Retracing Theban Witnesses

Silke Vanbeselaere
The three main actors

1 scribe

2 contracting parties

16 witnesses
Witness lists on the verso of Demotic contracts
Trismegistos

465 k
references to people

300 k
ancient texts

Platform of databases
- texts (TEX)
- people (PER)
- references to people (REF)
- etc.

800 BC - AD 800

>10
ancient languages or scripts
Identification
through visualisation of our data
Step 1
Two-mode network: people in texts

One-mode network: people to people
Step 2
Identical names:
e.g. 4x Diodotos
Step 3

Similarities:
- people
- community
- other attributes
Identification through data visualization

REF
prosopography
dataviz
Scribes

according to contracting parties in common
Family relations?
Family relations?
Datavisualisation
Family relations
Datavisualisation AND Prosopography
Family relations

Datavisualisation AND
Prosopography
Witness networks
332 - 200 BC, Thebes, Demotic contracts
Parties-parties archives
Parties (archives) according to scribes
Network of contracting parties according to witnesses
Archives

as known from our sources
Communities

as obtained by community detection algorithm
Relation?

- between witnesses and archives
- between witnesses and parties?

Too many similarities for it to be random
http://spaghetti-os.blogspot.be

Think Social Network Analysis and ancient history don't go together? Think again!

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