Networking the Early Stuart Diplomatic Service: An Introduction

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Project Overview

The Early Stuart Diplomatic Service: Prosopography & Networks project gathers, analyzes, and visualizes biographical, event, and network data associated with early Stuart diplomatic representatives (1603-1649). Its goal is to achieve a fuller understanding of the evolution of diplomatic institutions and practices in the key period leading up to the Civil War and Interregnum.

Co-Mission Networks

ROLE OF NETWORKS

Co-mission networks represent who served with whom on what missions, and where. They have told us things like who served together repeatedly and who bridged diplomatic communities.

DATA

The project is based on analyzing the diplomats’ biographical details and personal and professional networks. Data sources include:

• Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (biographical)
• Handlist of English Diplomatic Representatives (professional networks)
• State Papers Online (correspondence networks)

NETWORKS

Personal and professional networks can help convey relevant information about who knew whom, and how these relationships impacted the structure of the service. Correspondence networks can show how communications traveled, and who the power brokers were.

SHARING

One of the project’s goals is to produce a combined, enhanced data set on early Stuart diplomats that can readily be linked to and shared with related projects through the use of standard identifiers and common data formats and structures.

References

Gary M. Bell, A Handlist of British Diplomatic Representatives, 1509-1688 (1990)
State Papers Online: 1309-1714, go.galegroup.com.mss/?authCount=1
Six Degrees of Francis Bacon: www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com