



INSTITUT NATIONAL  
DE L'INFORMATION  
GÉOGRAPHIQUE  
ET FORESTIÈRE



# Issue presentation: publishing historical gazetteers & alignments to ontologies

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# Context: Atelier Condorcet (2017-2019)

- ❖ Sharing **(geo-)historical reference data** for the Humanities
- ❖ **Linked Data** to enable data sharing and reusability according to best practices
- ❖ Teams of historians, toponymists, GIS experts in ENC and EHESF producing geo-historical data (localised or not) wishing to **link their datasets**
- ❖ Focus on **toponyms data sets** as very interested for text and map annotation use cases



École  
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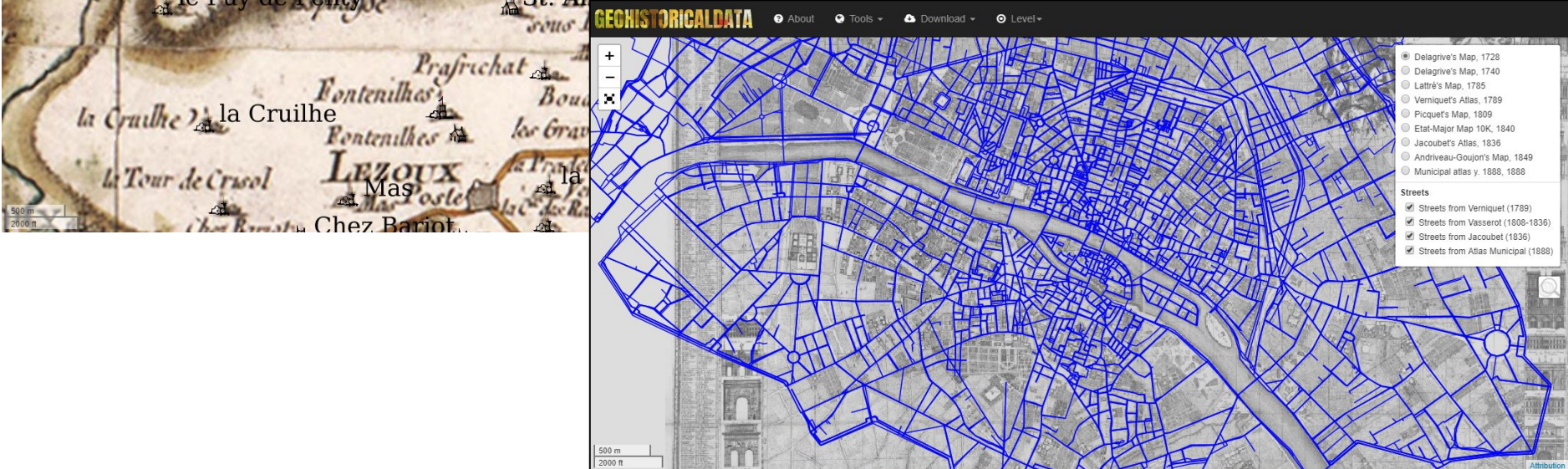
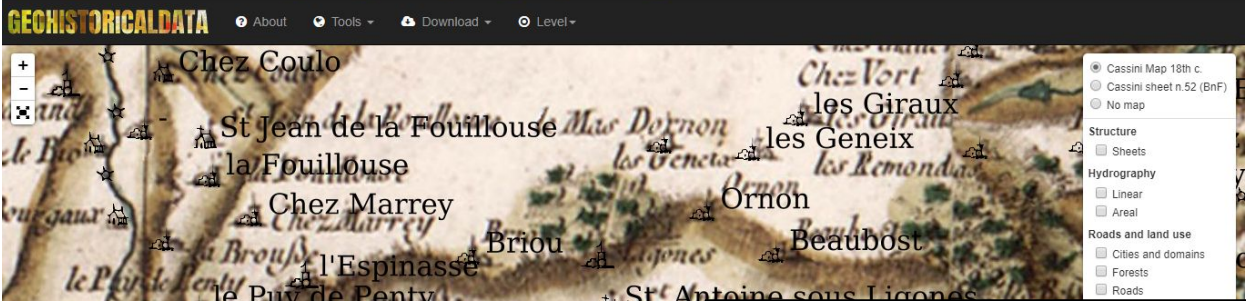
L'ÉCOLE  
DES HAUTES  
ÉTUDES  
EN SCIENCES  
SOCIALES

in collaboration with:



{BnF

# GeoHistoricalData



# GeoHistoricalData

- Geographical database issue of the collaborative vectorisation by researchers of the Cassini map (1756-1815) digitised by the French National Library and georeferenced by IGN and EHESS (distributed by IGN freely for research as WMS service)
- Several vector datasets including hydrography, parisian historical addresses as well as georeferenced historical plans are available built upon collaborative work
- Toponymes dataset including “chefs-lieux de paroisses” (Parish capitals) of French historical paroisses geolocalised, also population historical statistics per commune are available..
- However, no consistent identifiers for entities really exist and data is only linked to INSEE identifiers for communes

# World-Historical Gazetteer

Ruth M. Mostern, Principal Investigator • Karl Grossner, Technical Director  
Ryan Horne, WHC Postdoctoral Fellow • Patrick Manning, Consultant

<http://whgazetteer.org>



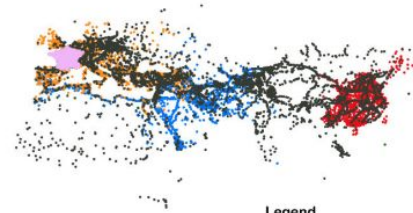
University of Pittsburgh  
World History Center



## Collaboration with Pelagios & WHG for publishing historical gazetteers



**China Historical GIS**  
Early Modern Places  
**Cassini Map**  
**HGIS de las Indias**  
LatAm Gazetteer  
*Digging Into Early Colonial Mexico*  
Gazetteer of the Americas  
Enslaved  
**al-Turayya Gazetteer**  
**Euratlas**  
GB1900  
**Old World Trade (OWTRAD)**  
Seshat  
Mapping Ottoman Epirus  
Sinai Peninsula  
*HGIS of Poland*  
*Syriaca*  
*Linked Open Gazetteer of the Andes (LOGAR)*  
...

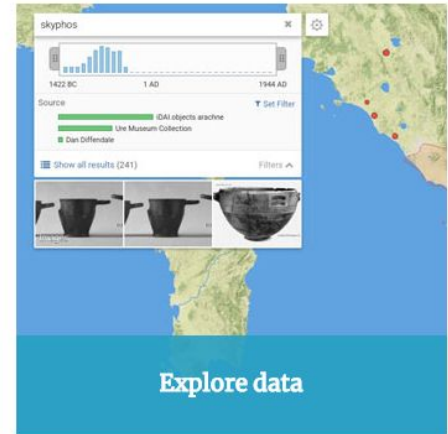


**Legend**

- Cassini Map
- OWTRAD
- Euratlas 1000ce
- CHGIS
- al-Turayya
- HGIS de las Indias

World Historical Gazetteer -  
<http://whgazetteer.org/>

Pelagios commons -  
<http://commons.pelagios.org/>



# GHD Ontology

We are building the GHD ontology with an ontology design expert, compatible to the LinkedPlaces model and adapted to the GHD domain based on:

- ❖ DUL - DOLCE+DnS Ultralite, upper-level ontology
  - Created by Aldo Gangemi as both a simplification and extension of DOLCE and Descriptions and Situations ontologies,  
<http://www.ontologydesignpatterns.org/ont/dul/DUL.owl>
- ❖ LinkedPlaces (refinement of the Pleiades model - Tom Elliot)
  - by Karl Grossner (WHG) and Rainer Simon (Pelagios)
  - relies on main “container” concept Place composed of Locations & Names which are attested by historical sources, including spatial relations predicates
  - <https://github.com/LinkedPasts/linked-places/blob/master/linkedplaces-context-v1.jsonld>

# Work in progress and perspectives

- ❖ Transformation of GHD toponyms dataset according to our ontology thanks to R2RML rules
- ❖ Extending the ontology for exploring (spatial) reasoning capabilities
- ❖ Distribution of the RDF dataset as a dump file through our website
- ❖ Delivering data according to the LinkedPlaces model so to make it available within the Pelagios and WHG digital ecosystem
- ❖ I'd like to discuss how to make connections to the conceptual framework of the CIDOC CRM?