Treasures and Traps on the Intersection of Data, Humanities and Computing

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Ph.D. Computational Linguistics 2010

NLP, Semantic Web & Digital Humanities

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Scientific Director ICAI Cultural AI Lab

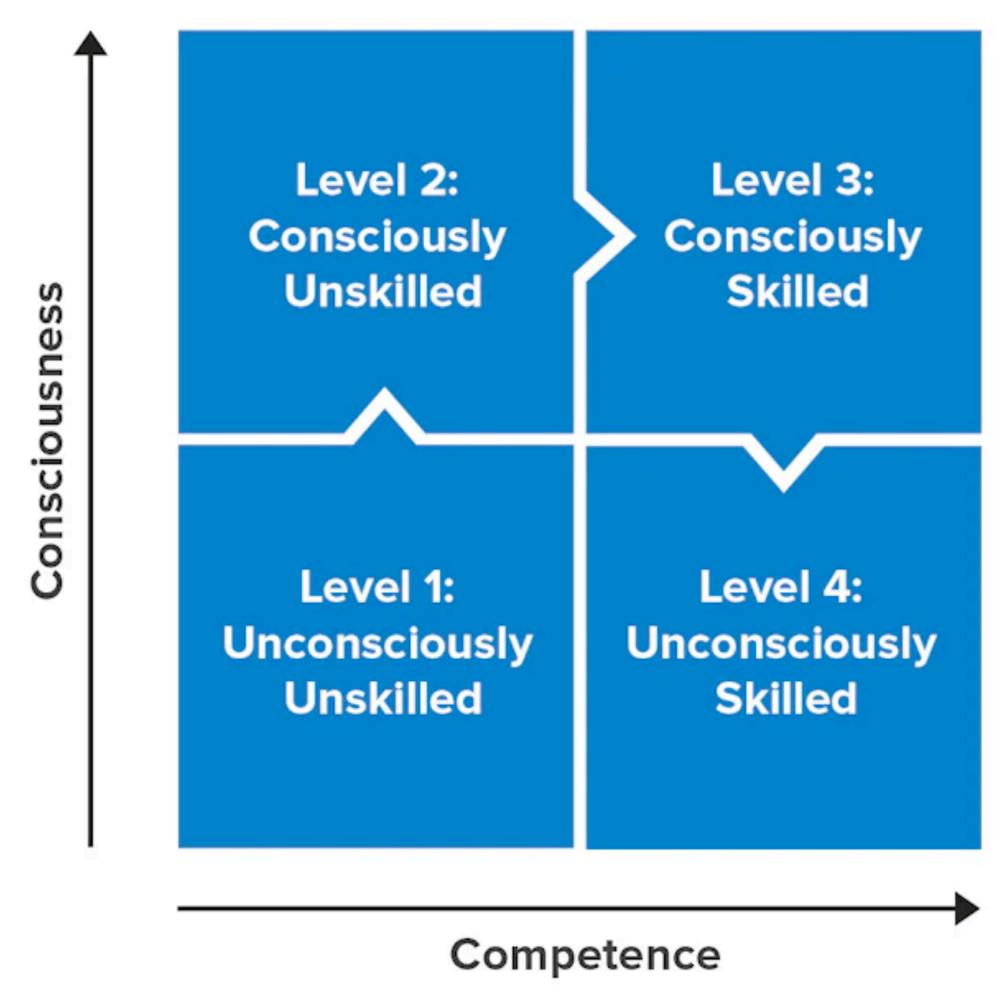
Current research: ERC CoG Trifecta, Culturally Aware Al

Academic because: l get to solve puzzles every day

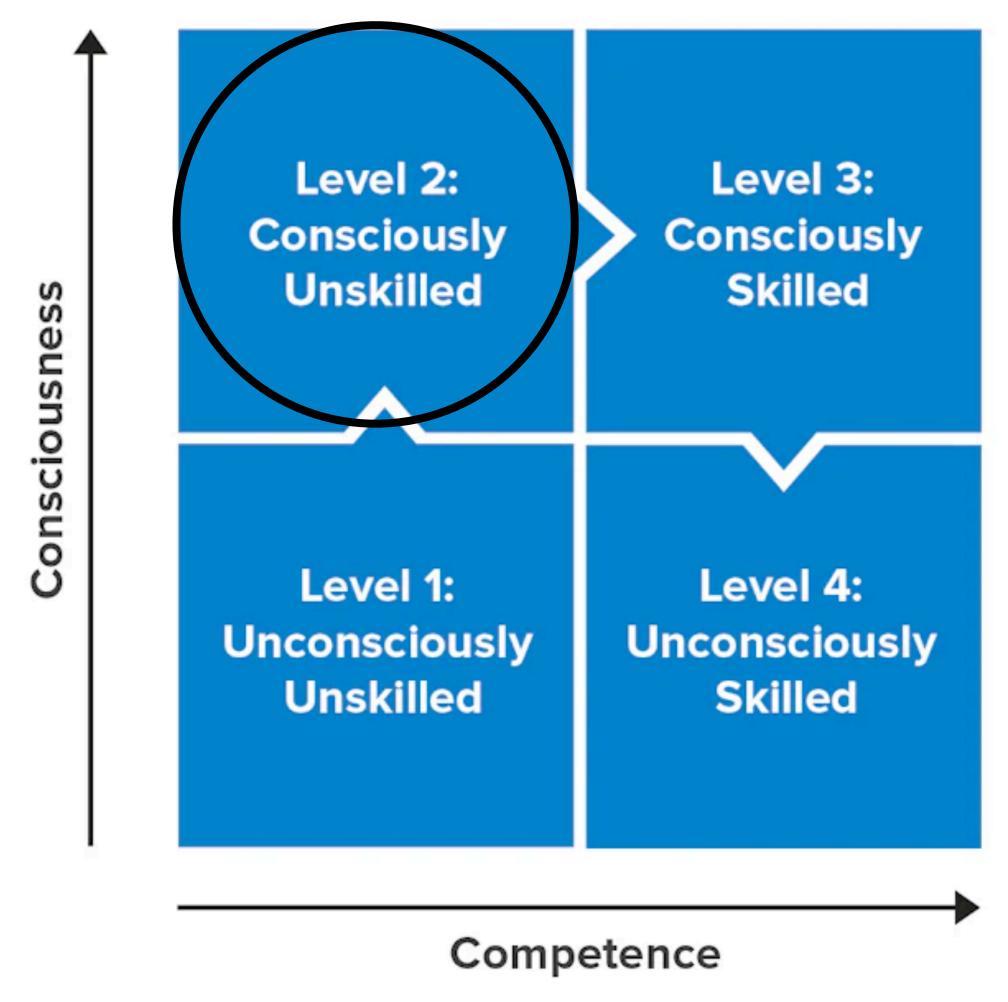
Surfer, swimmer, chocoholic

Visiting WIMMICS for Thematic Semester Digital Humanities & Al sponsored by AISSAI CNRS

Knowing what you don't know



Knowing what you don't know

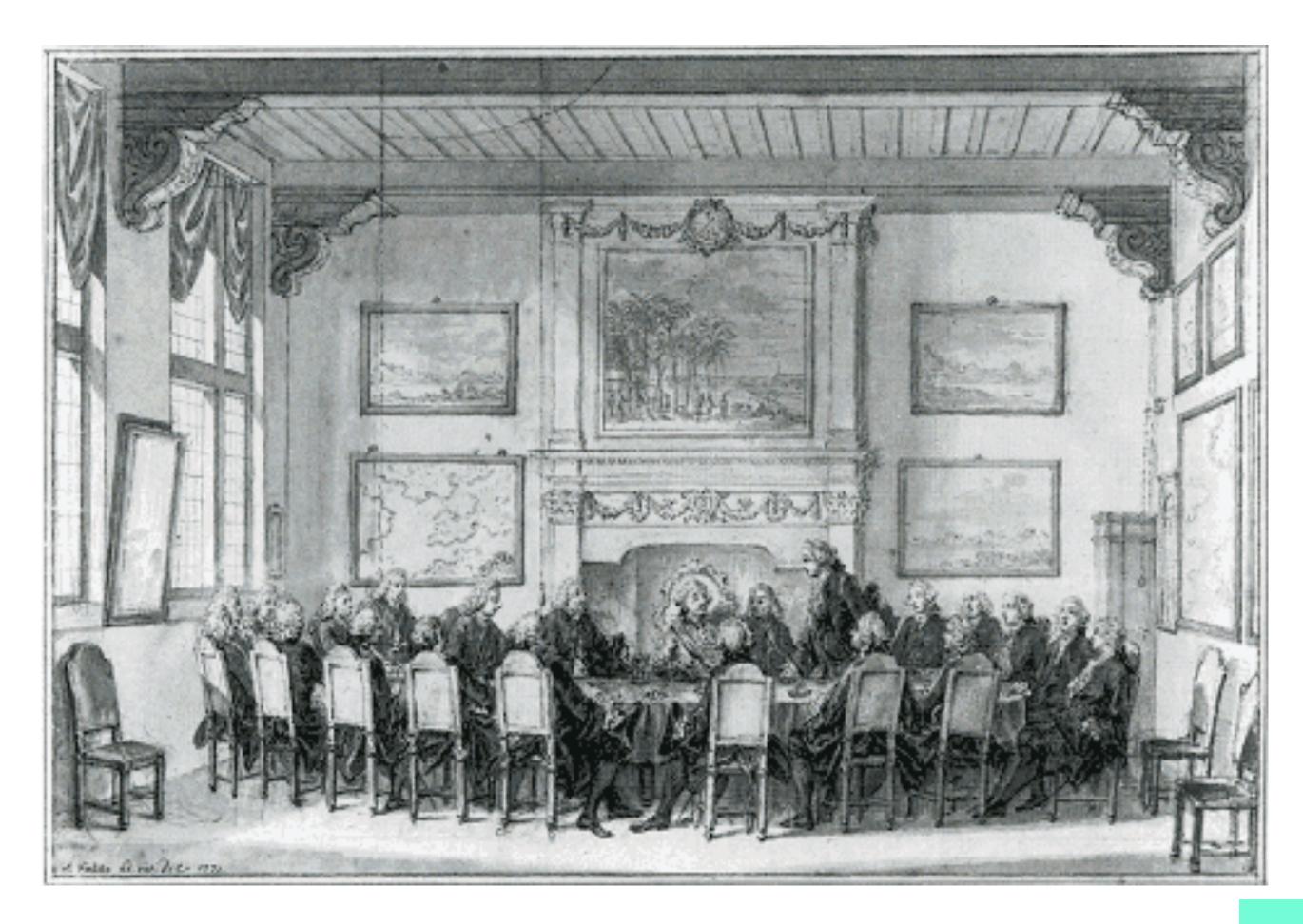


Unflattening Knowledge Graphs



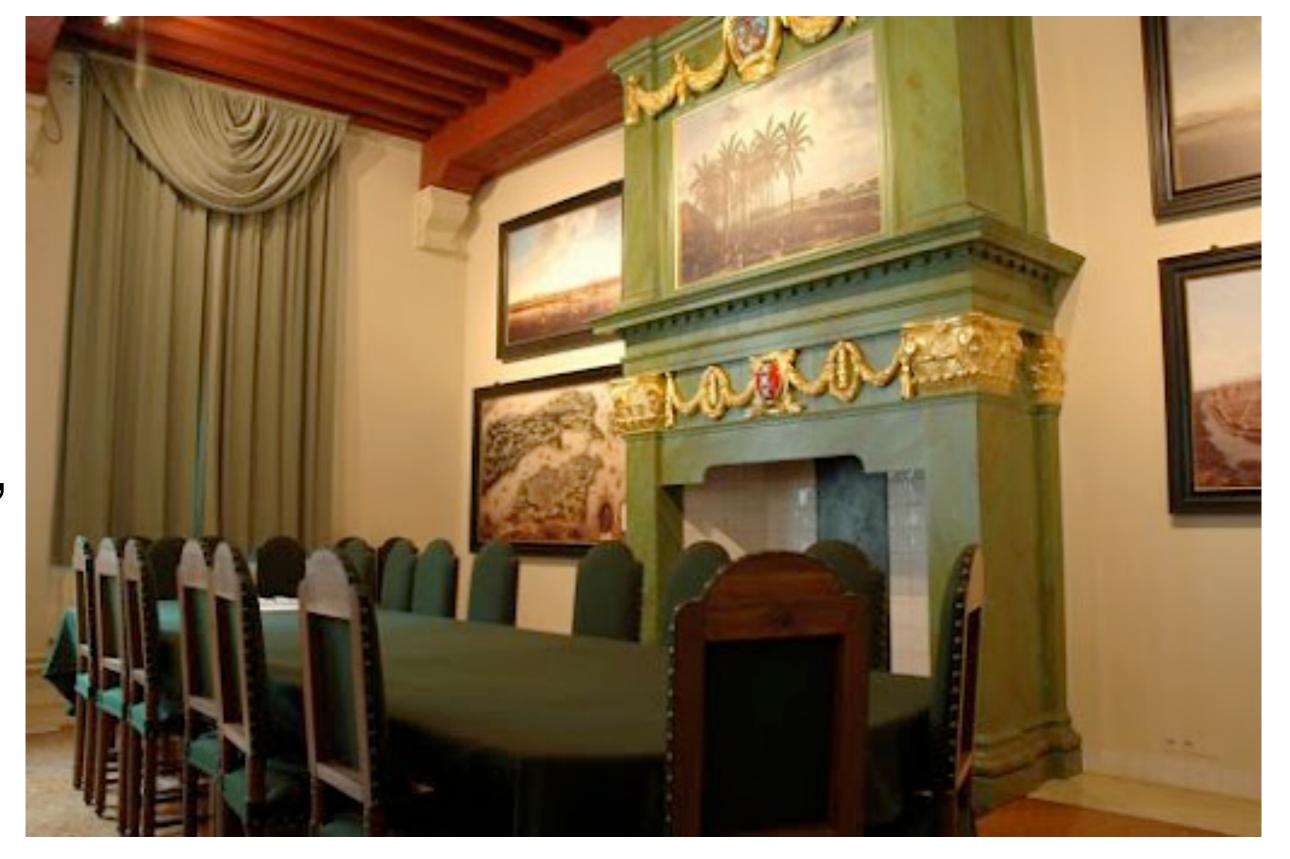
Dutch East India Company (VOC)

- Founded 1602, dissolved
 1799
- Trade company
- At its peak:
 - 57,000 employees
 - 150 merchant ships
 - 40 warships
 - 10,000 soldiers



VOC Archives (a selection)

- Employment records
 Amsterdam chamber (~800,000)
- 8,194 Voyages: ship name, master, dates and location for departure and arrival, particulars of the voyage
- 245,405 cargo items: per voyage, including weight and value
- 923 'general missives': yearly reports from the local governors to the Amsterdam board



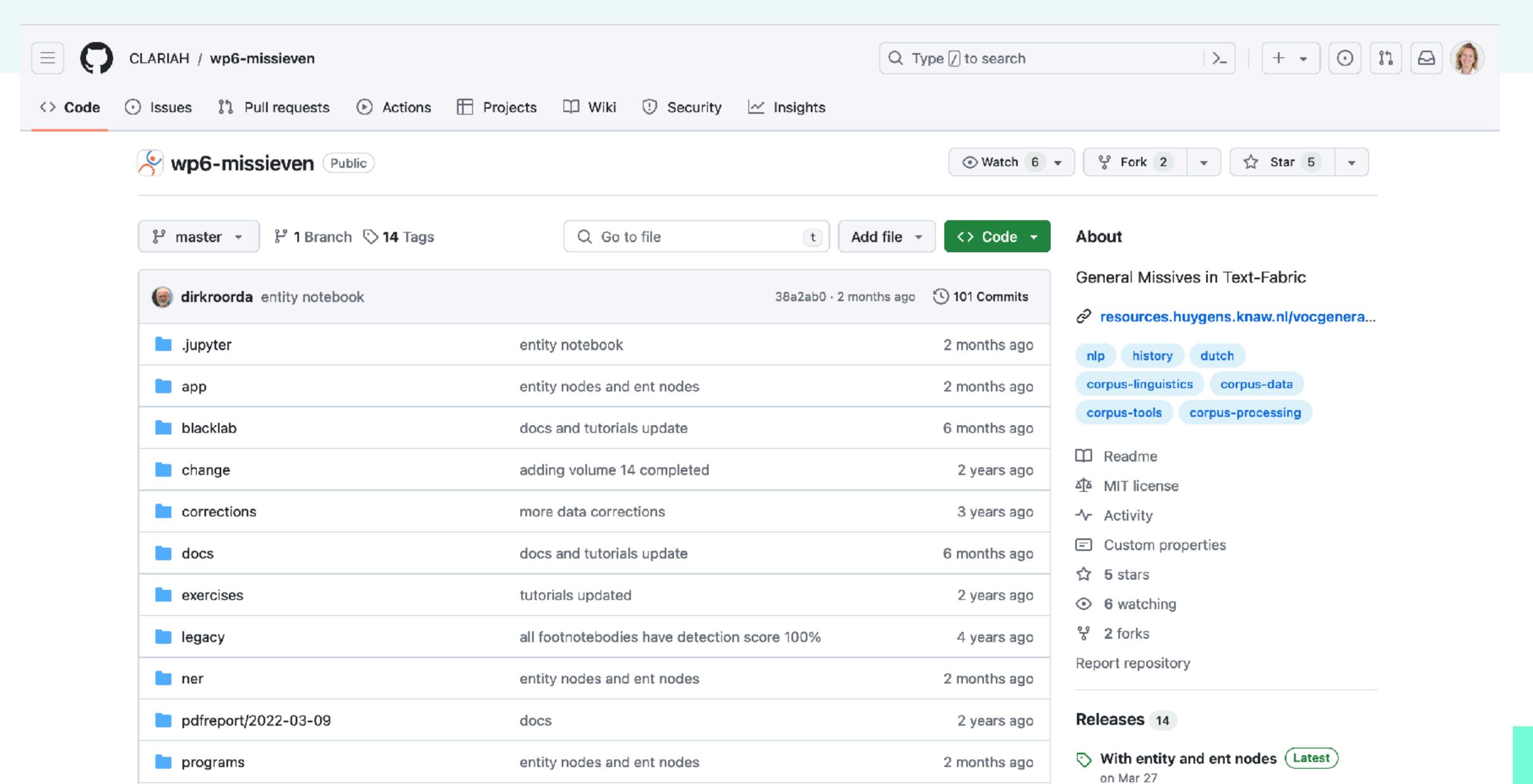
Tracing Opium

- VOC is most known for spice trade
- Also: opium and slave trade activities
- How can one assess the importance of a product to the VOC?
 - Analysis mentions in general letters & cargo logs

Jiaqi Zhu, Vera Provatorova, Jelle van Lottum and Marieke van Erp - Smoke and Mirrors: Tracing the Influence of the Opium Trade in the Dutch East India Company through Letters and Cargo Logs. DHBenelux 2024. Leuven 4-7 June, 2024

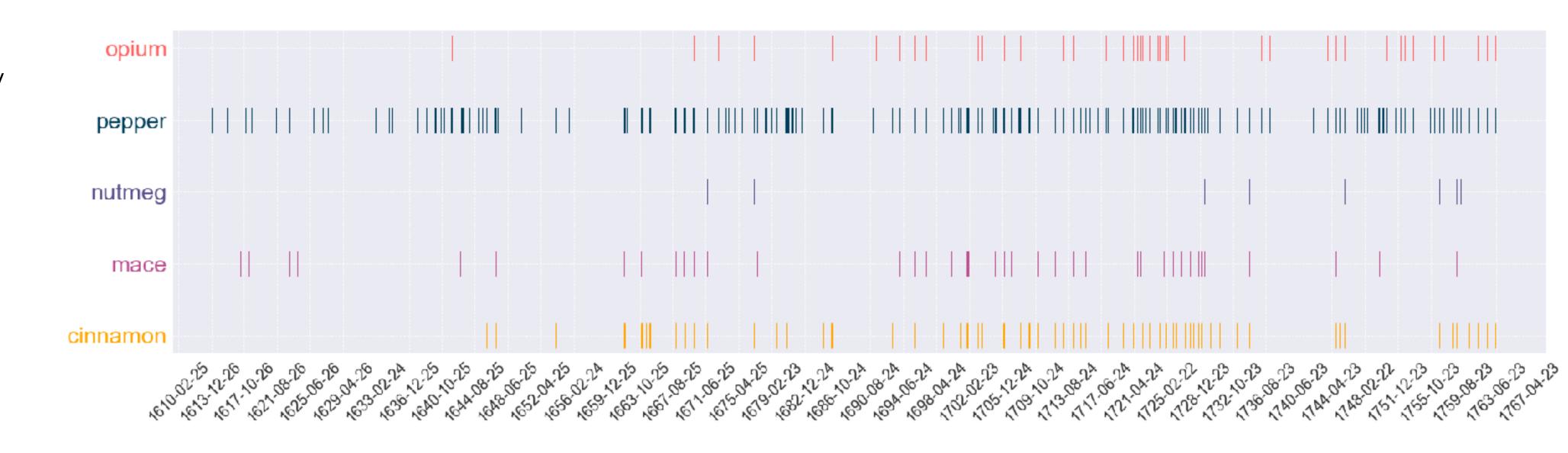


607 letters



Opium Mentions

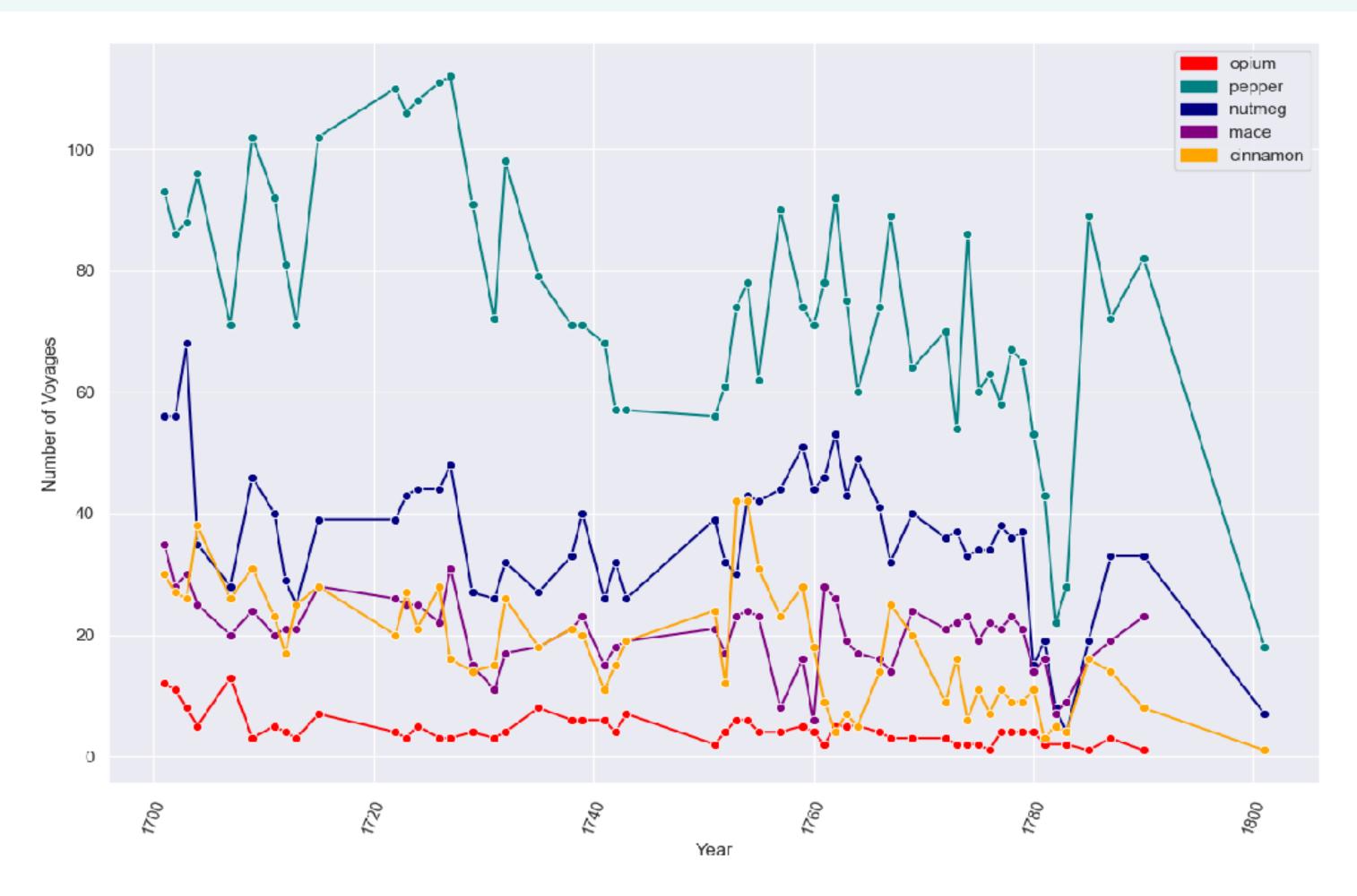
- opium was rarely mentioned in the GM before the middle of the seventeenth century
- but it started to appear frequently after the middle of the seventeenth century, especially during the 1720s.
- How to interpret the dynamics in the figure?
 We need historians' help



Appearances of opium in the GM over time compared to the most common spices

Occurrences in Bookkeeper General Batavia (cargo logs)

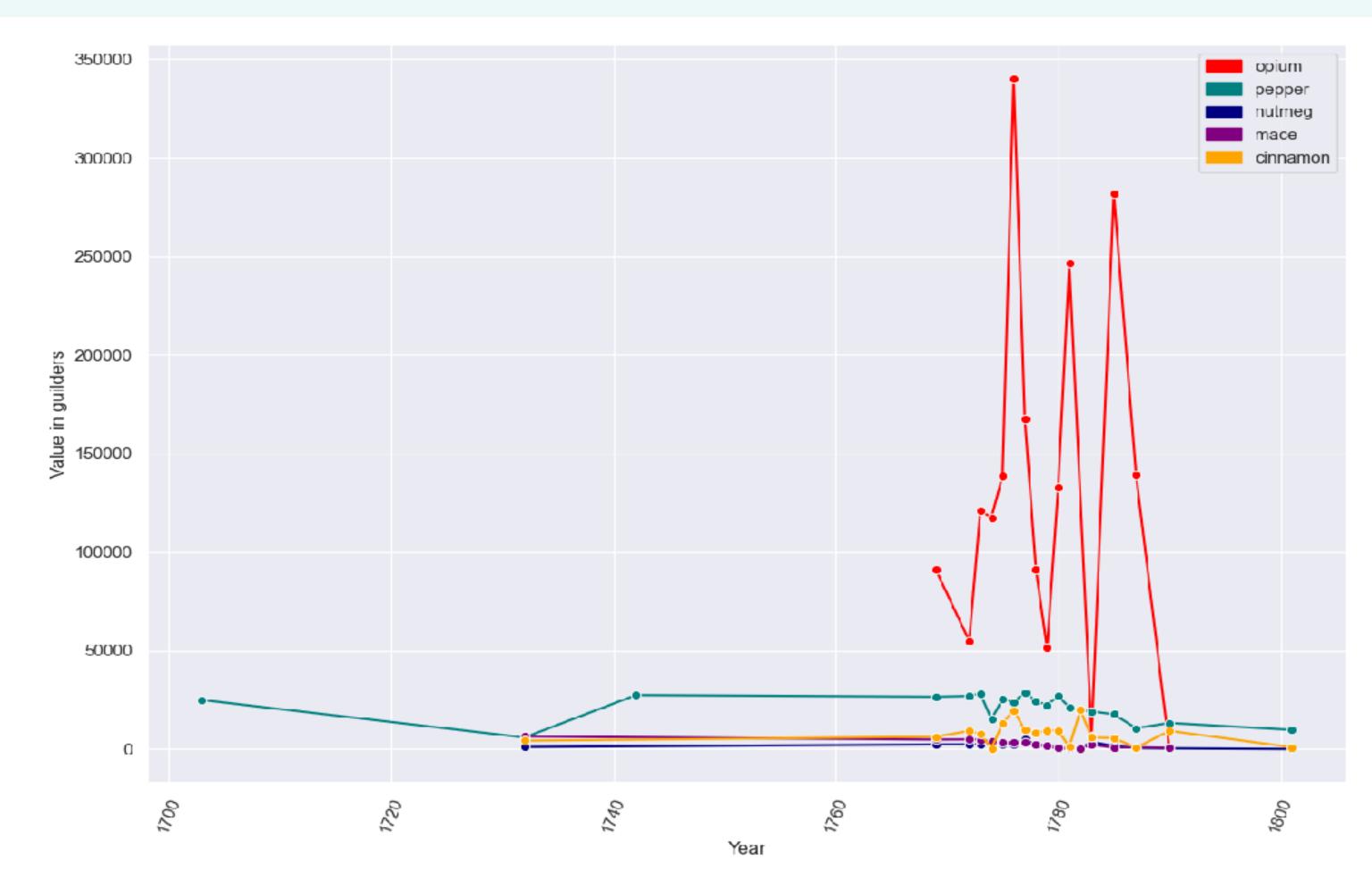
- the distribution of VOC ships per year that had opium, nutmeg, mace, pepper or cinnamon on their cargo lists in the eighteenth century.
- the opium trade was relatively stable as compared to the spices.



Number of times a commodity was listed as cargo per year according to Bookkeeper General Batavia

Opium Value

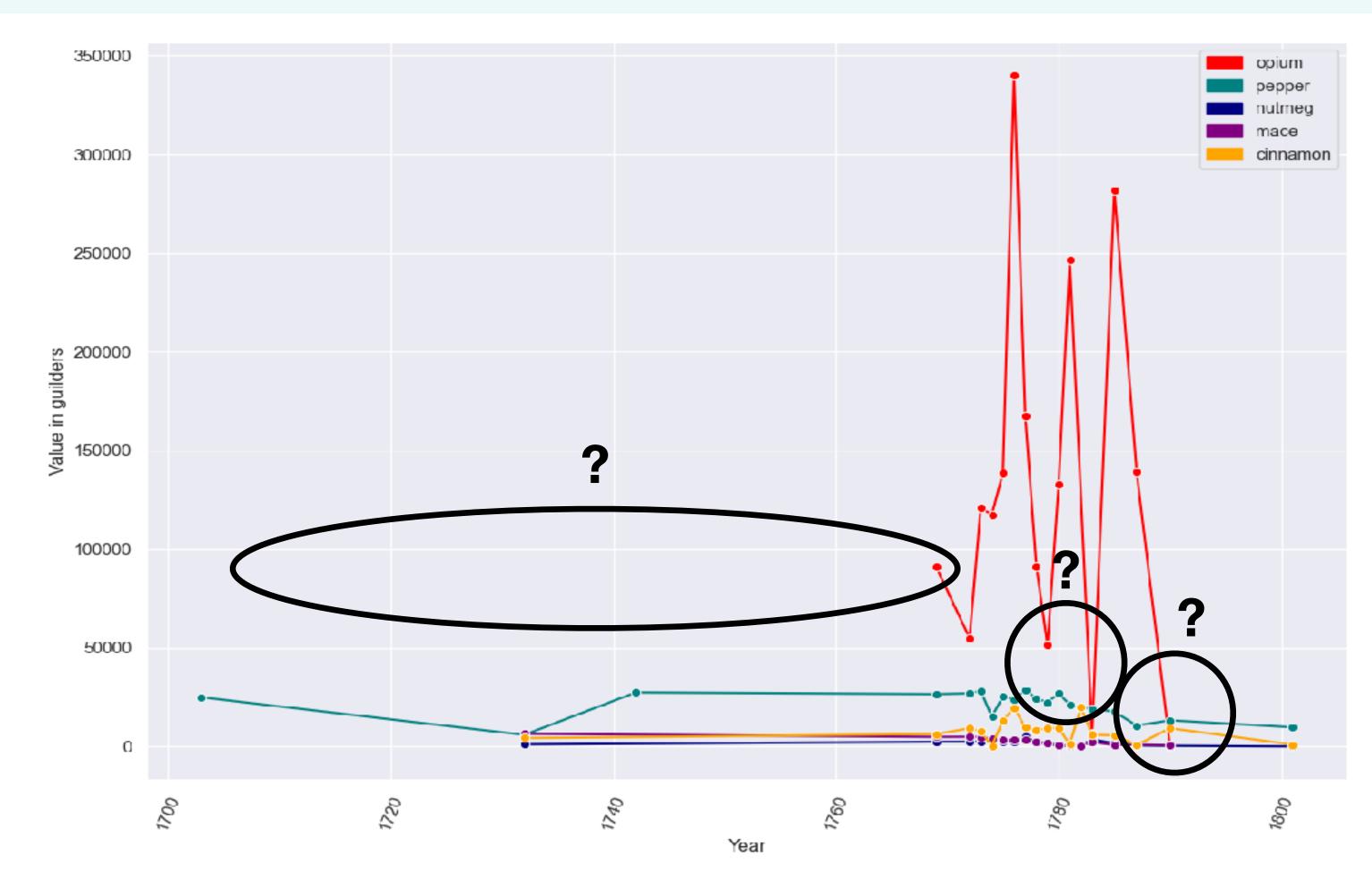
- the value of opium was very unstable during 1769-1787
- why unstable?
- data gaps



Average value of a commodity per year according to BKB

Opium Value

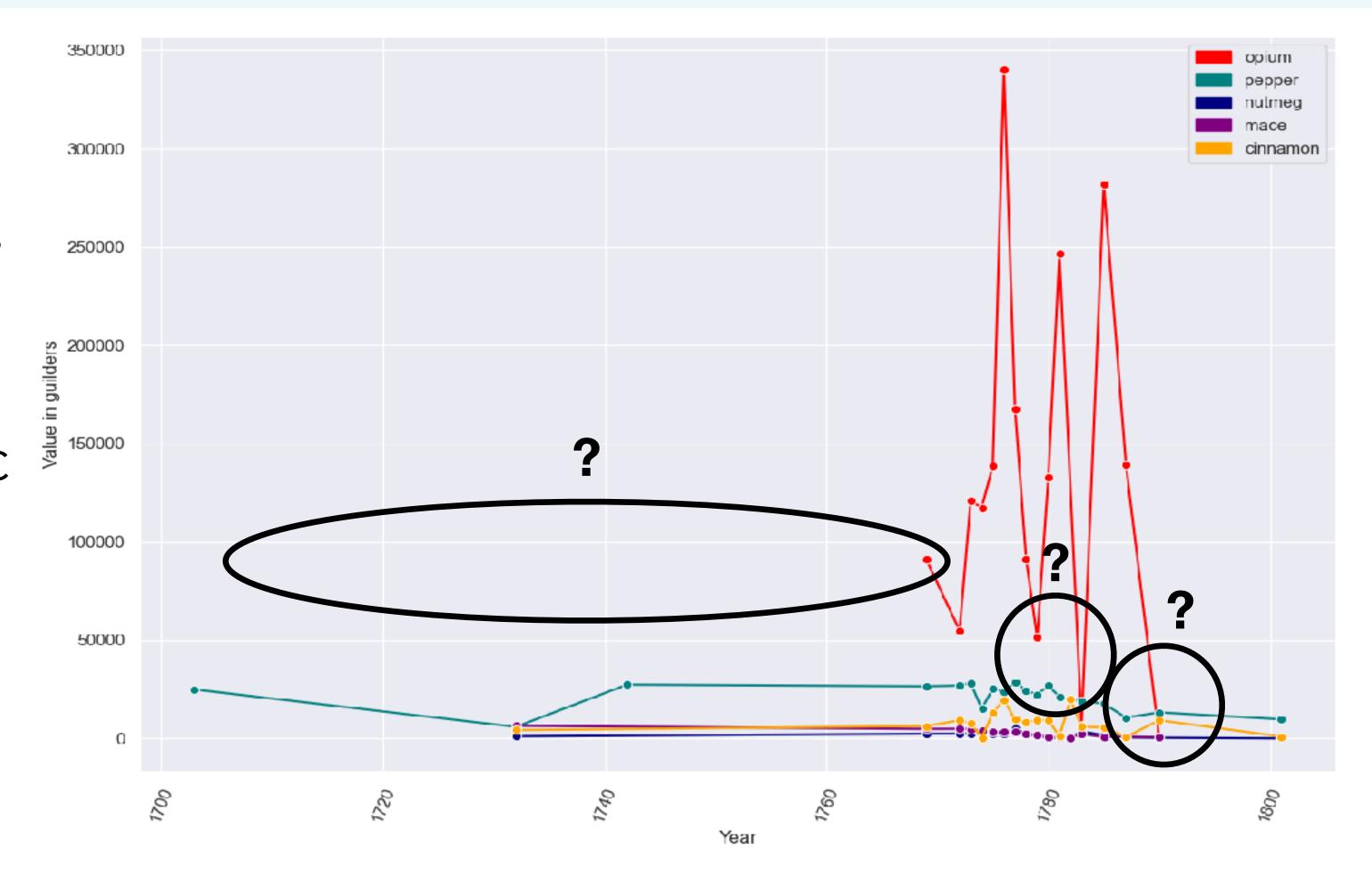
- the value of opium was very unstable during 1769-1787
- why unstable?
- data gaps



Average value of a commodity per year according to BKB

Hypotheses

- Not all values are declared in the cargo logs, sometimes commodities are grouped
- In 1746 the Amphioen
 Society was founded by VOC directors to combat smuggling by employees
- Other colonial powers were also heavily interested in opium (e.g. Opium Wars)



Average value of a commodity per year according to BKB

To be continued

- Include more synonyms
 - Globalise project Commodities thesaurus
- Explicit modelling of change
- Trace commodities in additional data sources



A Market Stall in Batavia, attributed to Albert Eckhout, c. 1640 - c. 1666. Rijksmuseum, GCO.

Dealing with Colonial Language



Changing World Views & Language

- Our language reflects our world views
- Many archives contain language that does not longer correspond to current societal values
- How can we deal with this?

Andrei Nesterov, Laura Hollink, Marieke van Erp, and Jacco van Ossenbruggen. "A Knowledge Graph of Contentious Terminology for Inclusive Representation of Cultural Heritage." In *European Semantic Web Conference*, pp. 502-519. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2023.

Ryan Brate, Marieke Van Erp, and Antal Van den Bosch. 2023. Contextual Profiling of Charged Terms in Historical Newspapers. In Proceedings of the 4th Conference on Language, Data and Knowledge, pages 97–108, Vienna, Austria.

Ryan Brate, Marieke van Erp, and Antal van den Bosch. "A Bayesian Quantification of Aporophobia and the Aggravating Effect of Low–Wealth Contexts on Stigmatization." In *The 8th Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms (WOAH)*, p. 234. 2024.



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
The_Tower_of_Babel_%28Bruegel%29#/media/File:Pieter_Bruegel_the_Elder__The_Tower_of_Babel_(Vienna)_-_Google_Art_Project_-_edited.jpg

Disclaimer

Some slides in this presentation and the corresponding publications contain derogatory (Dutch) words and phrases. They are provided solely as illustrations of the research topic and results and do not reflect the opinions of the authors or their organisations.

Contextual Profiling of Charged Terms



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Exotic

HISTORY, USE & POSSIBLE SENSITIVITIES

This term is derived from the Ancient Greek word "exōtikós," literally meaning "from the outside." It entered the Dutch language with the meaning of foreign/alien, which it still has today. The term has become intertwined with ideas about the (racialized and sexualized) Other.

The term "exotic" is commonly used to describe plants and animals, but is also used for people (usually people of color), where it has a connotation of being different from the norm, especially in reference to appearance and name (for example "what an exotic name!"). Sometimes it has a sensual connotation.

SUGGESTIONS

 Applicable when referring to plant and animal species. It is, however, contested to use the term to describe people.

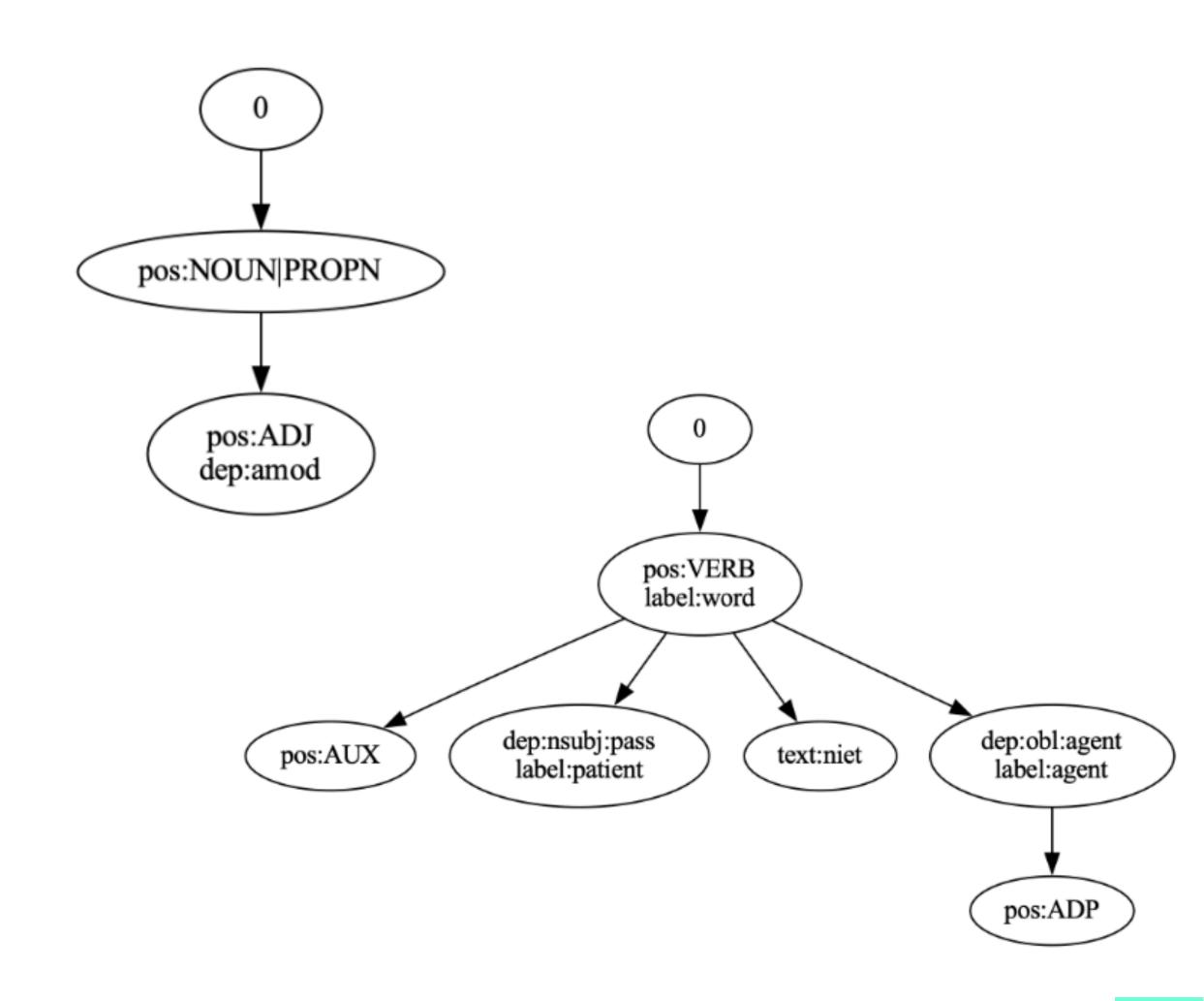
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Research Questions

- 1. Do contextual features exist, which for known-charged collective nouns are highly predictive of the noun?
- 2. Are there highly predictive context features which have known-charged collective nouns in common?
- 3. Can the context features of known charged nouns help identify lesser-known charged instances?

Contextual Profiling of Charged Terms

- Dutch newspapers 1950 1990
- ~12M articles
- Model contexts known charged nouns
- Use contexts to identify other, previously unknown, charged contexts
- POS-tag patterns, scored via loglikelihood ratio



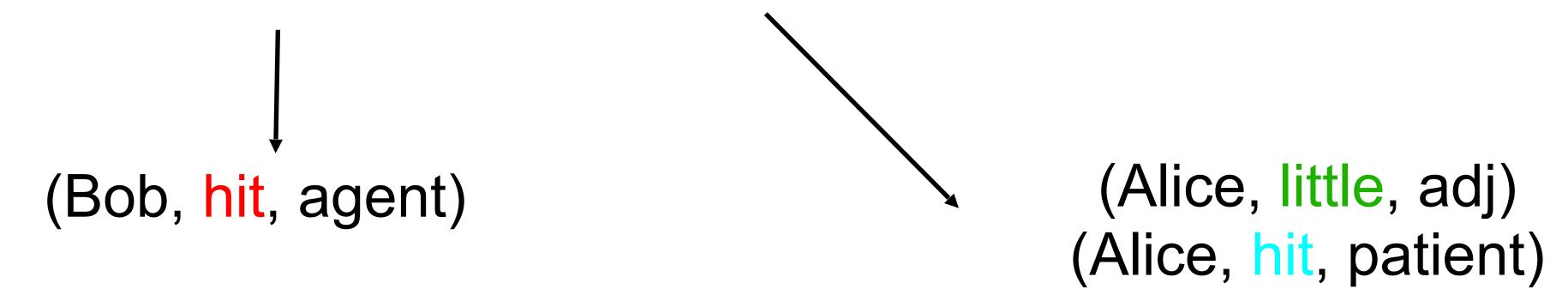
Methodology: Contextual Features

The things they do the things done to them and the way they are described

Methodology: Contextual Features

The things they do the things done to them and the way they are described

Bob hit little Alice on the head



Methodology: Feature Extraction - Verbs

Cascading Verb match in corresponding English

```
→Alice was not <u>hit</u> by bob
                                                               (Neg, Verb, Aux, obj-Agent, subj-Patient, Prep)
      →Alice was <u>hit</u> by bob
                                                               (Verb, Aux, obj-Agent, subj-Patient, Prep)
          →Bob has hit no one
                                                               (Neg1, Verb, Aux, subj-Agent, obj-Patient)
      →Bob has not hit Alice
                                                               (Neg1, Verb, Aux, subj-Agent, obj-Patient)
                                                               (Verb, Aux, subj-Agent, obj-Patient)
                         →Bob has hit Alice
                                      →Alice was not hit
                                                                           (Neg, Verb, Aux, subj-Patient)
                                      →Bob didn't hit Alice
                                                                           (Neg, Verb, subj-Agent, obj-Patient))
                                                                           (Verb, Aux, subj-Patient)
                                                  →Alice was hit
                                                  Bob hit Alice
                                                                           (Verb, subj-Agent, obj-Patient)
                                                               →Bob didn't hit (Neg, Verb, subj-Agent)
                                                                           →Bob <u>hit</u> (Verb, subj-Agent)
```

Methodology: Feature Extraction Compound word modifiers

for each noun {charged noun} identify modifiers {modifiers}

for each modifier in {modifiers} identify nouns modifier-noun instances & frequencies

Evaluation and Results: Is the pattern matching good?

Are the (noun, context) extracts good?

Pattern	Accuracy point estimate	Accuracy 95% Confidence Interval (Wilson)
Adjective Patterns		
A1	97% (125)	92 - 99 %
Verb Fatterns		
V1	95% (66)	87 - 98 %
V2	91% (125)	85 - 95 %
V3	94% (125)	89 - 97 %
V4	88% (125)	81 - 93 %

Point est. > 90%

#OCRErrorsALittleNoiseIsOK #DepParseErrors

Harvested data: (noun, feature + role) + corresponding frequencies

Associativity scoring method: Dunning's Log Likelihood Ratio

#Dunning #ChiSquaredAnalgous #NonNormal #ZipfianTailSafe

Do contextual features exist, which for known-charged collective nouns are <u>highly predictive</u> of the noun?

Modifiers in compounds

Indian: amazon ('69), apache ('91), navajo, sioux ... flat-footed ('55, '65),

half-blood ('81)

Migrant: aspirational ('51), 2nd-generation (95')

. . .

Baboe: caring ('79)

N-word: bantu ('55), congo ('55), gold coast ('55) ... wood ('55, '75, '89)

Adjectives

Immigrant synonym (*Allochtoon*): out of work ('89), willing to work ('91) **Islamist**: fundamentalist ('81)

#RepresentedAsEnglishTranslation #ExpectedOutcomes #NotOurOpinion

Verbs for this the noun is the agent

Immigrant: smuggling in ('71), complain ('51), flooding in ('89), stab to death ('95)

N-word: looting ('69)

Verbs for which the noun is the patient

Immigrant: admitted ('51), housed ('91), classified ('79)

Coloured: integrated ('75)

N-word: executed ('51), shot ('65), lynched ('51, '59), loathed ('69), massacred ('69), repressed ('65), blended ('61), fled ('81), robbed ('79), beaten up ('65)

Are there highly predictive context features which have known-charged collective nouns in common?

E.g.,

Coloureds, immigrants and gypsies are ... deported

Immigrants in '75 and '95 ... flooding in

tribe is synonymous with ... **primitive** ('51, '59, '65, '69, '71, '75, '79, '81, '85, '89, '95)

Can the context features of known charged nouns help identify lesser-known charged instances

#NoGoldStandard

"Jews"

Coloureds, immigrants, gypsies - to be deported, islamists - orthodox,

Gypsies - stateless,

Tribe - to be massacred,

N-word - to be lynched

#ThrowsUpQuestions

"Communists":

barbarians - bloodthirsty, dwarf - bloodthirsty, [American] indians - they massacre,

#ThrowsUpQuestions

#SameCutoffAsRQ2

Future Work and Open Questions

Consider other domains, English vs Dutch

Explore the metadata: are the profiles constant across metadata features?

Consider a less arbitrary, more nuanced examination of (noun, feature) affinity scores.

Consider other reference points ... e.g., associated with dehumanization or infantilization.

Bridge from token level examination to topics or themes

The History and Heritage of Smell





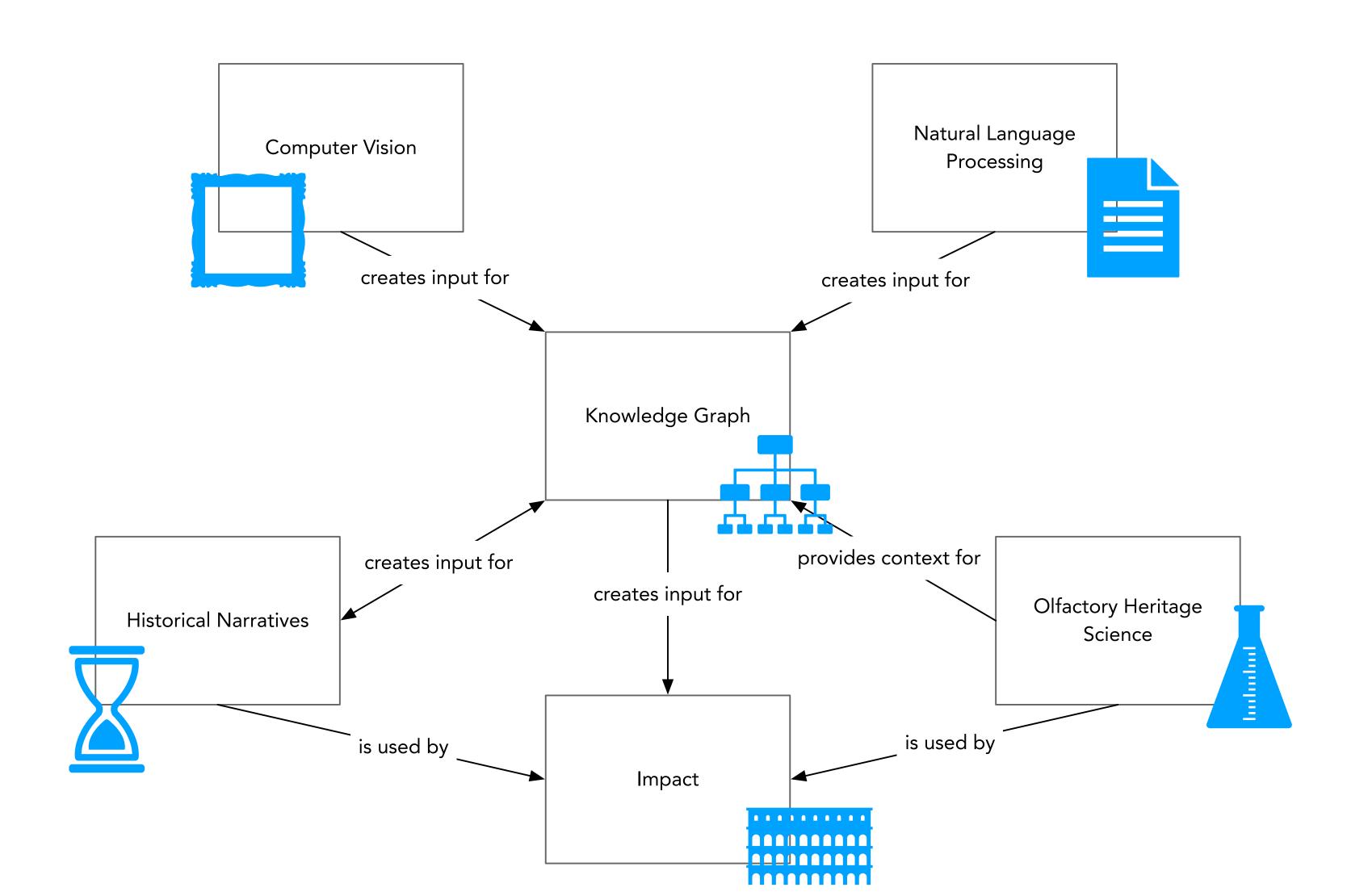
The Project Team

Objectives:

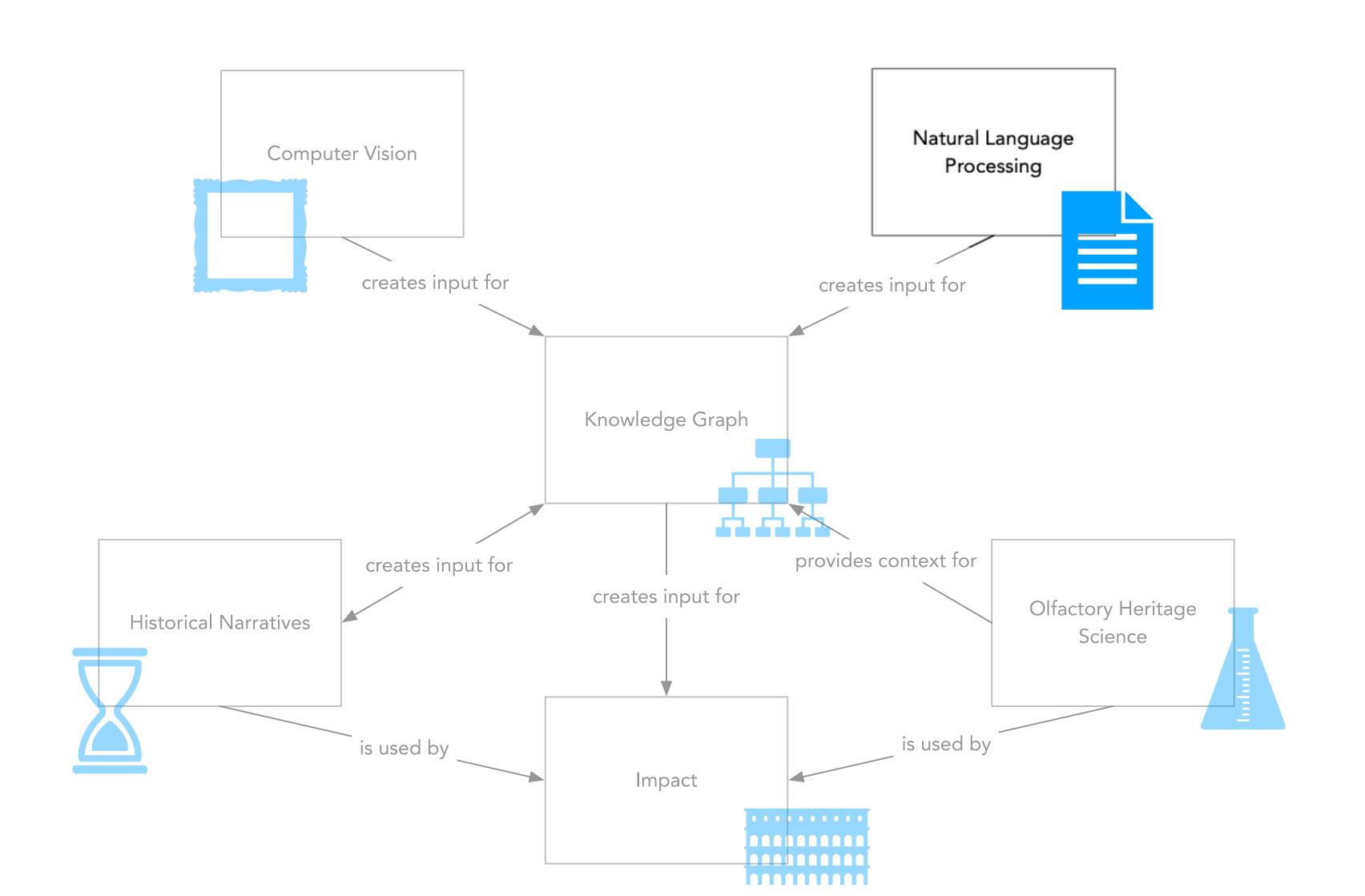
- develop state-of-the-art Al techniques to identify olfactory information in digital text and image collections; to curate historical olfactory narratives;
- recognise, safeguard, and promote olfactory heritage;
- to show that critically engaging our sense of smell & olfactory heritage is viable means for connecting and promoting Europe's tangible and intangible cultural heritage



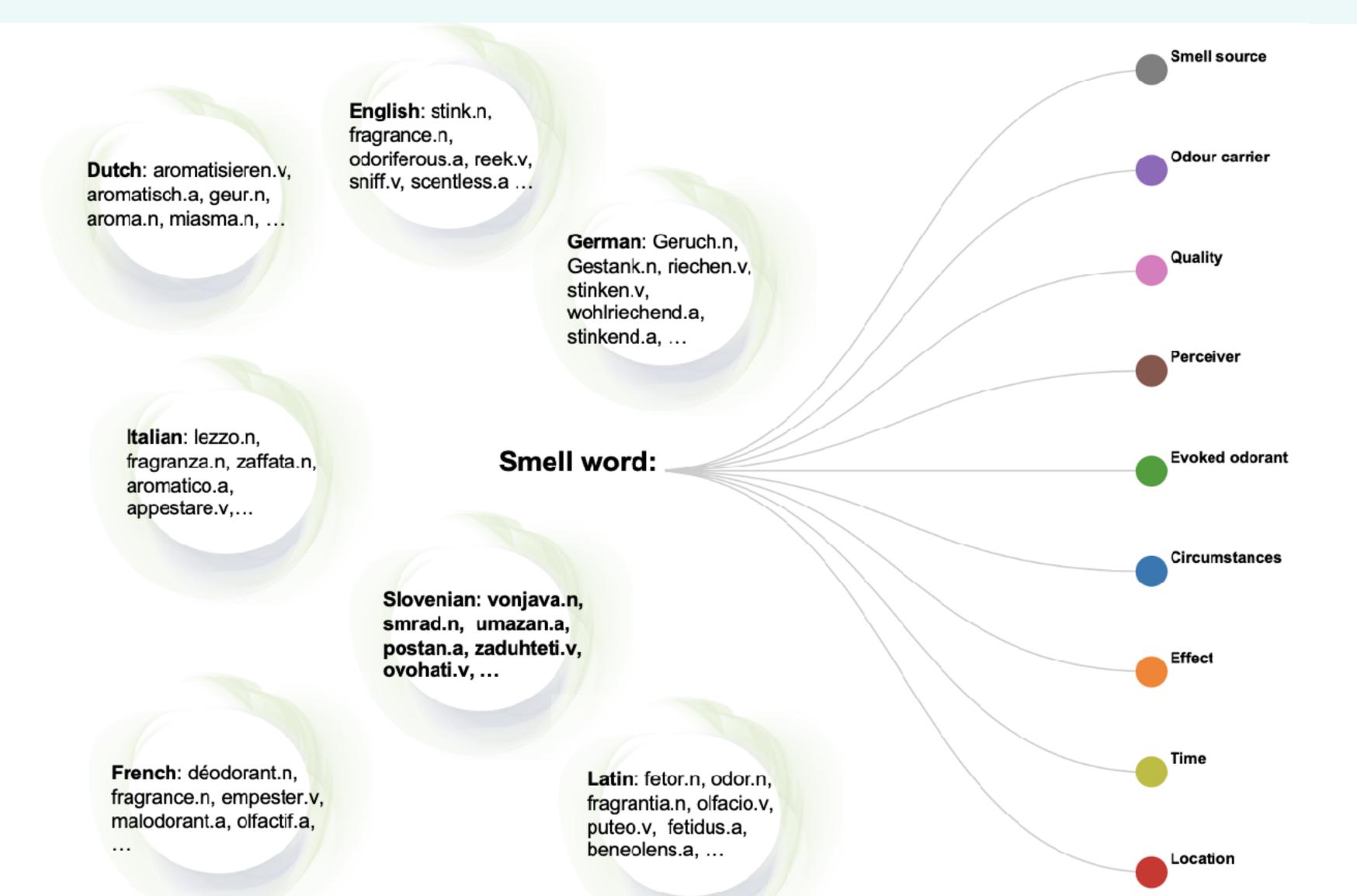
Super interdisciplinary



Reading Smell

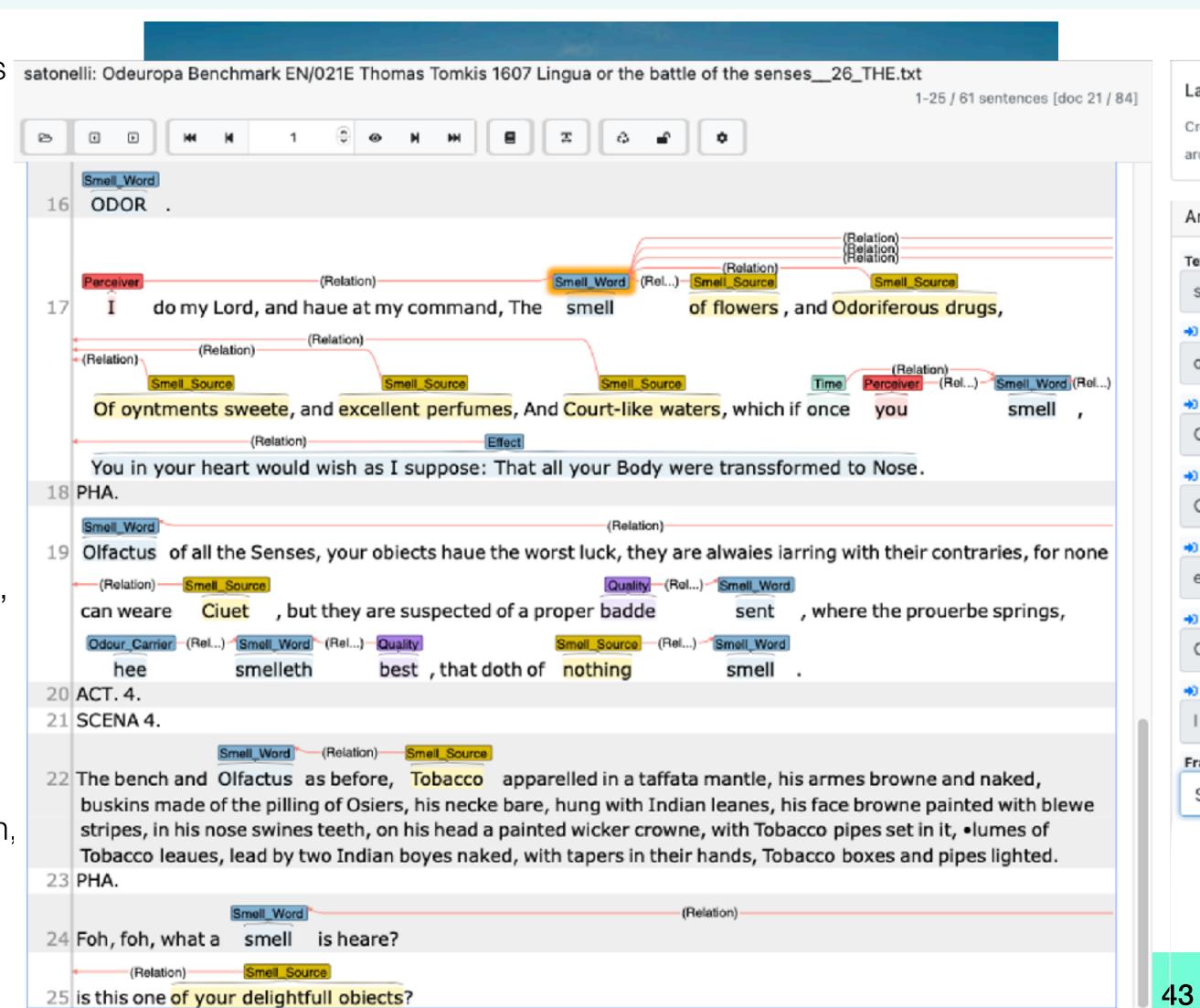


Extracting Olfactory References from Text



Reading Smell

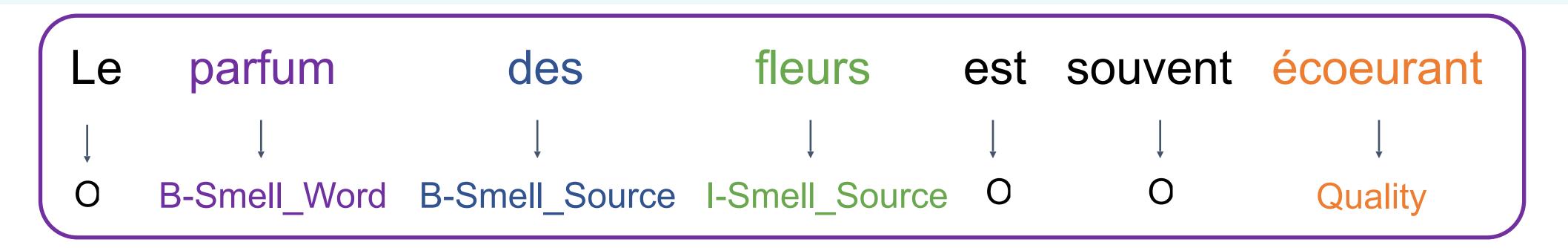
- Objective: developing language technology to identify references satonelli: Odeuropa Benchmark EN/021E Thomas Tomkis 1607 Lingua or the battle of the senses_26_THE.txt to smells in (historical) texts;
- Challenges:
 - finding smell references;
 - language change.
- Annotation guidelines, benchmark dataset for English, Italian, French, Dutch, German, Slovene & Neo-Latin
- Stefano Menini, Teresa Paccosi, Sara Tonelli, Marieke Van Erp, Inger Leemans, Pasquale Lisena, Raphael Troncy, William Tullett, Ali Hürriyetoğlu, Ger Dijkstra, Femke Gordijn, Elias Jürgens, Josephine Koopman, Aron Ouwerkerk, Sanne Steen, Inna Novalija, Janez Brank, Dunja Mladenic, and Anja Zidar. 2022. A multilingual benchmark to capture olfactory situations over time. In Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Computational Approaches to Historical Language Change, pages 1-10, Dublin, Ireland. Association for Computational Linguistics

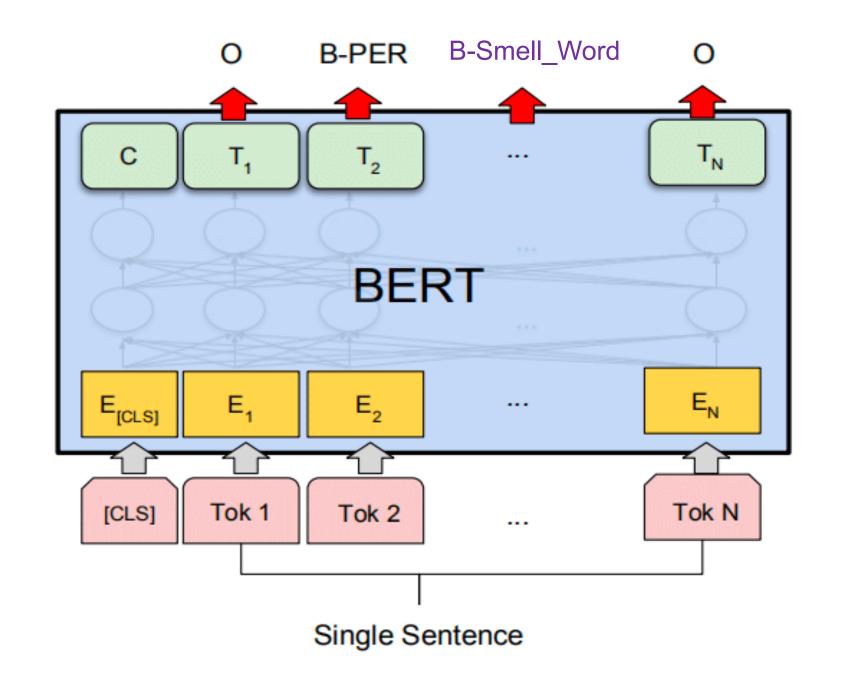


Laye

Fram

How does Al Read Smells?





Sentences are split up into tokens (words)

The system classifies each word according to the categories: smell word, smell source, quality, perceiver, location, time etc.

Try it yourself!

- https://smell-extractor.tools.eurecom.fr/

- Copy or type a text
- Select a language & go!



Smells Extraction

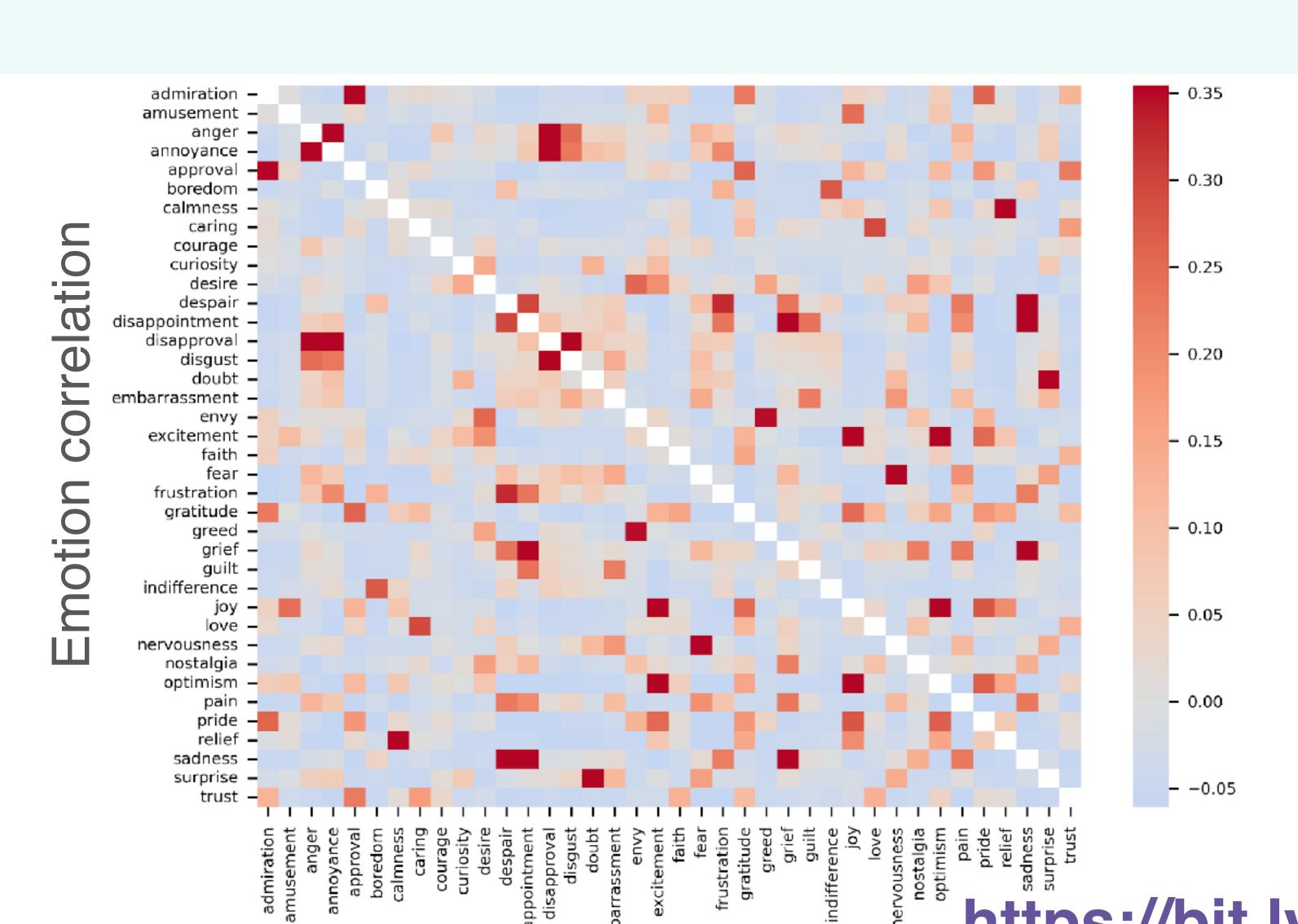


Insert a text:	
	4
Or you might want to try these examples	
[ENGLISH] It's 1787, you are newly arrived in London, and you are walking the short distan	~
Select the language of the text:	
English	~

...the Result

```
[ENGLISH] It's 1787, you are newly arrived in London, and you are walking the short distance from the
Saracen's Head Inn to the nearby Newgate prison. As you pass | Circumstances
 the Old Bailey courthouse Location you Perceiver catch a terrible Quality
                                                                               smell
                                                                                       Smell Word
 in the air Odour Carrier. . Uncertain of its origins, you ask a lawyer as they hurry past on their way to a
trial. They tell you that the smell Smell Word arose from the burning Circumstances
 of a woman who had been found guilty of coining farthings | Smell Source |. The public burning of women
in England only ended in 1790, Catherine Hayes being the last such individual to be thus punished.
 Up until 1789 Time the scent Smell Word of burnt flesh Smell Source also appeared
 in the courtroom itself Location, where some malefactors Perceiver might be branded with a hot iron
- "T" for theft, "F" for felon, or "M" for murder. The smell Smell Word
                                                                          of burning
                                                                                       Smell Source was
 a warning to others | Effect | . But | smell | Smell Word | could also feature
 as part of the humilitation of legal or , in some cases , extra - judicial punishment | Effect .
```

How well can the Al detect emotions?



- The model achieves a 60% F1 score
- ... but people also don't always agree on an emotion mentioned in a text

Sources associated with emotions change over time

1900-1930 1700-1799 1600-1699 1800-1899 brimstone, garden, flowers, flowers, eglantine, a bank of of roses, roses, garlands of violets, blossoms. incense, a country full clover, pine, roses, of sin, of new blossoms, tea, of her hair, pink shrubs, mown hay, banks of of lavender, epitheton, violets, pollution, blueberries, of the sea, air, sops - in of violets, blossoms herbs, wine blossoms, incense of orange blossoms boeotian, cold, fountains, greens,

hay

Nostalgia

1700-1799 1600-1699 1800-1899 1900-1930 of blood, fluid, a rat, creatures, of blood fishes, trouble, a rat, blood, flowers, and gun danger, of smoke, fruits, powder, danger, of smoke, oil of sulphur, gums, fire, salts, plants, of seeds, of brimstone, death gunpowder, serpents of musk, flowers, flying aromatics, brimstone

Fear

"Follow you nose" Exhibition at Ulm Museum

Title: Portrait of Helena Schermar

Date: c. 1620

Creator: Andreas Schuch (c.1634–1680)

Medium: Oil on canvas



bears lie, the first, best, and strongeste of three sortes that they ble, called the maister lie, and keepe the saied grease in the heate of the sunne, mixing it well there, and likewise in the night abroade in the aire: but take heede that there come no water to it. Then you see that it is somewhat drie, put to it argaine as muche as shall neede of the seconde and thirde lie mixed together, whiche sope makers ble: rub a little byon your hande being cleane, and if it make a froth, it is a token

of the a fater light and a berry good faither.

Parfume for a Lampe. mo

it is made.

Take Ligni Aloesa quarter, Bengewine an buce, Storax calamita halfe an buce, Pulke a scuple, ambergrise halfe a scruple, rose water enough. Pou shall put all these thinges well beaten to pouder into the Lampe.

A shorte parfume.

Take a glattefull of rolewater, cloues well beaten in pour der, a penny waight: then take the fire panne, and make it red hot in the fire, and put therein of the faied rolewater with the fais pouder of cloues, making it to confume by little and little, but the rolewater must be musht and so you shall make a perfume of excellent good odour.

An odoriferous Perfume for Chambers.

Take Thymiama a pounde, Storax Liquida twoo buces Storax calamita the buces, Labdanum an buce, coales of willowe and Tracagantum as much as you will: but steepe of temper the pouder of the coales, and the Tracagantum with rosewater, and then make thereof passe.

A very good perfume for to trimme gloues with little cost, and yet will continue longe.

FJra let the Glones be greate, and of good thicke leather, to the whiche you shall give a little civet all along the seasons:

mes: Then walh them in role water twice of thile, preffing them hard: this bone, take two parts of rolewater, one part of water of the blostomes of Birtle tree, mingle them together : adding to it two partes of water of the flowers of D. renges Lemons, and Titrons, called of the Frenchmen, Eau de Naphe, mo wall them fo long there with, that they fauour no more of the Leather: then late them in a platter and leane them there covered with the faide water, and poudsed over with the pouder of Cypres by the space of a date of twaine. This done, take them out and prefe them a little, and fo drie them in the hadowe. Withen they be halfe date, give them atittle Ciuet, as you shall thinke good in a dish, with a little ople of Iafemine, that is not olde, the with you shall make to biffolue before the fire, then annointe there with the glones within live, and rub them well betweene your hands, chafing them at the fire, butill you thinke that the Ciuet be pearled and gone through them, and leave them to a wife. Then af ter rub them well with a cloth, to the ende that the civet map pearce the better, and the gloues war foft: then draw & Aretch them abroad, leaning them to by the space of a date, and when you shall thinke they be bumide and moist, enlarge them and blowe them, and puffe them oppe: Leave them to butill they be balfe bried. Then take god parfume to burne, and holde them over the smoke of the faide parfume, to the ende that it map pearce and goe into the inner partes of the gloues, and parfime them within libe. This shall pou doe thrice a baie the space of twentie bases, weating them at each time with a little parfumed water, and waspping them with fom wite tinnenclo be: then take muske and Amber, as much as you will, and putte it into a Tinne platter, with oile of lasemine or Bengewine, or some other oile, lette them well dissolue at the fire, with a little parfumed water, then annoint them with a Denfell on the outlide, and not within : annointe allo the feames with Cinet, and laie them certaine daies among dried roles. Finallie, laie them for the space of three or fower bales,

of Secrets.

Girolamo Ruscelli, The Secrets of the Reuerende Maister Alexis of Piemount, trans. Wyllyam Warde (London, 1558), 59v–60.

Open Knowledge Commons and Harvard Medical School https://archive.org/embed/secretsofreveren00rusc

First let the gloues bee greate, and of good thicke leather, to the which you shall gyue a little **Ciuet** all alonge the seames: Than washe them in **rose water**, twise or thryse, pressing theym harde: this doen, take twoo partes of **rose water**, one parte of the **water of the blossoms of Mirtell** tree, mingle them together: addinge to it two partes of the **water of the flowres of Orenges**, **Lemons**, **& Citrons**, called of the Frēchmen, can de nafe, and washe them so long therwith, that they **sauour no moore of the leather** [...]

Than wil they bee excellent, as if it were to present an emperour withall.

-- Girolamo Ruscelli. The Secrets of the Reuerende Maister Alexis of Piemount. 1558



Scent Design Brief

This form is intended to assist museum professionals, historians and scent designers through the scent development process. It should be filled out for each artwork, artefact, text, or space that the scent will be created for.

Scope of the Project:

Exhibition/Guided tour title: Mit der Nase sieht man mehr. Eine Führung mit Geruch/ Seeing More

through Smell: A Scented Guided Tour

Institution: Museum Ulm

Location: Ulm, Marktpl. 9, 89073 Ulm, Germany

Projected opening date: Soft launch 8-9 November 2021: Press launch: 25-26 January 2022; Public

launch 30 January 2022.

Total number of fragrances: 10

Scent distribution method(s): Blotters, hand fans, and whispis.

What is the artwork, artefact, text, or space (e.g.) that the scent refers to?





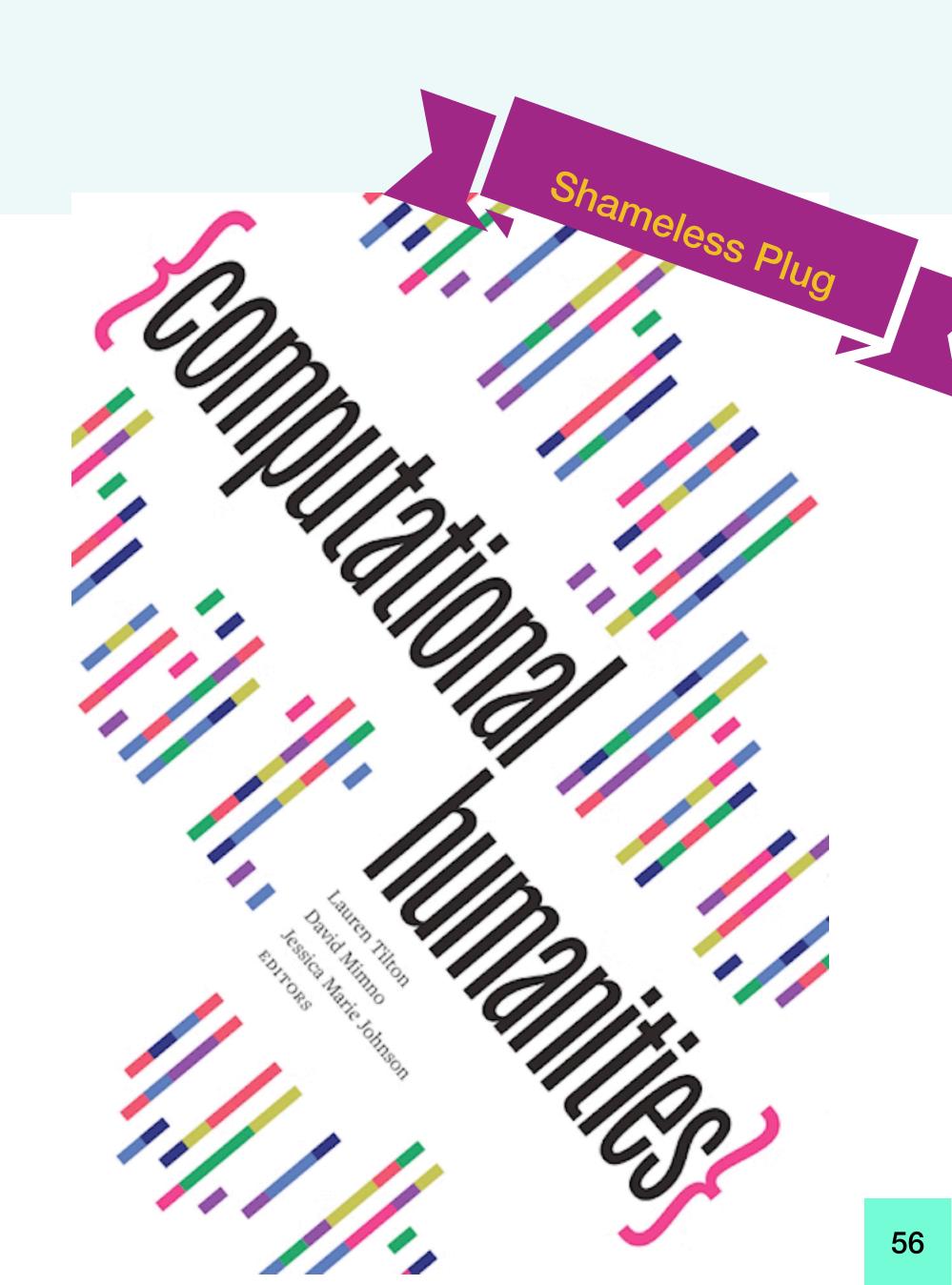


Time to Smell!



Wrap-up

- Interdisciplinary projects add complexity, but can also come with great rewards
- Old data: lots of variety, no GDPR issues, no copyright issues
- Digital Editions (TEI/XML), maritime history, reception of literature, migrant history, missing data, Neo-Latin drama, formulaic language in 18th century parliamentary data...
- Challenging problems for technology
- Real-world applications



Thank you

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Thematic Semester Digital Humanities and Artificial Intelligence





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More Information:

https://dhlab.nl

https://cultural-ai.nl

https://odeuropa.eu

https://mariekevanerp.com