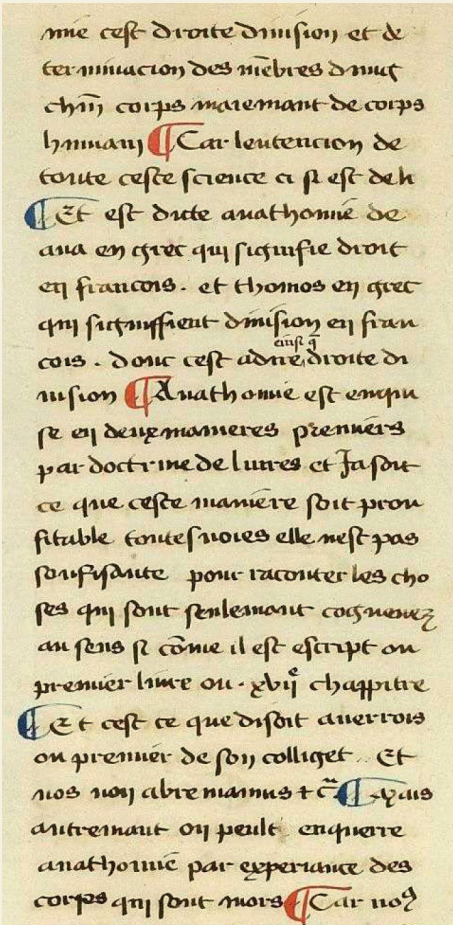


Knowledge Networks in Medieval Romance Speaking Europe (ALMA)



Treatise of the *Grande Chirurgie* by Gui de Chauliac, French translation of a Latin text from 1363, manuscript Montpellier, 2nd third 15th century, describing in detail a post-mortem dissection. (Bibliothèque Universitaire Historique de Médecine - Université de Montpellier, H 184, 2nd third 15th c., folio 15v°b. SCDI Montpellier - Service photographique).

«Donc anatho[15v°b]mie, c'est droite division et determinacion des membres d'ung [...] corps humain [...]. Et est dicte anathomie de 'ana' en grec, qui signifie 'droit' en françois, et 'thomos' en grec, qui signifient 'division' en françois, donc c'est a dire ainsi que 'droite division'. Anathomie est enquisse en deux manieres: premiers par doctrine de livres, et ja soit ce que ceste maniere soit proufitable, toutesvoies elle n'est pas soufisante pour raconter les choses qui sont seulement cogneuez au sens [...]. Mais autremant, on peult enquerre anathomie par experiance des corps qui sont mors.»

«Item, an anatomy is the correct division and determination of the body parts of a human being [...]. And anatomy is composed of 'ana' in Greek, which means 'correct' in French, and 'thomos' in Greek, which means 'division' in French, thus it means 'correct division'. Anatomy is studied in two ways: first, through the teaching of books and although this way is beneficial, it is not sufficient for reporting the things that are recognizable only to the sense [...]. But on the other hand, one can explore the anatomy through the experience with bodies that are dead.»

Between the 12th and the 15th century, significant changes can be observed in the European intellectual life of the Middle Ages. These changes are closely interlinked with processes impacting society such as the increasing textualization of many areas of life and the emergence of new educational institutions. These developments are accompanied by profound changes within the language. People increasingly turn to the vernacular languages as a means for the written communication of knowledge. Therewith, new groups of experts emerge, developing new terminologies (as can be seen, for example, in the French *Grande Chirurgie*) and new ways of generating and transferring knowledge. The shift towards the vernacular languages serves as a stimulus and, at the same time, indicates that the access to knowledge becomes available to new user groups: Knowledge transfer is taking on a different role within society. The ALMA project investigates specialized vocabulary, linguistic innovations within the vernacular languages, and the interaction between languages and evolving domain knowledge.

The project aims at making the rich textual tradition within Romance languages – concerning the knowledge domains of medicine and law – accessible through digital text editions and multilingual text corpora. A corpus-linguistic analysis of the texts provides the basis for lexical-semantic studies that analyze key concepts of the knowledge networks and the depth of their linguistic representation within the Gallo- and Italo-romania. The lexical-semantic studies also discuss both origin and dissemination of lexical innovations together with the new matters denoted.

To achieve interoperability with the Semantic Web, the research results are modeled as Linked Open Data. For language-independent interlinking of the Linked-Open-Data resources, ALMA develops historicised domain ontologies on law and medicine. These ontologies do not depict the modern world but instead, consider the specificity of medieval explanation patterns. Thus, they foster the re-use of the ALMA's research results far beyond the field of Romance linguistics by extending it to all historically working sciences. This reflects the interdisciplinary relevance of the project.



Italian, French, Occitan, Gascon



12th - 15th century



Digital text editions and linguistic corpora



Knowledge domains 'medicine' and 'law'



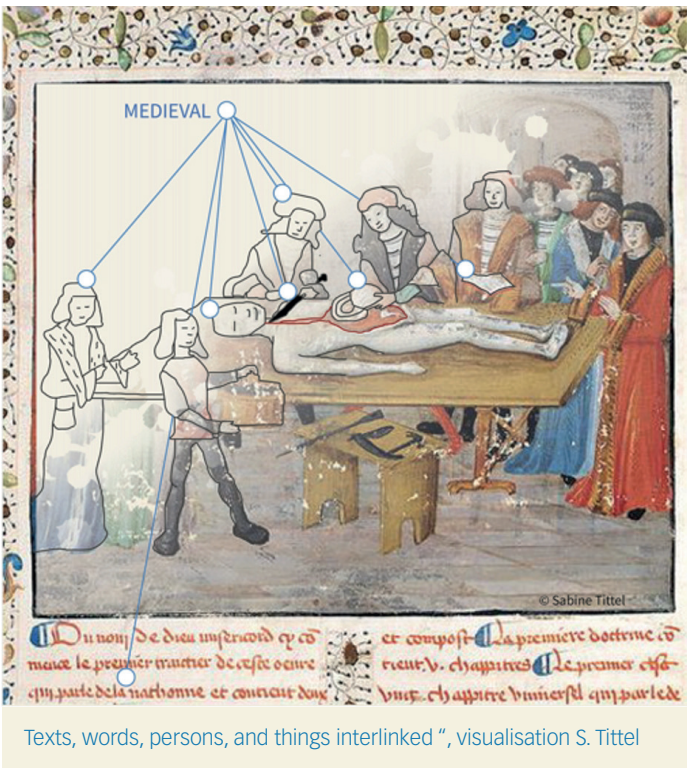
Methods of philology, corpus linguistics, lexicology, lexicography, history of science and scholarship, Linked Open Data, ontology engineering



Six positions, additional student assistants (Romance linguistics and computational linguistics)



22 years



Texts, words, persons, and things interlinked “, visualisation S. Tittel

The Heidelberg research unit focuses on medieval French and IT/ software development, the Munich unit on medieval Occitan/Gascon, and the Saarbrücken unit on medieval Italian.

