

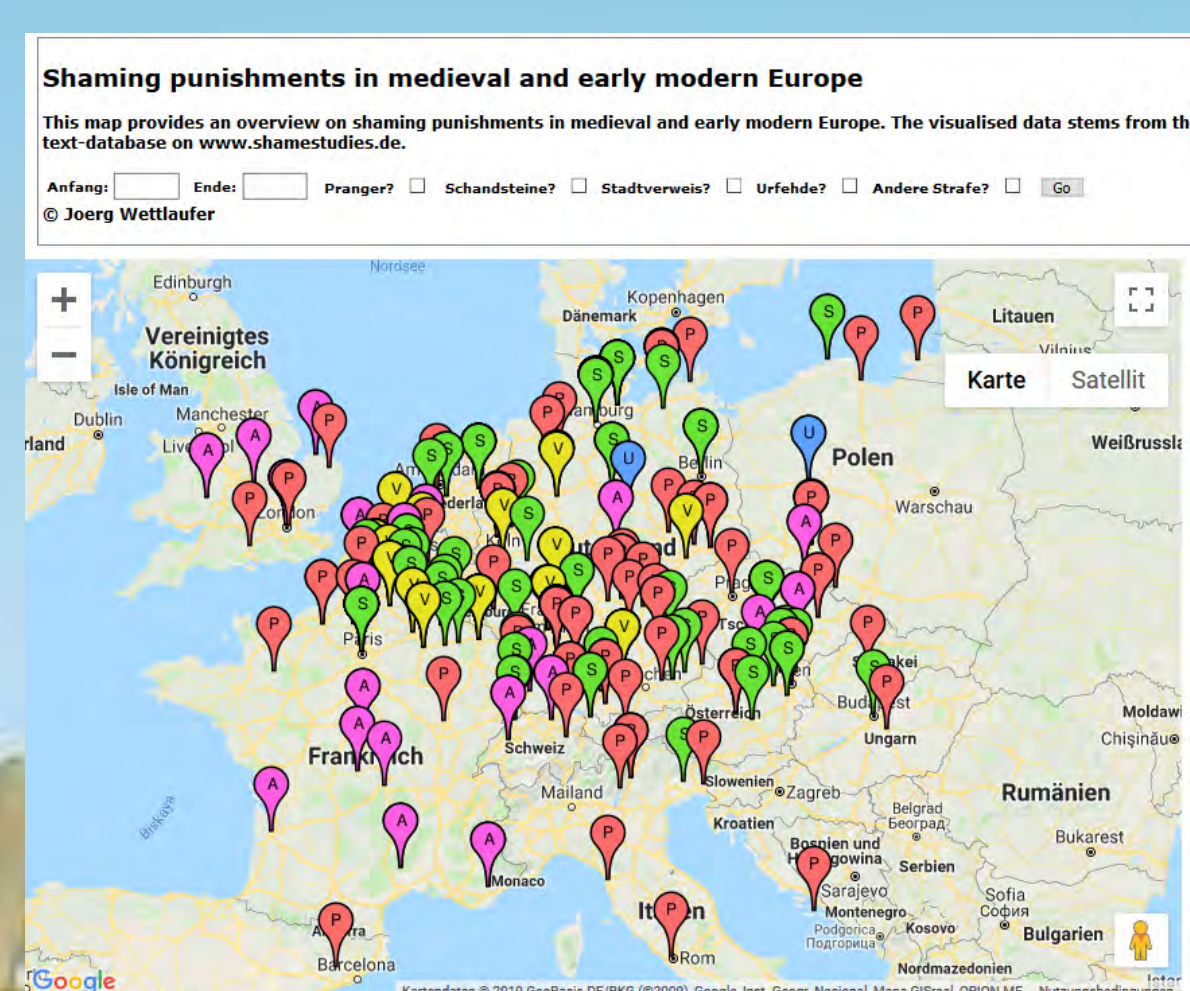
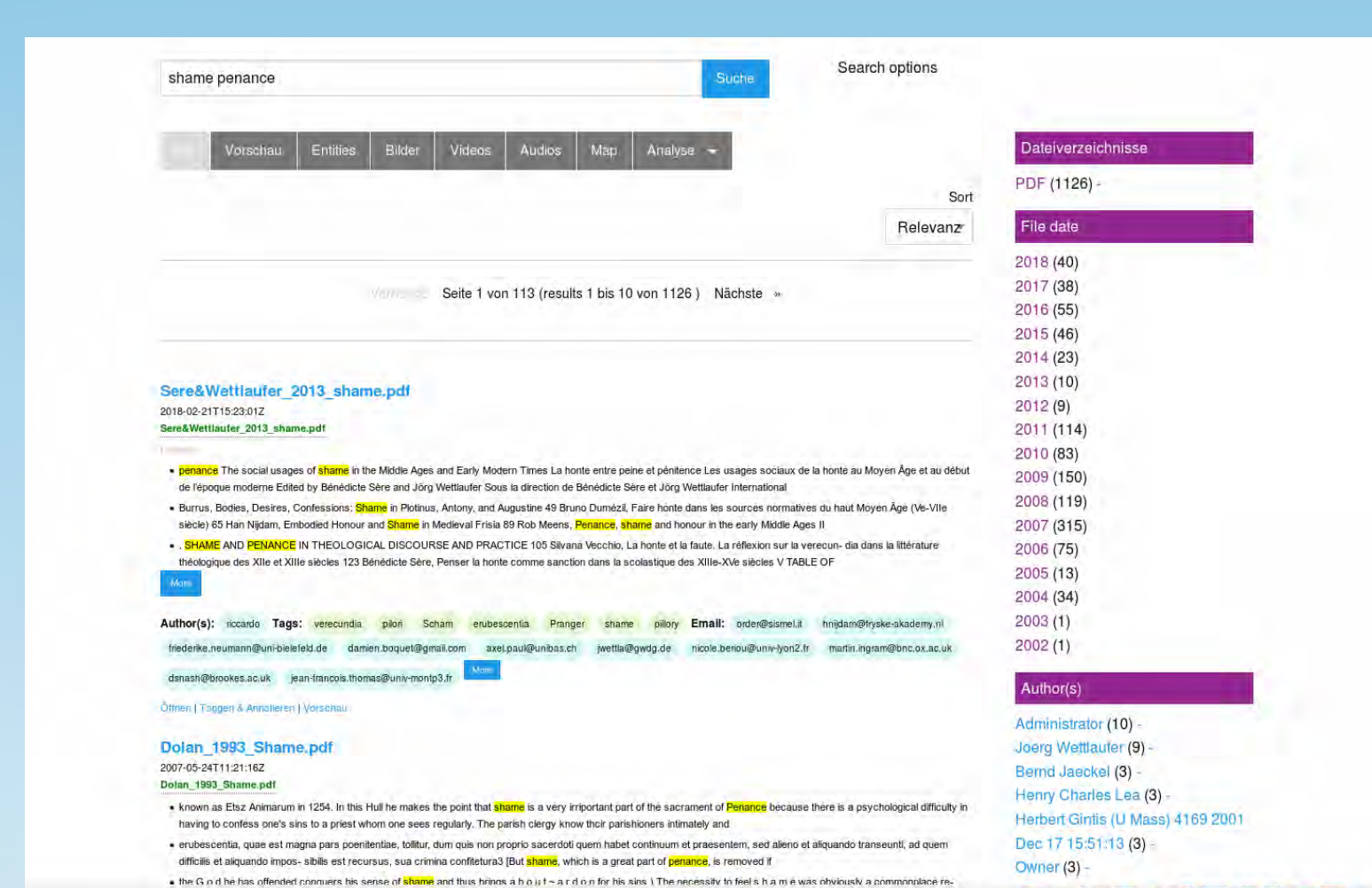
Explaining the social use of shaming punishments – shamestudies.de – a digital resource and analytical tool in legal history

I. Historical Background

In recent years, a debate about the influence of church law on the development of public penal law in the European high and late Middle Ages has shed some light on the strong interconnections between theological discussion about penance and the practical execution of law in this period. It has become clear that secular penal law borrowed in many ways from ecclesiastical law, and the emergence of some 'new' forms of punishment, for instance the institution of the pillory in the second half of the 12th century, can only be understood in this context.

II. Method and Architecture

In order to investigate this topic in a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, an internet platform for data analysis and presentation has been created and published in 2007. The www.shamestudies.de platform was established as a mostly database driven website to facilitate and enable this research project on the social usage of shame in different cultural contexts, namely Western Europe and East Asia. The basic goal is to collect primary and secondary source material, to encode the data for quantitative analysis and provide easy access to the content of the collection. Starting with an extensive bibliographical database (more than 3000 references) and a collection of texts (2400 titles in PDF Format with OCR) that can be searched for keywords with Apache Solr search engine, the platform also provides free online access to almost 800 texts published before 1900. A source database has been established for the West European sources with more than 1100 entries up to now, covering a timespan from the early middle ages to the early 19th century. On the analytical level, different types of punishments have been collected and encoded for date, place, offence, punishments, execution/executioner of the punishment, source type and context. Statistical measures and data aggregation are provided.



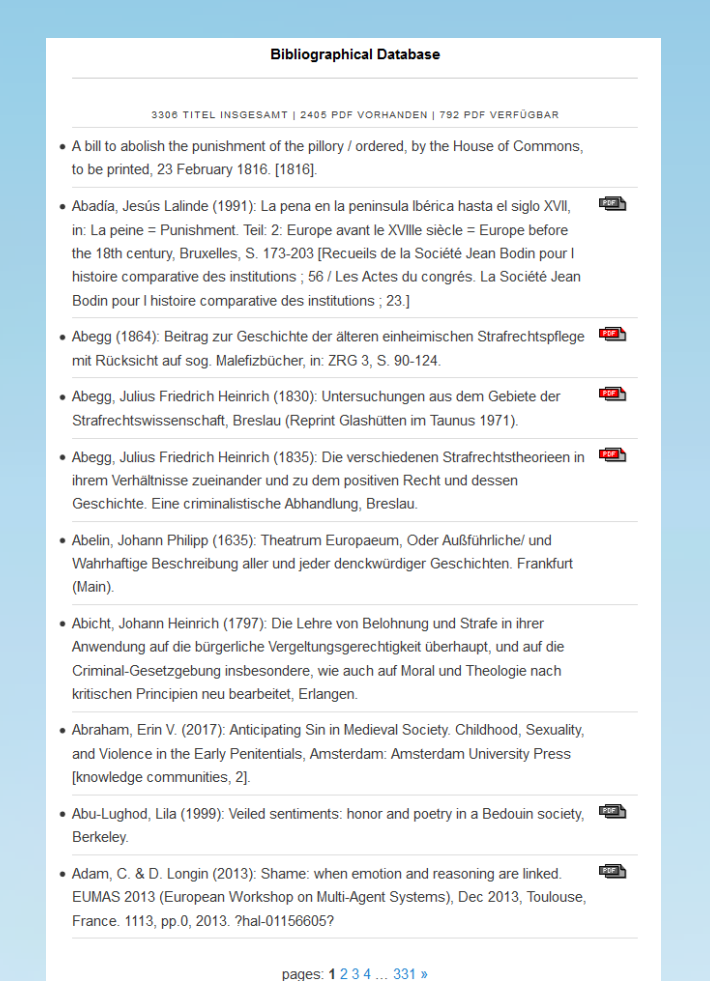
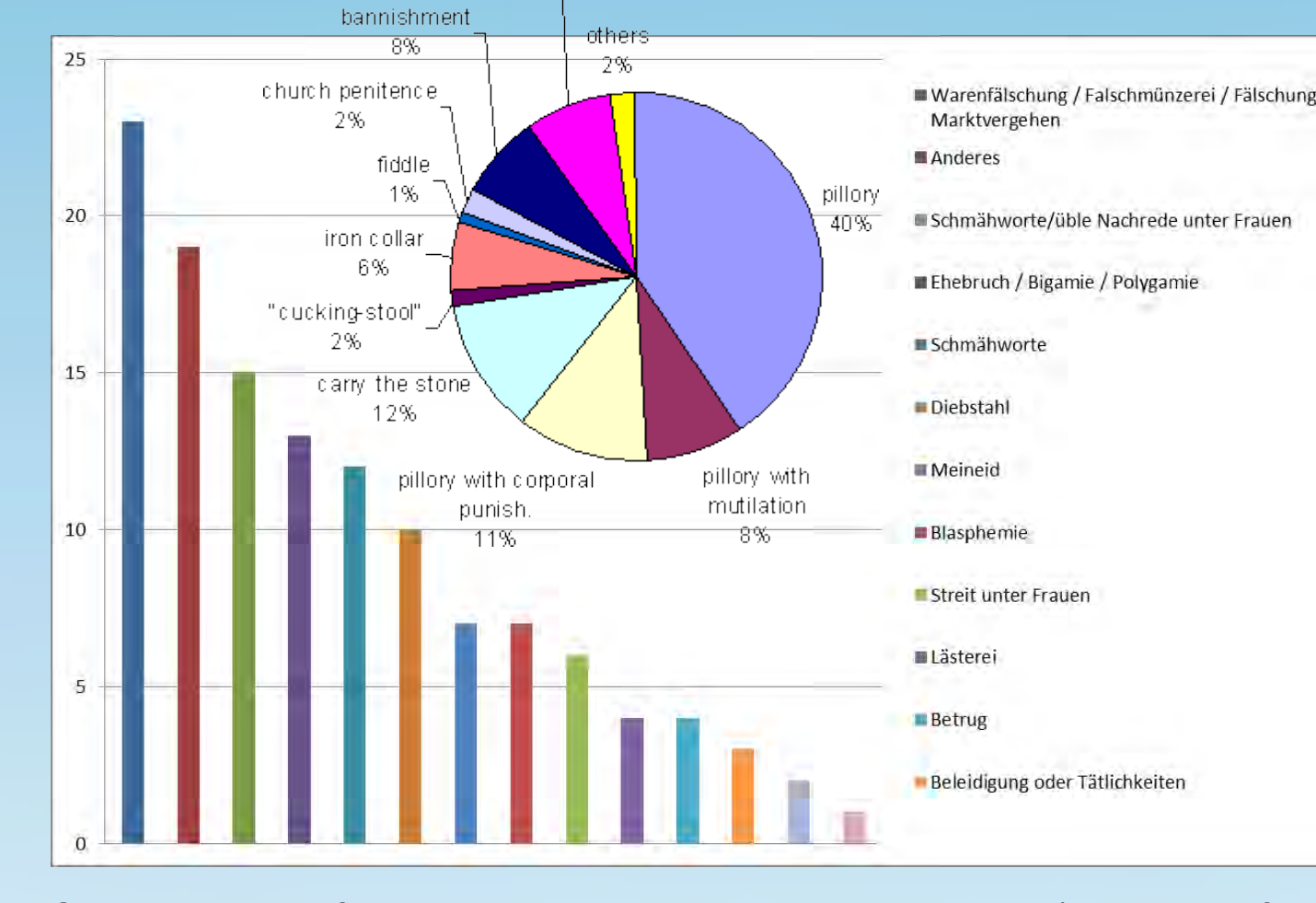
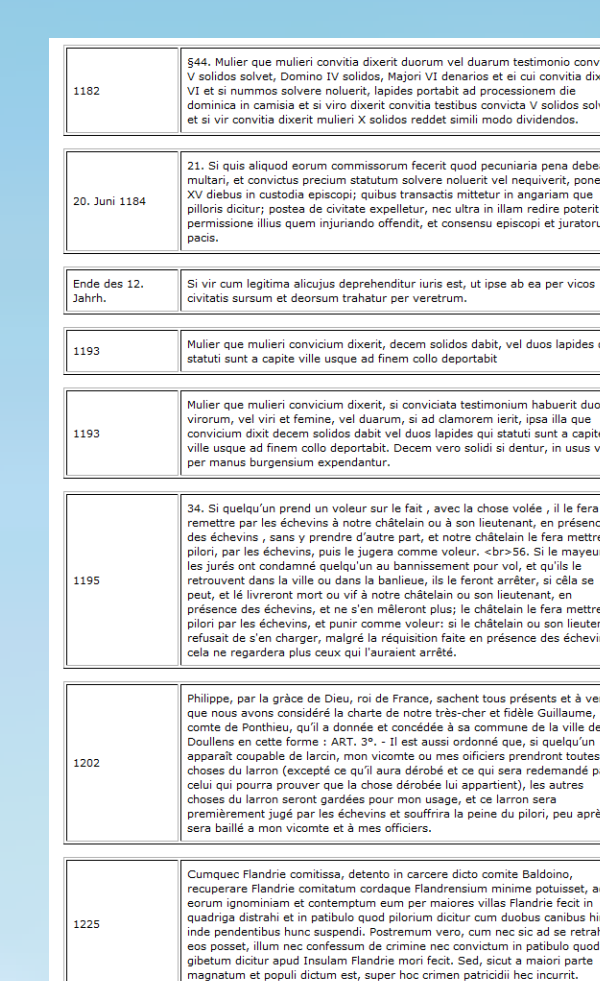
III. Services and Results

The project integrates quantitative digital with qualitative hermeneutical methods. Over the years several improvements and releases have been necessary to meet the requirements of new research questions and the developing infrastructure (relaunch 2017). In 2012 a visualization of punishment types on a map was established. In 2018 the www.opensemanticsearch.org framework was tested offline to provide a faceted full text search and automated NER. Online Integration is planned for 2021.

Furthermore, the shamestudies.de website provides information on the project results, information about related conferences or publication projects and allows at the same time to access and share the collected research material (depending on copyright restriction with participants of conferences or other researchers). For this particular project a mixed method approach has proven most successful. Biggest challenges have been the integration of source material in Non-Western languages and maintenance. Since 2007 over 25 presentations, articles and books have been published, drawing on the results provided by the platform and the collected material. Another volume with conference proceedings on "Honor and Shame in Western History" is in preparation for 2021.

IV. Publications

- Wettlaufer, Jörg, David Nash & Jan Frode Hatlen (Hg.) (2021): Honor and Shame in Western History. Routledge Studies in Cultural History (in preparation).
- Sère, Bénédicte & Jörg Wettlaufer (Hg.) (2013): Shame between punishment and penance. The social usages of shame in the Middle-Ages and Early Modern Times, Tarnuzze (Firenze, IT) [Micrologus Library 54]
- Wettlaufer, Jörg (2011): Über den Ursprung der Strafe des Steintragens, *Miszelle, ZRG (GA)*, Bd. 128, S. 348-360.



Source: Database of shaming punishments on www.shamestudies.de / subsample of 126 / 977 entries of punishments (including known delinquency and year): AD 1100-1500 [March 2015].



<https://www.shamestudies.de>
<https://www.opensemanticsearch.org>

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