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Donald Broady & Harold Short, Exploring New Methods for Prosopography in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Application for the European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshops to be held in 2007, submitted 2 May 2006, 18 p.

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*Application for the European Science Foundation
Exploratory Workshops to be held in 2007*

**Exploring New Methods for Prosopography in the Humanities
and the Social Sciences**

May 10 -11 2007, Uppsala University, Sweden

Applicants

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Keywords

Prosopographical methods; Methodology development; Database design; Geometric Data Analysis; Correspondence Analysis, Visualisation; Historical studies; Sociological studies

Abstract

Prosopography is used in two different fields of research, historical studies and sociologically oriented studies, two approaches each using and developing advanced methods and tools. By organising the proposed workshop researchers from these two quite different approaches will meet and confront. During the workshop we will explore historical materials by means of methods developed within sociological approaches and prepare a proposal for a European Interdisciplinary Prosopography Research Network.

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A workshop on new methods in prosopographical research

Introduction

Prosopography in Europe today is used in historical studies of ancient, medieval and modern societies and in sociologically oriented studies of modern and contemporary societies. Prosopography is the collective study of common characteristics of groups of individuals, most often historical actors but in sociological studies also contemporary individuals. By means of comprehensive data collection and thorough investigations on common background characteristics such as social origin, occupation, inherited and acquired positions in society, education, place of residence, religion, economical status etcetera scholars explore and analyse the material.¹

Although outcomes and uses of prosopographical databases vary amongst historically and sociologically oriented prosopographers the methods for collecting and compiling the materials is essentially the same even though the focus of study, purposes and tools differs in different prosopographical traits.

Major challenges, and the originality of prosopography, are its numerous applications and the many uses in completely different research fields.

Main objectives of the workshop

The general aim of the workshop Exploring New Methods for Prosopography in Humanities and Social Sciences is to bring together prosopographers from different scholarly fields in order to contribute to the advancement of interdisciplinary prosopographical research. During the workshop, we will explore tools, methods and possibilities of collaborative research across disciplines. Another task will be to share experiences and ideas of advancement and creative use of advanced computer technology for scholarly enhancement.

The specific aims of the workshop will be to explore historical materials by means of methods developed within sociological approaches. On the one hand, in historical studies prosopographical approaches have been used for many centuries and constitute today a well developed scholarly field where researchers use specific methods and tools. On the other hand, sociologically oriented prosopographical studies have during the last decades made important contributions to the development of methods and research in social sciences. In the workshop these two approaches, along with the methods and tools respectively, will get an opportunity to meet and to confront.

The goal during this workshop is to outline a proposal for a European Interdisciplinary Prosopography Research Network.

Meeting and exchanges on new methods in prosopography could not be accomplished without collaboration on a European level, due to the dispersedly research activities and locations. The forefronts of prosopographical research in the humanities are

¹ Cf. Lawrence Stone, "Prosopography", in Felix Gilbert & Stephen R. Graubard (Eds.), *Historical Studies Today*, Norton, New York 1972, pp. 107-140 and Donald Broady, "French prosopography: definition and suggested readings", in *Poetics*, (30) 2002, pp. 381-385 (definition, pp. 381-382).

accomplished in United Kingdom, Germany, Austria and Italy whereas methods for sociological prosopography have been developed especially in France during the last decades, but also to some extent in ongoing research in Sweden, Belgium and Denmark.

The broad terms *methods* and *tools* mentioned above, include issues such as database design, means for categorisation and classification, data collection, data storage and data modelling, means for analyses, software and platforms.

Prosopographical research

Originally prosopography mainly was concerned with studies of the social elites. The concept of prosopography has been traced to the 16th century in Europe then closely related to the contemporary endeavour to collect, register and organise all the knowledge.²

Development and contributions in prosopography applies to some different schools, either concerned with in-depth and detailed studies of smaller groups of for example social elites, or less detailed but larger numerical sets of individuals belonging to the same field.³

Regardless prosopographical school the main interest for a prosopographer is the investigation of a chosen group, the structures and transformations, rather than individuals or institutions. It is a kind of collective biography, particularly applicable for heterogenous datasets in historical research and also a method of necessity due to the fact that the objects of study are dead and therefore not available for interviews. Prosopographical research is a time-consuming endeavour when investigating a number of primary and sometimes secondary sources for detailed data collection.

There is also an important distinction in handling and analysing data between prosopography in the humanities and the French sociologically oriented prosopographical tradition. In traditional prosopography the sources play an important role in terms of certainty of the facts and their claims about individuals in the material.⁴ In sociologically oriented prosopographies the main concern is to collect the same kind of data for all persons in order to analyse the material with either multivariate quantitative techniques or with qualitative methods depending on the quality of the data. Thus, the quality of the data is most important independently of prosopographical orientation. Examples of French sociology using prosopography are Pierre Bourdieu's study of the academic field in Paris⁵, studies on French top managers⁶ and Gisele

² Cf. Karl Ferdinand Werner, « L'apport de la prosopographie à l'histoire sociale des élites' », in Keats-Rohan (Ed.) *Family Trees*, Woodbridge, 1997, pp. 1-21.

³ For a description of two different schools see Stone, 1972, op.cit. pp. 109-111.

⁴ John Bradley & Harold Short, "Using Formal Structures to Create Complex Relationships: The Prosopography of the Byzantine. A case Study", in K.S.B Keats-Rohan (Ed.), *Resourcing Sources*, Prosopographica et Genealogica, vol. 7, Oxford 2002, pp. 3-21.

⁵ Pierre Bourdieu *Homo academicus*. Minuit, Paris 1984. English translation: *Homo Academicus*. Polity Press, Cambridge 1988.

⁶ Pierre Bourdieu & Monique de Saint Martin, « Le patronat » in *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*, 1978, 4.20-21, 3-82 [Revised reprint in Bourdieu, *La noblesse d'État. Grandes écoles et esprit*

Sapiro's extensive study on the French literary field⁷. The main methods for analysing the prosopographical data in the sociologically oriented studies is either geometrical data analysis⁸ especially correspondence analysis, and/or or more qualitative approaches.

Traditionally the outcome of a prosopography was to publish results in a printed book. Along with the advancement and development of modern computer technology come possibilities for researchers to explore, use and handle extensive prosopographical materials in a variety of novel ways.⁹ Prominent examples are the *Prosopography of the Byzantine Empire*¹⁰ and the *Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England*¹¹, both very rich and valuable resources in ancient and medieval history. Included in the *Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England* are all individuals who lived in or were closely connected with Anglo-Saxon England during the period from 597 to 1042.

Benefits and outcomes

The benefit of this workshop applies especially to the interdisciplinary approach; that scholars from different fields of research will be given opportunities to meet and to explore methods and tools used in prosopography. In this case the workshop will provide opportunities to explore older and well established historical materials from the humanities in the light of multivariate analysis, methods and tools used in the social sciences, providing means not primarily used in traditional prosopographical historical studies. Likewise, the sociologically oriented scholars will be able to explore advanced tools and content design in the very rich and detailed historical prosopographies, enriching their knowledge of how to design prosopographical materials.

The outcome of this workshop will result in a proposal for a European Interdisciplinary Prosopography Research Network, which will serve as a junction for the development and leverage for the development of interdisciplinary tools and methods.

The workshop will also result in an online publication with paper presentations and slides along with information about participants', their research fields and contact information.

The workshop programme, presented below, will focus on presentations combined with round table discussions and discussions in smaller groups. The discussions will especially pay attention to both methodological issues and appropriate tools and both on the preparation of the network proposal and future collaborations.

de corps, 371 ff. Minuit, Paris 1989. (English translation: *The State Nobility: Elite Schools in the Field of Power*. Stanford UP, Stanford 1996)].

⁷ Gisèle Sapiro, *La guerre des écrivains 1940–1953*. Fayard, Paris, 1999.

⁸ This includes methods such as multiple correspondence analysis and Euclidean classification, see Brigitte Le Roux & Henry Rouanet, *Geometric Data Analysis: From Correspondence Analysis to Structured Data Analysis*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht 2004.

⁹ Bradley & Short, op.cit.

¹⁰ Prosopography of the Byzantine Empire (PBE) is a British Academy project based in the Centre for Computing in the Humanities at King's College London. <http://www.pbw.kcl.ac.uk/>

¹¹ The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (PASE) funded for five years (2000-4) by The Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project was co-ordinated of University of Cambridge and King's College. For further information, see <http://www.pase.ac.uk/>.

The specific presentations will be distributed amongst the participants to mirror the work done in the humanities and the social sciences. The presenters will be asked to focus the presentation on the design and the results and the either the methods or the tools and sometimes both.

At the end of the workshop the basic outlines of a proposal will be ready to distribute and distribution of work on the proposal will be decided.

The next network meeting and future collaborative activities will also be planned and outlined.

Special attention will be given to spread the work load among senior and younger scholars and between men and women.

A common web based platform will be used and introduced during the workshop.

Preliminary workshop programme, May 10-11 2007.

Day 1: Introduction and prosopographical studies

10.00-10.30	Welcome and introduction to workshop aims, expected outcomes and the presentation of the programme. Brief introduction to web platform	Harold Short, Donald Broady & Monica Langerth Zetterman
<i>Prosopography in the humanities</i>		
10.30-12.30	Presentations of specific studies in the humanities with focus on data base design and data collection. 1. [proposed presentation & name] 2. [proposed presentation & name] 3. [proposed presentation & name]	Chair: Monica Langerth Zetterman
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
<i>Prosopography in the social sciences</i>		
13.30-15.30	Presentations of specific studies in the social sciences with focus on large datasets, geometric data analysis, visualisation and network analyses. 1. [proposed presentation & name] 2. [proposed presentation & name] 3. [proposed presentation & name]	Chair: Donald Broady
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
<i>Applications, tools and methods</i>		
16.00-17.30	Discussions and presentations in four different groups focusing on: data-collection, data base design, analysing large data sets, visualisation and network analyses.	
17.30-18.30	Workshop discussions focusing on results from group discussions, mutual interests and areas of collaboration. (based on groups results from previous discussions)	Chair: Harold Short
19.30-21.00	Dinner	

Day 2: Tools and methods

<i>Exploring new methods</i>		
9.00-10.00	Hands-on, discussion and presentation of [new and advanced] tools in prosopographical research, applications in the social sciences.	Chair: Mikael Börjesson
10.00-11.00	Hands-on, discussion and presentation of [new and advanced] tools in prosopographical research, applications in the humanities.	Chair: Harold Short
<i>Looking ahead</i>		
11.00-12.30	Discussions in small groups, preparation of draft for a network proposal.	
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-15.00	Summary of group discussions outcomes and joint discussion on network proposal and future collaborations. Distribution of work with network proposal.	Chair: Monica Langerth Zetterman
15.00-15.30	Coffee break	
<i>Two approaches - one network</i>		
15.30-16.30	Presentations and examples of how to combine approaches in the humanities and social sciences.	
16.30-17.30	Closing speech and summary of work with network proposal preparations and collaborative activities.	Harold Short & Donald Broady
<i>Voluntary discussions or departure</i>		

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Medieval History

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A representative from the Austrian Academy Corpus, Vienna

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Estimated budget

Budget	€
<i>Travel</i>	
Austria	400
Belgium	400
Denmark	500
France	1600
Italy	400
Sweden	200
United Kingdom	2300
<i>Accommodation</i> (abroad participants for 3 nights)	5 250
<i>Subsistence</i> (all participants for 2 days, and abroad participants an additional 0,5 days)	3600
<i>Administrative costs</i> (venue, printing, photocopying)	200
<i>Publication costs</i>	150
Total costs	15 000

Donald Broady: Curriculum Vitae

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Donald Broady, born 1946, PhD, since 1997 full professor in Education at Uppsala University. Previously 1990-1994 and 1996-1997 acting professor at the Dept. of Educational Research, Stockholm Institute of Education.

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Since 1993 co-directing (together with Monique de Saint-Martin, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) the international research network "Formation des élites et internationalisation de la culture" with partners in 21 countries. At Uppsala University research on elites and education, cultural fields, history of education, students' trajectories, transnational educational strategies, education in Sub-Saharan Africa.

At Royal Institute of Technology and Uppsala University research on mark-up languages (SGML, XML etc), Internet applications and computer support for education and research, especially in the humanities and social sciences.

Since 2004 member of the Swedish Research Council's Committee for Educational Science. Since 2005 Director of the Swedish National Research School for Educational History.

For more information see:

Sociology of Education and Culture, SEC home page

<<http://www.skeptron.ilu.uu.se/broady/sec/>>

Digital Literature home page <<http://www.skeptron.ilu.uu.se/broady/dl/>>

Donald Broady's writings <<http://www.skeptron.ilu.uu.se/broady/skrifter.htm>>

Selected publications

Donald Broady: "French prosopography: definition and suggested readings", *Poetics* [Elsevier Science Publishers, Holland], Volume 30, Issues 5-6, October-December 2002, p. 381-385.

Mikael Börjesson, Donald Broady, Monica Langerth Zetterman, Ida Lidegran, Sverker Lundin, Ingrid Nordqvist och Mikael Palme: Using correspondence analysis for exploring regional differences in the education system. Decentralization, marketization and the social structure of the field of secondary education in four Swedish regions, konferensen *CARME 2003 (Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods)*, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, 29 juni - 2 juli 2003.

Mikael Börjesson, Donald Broady och Mikael Palme: Social Classification and the Analysis of the Field of Higher Education, konferensen *CARME 2003 (Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods)*, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, 29 juni - 2 juli 2003.

Donald Broady & Monica Langerth Zetterman: TEI Markup as Research Tool in the Prosopographic Study Formation for the Public Sphere. Paper read at the conference *DRH2003 (Digital Resources in the Humanities)*, University of Gloucestershire, England, Aug. 2003.

Mikael Börjesson & Donald Broady: "New Strategies on the Transnational Higher Education Market. The Case of Swedish Students in Paris and New York", paper to the session "Crossing Frontiers in Higher Education", *The 37th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology*, Stockholm, July 5-9, 2005.

Harold Short: Curriculum vitae

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 1970: Graduate Certificate in Education (London), University College of Rhodesia
 1974-1989: BA (Open) (Credits in Computing, Systems, Mathematics, Psychology), Open University

Professional qualification

1980: NCC Certificate in Systems Analysis and Design

Employment

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 1972-74: Quest News Service, London: Information Officer
 1974-77: International Computers Ltd: Lecturer, Senior Lecturer
 1977-88: BBC: Programmer, Systems Analyst, Systems Manager
 1988-2002 : King's College London: Assistant Director, Information Services & Systems
 1993- : King's College London: Director, Centre for Computing in the Humanities

Management responsibilities

Director of the Centre for Computing in the Humanities (CCH). CCH is a department in the School of Humanities: it runs undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes and a PhD, and has a major collaborative role in inter-disciplinary research projects, while at the same time being responsible for its own research agenda. The department has grown rapidly. It now has more than 30 staff, of whom 13 are established and the remainder on fixed-term contracts. In the period 1999-2005, with its collaborative partners it generated more than 13 million GBP of research income. The largest grant is 1 million GBP to host the AHRC ICT Methods Network, Apr 2005-Mar 2008; this is a major component of the 'ICT in Arts and Humanities Research' programme of the Arts and Humanities Research Council; I am co-Director with Marilyn Deegan. In Sep 2003 King's Digital Consultancy Services was set up in CCH, directed by Simon Tanner. In Sep 2005 the 3D Visualisation Group from the University of Warwick, directed by Prof Richard Beacham, transferred to CCH en bloc (4 staff), and now operates as King's Visualisation Laboratory.

Academic responsibilities

BA Minor programme in *Digital Humanities*: course organiser 1989-1999 and Chair of the Programme Board of Examiners from inception, 1989-2005. Responsible 1989-2002 for *Applied Computing for Humanities Postgraduates* courses, an integrated non-credit programme of 'core' and 'advanced' courses. Overall responsibility for the development of an MA programme 'Digital Humanities', introduced in October 2002. Programme Director for the

multi-disciplinary MA programme 'Digital Culture and Technology' which began October 2003.

Project responsibilities

Technical director or consultant on a number of research projects. Full project details available on the web site of the Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London:

www.kcl.ac.uk/cch. Completed projects are marked with *.

Historical studies

- Prosopography of the Byzantine World (Prof. C Roueché): British Academy/AHRC funded; CDROM for period I (641-867) published by Ashgate in 2001. Co-applicant in a further AHRC grant 2003-06; British Academy funding 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005.
- Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (Prof. J Nelson, Prof. S Keynes): AHRC; with Cambridge, 2000-2005; second phase 3-year project funded from Aug 2005.
- Clergy of the Church of England Database (Drs Fincham, Taylor, Burns): AHRC; with Reading & Kent, 1999-2005; second phase 3-year project funded from Mar 2005.
- Durham *Liber Vitae* – an electronic edition (Prof D Rollason); AHRC, with Durham, 2003-2006.

Literary & linguistic studies

- Line-by-line Bibliography of Wolfram's *Parzival* (Prof D Yeandle): AHRC; CDROM 'Stellenbibliographie zum "Parzival" Wolframs von Eschenbach für die Jahrgänge 1984-1996', published by Niemeyer, 2002.
- Co-applicant in Inscriptions of Aphrodisias (C Roueché): AHRC: 3 years from March 2004.
- * EPIDOC Aphrodisias Pilot Project (C Roueché): Leverhulme, 2002-2004.
- * Thesaurus of Old English (Professor Jane Roberts) - 2nd Edition now published, *A Thesaurus of Old English*, Jane Roberts & Christian Kay with Lynne Grundy, Rodopi 2000.
- Corpus of Contemporary Spanish; Origins of the Novel; Early Modern Spain portal (all Prof. B Ife); Origins of the Novel project funded by AHRC.
- * Relics & Selves: Iconographies of the national in Argentina, Brazil & Chile, 1880-1890 (Prof. W Rowe): AHRC, with Birkbeck; web site launched January 2001.

Art history

- Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland: British Academy; with Courtauld Institute of Art. New grant starting April 2003 from AHRC (3 years). Web site launched 2001.
- * Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi Ireland: British Academy/AHRC; with Courtauld Institute of Art.
- * *Daidalos* Database of Ancient Greek Sculptors (Prof. G Waywell): Leverhulme (1994-98).

Music

- Co-applicant in Chopin First Editions Online (Prof J Rink, Royal Holloway): AHRC: from Feb 2004.
- Chopin variorum edition; 1-year exploratory project from May 2003; Andrew W Mellon Foundation.
- DIAMM (Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music); 2-year extension project from May 2003; Andrew W Mellon Foundation.

Information/knowledge management

- Open-source information systems on nuclear proliferation, with King's International Policy Institute (IPI) and the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna.
- Forced Migration On-line: European Union and Andrew W Mellon Foundation; with Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, and others. Portal launched Nov 2002.
- * Digital Shikshapatri: New Opportunities Fund; with Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford. Nov 2003.

Digital library

- FEDORA digital library project: Andrew W Mellon Foundation; University of Virginia and Cornell.
- * Malibu hybrid library project: JISC/eLib; with Oxford and Southampton (1998-2001).
- * Automated keyword extraction project: Andrew W Mellon Foundation.

Committee memberships (King's College committees shown first)

- School of Humanities *Executive Board*.
- Co-Director of the *Humanities Research Centres*, with Prof Janet L Nelson.
- School of Humanities *Research Committee* and *ISS Committee*.
- Chair of *Humanities with Applied Computing* Programme Board of Examiners (1989-2004), Chair of *Combined Studies BA Board of Examiners* (2002-) and Deputy Chair of the *Humanities Undergraduate Board of Examiners* (2002-).
- Standing Committee of the *Digital Resources for the Humanities* (DRH) conferences, 1996-
- Advisory Board of the Refugee Studies Centre Digital Library project, Oxford University (1999-2002).
- British Academy committee for the *Prosopography of the Byzantine World*.
- British Academy committee for the *Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland*
- Publications Committee of the Institute for Historical Research.
- International Scientific Advisory Committee for the Austrian Academy Corpus project, Austrian Academy of Sciences, from Nov 2003
- External Advisor, American Council of Learned Societies Commission on Cyberinfrastructure for Humanities and Social Science, from March 2004.

Other external involvements and special projects:

- Chair, Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing (1997-; previously Hon Treasurer, 1994-97).
- Member of Board of Directors of the *Text Encoding Initiative Consortium*, 2001-2003
- Chair of the Programme Committee for *Digital Resources for the Humanities*, Oxford, September 1997.
- Local organiser for *Digital Resources for the Humanities*, King's College London, September 1999.

Selected publications

- D Buzzetti, G Pancaldi, H Short (Eds): *Humanities Computing: Philosophy and Digital Resources*, Office for Humanities Communication, 2003.
- H Short: 'The Role of Humanities Computing: Experiences and challenges', *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, Vol 17 No 2, 2002
- J Bradley, H Short: 'Using Formal Structures to Create Complex Relationships: The Prosopography of the Byzantine Empire – A Case Study', in K S B Keats-Rohan (Ed): *Resourcing Sources*, Oxbow 2002.
- Janet L Nelson, David A E Pelteret, H Short: 'Medieval Prosopographies and the Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England', in A Cameron (Ed): *50 Years of Prosopography*, Proceedings of the British Academy 118, 2003.
- With John Bradley, 'Texts into Databases: The Evolving Field of New-style Prosopography', *Joint International ACH-ALLC conference*, Athens, Georgia, USA, May 2003.