

Linked Data as Networks: the WeChangEd Project

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This poster aims to showcase the DH elements of the ERC-funded research project “Agents of Change: Women Editors and Socio-Cultural Transformation in Europe, 1710-1920” (acronym WeChangEd). The project examines a neglected aspect of the social and cultural life in Europe in the modern period: the impact of women editors on public debate. One aspect of this project is to map the transnational networks of intellectual exchange in which women editors participated, with particular attention to practices of textual transfer (including translation, adaptation, reprinting and reviewing), through the projection of Linked Data as networks and the use of network analysis.

In this poster we focus introducing the project and the explorative findings from the first network analysis of the database to-date. We highlight the importance of storing, organizing and analyzing these data as they allow us to trace relations on many dimensions. For example, looking at fashion magazines alone in the second half of the nineteenth century fashion journals and women’s magazines were increasingly accessible and affordable types of periodical publication. They included articles as well as patterns with instructions on the latest fashions, thus requiring highly knowledgeable editors keeping track of the most recent trends and fast turnaround of submissions. We know that this often resulted in periodicals borrowing material from one another; although to what extent this occurred is currently lacking from our understanding.ⁱ

To analyze this we extract networks from our relational database of Linked Data stored in NodeGoatⁱⁱ, sourced from archival data of a subcorpora of periodicals. For example this may include relations such as editorofperiodical –periodical –contributor – contribution/item –textofcontribution–attributesof contributor –location –time period. Using a network approach we are able to highlight the characteristics of these multi-modal relations. We show through qualitative and quantitative network analysis the possible origin and changes of the pattern considering a number of connections- changes in the pattern itself, known relationship between editors, and agreements between periodicals. These results are visualized in a number of networks, to highlight the relational-ness of these processes, see Figure 1. Exchange between *Der Bazar*, one fashion periodical of this period, and affiliates the second half of the 19th century.

Such research seeks to highlight through this relational approach the diverse exchange in this period across editors, women, periodicals, and so forth and how transnational these multifaceted networks were of the time.

ⁱ Van Remoortel, Marianne. "Women Editors and the Rise of the Illustrated Fashion Press in the Nineteenth Century." *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 39.4 (2017): 269-295.

ⁱⁱ Schelstraete, J., & Van Remoortel, M. (2017). Towards a sustainable and collaborative data model for periodical studies. *MEDIA HISTORY*