



Lunchtime Lecture

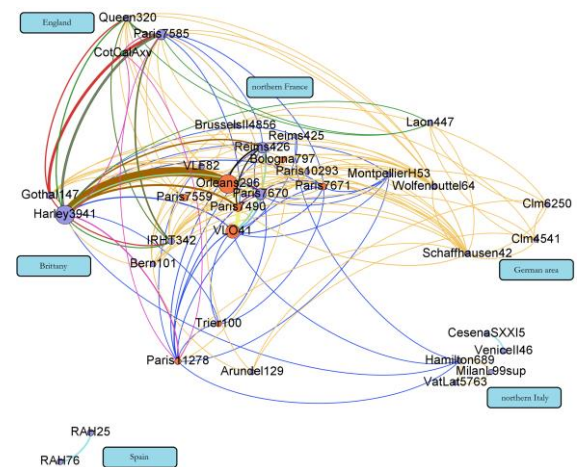
6.12.2023, 12:00 (s. t.)

UniMeet-Link: <https://unimeet.uni-graz.at/b/bau-r0l-mcw-72u>

Evina Stein

Network analysis as a method to untangle complex glossing corpora

Glossing was an integral part of medieval Western written culture. Yet, we still understand the phenomenon poorly due to its innate complexity – medieval glossators usually did not behave as traditional authors, and glosses rarely behave as composed set texts. Corpora of glosses to certain texts are particularly difficult to trace by the traditional methods, such as genealogical textual criticism and close reading, because of their highly organic character: they are a result of the activity of many small anonymous annotators working at different times and places, having modest objectives and limited access to resources (who were, however, at the same time connected). This talk will introduce a quantitative, computational model for analysing such organic corpora of glosses using network principles. We will see how the method can help one to identify connections between manuscripts that are meaningful and highly relevant but would be difficult to chart with the traditional methods. We will also delve into how the method could assist us in distinguishing different historical processes via which glosses entered manuscript pages, in particular discerning transmission by copying from other modes of transmission and from independent derivation. The method will be demonstrated on the corpus of early medieval glosses to the Etymologies of Isidore of Seville.



Evina Stein is a manuscript specialist, Latin philologist, and digital humanist. Her PhD, awarded by Utrecht University, dealt with annotation symbols in late antique and early medieval Western manuscripts. In 2018-2021, she led a project awarded by the Dutch Research Organisation (NWO) dedicated to the early medieval transmission and reception of the Etymologies of Isidore of Seville. She currently lives in an academic limbo in Beirut, Lebanon.