This workshop aims to introduce the use of semantic annotation and linked open data to humanists, and to showcase the potential of these digital approaches for research and outreach. The event is divided into: a more theoretical introduction, a tutorial, and a hands-on session.

1) During the introduction, we will explain what the semantic web is and how it works, and how structured data can be applied to the analysis of historical text and maps, the enrichment of digital archives in cultural institutions, and the representation of informative connections between documents. We will explore the role of unique identifiers (URIs) and the importance of producing and maintaining curated lists of entities and their relationships, focusing on historical gazetteers. We will compare different data models and methodological approaches to the representation of historical places as data, discussing their potential and limitations.

2) In the second part of the workshop, we will introduce an easy and user-friendly platform for the annotation of text and images with a strong geographic focus, Recogito. We will use this tool, developed within the Pelagios project, for the annotation of selected text and images. During the tutorial, the participants will learn the main features of the platform and be able to:
   ● Annotate text and images adding comments and tags
   ● Resolve place references against historical gazetteers
   ● Generate interactive maps for text documents
   ● Experiment with named entity recognition
   ● Express relationships between the annotated entities and create graph representations for them
   ● Download the data in several formats and post-process them.

3) In the third part of the workshop, the attendees will try the annotation process and the generation of maps powered by historical gazetteers on their own machines. We will make available a small selection of historical texts and maps, but participants will be welcome to work on their own corpora, if they prefer so. The instructor will remain available to answer questions, troubleshoot, and brainstorm possible applications for specific research projects.

The overall goal of the workshop is not to reach proficiency in the use of a particular tool, but is to gain a better understanding of:
a) how semantic annotation can support the study, comparison, preservation, and communication of digitised historical documents in both text and image format,
b) how expressing complex information in data format enables new ways to identify connections and trends
c) how the use of unique identifiers and data standards is changing the ways we build and use archives, libraries and museum collections.

No previous knowledge is required to join this workshop, but you will need to bring a laptop with an internet browser. Please, note that Recogito is not supported in Microsoft Edge and will not work on a tablet or a touch screen.
Recogito is an online platform and does not require any installation. Before the workshop, please, create an account on https://recogito.pelagios.org. An email with the links to the documents available for annotation will be circulated closer to the start.