Lancaster University

Reading, Connecting, and Visualising the *Condaghes*:

The Networks of Medieval Sardinia (the case of S. Maria of Bonarcado)

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Network Analysis for Medieval Studies, I:
Network Analysis of Medieval Charters

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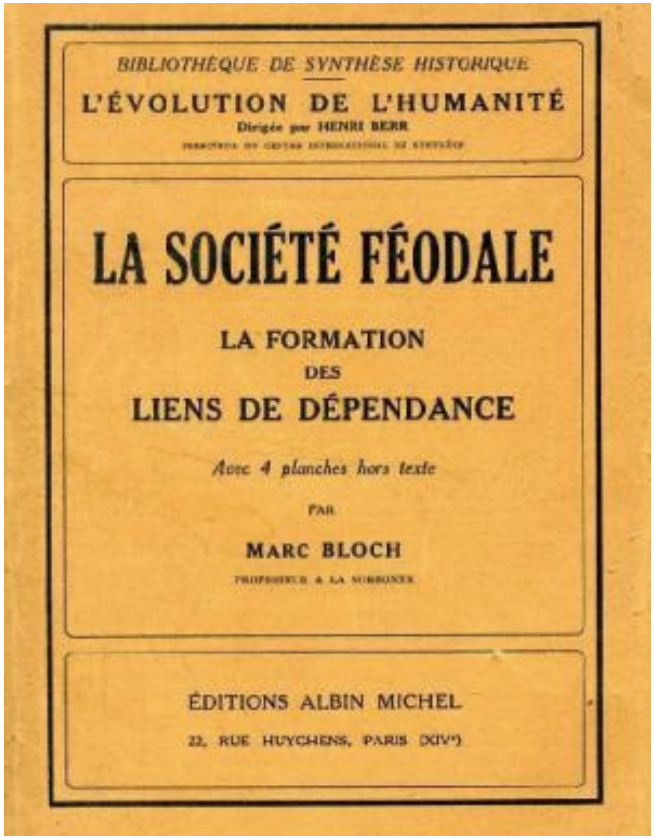
POWER, SOCIETY, AND (DIS)CONNECTIVITY IN MEDIEVAL SARDINIA

Arts & Humanities Research Council

Medieval Sardinia?

- Marc Bloch: Sardinia was ‘a poor country whose inhabitants, after their flight from the coastal region ravaged by pirates, lived in quasi-isolation. As a result, the first documents written in Sardinian are much older than the earliest Italian texts of the Peninsula’.



Medieval Sardinia?

Judicatures? Not quite!

Sardinian rulers:

- IUDEX / IUDIKE / REX

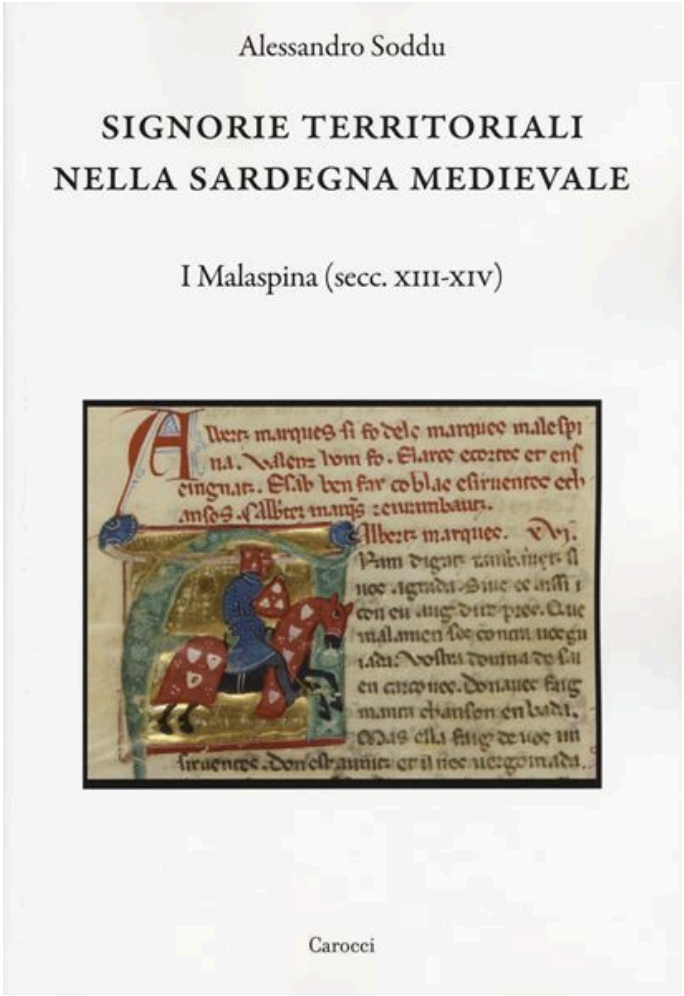
Sardinian autochthonous polities:

- LOGU / RENNU / REGNU

A ‘network’ approach for medieval Sardinia?

- Alessandro Soddu:

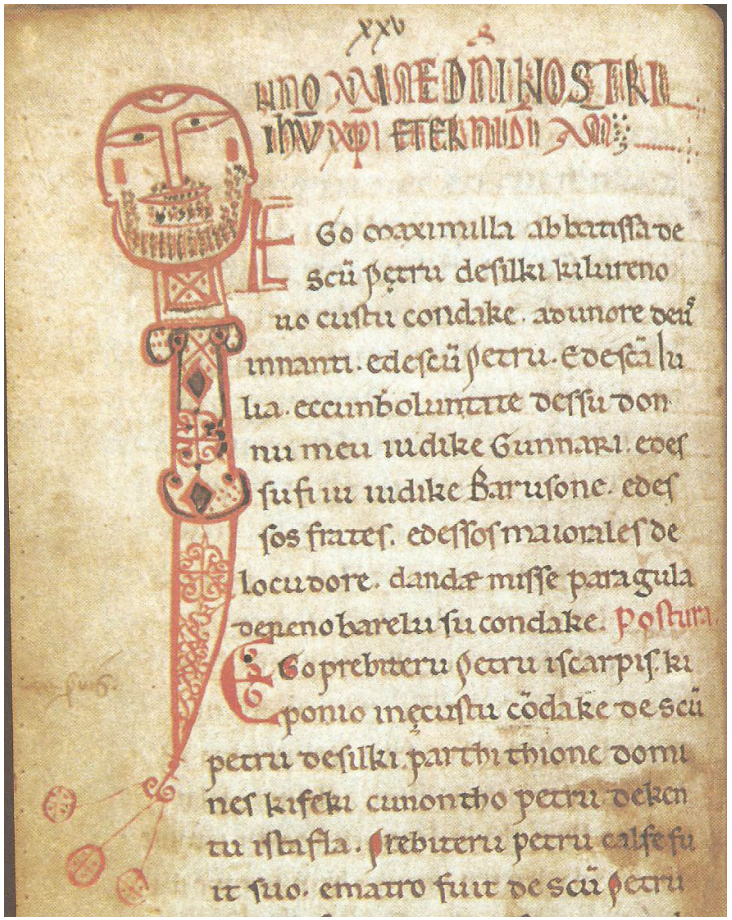
‘the network of castles and villages, monasteries and towns, is in fact a map of the power and community life that […] expects to be adequately questioned to better understand the links between resources and population, economic vocation and means of production, local tradition and external contributions, given material and social hierarchies’.



What is a condaghe?

A compiled collection of transactions and disputes which recorded the internal history of economic, administrative and legal organisation of an ecclesiastical foundation and those individuals and collectives subject to them.

… some sort of Sardinian chartulary



What is a condaghe?

From the Greek **κοντάκιον**, referring to the rod or stick (**κοντός, κόνταξ**) around which a scroll or *volumen* was rolled.

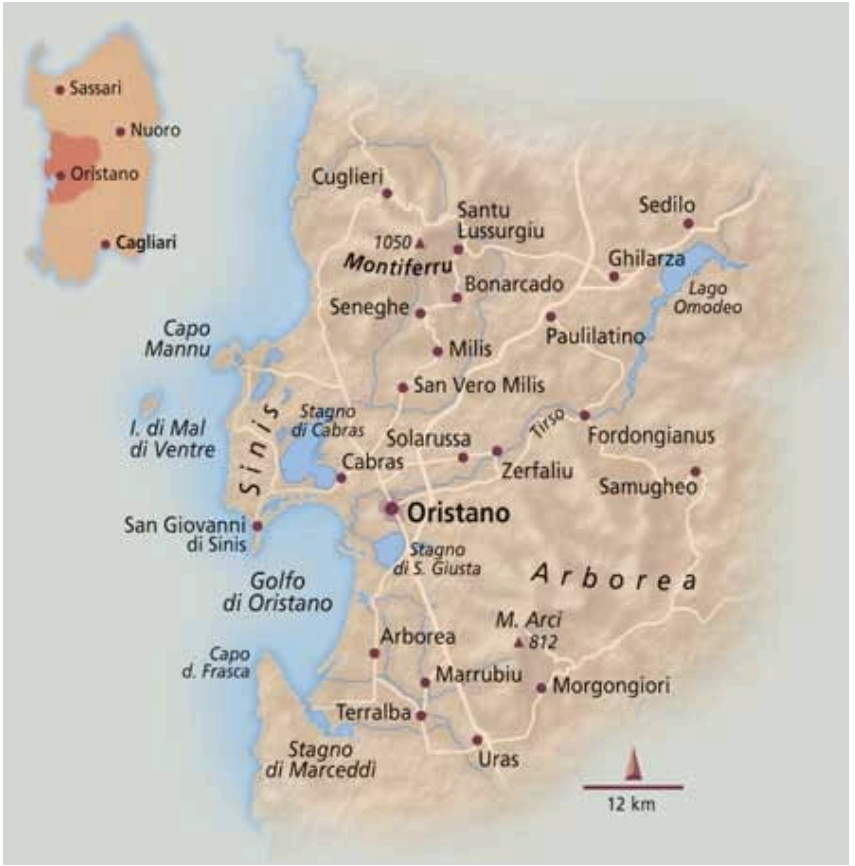
The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

Bonarcado derives from the Greek

πανάχραντος –

the ‘immaculate’ Virgin Mary that have been venerated there since the Byzantine era.



The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

According to Besta and Zanetti:

Folia	Time frame
29r–36v	1167–1169
37r–44v	1185 – early 13th c.
45r–52v	1171 – 1184
53r–60v	c. 1110 – 1146
61r–68v	1146 – 1164

The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

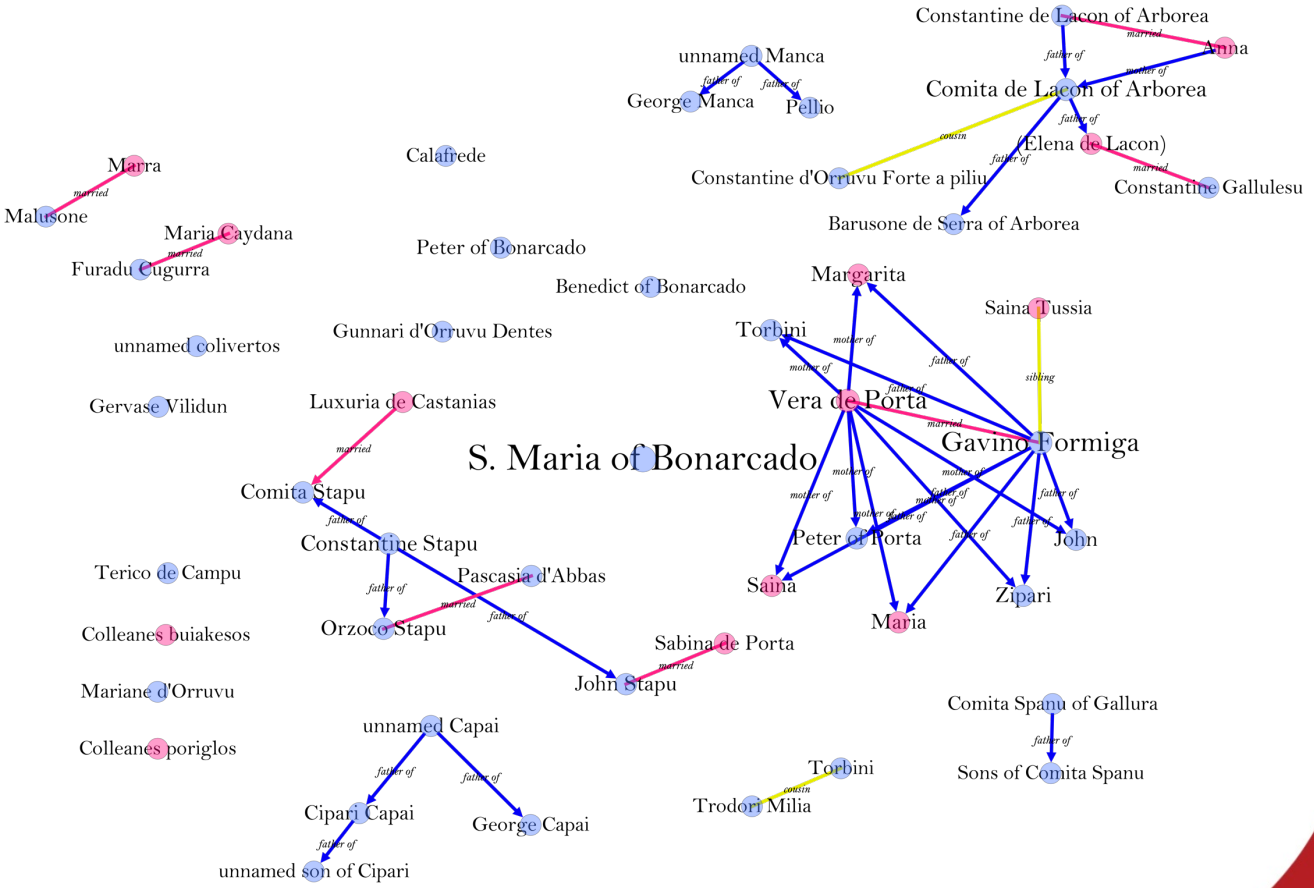
Kinship Relations

(1110–1146)

Direct descendancy

Marriage

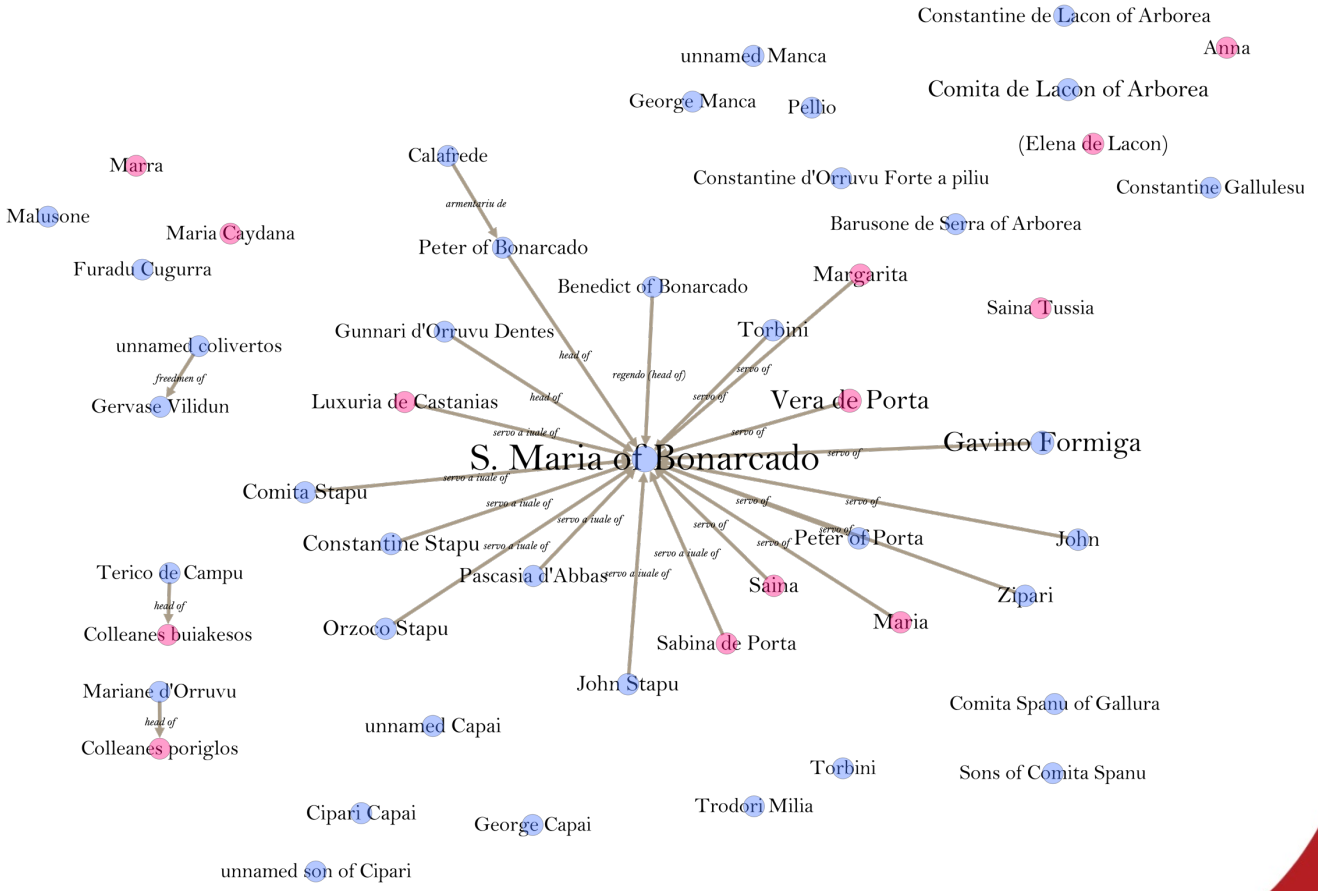
Others indirect



The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

Institutional Relations

(1110–1146)



The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

Relationship Network

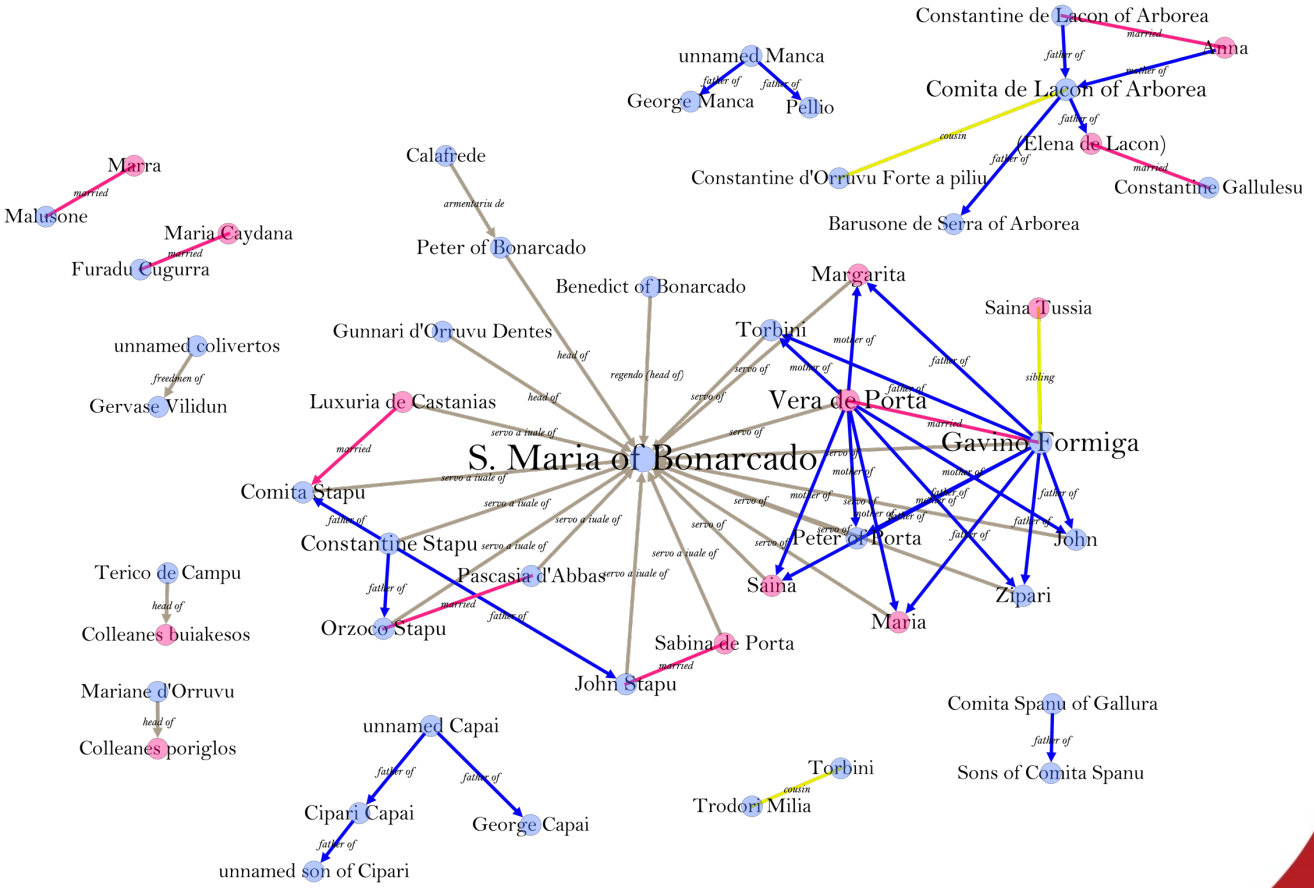
(1110–1146)

Direct descendancy

Marriage

Others indirect

Institutional



The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

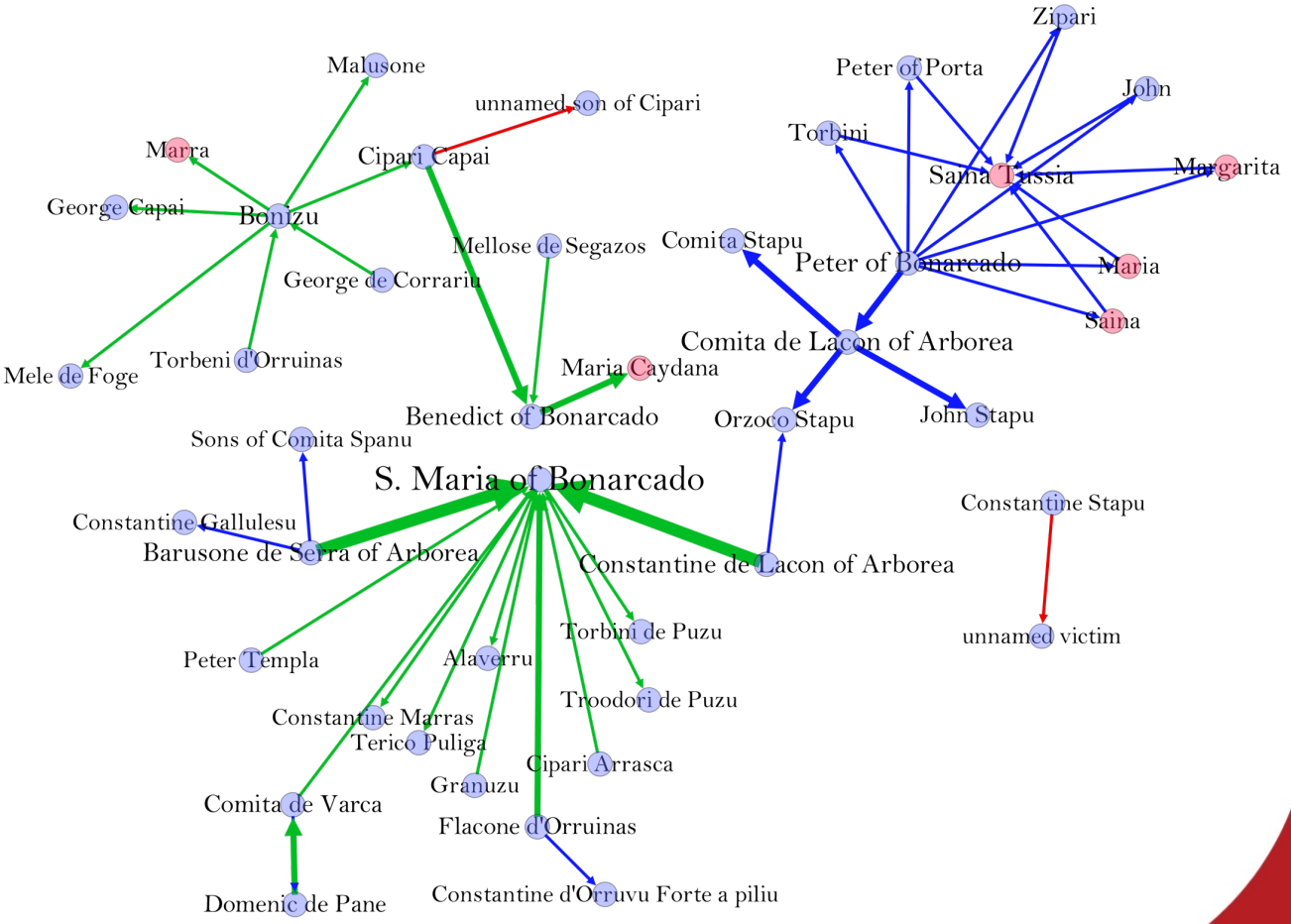
Interaction Network

(1110–1146)

Economic

Kertos (judicial)

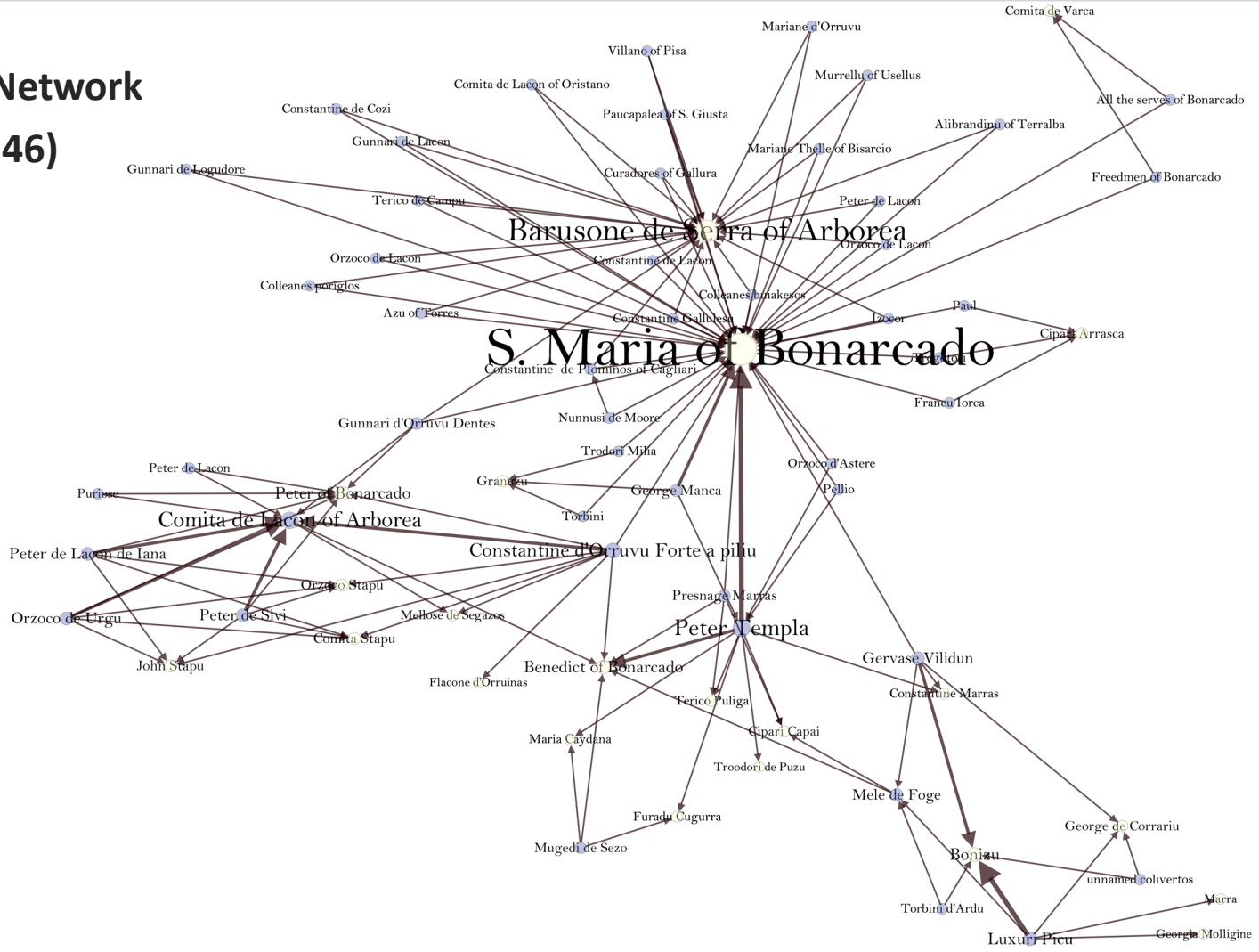
Injury



The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

Witness Network

(1110–1146)

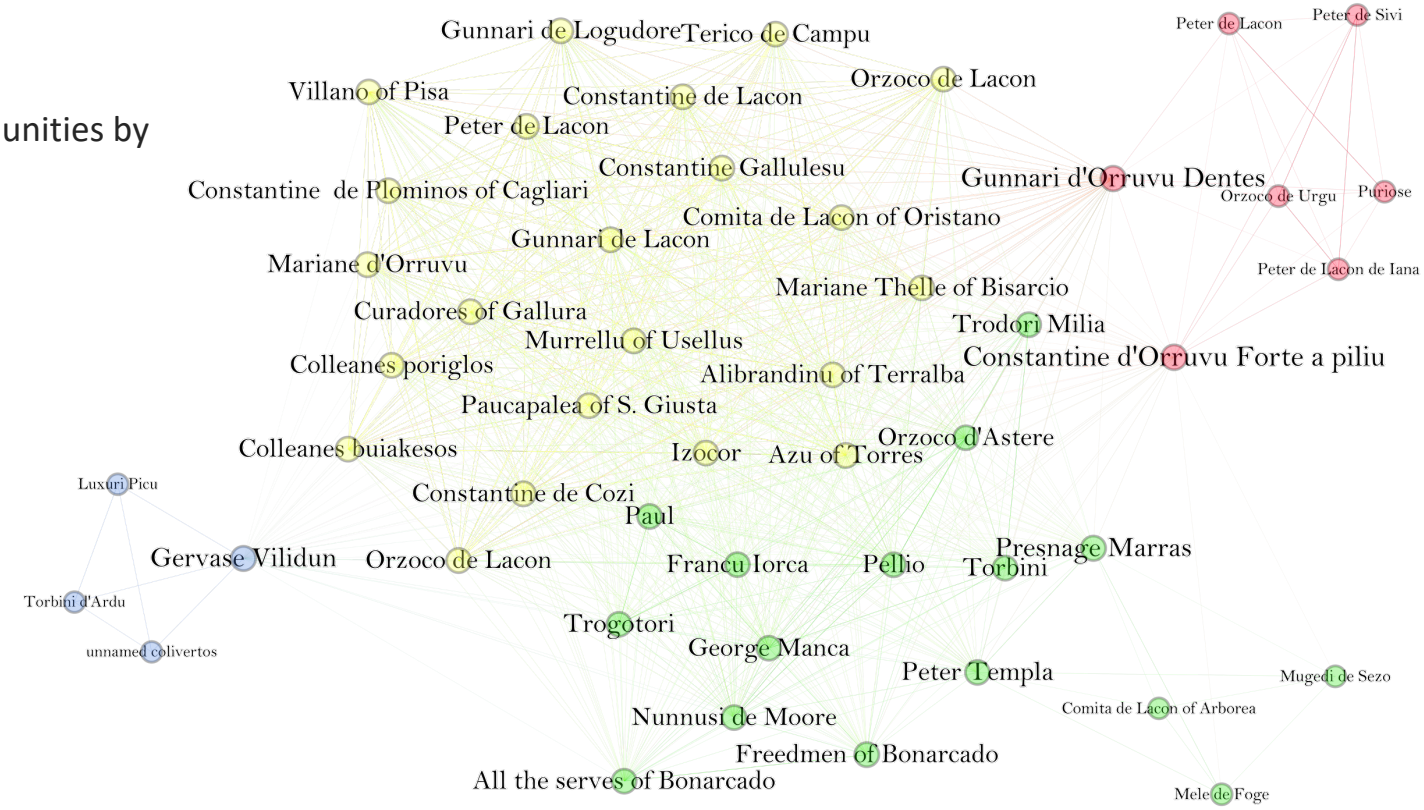


The case of S. Maria of Bonarcado

Witness-to-witness network
[Multimode to one-mode]
(1110–1146)

Number of communities by modularity:

4 (colour coded)



Discussion

Main challenges:

- Lack of precise dating;
- Undefined sequencing, with a non-chronological arrangement of recorded transactions;
- Mixed record of both economic transactions, donation statements and legal disputes (*kertos*).

Discussion

Fields of potential:

- Close-knit communities around central monastery;
- An ‘endemic’ terminology;
- Lists of witnesses;
- Kinship and institutional relations attested in the recorded disputes;
- Sardinian onomastics;
- Sections categorised by time frames.

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