

History and its Sources – after the Digital Turn – 5.9.-8.9.2017

GRAINES Summer School 2017 – List of participants

TEACHING STAFF

KEY NOTE

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PARTICIPANTS & PRESENTERS

Romed Aschwanden (CH, BGSB)

Title of PhD Thesis: Issues with Europe - A network analysis of the german-speaking alpine conservation movement 1975-2005

Abstract

This project seeks to examine the complex negotiation processes in European politics by analysing European transport policy. European Union politics usually evolve in a complex, discordant field with actors at the regional, national and international levels. The study examines the disputes over European alpine transit policy between the 1970s and 2000s, with a comparative focus on Austria and Switzerland. It aims to assess to what extent environmental movements had an impact on European policy decisions at the national and supranational levels. The analysis is based on a network analysis focusing on the complex interplay between political and social actors, in particular around the German-speaking alpine conservation movement (Alpenschutzbewegung). The case studies of Austria and Switzerland include a member state of the

European Union (Austria) and a non-member (Switzerland). Theoretically, the project contributes to a non-teleological, open-ended understanding of European integration. The project focuses on Switzerland and on debates about alpine transit over the Gotthard Pass, particularly in the context of the so-called “Alpen-Initiative” which in 1994 imposed a restrictive transport policy framework and had a lasting impact on Swiss-EU relations. This case study offers the possibility to write a transnational history of environmental movements and open a new perspective on Europeanisation. Methodologically, it works with a historical network analysis, based on a state-of-the-art digital research instrument, Gephi, an established software for social network analysis and visualisation. The project focuses on Switzerland and on debates about alpine transit over the Gotthard Pass, particularly in the context of the so-called “Alpen-Initiative” which in 1994 imposed a restrictive transport policy framework and had a lasting impact on Swiss-EU relations. This case study offers the possibility to write a transnational history of environmental movements and open a new perspective on Europeanisation. Methodologically, it works with a historical network analysis, based on a state-of-the-art digital research instrument, Gephi, an established software for social network analysis and visualisation.

I am interested in digital history because...

I work with digital history-methods and I am eager to discuss my approaches within this international network.

Silke Bellanger (CH, University of Basel)

Staff member of the Research Support Department at the University Library of the University of Basel.

Miriam Baumeister (CH, BGSB)

Title of PhD Thesis: Locality and Translocality of Welfare - The Placement in Care of Adolescents in Basel in the 20th Century

Abstract

The study focusses on how the placement of adolescents in juvenile shelters in the cantons of Basel and Basel-Landschaft can be located spatially and institutionally in the 20th century. The aim is to render visible and analyze the translocal networks of the placement in suchlike care. The particular stages of the “asylum/shelter careers” will be reconstructed and analyzed based on the individual-related records of the shelters and public authorities in the two Basel half cantons. It shall be examined how many placements the adolescents underwent and how these placements were explained. This begs the question what impact spatial arguments and moral assessments had in this process. Which role did the urban-rural differentiation play? Did the placement target

to dislodge the adolescents from a certain (social) milieu? Did the placements respect the place of residence or the Swiss principle of (hereditary) origin (Heimatortprinzip) or did the process rather follow its very own logic that traversed local and/or federal lines? The German term “Fremdplatzierung” for “placement in care” does have its spatial dimension already semantically inscribed. The words “fremd” which translates into foreign or strange, as well as “Platzierung” meaning placement, refer to the dislocation intended by the authorities deciding. The system of youth welfare contrasts spaces that are characterized either detrimental or instead conducive for the adolescents. During the course of the individual “asylum/shelter careers” as well in the institutional cooperation in between authorities and institutions a network develops. The institutions examined in this study will be understood as nodes in such a spatial network. The relations in between physical and social spaces shall be unveiled and analyzed using spatial theory. It is intended to examine the spatial dimension of the placement in care with the support of geographical and network-analytic tools of digital history and to visualize it using maps, coordinate systems and schematics. In this regard the study also involves in proving the applicability of these methods in historical science. The study covers different research gaps. On the one hand the placement in juvenile shelters of adolescents since 1945 still needs to be scrutinized. Secondly the body of homes, asy-

lums and shelters for children and adolescents in the cantons Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft has not yet been studied sufficiently nor in relation to each other or the national level. (Switzerland remains always regarded as a highly federalized state.) The research on the system of youth welfare, especially in relation to the cooperation and interdependence of private and public actors, provides an important contribution to the history of Basel and to its positioning in the history of the Swiss welfare state. The focus on the spatial dimension of the placement in care offers an insight into the relations in between the federal cantons and in that way, also the national level of the system of youth welfare.

I am interested in digital history because... my PhD project confronts me with a big amount of individual-related data which nonetheless is to be kept separate from the individuals names (anonymized). Thus I'm very interested to store, sort and process the data without losing track of the single cases and their reference to the source (file) and name in the key document.

Audrey Bonvin (CH, University of Fribourg)
Title of PhD Thesis: Mutation of anti-communism: from Moral Re-armament to Initiatives of Change (1945-1990)

Abstract

Moral Re-armament is an international and politico-religious movement, based in Switzerland (Caux), whose anti-communist propaganda was strong in the 1950s and 1960s. The association almost disappeared before that it reinventing itself in the 1970s by reorienting its discourse towards the promotion of democratic freedoms and the defense of human rights. This SNSF project is subdivided into two parts. The first, carried by Cyril Michaud (University of Lausanne), concerns the golden age of the movement, during which anticommunism is combined with a religious and moralizing critique of capitalism. The second, led by Audrey Bonvin (University of Fribourg), considers the crisis of legitimacy that the movement is experiencing since the mid-1960s and how it evolves in its discourses and practices. Among its supporters, a vast network from the political, economic and military “elite”. Therefore, a systematic process of identification from archival records is necessary in order to identify them and to be able to access witnesses for an aspect of oral history on a second time. One of the methodological processes associated with Digital Humanities involves the development and exploitation of a Filemaker database listing profiles of conference participants between 1940 and 2000. (<http://www.unil.ch/hist/ram>)

I am interested in digital history because...
As historian, I am used to working with paper archives than Digital Humanities but I realized, especially in the last year that was the

first year of my PhD, how much these new tools are necessary these days, especially with my project. I have a lot to learn and have many questions to discuss with other researchers and professionals of this subject such as: how could I improve my own methodology and prosopographic database? Which programs could I use or know to estimate ? Moreover, a vast debate about this subject could be really a true occasion to exchange in a deeper way and I would look forward to this opportunity very much if I have the opportunity to participate.

Tom Cunningham (GB, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh)

Title of PhD Thesis: A Muscular Christianity: Missionaries, Gikuyu, and the Question of the Body in Colonial Kenya c1906-c1938.

Abstract

My thesis documents and critically examines the role of physical improvement and bodily transformation in the colonial-evangelical project of the Church of Scotland Mission to Kenya (CSM). It is set during the period between roughly 1906 and 1938, in the Gikuyu-speaking highlands: a time when the administrative, legal, and penal framework of settler colonialism in Kenya was established, in the part of the colony where missionary and colonial intervention was most intensive. With particular attention to the category of the “young native man,” a key site of contest in

colonial Kenya, the thesis analyses: the way the CSM represented native bodies and “customary” practices; the pivotal role played by CSM missionaries in the production of colonial knowledge regarding demographics and the health of the native population, particularly in relation to the “native labour question”; the “microphysical” techniques deployed by the missionaries of the CSM toward the end of “character formation” within their schools, with special emphasis on sport and games; and it revisits the well-known case of the CSM’s 1929 campaign against the custom of “female circumcision.” My thesis problematizes the CSM’s interventions and investments in the “politics of the body” in colonial Kenya, considering them as neither straightforwardly “benevolent” nor simply as a form of “cultural imperialism” but as a mode of colonial “biopower” - that is, “a power bent on generating forces, making them grow, and ordering them, rather than one dedicated to impeding them, making them submit, or destroying them.” It charts the CSM’s pursuit of this politics of “vitality” (their calls for labour regulation, their emphasis on hygiene, their lexicon of nurturing and cultivating) in a context that was characterised by morbidity, disease, famine, punishment, violence, extreme labour demands, racial boundaries, and struggles for generational authority. The thesis shows the ways in which the CSM’s concerted endeavour to “train” the bodies of young Gikuyu men, and reshape their lives by means of their bodies, intersected with other,

often competing, colonial projects and with vernacular ideas and practices: it begins with an exploration of the local understandings of the body and masculinity; and it ends by showing how, in the late 1920s and 1930s, a missionary grammar of bodily vitality was used by an emergent generation of literate Gikuyu male political leaders in their bid to forge a Gikuyu “body politic.”

I am interested in digital history because...

I participated in the first GRAINES summer school, in Menton France, during my Masters degree and really benefitted from meeting other scholars from across Europe who were working broadly in the same methodological field of Global and Transnational History. The theme of this years summer school will be particularly important for my career development because the question of digital humanities is one that is set to dominate the profession of history for the next generation. In particular, this years theme is interesting and important to me for two reasons. First, I am interested in what mapping technology and digital/spatial history can offer to the study of colonial Africa, a field of historical research where the impact of the “digital humanities” is notably absent. Second, I am interested in the broad issue of the digitisation of colonial/post-colonial archives in Africa. At the start of 2016 I worked on a 3 month British Library-funded “Endangered Archives Project” in which I oversaw the restoration and partial digitisation of a small and largely abandoned

church archive in Nairobi Kenya. The archive contained important and original material from the colonial and pre-colonial period.

Sophie Drescher (GB, St Andrews)

Title of PhD Thesis: The female connection. Mapping social networks in European travel, c.1770-1830

Abstract

What do we really know about travelling women, their networks and the spaces they accessed and occupied? Inspired by the methods of Digital Humanities this study traces European women travellers' social networks on their journeys through Europe during the decades around 1800. The project will examine how women's travel was planned and how itineraries developed along social and geographical lines, thereby creating transnational European networks. A specific focus will be the understudied spatial aspect, the spaces women travellers sought to access and the way they made their networks work for them to achieve their travel goals. The project, however, is not designed exclusively as a gender-studies project that focuses solely on female authors. It aims to highlight the connectivity of British, German, and French women travellers in relation to their male counterparts, as well as in connection to other female travellers and their networks.

I am interested in digital history because...

The spatial aspect is a main focus of my project, and Digital Humanities offer a way of analysing large sets of data for specific places. Mapping travellers' movements and accessed spaces promises to lead to new research results as well as to new questions. As I am new to Digital Humanities and still learning about the possibilities, chances, and risks GIS and other tools offer, I am very much looking forward to a workshop focussing on these topics and questions. I believe my project would benefit from participating as my knowledge and application of methodology and digital tools would be enhanced and improved.

Adam Dunn (GB, St Andrews)

Title of PhD Thesis: From words to numbers and maps. Transfers, networks and the transformations of statistical thinking in Britain, France and the German lands, c. 1780s-1840s

Abstract

The aim of this project is to map the changes in the perception and use of statistics from around 1800. The project seeks to establish how the concept of statistics shifted from a descriptive series of statistical accounts, often related to travel, compiled by mainly amateur statisticians, to the more mathematically-driven, state-operated model of statistics prevalent in the nineteenth century, finally, leading to the introduction of statistical maps in the mid nineteenth century. With this project

I intend to fill an important gap in our understanding of statistical entanglements around 1800, in two important ways: chronologically and spatially. First, the connection between the later Enlightenment to the mid nineteenth century has largely been neglected or has been studied under separate chronological categories. Little is known on the transformation from a more amateur-based concept of statistics to the first generations of a state-sponsored approach to statistics. Second, spatially speaking little is known for this period on the multiple cross-border activities of individuals, the transfer of knowledge and concepts such as statistics, and the underlying networks before we see a more organised and institutionalised approach from the 1840s onward.

I am interested in digital history because...

The digital turn in the humanities has opened up a world of possibilities for all scholars. In my own project, I have analysed large amounts of data collected by statisticians as well as detailing their travels across Europe and beyond. Thus, mapping software (such as GIS) and relational database software have helped me to organize the data. I am interested in coming to GRAINES to see how other historians have used the digital turn and what other uses they have for these new tools, especially in the conclusions they have derived from the tools of this digital turn.

Moritz Feichtinger (CH, Bern)

Title of postdoctoral Project: CTRL + all: Measuring societal change and Operational Research in warfare, administration and historiography

Abstract

Since the beginnings of computing and automatized data processing, the translation of societal dynamics into digital parameters presented one of the major challenges for technicians and researchers. Nevertheless, digitizing society also was one of the first fields where computing was applied. The research project attempts to combine three levels of analysis in the field of digital history: application of digital tools and techniques for historical inquiry, history of the digital era, and a historiographical analysis of the applications of digitally generated information in academic historiography and social sciences.

By taking the case of the „Hamlet Evaluation System“ (HES) established by the US-army during the war in South Vietnam as first example, it takes a look at early forms of digital operational research. At the same time, the data set stemming from the HES (an immense corpus of punch cards) will be examined using digital tools. The case of the HES in South Vietnam is of particular interest, because it was informed by expertise of social scientists and at the same time legitimized and informed military offensives, which again had enormous impacts on the society of South Vietnam.

A second empirical case study is the history of consumer research and quantitative political sciences in Germany. Already during the Nazi-regime, the actors from within the German government and administration experimented with automated and generation and examination of data on the German population. Though the two German states took opposite political directions after the end of the Second World War, both states continued with the digitization of administration and advanced their techniques of surveillance and data-processing. By looking on the technical as well as the epistemological developments in this regard in both German states in comparison, the political dimensions of administrative data-collection and processing can be analyzed. Thirdly, the research project will contribute to the history of digital history by analyzing the use of computers and computational methods in German historiography, particularly the so-called „Bielefelder Schule“ of social history. The quantitative and positivistic approach of this line of historical inquiry is not only of great influence until the present day, it was also characterized by a high affinity towards statistics and mechanized processing of historical information. The research project will ask, how and in which way the technical means applied shaped this particular historiographical approach.

I am interested in digital history because...
I feel it offers a wide range of new tools to foster innovations in historical research. At

the same time, I think it is necessary to critically reflect the application of novel techniques and claims of universality by this emerging field.

Uygar Karaca (Turkey, Koc University)

Title of PhD Thesis: Revisiting Economic Growth in Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria 1840-2000

Abstract

My Ph.D. dissertation project is titled as “Revisiting Economic Growth in Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria 1840-2000”. This study intends to investigate the patterns of urbanization and economic growth in Ottoman Empire, Turkey and Bulgaria between 1840 and 2000 using changes in population densities and occupational structure in a spatiotemporal regional perspective. Furthermore, it will also bring the geographical features into the analysis via historical GIS applications. The main aim of the proposed project is to provide a more qualitative perspective to the preceding studies regarding late Ottoman/Turkish/Bulgarian economic and urban history by focusing more closely on the dispersion of population densities and the allocation of various occupations in regions of the countries of interest between 1845 and 2000. From a methodological standpoint, it is my intention to stick to micro-regional approach within the new economic geography perspective while not leaving institutional factors aside,

since my contextual setting specifically urges me to keep a dialogue with both sides on the determinants of economic growth. The Ottoman Empire, like its other surrounding multi-ethnic empires of Habsburg and Russia, ruled over a large territory with significant regional discrepancies. Therefore, it is impossible to come up with a “one-fits-for-all” historical explanation for economic growth or the absence of it. In fact, various inter and intra-regional differences between the lands, which later became parts of Turkey following the Turkish War of Independence, 1919-1922 and Kingdom of Bulgaria, 1908 cannot be overlooked. Therefore first, as a unit of analysis, I would like to focus primarily on four cities: Ankara and Bursa for the Ottoman Empire/Turkey, and Plovdiv and Ruse for the Ottoman Empire/Bulgaria. Working on city level stands as a preliminary platform for further enlargement of the scale into regional units. However, one should also consider the various transformations that took place in the Ottoman Empire during the late 19th century in almost every aspect of socio-economic structure: tax and land reforms, bureaucratization and rationalization of state administration, huge population movements following the large-scale warfare. Furthermore, political and economic institutional setting continued to change almost without a break after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire; both for Bulgaria which became a part of Soviet led Eastern bloc and the Turkish Republic, which was driven into a peculiar form of state-led

industrialization capitalism throughout large part of the 20th century. Notwithstanding these two sides of the argument, geo-spatial aspects of the above-mentioned transformation processes should also be considered as determinant factors. This investigation aims to make use of Ottoman 1845 Tax Registers which include economic and occupational data for all cities considered above. In addition to that, I would like to also use all available Turkish National Census records (starting from 1927 to 2000, 14 in total) and Bulgarian National Census records (starting from 1934 to 2001). My aim is to link the 19th and 20th century Ottoman/Turkish and Ottoman/Bulgarian occupational transformation alongside with the changes in demographic structure from 1845 to 2000. To analyse and make occupational data comparable found in these sources, I will use PSTI (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary) occupational coding system which was found by Cambridge Group for The History of Population and Social Structure geographer, historian E.A Wrigley (in conjunction with Ros Davies) and developed later by Leigh Shaw-Taylor for further comparative studies. PSTI was utilized for a book project “Occupational Structure and Industrialization in Comparative Perspective” which includes 20 country-specific sections for an international comparison (<http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/occupations/international/inchos/>). My project does not only focus on the demographic and occupational transfor-

mation in two different spatial contexts but also includes geo-spatial dimension. In my view, geographical aspects within the scope of historical demography is crucially important and neglected to a large extent in the Ottoman, Turkish and Bulgarian economic history. Hence question to pose would be “to what extent were the geographical features decisive in the formation and transformation of spatial orderings in conjunction with demographic and occupational transformation?” While hovering around this problematic, I will work on historical maps conveying both topographical and administrative information which could be geo-referenced and processed by the terrain analysis methods provided by Geographical Information Systems; i.e. I have already worked with software like ArcGIS quite successfully for such purposes. The results that I expect to achieve would be multifaceted. One the one hand, conclusions from this project could have a relevance to the literature on economic growth and urban development for the polities and economies of interest, namely the Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria and Turkey. However, the expected results of the project could also have a say in wider context on the determinants of the urban hierarchy formation and uneven spatial development where the interplay between geographical, economical and institutional factors would be examined for possible linkages between population density, occupational structure and state formation processes.

I am interested in digital history because... My interest to GRAINES Summer School is stemming from two different strands: as a PhD student at Koç University, History Department and as a researcher of an ERC Project 679097, titled as “Industrialization and Urban Growth from the mid-nineteenth century Ottoman Empire to Contemporary Turkey in a Comparative Perspective, 1850-2000”, led by Assoc. Prof. M. Erdem Kabadayi. In this project, we examine and process demographic and occupational data from various official historical sources of mid- 19th c. Ottoman Empire to conduct a 150-year analysis of economic development and urbanisation within Ottoman Empire/Turkish Republic nexus. Some of these sources have recently been digitized and made available to public (2011) and have not been placed into an analytical perspective. During this process, we both discovered various opportunities as well as challenges of working with digitized historical sources in long term perspective. Therefore, GRAINES Summer School could provide me a good opportunity to share experiences and explore alternative methods that could be used to overcome difficulties on the way to make different quantitative historical sources compatible for the purposes of comparability. To give an example, occupational data found in various historical sources for a given country and/or different countries could be found in a myriad of forms which sometimes urges the researcher to bring innovative methods to find a basis of comparison.

As a PhD student, GRAINES Summer School would provide me opportunity to explore various ideas and viewpoints about digital history. When we consider the direction of historical studies concerning Ottoman Empire/Turkey, the general impact of what we might call “digital turn” and “spatial turn” in social sciences had only a marginal effect within the overall trajectory. Therefore, for fledgling PhD projects which needs to take off without much prior experience and referential basis, it is essential to flourish the theoretical and methodological framework within a wide network of opinions coming from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, as a PhD student who would like to implement spatiality as an element of historical analysis in the Ottoman Empire/Turkish context, I would like to share my views on the possible opportunities as well as limitations of utilizing historical GIS on more qualitative indicators of economics growth and development, namely agricultural productivity, population density and occupational structure. To what extent the topographical features could be introduced into historical analysis; in what ways and for which cases, it could enhance the qualitative aspect of the research? For these reasons, GRAINES Summer School would give me an excellent opportunity to widen my perspective and let me share experiences from Ottoman Empire/Turkish context.

Dr. Elias Kreyenbühl (University of Basel)

Head of the Digitalisation Department at the University Library of the University of Basel.

Piotr Kuligowski (Poland, Institute of History, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan)

Title of PhD Thesis: Czynski, Janowski, Kamienski, Królikowski, Worcell: Radicals Attitude to the Modernization Processes (after 1831)

Abstract

My PdH thesis concerns on five intellectuals, which are the most representative for the wide spectrum of the Polish radicalism after the collapse of the anti-Russian November Uprising, so after 1831. In my thesis I investigate the attitude of such persons, like Jan Czynski, Jan Nepomucen Janowski, Henryk Kamienski, Ludwik Królikowski, and Stanislaw Worcell, to the modernization processes, i.e. to conceptual change (the Polish Sattelzeit, using the Kosellecks term), to new understanding of historical time (opening up the horizon of the future), to democratisation, politicisation and industrialisation. My metodological approach is inspired by, for instance, approaches worked out by the Cambridge School (Quentin Skinner, John Pocock), the German tradition of Begriffsgeschichte, as well as the Warsaw School of the History of Ideas.

I am interested in digital history because...

I am interested in the history of concepts (I participate in research project “History of Polish Political Concepts 18th-20th century”, principal investigator - prof. Maciej Janowski, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw) and I use digital tools in my researchers (for instance to estimate the frequency of certain concept in a corpora of texts).

Catrina Langenegger (CH, Basel, Zentrum für Jüdische Studien)

Title of PhD Thesis: Krieg, Flüchtlinge, Aktivdienst. Schweizer Judentum zwischen den Fronten (provisional working title)

Abstract

Although there are studies about the Swiss refugee policy during the Second World War and about the civil camps, the question of how the Swiss administration met the challenge of providing large numbers of refugees with housing, food and clothing has not been adequately researched. The increasing number of refugees in 1942 strained the civil resources and the military was asked to stand in. Due to security policy, hygienic aspects and the small number of camps lead by a civil administration the military administration established a complex system of camps. My research centres on these military controlled refugee camps. Using the sources that are preserved in the Swiss Federal Archives I will focus on the administrative point of view.

The search for sources in the Archives showed that not much material about the camps is preserved. Most of it is statistic material such as weekly reports of the number and names of camps, the number of refugees in these camps, and the military personnel doing service there. As a part of my larger project and in cooperation with the Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Basel, a digital map will be created using the before mentioned statistic material. With this GIS-based map, the places of the refugee camps as well as their size can be visualised not only in a geographical distribution but also in their development over time. This allows a visualisation of the inflow of refugees and the military decisions of where to detain them geographically in a small country like Switzerland surrounded by warring countries.

I am interested in digital history because...

As a part of my larger project I work with a lot of statistic material and use the opportunities of digital humanities, such as Databases and visualizing the data in a digital map.

Ekaterina Mishina (Russia, Department of Historical Information Science, Lomonosov Moscow State University)

Title of PhD Thesis: The Social Profile of the Terror Victims in the Altai Region, 1935-1937: the Analysis of Statistical and Archival Sources

Abstract

I have been studying and working at the Department of Historical Information Science on the History Faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University since 2012. Now I'm on my second year of post-graduate education at the Department. In my PhD thesis dedicated to the reconstruction of a social prosopographic profile of terror victims in the Western Siberian Region in 1935-1937 I apply computer methods like databases, advanced statistical methods (multiple regression, cluster analysis, etc.), and GIS technology. One of the resources I use for my inquiry is the database made by historical and educational society "Memorial" which contains more than 2.5 million records of political terror victims covering the entire Soviet period. This database is compiled according to the "memory books", which were composed in many regions of the former USSR on the basis of archival NKVD investigative files. The original big database was constructed by the society "Memorial" in the MySQL format, which allows working with big sets of information. Successive requests for sampling from the database were made to identify information first by the time period interval under review, then by the corresponding territorial "memory". Constructed on the materials of the society "Memorial" database the new relational database contains the main table headlined "persons" and 39 subordinate tables according to the structure of society

"Memorial" database. Each field of the main table contains a five-digit number, which encodes both textual and quantitative information, namely fields with the date of arrest and sentence. To analyze these fields and compose the dynamics of repressive processes five-digit codes were translated into dates in the format "MM. YYYY" by update requests. This new database includes 1743 terror victims in Altai during the period under review. To check and clarify this information in the Altai State Archive I have scrutinized 150 declassified NKVD investigative files. As a result I have created my own database for 330 persons. The archival database consists of the main and five subordinate tables linked to each other by the field "number of victim". The fields of the main table correspond to the structure of the questionnaire of the arrested person contained in the archival investigation file and reflect information about the date and place of birth, place of residence, occupation, social status and origin, marital status, date of arrest and conviction, article, sentence, rehabilitation and file number. Data on party affiliation, service in the army, criminal records, further repression, as well as differences in the records discovered between the archival data and the society "Memorial" database, are displayed in the main table as logical fields and linked to the corresponding tables. Necessary information for analysis was selected by successive queries and then structured and processed mainly with STATISTICA package. Full information about every victim is

contained in the archival investigation files. Society “Memorial” database is secondary source based on “memory books” and these files and contains only a part of the information from the investigation files. Thus, the question of the correctness of the transfer of data from investigative files to “memory books” appears. The comparison of the materials of “memory books” and investigative files confirmed reliability and information capacity of the “Memorial” database. The reconstruction of the social profile of terror victims shows that main repressions were directed against men aged 31 to 50. The most severe repressions were applied to old people over 60 and to representatives of “other nationalities” like Germans, Ukrainians, and others. They were sentenced more often than Russians to the longest period of imprisonment - 10 years - or even to be executed. Repressive measures of the state hit the most numerous social groups - industrial and agricultural workers and servicemen. Contrary to the existing opinion in the literature, the “leading cadres” -secretaries of district party committees, directors of factories, enterprises - composed only 3.8% of all those subjected to repression during the period under research. The study of archival documents facilitates an insightful microanalysis, providing new results from the archival database. It showed that the majority of those who were repressed according to the data in the sample had a lower education or were illiterate. A significant proportion of the terror victims originated from different cate-

gories of the peasantry, which is not surprising for the predominantly agrarian region. The most brutal repressions were directed against the descendants of the kulaks and wealthy peasants as “non-Soviet elements”, but quite “Soviet” groups of the population suffered much more from terror: they came from poor peasants or middle peasants. Most of the repressed persons did not previously belong to political parties in accordance with the specialization of the region and the level of literacy of the population, but among the repressed people there were also “old” party members. One of the research objectives is to establish the factors of the repression in 1935-1937. I test the hypothesis of the impact of the socio-economic conditions in the Altai Region districts on the level of repression. Statistical analysis made with STATISTICA package shows that the level of the well-being of the population determined by 30% the degree of repression. Regression models shows that, despite the leading role of the political factor in carrying out repression, the level of the populations well-being also played an important role: where it was higher, the level of repression was on average also higher than in regions with poorer populations. The Altai Region included 55 districts in 1935, and spatial visualization needs to represent the intensity of repression in them. For this aim I use GIS-technology. Constructing a GIS based on the administrative-territorial division of Altai Region within the framework of the West Siberian Region in 1935, I took into consider-

ation changes in the boundaries of the districts that occurred after the Altai Region was singled out into a separate territorial unit in September 1937. I used MapInfo software to create the GIS. The table of socio-economic indicators of districts of the region was added to a map. All districts of Altai Region were divided into six clusters by the method of weighted pair-group average, depending on the value of each particular indicator. Using GIS has made it possible to identify clusters of districts, each of which is characterized by certain level in repression and social and economic indicators as well. The main perspective of this research is the comparative analysis of the social characteristics of terror victims in the 1930s with such characteristics of repressed people in other regions of the Soviet Union in the basis of more advanced methods and technologies.

I am interested in digital history because...

I have profound interest in taking part in the Summer School “History and its sources - after the digital turn” because in my PhD thesis I use various digital approaches to collect sources and the application of digital technology to analyze them. My PhD thesis is associated with effective use of advanced statistical methods - multiple regression and cluster analysis, GIS-technology and working with big data sets using database creating technologies. I’m looking to explore the qualitative and quantitative implications of digital history for my own work. I would like to improve my

skills in it and to deepen knowledge in using digital instruments for further improving my PhD thesis. Lectures and seminars of this Summer School could be an important step to achieve this aim.

Claus Musterle (CH, BGSH)

Title of PhD Thesis: Always Expect the Unexpected in Life: British and French Life Assurance in the Ottoman Empire (Turkey), 1890-1920 (Working Title)

Abstract

Framing the subject matter in terms of “connected history”, this thesis investigates the activities of British and French life assurers within the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) during the first half of the 20th century with a view to broadening our understanding of an industry precociously, albeit hesitantly and not without difficulty, expanding on a global scale. In order to explore the socio-cultural dissonances caused by the introduction into a non-Western context of a novel institution in many ways at odds with the traditions of an ailing and yet remarkably resilient agrarian empire, it exploits a mixed body of business and administrative sources as well as specialist literature conserved in France, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

I am interested in digital history because...

my project would enormously benefit from a better understanding of the various digital

approaches to collecting and analysing sources. By and large a novice to digital history, I'm particularly interested in tools for network analysis and digitalisation methods.

Gareth Owen (GB, St Andrews/University College School Hampstead)

Title of PhD Thesis: N/A

I am interested in digital history because...

As an incoming student to the University of St Andrews MLitt in Transnational, Global, and Spatial History, this workshop is directly related to the skills I shall be learning over the course of the academic year 2017-18.

Scott Schorr (GB, St Andrews)

Project title: Historians and Their Networks: The Design and Development of a Web-Based Collaboration Software for GRAINES

Abstract

My historical research has focused on the transnational study of the founding period of the European Space Agency (ESA). My computer science research has focused on the design and development of a Web-based collaboration software for researchers, largely influenced by my transnational history interests and past involvement with GRAINES. I presently work full-time as founder of a software start-up company based at the University of St Andrews called ideaQuad, which is based

on my computer science research and past study of transnational research collaboration networks from both an historical and technical perspective. To make my academic studies come full circle, I would like to present our ideaQuad software and its story to fellow participants, and demonstrate how ideaQuad could be used as a new virtual platform for transnational research collaboration between historians based at the six member universities of GRAINES. Visiting Scholar, School of Computer Science, 2017- MPhil in Computer Science, 2014-16 MSc in Computing and Information Technology, 2013-14 M.Litt in Modern History, 2012-13

I am interested in digital history because...

it perfectly aligns with my historical and technical interests.

Matthew Ylitalo (GB, St Andrews)

Title of PhD Thesis: Transmaritime Spaces of Opportunity: Nineteenth-Century Dundee and the Arctic Whaling Trade

Abstract

My thesis examines Dundee, Scotland and the social, economic and epistemic ramifications of its Arctic whaling trade during the nineteenth century. Although whaling never dominated the business landscape in Dundee (flax and jute manufacturing filled that role), by the late nineteenth century, Dundee had become Europe's leading whaling port. The extraor-

dinary demands and vicissitudes of this trade effectively created highly transitory and open-ended “spaces of opportunity” where local and global participants from numerous walks of life engaged and exchanged all manners of goods, services and ideas. These spaces of opportunity not only helped to define nineteenth-century Dundee, but they also positioned the city as a leader in capital entrepreneurialism for a time. This type of analysis complicates the traditional narratives because it crosses gendered, geographical and scalar boundaries in a way not previously considered.

I am interested in digital history because... I wish to interact with others who are delving into new issues regarding the use, presentation and theories of digital history. Digital history lies at the heart of my thesis, so engaging thinkers from other GRAINES institutions is a perfect opportunity to share, learn and network.