## MOURITSEN — DPRR

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## DPRR: Digitizing the Prosopography of the Roman Republic

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Rome’s remarkable development from a modest Italian city-state into the ruler of a Mediterranean empire arguably happened because of its highly competitive aristocratic elite during the time of the Roman Republic (500 BC to 31 BC). The *Digitizing the Prosopography of the Roman Republic* project1 at King’s College London (Department of Classics, and Department of Digital Humanities [DDH]) aims to enhance the understanding of this story through the development of a digital prosopographic database of these elite individuals, and believes that through its availability online a host of old questions from Roman Republic history as well as many new ones will be made feasible to explore. Through the database one will be able to see an individual’s career patterns, connections with their families and links between families, and evidence for the process of how families got themselves into the elite group.

The name of the project is significant in that, unlike other prosopographies that DDH has undertaken, this one draws heavily on several existing print and digital prosopographies that are already in existence, and we believe that it is in the bringing together of data from these hitherto separate resources that new insights will become available. Of the prosopographical work available, Broughton’s study of office-holders (1951–1952, supplement 1986) remains the standard work. However, DPRR has arranged that more recent prosopographical work by Nicolet (1966–1974), Rüpke (2005), Zmeskal (2009), and others will also be included. Underpinning all of this is the monumental *Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft* (Pauly et al., 1893–) which dates from the late 19th century and continues to provide the basis against which historical identity of individuals is argued even today. Indeed, the way to represent not only the combined data from these quite different sources in a single structure, but also to deal with their disagreements, is one of the issues the project will be exploring.

The project will draw on the experience of the Department of Digital Humanities at KCL through its use of its highly successful ‘factoid’ design for structured prosopography (Bradley and Short, 2005; Pasin and Bradley, 2013), which has been already successfully applied to several other structured prosopographies in which DDH was a partner, including *Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England* (PASE),2 the *Prosopography of the Byzantine World* (PBW),3 and more recently the *People of Medieval Scotland* (PoMS),4 People of Northern England (PoNE),5 and the *Making of Charlemagne’s Europe*,6 although the secondary-source nature of the material for DPRR will necessitate some modifications to the factoid principles.

DPRR expects to become a key resource for scholars interested in the classical world at the time of the Roman Republic, and will thus be participating in the various linked data initiatives currently under way in the digital classics field. In particular, as an online resource, DPRR will be contributing URIs for its various individuals, and expects to make available the data it holds about its individuals using linked data conventions such as RDF. In this regard, it hopes to participate in the continuing work of the SNAP:DRGN7 project, and to work with the broader LAWDI8 community. In addition, the factoid model for data often opens up the data for network analysis techniques such as Social Network Analysis (SNA). DPRR also intends to explore what SNA potential might be found in its data, drawing on the experience DDH has had with applying SNA techniques to the factoid model of the *People of Medieval Scotland* dataset.

## Notes

1. Funded by the UK’s AHRC.

2. http://www.pase.ac.uk.

3. http://www.pbw.kcl.ac.uk/.

4. http://www.poms.ac.uk/.

5. http://www.pone.ac.uk/.

6. http://www.charlemagneseurope.ac.uk/.

7. http://snapdrgn.net/.

8. http://wiki.digitalclassicist.org/Linked\_Ancient\_World\_Data\_Institute.

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