instances obscure a problem flagged by the authors of the *PLRE*. This issue relates in a way to time, the third of the aspects of a placename we found challenging. For example, the province of Flaminia et Picenum is believed to have been established during the Diocletianic reorganisation partly through separation from Umbria, as a successor of an earlier *iuridicus* district, but it is only the later province not the *iuridicus* district that has an entry in Pleiades²⁴. The *PLRE* entry on Anonymus 55 refers to this *iuridicus* district Flaminia et Picenum²⁵. However, it also

²³ Even though some degree of ambiguity is unavoidable for geographic data relating to the Ancient World, see Foka – Barker – Konstantinidou – Mostofian – Kiesling – Talatas – Cenk Demiroglu – Palm, *A Digital Periegesis*, especially 218.

²⁴ J.J. Wilkes – S.T. Parker – R.S. Bagnall – W.V. Harris – A.S. Esmonde-Cleary – C.M. Wells – J.F. Drinkwater – R.C. Knapp – S. Mitchell – B. Z. Lund – R. Talbert – M. E. Downs – M. J. McDaniel – S. Gillies – J. Becker – T. Elliott, *Flaminia et Picenum (province): a Pleiades place resource*, in *Pleiades: A Gazetteer of Past Places*, 2022 <<https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/991351>> [last accessed: 25.11.2024]; D. Siootjes, *Administering Late Roman Italy: Geographical Changes and the Appearance of Governors*, in *Late Roman Italy: Imperium to Regnum*, cur. J. Wijnendaele, Edinburgh 2023, 111-129.

²⁵ *PLRE* 1, Anonymus 55, 1014-1015.

notes the peculiarity of omitting Umbria in the cited source evidence, which complicates further connecting the digital *PLRE* to existing geographic databases, given the fluid character of this kind of administrative unit in Italy before the reforms of Diocletian²⁶.

As already discussed, Pleiades does make a distinction between geographic region and administrative units, yet the introduction of the aspect of time makes this distinction even more challenging to accurately reflect in the tagging process. This is exacerbated across the three volumes for the lengthy timespan that they cover: take for example Armenia which, although seemingly the same placename, may refer not just to administrative and state units with their shifting borders, but to different geographic regions altogether.

Another instance that may serve to showcase these temporal difficulties is to be found in the entry on 'Ambrosius 1', praetorian prefect of Constantine II²⁷. The *PLRE* correctly states at the time of Ambrosius' prefecture, this office was still very much tied to the person of the emperor rather than a jurisdiction of an administrative unit with geographically defined borders, as in the later period. However, by the time that Paulinus of Milan composed his *Vita Ambrosii*, this was no longer the case, which may explain the anachronism one can observe in it. This is an example that illustrates the earlier point of this project being ultimately a digital rendition of *PLRE* rather than a reinterpretation of it in light of the underlying sources, as in this case *PLRE* interpretation was followed strictly and the administrative tag was not used for this location.

However, the *PLRE* tends to struggle with treating prefectures in the text of *Vita Ambrosii*, for good reasons. Even decades after the publication of the *PLRE* pinpointing the exact moment a praetorian prefect's geographic jurisdiction developed may still be characterised as ambiguous²⁸. This is sometimes unintentionally reflected in some entries. In the entry on 'Flavius Sallustius 5', the subject is introduced as the *praefectus praetorio Galliarum* for the years 361–363, then to be called a *praefectus praetorio* in Gaul, as he succeeded Germanianus, who again is marked as the acting *praefectus praetorio Galliarum*²⁹.

The ambiguity is reflective of the primary sources, but an interpretation of this source passage of Ammianus is beyond the scope of this article. However, this case accurately demonstrates the challenge in question. Similarly, the entry on 'Decimius Germanianus 4' records him as *praefectus praetorio Galliarum* as well, following the *Codex Theodosianus* and *Codex Justinianus*³⁰.

Given all of that, how should such an entry be connected to other datasets such as Pleiades? Should a tag for a Gallic prefecture be used throughout the 'Flavius Sallustius 5' entry consistently? The least intrusive approach we found and one that we are most likely to adopt is that of tagging it according to the written text in each instance,

²⁶ W. Eck, *Die regionale Organisation der italienischen iuridikate*, «Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik» 18 (1975), 155–166.

²⁷ *PLRE* 1, Ambrosius 1, 51.

²⁸ T. D. Barnes, *Praetorian Prefects, 337–361*, «Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik» 94 (1992), 249–260; however, P. Porena, *Le origini della prefettura del pretorio tardoantica*, Rome 2003, 496–562, makes a case for regionalisation of praetorian prefects already during Constantine's reign; contra R. Delmaire, *Review: Le origini della prefettura del pretorio tardoantica*, by Pierfrancesco Porena, «Latomus» 66.3 (2007), 772–774.

²⁹ *PLRE* 1, Sallustius 5, 797–798.

³⁰ *PLRE* 1, Germanianus 4, 392.

recognising the ambiguity, even if it may create some confusion in matters of categorisation.

A number of locations found across the *PLRE*, particularly administrative ones, simply do not exist in gazetteers available through Recogito selected by our team for this process (in Pleiades, DARE, or Geonames), yet they should be included. Such places missing in the other datasets will eventually be added and tagged using Oxygen XML Editor. At the same time, the idiosyncrasies of versions of these gazetteers accessible through Recogito mean that there are variant entries for the same location. These factors create a challenge for the coherency of tagging between the three volumes. In order to maintain it and keep such issues in check, we produced a 'master document' of these references. Eventually, we should generate an internal gazetteer that will quickly flag up inconsistency or repetition.

Finally, we present an example to show that it is not always the tools or the software that we use that pose problems and challenges, but the sources referenced in the *PLRE* itself. We stumbled upon an instance of an alleged 'Mons Caprarius' near Ravenna; the source given is a letter in Cassiodorus' *Variae*, the authorship of which is contested³¹. A quick geographical check shows that there are no mountains anywhere near Ravenna. This poses the question of what this 'Mons Caprarius' might refer to instead. 'Capraria' is the name the Romans gave to an island off the coast of Tuscany. Yet, it would be difficult to make this into a convincing argument since this island is located off the west coast of Italy, not on the side of Ravenna. Another suggestion could be a possible 'Mons Caprarius' in Dalmatia, although that too is a stretch. It turns out, if one checks Cassiodorus' text, that the author does not give the city a name at all: it appears to be a decision of later scholarship that has identified the city as Ravenna. Although this was likely done based on the context, recent scholarship has started to question the identification. Maria Cristina La Rocca and Yuri Marano have proposed that it could be Salona in Dalmatia instead³². Hrvoje Gračanin on the other hand is not convinced and ties the problem in with jurisdiction of the praetorian prefecture of Italy; therefore, or so he argues, it must refer to a region in (northern) Italy. Yet, the problem may be exacerbated further still if Cassiodorus was not the author but rather the addressee of the letter³³. This example simply serves to illustrate that something as simple as a place tag might open a can of worms and send us down a rabbit hole, which may be a risky undertaking for a project with a set time limit and clear objectives.

In this section we have offered some insight into the opportunities and challenges faced when interlinking or connecting with other datasets or online resources. Once our digital edition of the *PLRE* is up and running, we hope to expand this interconnectivity to other projects such as *DigiByzSeal* and Tübingen's *Nomen et Gens*³⁴. These options will be further explored towards the end of the current funding period (i.e. mid-2025), but the next frontier is already in sight.

³¹ Cass. *Var.* 12.17, see *Cassiodori Variarum libri XII*, in: *Magni Aurelii Cassiodori Senatoris Opera* I, ed. Åke J. Fridh, Corpus Christianorum. Series Latina 96, Turnhout 1973, 484; *PLRE* 3, Ioannes 13, 635, and see H. Gračanin, *Late Antique Dalmatia and Pannonia in Cassiodorus Variae*, «Povijesni prizoli» 49 (2015), 9–83, esp. 67.

³² M. C. La Rocca – Y. Marano, *Comment to 12.17*, in *Flavio Aurelio Cassiodoro Senatore, Varie*, vol. V: *Libri XI–XII*, eds. Andrea Giardina et al., Rome 2015, 273–74.

³³ H. Gračanin, *Late Antique Dalmatia and Pannonia in Cassiodorus Variae*, «Povijesni prizoli» 49 (2015), 9–83, esp. 67; it is uncertain whether Cassiodorus was the author of the letter or the addressee and that impacts our perceived credibility of the statement.

³⁴ For *Nomen et Gens*, see <https://neg.ub.uni-tuebingen.de/> [last accessed: 30.03.2025].

XML

The next step towards digitising the *PLRE* was TEI XML markup. For that purpose, a programme called Oxygen XML Editor has been employed. Charlotte Tupman used batch markup to tag the core categories in bulk. At the first stage of tagging, we decided that the highest priority ought to be given to categories such as names of subjects of entries; their offices, honours, social rank or occupation (all under a single role tag) which are going to be differentiated at a later stage (see Figure 9 below); dates relevant to the person of an entry; and other individuals connected to the subject of the entry. Other categories of information such as relationships and gender are intended to be tagged at later stages, given that these categories will have to be marked up using different methodologies. As noted above – locations were tagged using a different technique by means of Recogito, a semantic annotation tool. Following the batch markup, we then had to revise these files in Oxygen to amend any errors, to specify tags' attributes and values, as well as to add URIs to connect entries internally and externally³⁵. The resulting Oxygen entry presents the interim stage which will underlie what the final database will offer to any user.

```
<div type="entry">
  <p>
    <ref type="PLRE" target="plre-3-augustina#me"><persName type="subject"><hi
      rend="bold">Augustina</hi></persName></ref>
    <roleName>Augusta</roleName>
    <date type="floruit" when="0638">638</date></p>
  <p>Daughter of the emperor <ref type="PLRE" target="plre-3-heraclius-4"><persName
    type="other"><hi rend="bold">H</hi>eraclius</persName></ref> and <ref
    type="PLRE" target="plre-3-martina-1"><persName type="other"><hi rend="bold">
      M</hi>artina</persName></ref>, sister of <ref type="PLRE"
    target="plre-3-david-8"><persName type="other"><hi rend="bold">
      D</hi>avid</persName> 8</ref>, <ref type="PLRE" target="plre-3-marinus-12"
    ><persName type="other"><hi rend="bold">M</hi>arinus</persName> 12</ref> and
    <ref type="PLRE" target="plre-3-martina-2"><persName type="other"><hi
      rend="bold">M</hi>artina</persName> 2</ref>; made Augusta in <date
    when="0638">638</date>; Nic. <hi rend="italic">Brev</hi>.27<hi rend="italic">
    >.</hi> For the date, cf. <hi rend="bold">D</hi>avid 8. See stemma 6.</p>
</div>
```

Figure 8: *PLRE* entry converted in Oxygen with markup of different categories, including URIs.

However, before we could start with the markup, we needed to create a data schema. This is necessary since it is our aim to create a digital edition that will be fully searchable and linked with other online editions (including critical editions of *PLRE* sources), datasets, and databases (e.g. Pleiades). This data schema is a set of categories that we use for XML markup, such as names, office, location etc. It was also a long way before we got to the stage where we could agree on how to markup the *PLRE*. As mentioned above, we decided on a highest-priority list of categories that must be marked up in the first round, but it took many hours of deliberation before this hierarchical data schema came into being. The concerns steering these discussions chiefly centred on the

³⁵ This process had unexpected benefits of discovering earlier unnoticed errors in the original *PLRE*. For example, *praefectus vigilum* Aurelius Concordius was ultimately excluded from the *PLRE* 1, as he was tentatively dated to the reign of Elagabalus, see the *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire Archive*, which contains material from the original work on the *PLRE* made available by John Martindale and currently held at the University of Exeter. Even though lemma concerning him did not make it into the *PLRE* 1, the reference under letter 'A' indicating that reader should look for him under letter 'C' remained, unnoticed by any reviewer or contributor of the *Corrigenda* since the first publication of volume 1.

usability of our digital edition and the potential questions and motivations with which researchers would turn to our platform.

Figure 9 represents the thought process of all potential categories and their subdivisions that could or should be marked up in XML. The tabs in the bottom represent the 'major categories' (office, status, relationship, locations, etc.), which each in itself is divided into sub-categories as depicted in the current spreadsheet that shows the subdivision of the category 'office'.

	Military	Civic/civil	Ecclesiastical	Traditional religious office
1	praefectus legionis	praefectus urbis	meletoterus (iuxta/ōrepoi)	priest/priestess
2	magister utriusque militiae/ i West	praefectus urbis Constantinopolis bishop	patriarch	of the imperial cult/ flamen Augusti
3	East	legatus proconsulis	deaconess	high priest of the province
4	Honorific	proconsul		
5	Vacans	consularis		
6	Per Illyricum	praeses		
7	Per Italiae	corrector		
8	Per Orientem	procurator?		
9	Prasentalis			
10		commercarius		
11	magister equitum	praefectus praetorio		
12	magister peditum	praefectus iustini/iustiniani		
13	praepositus	praefectus augustalis		
14	legionis	praefectus annonae		
15	militum	praefectus vehiculorum		
16	limitis	praefectus Aegypti		
17	equitum	praefectus vigiliū		
18	vexillationis	praefectus aerari populi Romani/aerarii Saturni		
19	turmae	praefectus feriarum Latinarum		
20	numeri	procurator		
21	castrorum			
22	protector domesticus			
23	protector de scola seniorum peditum			
24	domesticus			
25	dux			
26	provinciae, -ii			
27	et augustalis			
28	of diocesan ducate			
29	scholae armaturarum			
30	stabuli			
31	praetorianus militaris			
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Figure 9: Excel spreadsheet of potential tagging categories

This minutely detailed Excel document was eventually reduced to a draft priority list of 'PLRE Tagging Categories and Issues'.

PLRE Tagging Categories and Issues

Name

Signifier/disambiguator (vol. no. and one-word name)

Locations

- Region
- Diocese
- Province
- City
- Settlement
- Natural Environment (named locations only)
- Buildings
 - o Civic
 - o Military
 - o Religious
 - o Domestic
 - o Amenities & Facilities
- Infrastructure
- Main problems/issues: in some instances a place/site may be open to interpretation, or develop into something different. E.g. fortress: when is it a building, when does it become infrastructure? What about multifunctional buildings (e.g. palace) or basilica (from public commercial to religious).

Office and Honorifics/Honour

- Military
- Civic
- Religious
- Main problems/issues: in case of uncertainty we tag both. Discuss if Occupation is to be included here, or should we keep to the PLRE distinction between elites and hoi polloi.

Occupation

- Educational
- Domestic
- Religious
- Service Industry?
- Entertainment?
- Main problems/issues: difficult to keep subcategories because they're either going to be too many or if we have two and then one massive category 'other' is not really an option either.

Status

- Here we tag poor, wealthy, senatorial, equestrian. Have just one supercategory 'Status' [I cannot make much sense of the minutes, sorry].

Figure 10: PLRE Tagging Categories and Issues: a reduced list of categories for markup.

However, this list proved still too extensive, especially considering the time restraint under which we were working. The document was important in that it flags up the key issues we still had to consider regarding markup and potential conflicts regarding definition and interpretation. The green highlights represent the categories that ought to receive priority when marking up and the differentiation in markup will be done at a later stage.

This priority list forms the basis of the Master Document where certain types of information are stored for each person, so that we do not need to tag it manually in the database itself, and we can find all that information in one place. There are still plenty of things that we tag directly in the document, i.e. the actual text, but this is a separate file. Charlotte Tupman produced a template based on the document and then we put the correct information inside the text that exists. In other words, she created an authority file that guides the rest that we do in XML. The authority file helped to enable some of the batch markup, which saves a lot of time. We are now at the stage where we go through each lemma in Oxygen until all the entries of the *PLRE* have been marked up. Part of this is an automated process that works based on batch markup as mentioned above, something that significantly speeds up the process, but it does not eliminate the need of manual corrections for some features or tags, or the addition of tags for information that has not yet been covered.

Dates

What forces us at times to add meaning beyond the intent of the original authors of the *PLRE* are technical aspects that relate to the TEI requirements that underlie the future user search and browse functions. TEI requires a particular date format that specifies days, months, and/or years. This is somewhat problematic when applied to date ranges that are left intentionally vague, such as 'early fourth century', 'late third', 'mid-fifth', and so on. Leaving such dates untagged would distort to a significant degree any browsing by date – a functionality that is planned for the digital *PLRE* – and render it highly unsatisfactory.

What we ultimately decided to do is tag such instances using the TEI date range attributes @notBefore and @notAfter along with the @precision attribute with a value of "low". This may appear to be a minor detail, but it means that we are technically specifying to a degree, interpreting the date ranges originally set in the *PLRE*. Therefore 'late third century' would be marked up as 268-300, 'early fourth century' as 301-333, 'mid-fifth' as 434-467, and so on, unless there are dates specified within the entry itself that could define this range with greater precision.

The attributes of @notBefore and @notAfter are used for other, less challenging digital rendition types of date ranges as well, such as dates marked with "/" in the original *PLRE* to signify some point in time between these dates (such as for example 357/361). In case of date ranges that cover the entirety of time between two points (for example 357-361), the attributes used are @from and @to. This given example would be rendered as: <date from="0357" to="0361">357-361</date>. The @precision attribute with a value of "low" is used in other instances of approximation of a date, such as *circa*. Last, but not least, whenever any date is recognised as somewhat doubtful by the authors of the *PLRE*, it is represented by attribute @cert with a value "low", for example: <date type="floruit" notBefore="0286" notAfter="0293" cert="low">?286/293</date>. This attribute is applicable not just to dates, but other types of marked up pieces of information as well that are held in doubt in the *PLRE*, which may range from an uncertainty about the precise office held to relationships between persons (e.g. uncertainty about the exact identity of the father of a subject).

Relations

That final example leads us to another set of tags that is not without its own challenges, namely that of relations. Whenever we happen upon individuals who are not the subject

of entries, this necessitates editorial interpretation in the process of marking up. As already noted, the aim is to tag them whenever there is a connection to the subject of the entry, to categorise these relationships later on. It is rather easy to decide whether one should tag someone's brother, pupil, or associate. Deciding against tagging an emperor that is mentioned solely as a dating device is a rather simple call to make as well. Yet we enter more ambiguous territory when faced with mentions of political or military alignments. The entry on the veterinary writer Apsyrtus refers to Constantine as someone Apsyrtus served under on the Danube frontier³⁶.

```
<div type="entry">
  <p><ref type="PLRE" target="plre-1-apsyrtus#me"><persName type="subject"
    >Apsyrtus</persName></ref>
    <roleName>veterinary writer</roleName>
    <date type="floruit" notBefore="0301" notAfter="0333" precision="low">E
      IV</date></p>
  <p><roleName>Veterinary writer</roleName> and <roleName>soldier</roleName> from
    Prusa or Nicomedia, who fought under Constantine on the Danube frontier in
    Scythia. Wrote a Ἱππιατρικόν and Φυσικὸν περὶ ἵππων (Suid. A. 4739), of
    which excerpts survive in the Mulomedicina Chironis and Hippiatrica (Hipp.
    1, from the beginning of Apsyrtus' Ἱππ., confirms his military service ἐν
    τοῦ Ἰστροῦ). For an earlier date (<date notBefore="0150" notAfter="0250"
      cert="low">150/250</date>), see G. Björck, Uppsala Univ. Årsskrift 1944,
    4. One MS of the Hippiatrica calls him a native of Clazomenae Hipp. ed.
    Oder, I2, 1, II, 96. 23.</p>
</div>
```

Figure 11: Apsyrtus and Constantine.

In this case Constantine was not marked up. The entry on the *magister militum* Arbogast includes a mention of him fighting under Theodosius against Magnus Maximus in 388³⁷.

```
<p><roleName>MAGISTER MILITVM</roleName> of <ref type="PLRE"
  target="plre-1-valentinianus-8"><persName type="other"
    >Valentinian</persName> II</ref> c. <date from="0388" to="0394"
    precision="low">388-94</date>: on Bauto's death he exploited his
    popularity with the troops to seize his office Zos. IV 53. 1 Ἀρβογάστης
    ἐκ τοῦ Φράγγων ὀρμώμενος ἔθnovς, Βαύδωνι δὲ ὑποστρατηγεῖν ὑπὸ Γρατιανοῦ
    βασιλεῦοντος τεταγμένος, ἐκείνου τελευτήσαντος τῷ δραστηρίῳ τεθαρρηκώς
    τὴν στρατιωτικὴν ἀρχὴν εἰς ἑαυτὸν περιέστησε βασιλέως οὐ δεδωκότος,
    κατάλληλος δὲ τοῖς ὑποτεταγμένοις αὐτῷ στρατιώταις ὄφθεις διὰ τὴν ἀνδρείαν
    καὶ πολεμικὴν ἐπιστήμην καὶ χρημάτων ὑπεροψίαν ἐπὶ μέγα προῆλθε δυνάμεως,
    Joh. Ant. fr. 187; the date is left vague, but Bauto was still alive in
    385 and Arbogast was one of the generals who fought under <ref
      type="PLRE" target="plre-1-theodosius-4"><persName type="other"
        >Theodosius</persName></ref> against Maximus in 388 Philost. HE X
    8. He captured <ref type="PLRE" target="plre-1-maximus-39"><persName
      type="other">Maximus</persName></ref> Oros. VII 35.12 and conquered
    and killed his son <ref type="PLRE" target="plre-1-victor-14"><persName
      type="other">Victor</persName></ref> in Gaul Zos. IV 47. 1, Prosp.
    Tiro s.a. <date when="0388">388</date>. He remained in Gaul under
    Valentinian II and conducted punitive expeditions against the Franks
    Paulin. V. Amb. 30, Greg. Tur. HF II 9. He completely dominated
    Valentinian Greg. Tur. HF II 9 clauso apud Viennam palatii aedibus
    principe Valentiniano paene infra privati modum redacto, militaris rei
```

Figure 12: Arbogast and Theodosius.

³⁶ PLRE 1, Apsyrtus, 90.

³⁷ PLRE 1, Arbogastes, 95-97.

In this case the emperor Theodosius was tagged, even though the phrasing is exactly the same as in the above-mentioned entry on Apsyrtus. The reason such a call was made is that as *magister militum* Arbogast had an actual relationship with the emperor he served under, unlike Apsyrtus, whose relationship with the emperor Constantine was not implied in the entry. Ultimately, certain functions of the digital *PLRE*, such as which entries will be connected, and which relationships will be recognised, will be impacted by all those minor decisions and interpretations. Recognising and communicating this fact is an important aspect of our project for two reasons. First of all, any user interacting with the future, publicly available *CLA* platform needs to be provided with information on our practices to understand how our choices may have impacted the dataset they are using. Second, any user who chooses to contribute suggestions to our database needs to be aware of these sets of standards for the sake of maintaining the database's coherence. The most important of these will be found in the encoding guidelines accompanying the online version of the database.

Specific challenges for markup: Religion and Ethnicity

This contribution has so far chiefly focused on a wide array of problems and challenges the *CLA* team have faced in their endeavour to digitise the *PLRE*. Although the priority list mentioned above currently excludes the markup of religion and ethnicity for the first stage of XML tagging of the *PLRE* volumes, they provide a specific set of challenges too important to omit. It became apparent to us that one of the major challenges of creating a data schema for markup – beyond what we have already sketched – is the now-antiquated language used by the *PLRE*, which requires updating especially when it concerns terminology not reflected in the source material.

Two pertinent cases spring out. The first is religion, the second is ethnicity. The question is: shall we mark-up religious and ethnic identities using problematic terms like 'Arian' or 'Pelagian' (for religion)³⁸, or 'Saracen', 'Visigoth', 'German' (for ethnicity)³⁹, as the *PLRE* does, or should we find new ways to describe such groups or people?

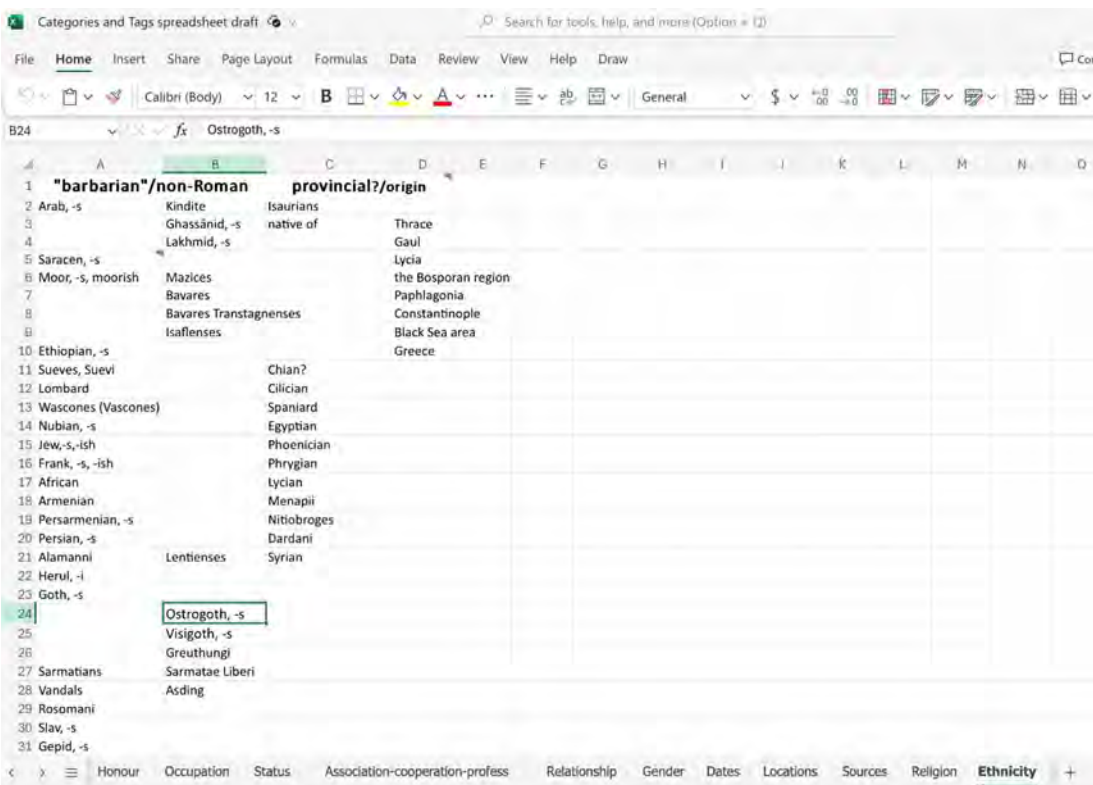
The editors of the *PLRE* have adopted the language of the sources or, at times, have interpreted it through the lenses of centuries of scholarship tainted by the winners of the Christian controversies through the ages. Thus, the *PLRE* holds fast to the dichotomy orthodox–heretical, whereas most scholarship today has moved away from using these ideological, rhetorical terms. 'Pelagians' did not exist; 'Arians' considered themselves perfectly orthodox Christians, as did the so-called 'Donatists'. Yet, if we abolish this language and align ourselves with current accepted academic terminology, this might prove a stumbling block for scholars who use the digital edition employing

³⁸ The literature on the debate if Arianism and Pelagianism existed or are mere inventions by the 'victors of history' who ended up deciding what was orthodox is too vast to include in a footnote. One of the most recent and impactful monographs however is A. Bonner, *The Myth of Pelagianism*, British Academy Monographs, Oxford 2018. Likewise, see recent dissertation C. J. Nofziger, *In the Shadow of Persecution: Athanasius of Alexandria and the Making of the Arian Heresy*, University of California: Santa Barbara 2020, as well as M. Dunn, *Arianism*, Amsterdam 2021. For religion in general, see B. Nongbri, *Before Religion: A History of a Modern Concept*, New Haven, Connecticut – London 2013; R. Raja – J. Rüpke, *Appropriating Religion: Methodological Issues in Testing the 'Lived Ancient Religion' Approach*, «Religion in the Roman Empire» 1 (2015), 11–19; C. A. Barton – D. Boyarin, *Imagine No Religion: How Modern Abstractions Hide Ancient Realities*, New York 2016; N. P. Roubekas, *Theorizing 'Religion' in Antiquity*, Sheffield 2019.

³⁹ For works problematising ethnicity, or race and ethnicity, see for example B. Isaac, *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity*, Princeton, New Jersey 2004; T. Derks – N. Roymans, *Ethnic Constructs in Antiquity: The Role of Power and Tradition*, Amsterdam 2009; J. McInerney, *A Companion to Ethnicity in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Chichester 2014.

the *PLRE* language search terms since they would not be able to find what they are looking for. Hence, at the moment we have resolved to use the language employed by the *PLRE*, perhaps indicating nuance or our personal reservations to using such language by placing these terms in inverted commas, not just for Christian so-called 'heresies' but also for the use of the label 'pagan'. We have defined the following subcategories for religion: Christian, 'Pagan', Persian/Zoroastrian, Manichaean, Muslim, and Jewish – although the last of these is contested because it should actually be categorised under 'ethnicity' (which has religious aspects but is not restricted to religion – but then one goes down the rabbit hole of the debate on what is religion, and Judaism as religion is a Christian construct).

This leads us to the equally problematic category of 'ethnicity' and how to correctly mark-up ethnic identities. One of the first questions was 'how to categorise and sub-categorise identities' (see Figure 12). We have come up with two major sub-categories: 'non-Roman' and 'provincial'. We work with the assumption that everyone is Roman unless stated otherwise. That implies that there is no need to tag 'Roman', given that 'Roman' is first of all, a citizenship. As such, it is a legal privilege so one could be Roman and Arab; although there are some instances where the label 'Roman' seems to refer to an ethnic identity. It was argued that we should markup according to what the *PLRE* provides, rather than based on assumptions. However, if it comes to *PLRE*'s antiquated terminology, such as 'Saracens' or 'Germans', we ought to combine these tags with new and acceptable labels for these ethnicities. In that way, people who are not up-to-date with the intricacies of appropriate language in current scholarship would still be able to find the persons they were looking for when searching for 'Germans' whilst at the same time they will learn the new, more proper label for said ethnic identity.



barbarian?/non-Roman	provincial?/origin	Ostrogoth, -s
Arab, -s	Kindite	Isaurians
	Ghassanid, -s	native of
	Lakhmid, -s	Thrace
		Gaul
Saracen, -s		Lycia
Moor, -s, moorish	Mazices	the Bosphoran region
	Bavares	Paphlagonia
	Bavares Transagnenses	Constantinople
	Isaflenses	Black Sea area
		Greece
Ethiopian, -s		
Sueves, Suevi	Chian?	
Lombard	Cilician	
Wascones (Vascones)	Spaniard	
Nubian, -s	Egyptian	
Jew, -s, -ish	Phoenician	
Frank, -s, -ish	Phrygian	
African	Lycian	
Armenian	Menapii	
Persarmenian, -s	Nitiobroges	
Persian, -s	Dardani	
Alamanni	Syrian	
Herul, -i		
Goth, -s	Lentienses	
	Ostrogoth, -s	
	Visigoth, -s	
	Greuthungi	
Sarmatians	Sarmatae Liberi	
Vandals	Asding	
Rosomani		
Slav, -s		
Gepid, -s		

Figure 13: Excel spreadsheet for the category 'Ethnicity'.

An added challenge is that these subcategories are also subject to change over the course of the *PLRE* volumes; in this case the label 'provincial' helps for more tricky

distinctions. Although it was briefly suggested that we could create super- and supra-tags (e.g. tag a 'Visigoth' both as 'Goth' and 'Visigoth'), this was actually deemed superfluous. We will have a separate document in XML that has the specific category levels in the hierarchy that we have decided on for all tags relating to groups of people. This means that any person tagged as a Visigoth is also automatically a Goth as Visigoth comes under the broader heading of Goth in the categories document. We decided to leave further details and distinction to the researcher/future user.

One of the major challenges for us was that we tended to overthink when it came to categorisation, labelling, and the use of correct terminology that reflects current scholarly consensus and interests. We had to refocus on what people would use our digital edition for, what filters they need to use. It would not allow them to do quite the same type of analysis as they would by querying a more comprehensively marked-up text, but in every project, we have to decide what is most important to us and to the researchers we are expecting to use the digital resource, and concentrate on that. We had to remind ourselves that we should not lose sight of the fact that what we are doing is making the *PLRE* accessible, and we are not doing the interpretations. Above all, we are digitising a work of scholarship which means we are not going back to the sources.

Conclusion

All the distinct factors and considerations we have described in this article contribute to an intriguing duality of the digital edition of the *PLRE*. On the one hand it is going to be a faithful rendition of the original, but on the other the medium and functionalities that we hope will speed up research and potentially facilitate asking new research questions, still require a degree of interpretation and intervention. It is significant not just because it applies to the digital *PLRE*.

As we mentioned in the beginning, this is merely the first stage of the more advanced *Connecting Late Antiquities* project. We plan to expand the *PLRE* into *CLA*, which ought to include more non-elites, women, and anonymous people: basically, everyone in the ancient world of whom a trace has been left in one form or the other. It explains why we are already discussing now the question of how to mark-up people who are not in the *PLRE*. This expansion is not simply a 'beyond *PLRE*', but it also involves integrating all the various *addenda et corrigenda* that have appeared since the original publication of the *PLRE* volumes.

Eventually, we will have the *CLA* database next to the digitised *PLRE*. This means that the way we handle the challenges discussed above will impact the structure of the *CLA* platform. In a way our work grows organically from the *PLRE* and projects that came before it, ultimately being an evolution, not a revolution.

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NOTE BIOGRAFICHE DEGLI AUTORI

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De Longis, Eleonora è Prima Tecnologa presso l'Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici (EPR), dove è responsabile delle infrastrutture di ricerca Archivio storico e Biblioteca. Conseguito il dottorato di ricerca in Scienze documentarie, linguistiche e letterarie presso la Sapienza Università di Roma, si è occupata prevalentemente di riordinamento, inventariazione e valorizzazione di archivi storici presso l'Archivio Apostolico Vaticano, l'Archivio Centrale dello Stato, la Fondazione Istituto Gramsci, il Parco archeologico di Ostia Antica. I suoi attuali interessi di ricerca si concentrano sulla storia degli istituti culturali stranieri a Roma tra Otto e Novecento, sulle *Digital Humanities* e sulle fonti digitali per la ricerca storica e archeologica. Tra le sue recenti pubblicazioni: *Il Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum dall'analogico al digitale* («AIDAinformazioni. Rivista semestrale di scienze dell'informazione», 2023); *Fonti per lo studio della cultura nordeuropea: l'offerta digitale dell'Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici* («Digitalia», 2023); *Il velo trasparente. Politica e letteratura nello specchio della biblioteca dell'Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici* («Nuovi annali della Scuola speciale per archivisti e bibliotecari», 2020).

Di Lenardo, Andrea si laurea nel 2019 in Storia presso l'Università "Ca' Foscari" di Venezia con una tesi in Storia delle religioni dal titolo *Il corpo e il rito della circoncisione. Etnicità, politica e resistenza culturale nello scontro tra ebraismo e cristianesimo di I sec.* Nel 2021 consegue la laurea magistrale in Scienze dell'antichità: archeologia, storia, letterature, curriculum archeologico, all'Università degli Studi di Udine interateneo con l'Università degli Studi di Trieste con una tesi dal titolo *A Cesare quel che è di Cesare. Gesù, gesuani e gruppi politici giudaici di I secolo d.C.* Attualmente è dottorando di ricerca all'Università "Ca' Foscari" di Venezia (interateneo con gli atenei di Udine e Trieste) con un progetto di ricerca dal titolo *I gruppi giudaici all'epoca di Gesù.*

Favalli, Alessandra è stata assegnista di ricerca nell'ambito del Progetto MUR PRIN 2022 "*Italian Lily*" *People and Books from Italy to France in the Sixteenth Century* presso l'Università di Trento. Nel 2015 ha conseguito la laurea magistrale in Scienze storiche presso l'Università degli studi di Milano con una tesi dal titolo *Il ruolo delle vedove di casa Guisa fra ragioni politiche e strategie familiari all'epilogo delle guerre di religione in Francia (1587-1589).* Nel 2017 ha ottenuto il Diploma della Scuola di Archivistica, Paleografia e Diplomatica dell'Archivio di Stato di Milano. Dal 2021 è dottoressa di ricerca in Storia dell'Europa/*Histoire moderne et contemporaine*, con cotutela internazionale tra l'Università degli studi di Teramo e PSL - *École nationale des chartes*; ha scritto una tesi dal titolo *Il rango e la dinastia. Gli Este alla ricerca di un equilibrio politico nello spazio italiano ed europeo all'epoca delle guerre di religione francesi (1559-1580).*

Fuentes-Vélez, Laura è dottoranda presso l'Università degli studi di Torino. Si è laureata nel 2022 presso l'Università di Poitiers, con una tesi intitolata "*Tentative de microhistoire du dème de Thorikos en Attique pendant le IV^e siècle av. n. è.*" Attualmente sviluppa una ricerca che prevede uno studio prosopografico sistematico dei fratelli impegnati nella vita pubblica ateniese. L'obiettivo è di rintracciare e illustrare le modalità d'inserimento delle famiglie nella prassi democratica. Le epigrafi e i rapporti archeologici costituiscono le risorse d'informazione privilegiate, offrendo un approccio interdisciplinare allo studio dell'Antichità greca. Tale approccio è arricchito attraverso l'esperienza sul campo da progetti svolti in Grecia (Scuola Svizzera di Archeologia in Grecia) ed Egitto (Istituto Francese di Archeologia Orientale).

Gasparis, Charalambos è dottore di ricerca in Storia medievale (Dipartimento di Storia e Archeologia, Università di Creta), Direttore di Ricerca presso l'Istituto di Ricerche Storiche, Fondazione Nazionale Ellenica delle Ricerche, Atene. È uno specialista della dominazione veneziana nei territori greci durante il tardo Medioevo. Ha pubblicato libri e articoli sulla società e l'economia rurale, il commercio e la vita cittadina a Creta e nelle altre colonie veneziane dell'Egeo. Ha inoltre curato l'edizione di fonti latine riguardanti la Creta veneziana dal XIII al XV secolo (<http://www.eie.gr/nhrf/institutes/ibr/cvs/cv-gasparis-en.pdf>).

Giannachi, Francesco è professore ordinario di Civiltà bizantina presso il Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici dell'Università del Salento. Si occupa della tradizione dei testi greci con particolare attenzione per la poesia antica, la sua ricezione nel Medioevo e nella Età contemporanea, le vestigia di grecità della Terra d'Otranto (testi, letteratura di tradizione orale, evoluzione linguistica del Greco otrantino) la letteratura in greco del XVII e XVIII secolo. Collabora presso la *Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften* al progetto VLACH (*Vanishing Languages and Cultural Heritage*) con il ruolo di *Community Consultant* per il dialetto neogreco del Salento. È tra i vincitori del bando *Marie Curie Doctoral Network 2021*, finanziato dalla Commissione Europea per la realizzazione di due percorsi dottorali dedicati alla minoranza ellenofona del Salento.

Grimm-Stadelmann, Isabel è Docente di Storia della scienza della medicina bizantina all'Università Ludwig Maximilian di Monaco di Baviera, è inoltre ricercatrice associata presso l'Accademia Bavarese di Scienze e Lettere. La sua ricerca si è sempre concentrata sui manoscritti medici bizantini e sulla loro ricezione, nonché sulle tradizioni transculturali all'interno della medicina bizantina. Ha pubblicato moltissimo sulla tematica e ha ricevuto vari riconoscimenti accademici per le sue ricerche.

Handl, András is SNFS Swiss Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Bern and honorary research fellow at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium. He currently works on religious aspects of migration and mobility to the city of Rome in Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages. He is co-editor of the special issue of the *Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum* to 'Migration: Rhetoric and Reality in Late Antiquity.' He is initiator of MigRel.Net, a research network for exploring entanglements of migration and religion in antiquity. He is also PI of a multidisciplinary research project (re)examining the Hippolytos-statue, the earliest known Christian(ized) free-standing sculpture funded by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). More broadly, he is interested in the relations between Christians and the City of Rome, history of papacy, the cult of saints, martyrs, and relics, and in material remains of (early) Christianity.

Lampeggi, Jacopo è attualmente assegnista di ricerca nell'ambito del Progetto MUR PRIN 2022 "*Mediterranean Multipolarity and Roman Unipolarity. Power Competition and Collaboration in the Graeco-Roman Geopolitics (3rd-2nd century BCE)*" (P.I. Prof.ssa M. D'Agostini, Università di Bergamo), membro dell'unità dell'Università degli studi di Torino. È esperto di prosopografia, epigrafia e storia dell'amministrazione romana. I suoi interessi si concentrano principalmente sulla composizione delle *élite* dominanti, in particolare di quella equestre, e della loro integrazione nei quadri della burocrazia tardo-repubblicana e alto-imperiale. Nel 2023 ha conseguito il titolo di dottore di ricerca in Scienze Archeologiche, Storiche e Storico-artistiche presso l'Università degli studi di Torino con una tesi dal titolo *Nascita e affermazione di un'aristocrazia equestre da Marco Aurelio a Costantino unico imperatore (169-324 d.C.)*, che ha meritato il Premio Nazionale CUSGR – Consulta Universitaria di Storia Greca e Romana del 2023.

Licini, Stefania è professoressa ordinaria presso il Dipartimento di *Management* dell'Università di studi di Bergamo e membro del Consiglio di dottorato in *Management, Contabilità e Finanza* presso la stessa Istituzione. Insegna storia dell'economia e dell'impresa sia a livello universitario che post-universitario. Ha conseguito un dottorato di ricerca in Storia economica e sociale

presso l'Università Bocconi (1989) e una laurea in Discipline economiche e sociali, sempre presso l'Università Bocconi (1981). La sua ricerca si concentra sullo studio delle disuguaglianze e delle élite, della storia dell'impresa e della storia di genere, con particolare attenzione all'Italia tra la fine del XIX e l'inizio del XX secolo. È autrice di diverse monografie e articoli su riviste accademiche nazionali e internazionali di primo piano, tra cui *Rivista di Storia Economica*, *Società e Storia*, *Imprese e Storia*, *Annali di Storia d'Impresa*, *Quaderni Storici*, *Women's History Review*, *Business History*, *The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought* e *Accounting History*. Ha inoltre contribuito con alcuni capitoli a volumi collettivi pubblicati da case editrici di fama internazionale come Springer e Routledge.

Paradziński, Aleksander (DPhil Oxford, 2019) is a Heinz-Heinen Postdoctoral Fellow at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies at the University of Bonn. His current research focuses on Late Antique elite women, their dependents, and systems of dependencies. He worked previously as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Exeter in the *Connecting Late Antiquities* project, funded by DFG and AHRC and headed by Julia Hillner (Bonn) and Richard Flower (Exeter), and as an Assistant Professor at the University of Warsaw on *The Missing Link. The Lost Latin Historiography of the Later Roman Empire* project, funded by NCN and headed by Paweł Janiszewski. His scholarly interests involve social history, the use of digital tools in humanities and Latin historiography.

Petraccia, Maria Federica ha conseguito il dottorato di ricerca in Storia antica e successivamente, grazie ad una borsa di studio CNR, ha trascorso tre anni presso l'*École Pratique des Hautes Études* con sede a Parigi (La Sorbonne-Paris IV). È attualmente Professoressa associata presso il DISPI (Dipartimento di Scienze politiche e internazionali) dell'Università di Genova dove ricopre gli insegnamenti di Storia romana ed Elementi e Fonti per la storia Romana, anche nella Scuola di Dottorato di ricerca in Culture classiche e moderne. All'interno della neonata laurea triennale di 'Politiche, Governance e Informazione dello Sport', tiene un ciclo di seminari sulla Storia politico-istituzionale e amministrativa dell'età romana. È stata Visiting Professor presso le Università di Paris IV-Sorbonne, Madrid, Malaga e Pamplona. A partire dal dicembre 2020 è Delegato del Rettore dell'Università degli Studi di Genova ai Rapporti con le istituzioni culturali italiane ed estere. È membro dell'*Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grécque et Latine*. È Codirettore della Collana 'Giano Bifronte' (Genova University Press) e Direttore della collana 'Scheria' (editore De Ferrari-Genova). È stata componente della segreteria scientifica e organizzativa di numerosi Convegni nazionali e internazionali. È autrice di diverse monografie e curatele e di numerosi articoli, saggi e recensioni su riviste italiane e straniere. Sue principali linee di ricerca sono: a) le magistrature municipali dell'Italia antica; b) l'esercito romano; c) i sistemi di spionaggio a Roma; d) l'erudizione e gli studi sulla storiografia antica nell'Italia del Seicento e dell'Ottocento (nello specifico si è occupata dell'illustre fabrianese Camillo Ramelli).

Pomero, Margherita Elena è ricercatrice in Civiltà Bizantina presso l'Università di Bologna dal 2023. I suoi principali ambiti di studio riguardano la storia culturale e l'ideologia politica dell'impero bizantino, con particolare attenzione alle fonti numismatiche e sigillografiche. Su questi temi ha pubblicato la monografia *Propaganda politica, imperatori e iconografia monetale nel mondo bizantino (1204-1328)* (Fondazione CISAM, Spoleto 2022). Attualmente è impegnata nel progetto *L'eredità nascosta. I sigilli di età esarcale nelle collezioni museali italiane*, all'interno del Partenariato CHANGES – *Cultural Heritage Active Innovation for Next-Gen Sustainable Society* (PNRR, Spoke 4), e collabora con il gruppo di ricerca del progetto *Digital Byzantine Studies* (DiBS) dell'Università di Colonia.

Puech, Vincent est maître de conférences habilité à diriger des recherches (HDR) à l'Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, où il est membre de l'UR 2449 (Dynamiques Patrimoniales et Culturelles, UVSQ, Université Paris Saclay) et directeur de l'Institut d'Etudes Culturelles et Internationales (Unité de Formation et de Recherche en Histoire, Lettres et

Langues). Il est aussi membre associé de l'UMR 8167 (Orient & Méditerranée, composante Monde byzantin) et co-directeur de la collection des Monographies du Centre d'histoire et civilisation de Byzance aux éditions Peeters (Louvain, Belgique). Il a notamment publié *Constantin. Le premier empereur chrétien* (Paris 2011, rééd. 2022) et *Les élites de cour de Constantinople (450-610): une approche prosopographique des relations de pouvoir* (Bordeaux, Ausonius, 2021).

Rachello, Giovanni è dottorando dal 2022 del dottorato "Culture d'Europa. Ambiente, spazi, storie, arti, idee" dell'Università degli studi di Trento, con un progetto dal titolo *Subvertire Throni Francorum: memoria, conflitti e protagonisti delle deposizioni regie nel mondo carolingio*. Nel 2021 ha conseguito laurea magistrale in Scienze storiche presso Università degli studi di Verona e Università degli studi di Trento con una tesi dal titolo "*Corda regum in manum Dei: regalità, sovrani e deposizioni nell'Italia longobarda*". I suoi interessi di ricerca si concentrano sulla storia medievale, con particolare attenzione per la storia dei Longobardi, dei Carolingi, la storia militare, l'aristocrazia franca, la regalità, il potere e la legittimità nell'Alto Medioevo, l'identità e il territorio nell'Impero carolingio, le deposizioni regie nell'Europa altomedievale.

Rebottini, Carlo Alberto ha conseguito la Laurea in Storia presso l'*Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna con una tesi sulle ambascerie di Liutprando di Cremona a Costantinopoli, per poi laurearsi in Scienze storiche presso il medesimo ateneo con una tesi sullo scontro tra Odoacre e Teoderico. Attualmente è dottorando in Scienze storiche presso la Scuola Superiore di Studi Storici dell'Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino, con un progetto sull'Impero Romano d'Oriente tra Giustiniano ed Eraclio, con un'attenzione particolare agli aspetti politici e militari.

Redaelli, Davide è assegnista di ricerca presso il Dipartimento di studi umanistici e del patrimonio culturale dell'Università degli studi di Udine. Collaboratore del progetto *Lacunae*, volto alla creazione di uno strumento digitale che sfrutti l'AI al fine di elaborare suggerimenti per l'integrazione delle lacune dei documenti epigrafici, responsabile per le iscrizioni latine. Nel 2015 ha conseguito il titolo di dottore di ricerca in Scienze umanistiche (indirizzo antichistico) presso l'Università degli studi di Trieste, con una tesi dal titolo *I veterani delle milizie urbane in Italia e nelle province di lingua latina. Indagine storico-epigrafica*. I suoi interessi vertono sulla storia militare romana, con una particolare attenzione rivolta allo studio dei rapporti tra l'esercito e la società civile in Italia e nelle province di lingua latina e allo studio della storia dei corpi stanziati a Roma in età imperiale. Si è occupato anche di prosopografia e ricostruzione delle carriere dei ceti dirigenti romani (senatori e cavalieri), con una particolare attenzione al principato di Traiano. Applica lo studio delle fonti epigrafiche per l'analisi dell'economia romana.

Ricciardi, Alberto è professore associato di Storia medievale presso l'Università Guglielmo Marconi di Roma. È Laureato in Antichità e Istituzioni Medievali presso l'Università degli Studi di Torino. Ha conseguito il titolo di dottore di ricerca in Storia medievale presso l'Università degli Studi di Bologna (2004) ed è stato borsista di post-dottorato presso lo stesso ateneo (2004-2006). Dal 2006 collabora con il gruppo di ricerca *L'épistolaire antique et ses prolongements européens. Association Interdisciplinaire de Recherches sur l'Epistolaire*. I suoi interessi di ricerca riguardano la figura e l'opera di Gregorio Magno; i rapporti fra istituzioni politiche e religiose nel regno franco; l'epistolografia altomedievale; i miti di origine delle popolazioni barbariche.

Rossi, Leonardo è ricercatore specializzato in studi religiosi, in particolare in storia del cattolicesimo italiano contemporaneo. Durante il suo dottorato – svolto presso l'Università di Anversa all'interno del progetto internazionale '*Between saints and celebrities. The devotion and promotion of stigmatics in Europe, c.1800-1950*' (ERC, P.I. Prof. T. Van Osselaer) – ha indagato la diffusione del fenomeno stigmatico nell'Italia del XIX e XX secolo, focalizzandosi sulle devozioni popolari e sul responso delle autorità religiose (nella fattispecie la Congregazione del Sant'Uffizio) verso gli aspiranti emulanti del Cristo crocifisso. Partecipando come post-doc al

progetto *'Contested Bodies. The religious lives of corpses'* (FWO/SNF, P.I. Prof. T. Van Osselaer-A. Berlis), ha analizzato devozioni, rituali e contestazioni sviluppatesi intorno a corpi di eroi della fede popolarmente percepiti come 'incorrotti' ed esposti alla pubblica venerazione. I suoi interessi di ricerca sono rivolti a devozioni popolari, pratiche e credenze dei fedeli, cultura materiale (corpi e reliquie), affettata santità, fenomeni mistici e la loro ricezione nella società tardo moderna e contemporanea, temi che saranno al centro del suo prossimo progetto MSCA 'Quasi-SANTE' presso l'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.

Sansone, Alfredo si è formato presso l'Università della Calabria e l'Università degli Studi di Pavia, dove ha conseguito il titolo di Dottore di Ricerca in Storia nel 2019, trascorrendo anche un periodo di perfezionamento presso l'*Institutum Classicum* dell'Università di Helsinki come *PhD Fellow* nel maggio 2018. Nel 2019 è vincitore di una borsa di studio triennale Post-Doc presso la Scuola Superiore di Studi Storici dell'Università degli Studi di San Marino, dove si è occupato dello studio del carteggio epistolare fra Bartolomeo Borghesi e Luigi Nardi, ora pubblicato presso il Centro Sammarinese di Studi Storici con il titolo *Amicizia ed erudizione. Il carteggio scientifico tra Bartolomeo Borghesi e Luigi Nardi* (2024). Dal 2023 al 2024 è borsista di ricerca presso l'Istituto Italiano per la Storia Antica per un progetto sul rapporto tra l'Accademia dei Filopatri di Savignano sul Rubicone e Napoleone Bonaparte. Attualmente è assegnista di ricerca presso l'Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo per il progetto PRIN-PNRR MAP e docente a contratto in Storia romana presso l'Università degli Studi Niccolò Cusano. I suoi interessi di ricerca coinvolgono principalmente temi di storia romana ed epigrafia latina e vertono in particolare sull'analisi della documentazione epigrafica della Lucania antica, cui ha dedicato, oltre a vari articoli, una monografia nel 2021 (*Lucania romana. Ricerche di prosopografia e storia sociale, Roma, Quasar*). Altro suo campo d'indagine privilegiato è la storia degli studi classici fra Settecento e Ottocento, con particolare riguardo alla figura di Bartolomeo Borghesi e al suo ruolo pionieristico nello sviluppo scientifico in senso moderno di discipline come l'epigrafia, la prosopografia e la numismatica.

Sala, Stefano Carlo è dottorando in lettere classiche e storia antica presso l'Università di St. Andrews. In precedenza, ha studiato filologia classica e storia antica presso la Scuola Normale Superiore e l'Università di Pisa. La sua tesi di dottorato affronta il trattamento dei monumenti di Roma arcaica da parte dello storico d'età augustea Dionigi di Alicarnasso. Oltre all'interazione tra memoria storica e monumenti, gli ambiti d'interesse della sua ricerca includono alcuni aspetti dell'elaborazione letteraria della storiografia di Roma arcaica, quali lo sviluppo delle tradizioni gentilizie e i paralleli tra storia greca e storia romana.

Scevola, Roberto è professore ordinario di 'Diritto romano e fondamenti del diritto europeo' nell'Università di Padova dall'aprile 2023, dipartimento di Scienze Politiche Giuridiche e Studi Internazionali. In precedenza, laureatosi in Scienze Politiche e in Giurisprudenza presso l'Università Cattolica di Milano, nonché in Storia presso l'Università di Genova, ha conseguito il dottorato di ricerca in 'Diritto romano delle obbligazioni' presso l'Università 'Magna Graecia' di Catanzaro (2004) ed è stato assegnista presso l'Università 'Insubria' di Como (2004-2007). Ha pubblicato, oltre a varie monografie, numerosi contributi in volume e articoli in rivista inerenti al diritto romano (privato, processuale e pubblico), alla storia del pensiero giuridico romano, ai diritti greci, alla storia costituzionale moderna e contemporanea, nonché alla storia del pensiero politico. Infine, ha trascorso prolungati periodi di ricerca presso il Leopold-Wenger-Institut dell'Università di Monaco di Baviera ed è stato relatore in convegni nazionali o internazionali (specialmente Germania, Spagna e Francia).

Schreiner, Peter è professore emerito di storia e filologia bizantina all'università di Colonia, dove ha cominciato ad insegnare nel 1979 e dove è stato Direttore dell'Istituto di Studi Classici. Dal 1991 è socio corrispondente dell'Accademia Austriaca delle Scienze, dal 1993 membro dell'Accademia delle Scienze di Gottinga, dal 1994 dell'Istituto Siciliano di Studi Bizantini e Neoellenici, dal 1998 socio d'onore dell'Associazione dei Medievisti Russi e dal 2018 socio

dell'Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti. Oltre a essere autore di più di 500 pubblicazioni, è responsabile di prestigiosi progetti scientifici; è importante ricordare fra tutti il *Lexicon des Mittelalters*, di cui è stato curatore fra il 1992 e il 1999, e la *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*, di cui è stato direttore dal 1992 al 2004.

Svanoni, Roberta è dottoranda del corso di dottorato in Scienze linguistiche presso le Università degli studi di Bergamo e Pavia, con una tesi di ricerca in Storia medievale dal titolo: *(Ri)scrivere, archiviare e trasmettere la memoria: il caso del monastero di Astino (Bergamo, secoli XII – XVI)*. Ha conseguito la laurea magistrale in Scienze storiche curriculum Storia medievale presso l'Università degli studi di Milano, con una tesi dal titolo: *La signoria di Giovanni di Boemia su Bergamo (1331-1332)*.

Turrisi, Elisa è dottoranda dal 2022 presso l'Università degli studi di Palermo in "Patrimonio Culturale", con un progetto di ricerca intitolato: *"Una città alle porte del Rinascimento. Palermo e le sue élites urbane nella seconda metà del XV secolo"*. Nel 2021 ha conseguito la laurea magistrale in "Storia e Civiltà" presso l'Università di Pisa, nel 2023 il diploma di "Archivistica, Paleografia e Diplomatica" presso l'Archivio di Stato di Palermo. È stata borsista del Centro Studi sulla Civiltà Comunale in occasione dell'*"Atelier international de formation doctorale"* di San Gimignano, del Centro Studi per la storia delle campagne e del lavoro contadino di Montalcino, della Fondazione Centro Studi sul Tardo Medioevo di San Miniato e della I Scuola Internazionale di Studi Dottorali "Fonti per la storia economica europea (secoli XIII-XVII)".

Vlachou, Olga is a Byzantinist focusing on the social history of the Komnenoi and Angeloi dynasties. Having a theological background, she acquired her MA diploma in Byzantine History from the University of Athens, writing her thesis on *the prosopography and social networks of Michael Choniates' epistolography (ca. 1176-ca. 1204)* in 2021. Currently, she is working on her PhD project at Central European University in Vienna, aiming to reconstruct the social networks of 12th-century Byzantium through the surviving letters of contemporary *literati*.

van't Westeinde, Jessica (PhD Durham, 2017) is a Research Fellow at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies at the University of Bonn. She currently works on the DFG/AHRC funded project *Connecting Late Antiquities*, directed by Julia Hillner (Bonn) and Richard Flower (Exeter). Previously, she held positions at Bern, Tübingen, Kiel, and Aarhus. Her work mostly concentrates on social dynamics and religious history in the later Roman Empire. Somehow, she harbours a special fondness for Jerome of Stridon.