Tools for Social Network Analysis of Ancient Texts

Prosopography:
- Find family relations
- Disambiguate namesakes
- Build social networks

Context

Anu-uballit (seller)
Labaši (buyer)
Kidin-Anu (witness)
Zoros (witness)

Hellenistic Babylonia: Texts, Images, Names
http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/hbtin

Problem

How to get from hand-drawn tables and family trees...
...to automatically generated, interactive visualizations?

Berkeley Prosopography Services
- Name, activity recognition
- Probabilistic disambiguation, graph construction
- Pluggable visualizations
- User feedback incorporated into recognizer, graph
- Service Oriented Architecture, abstracted for re-use

Project Website:
http://www.berkeleyprosopography.org

Solution

Apply BPS to:
- Islamic Intellectual History
- Multiple cuneiform archives
- Trade across cultures
- Captioned iconography

Ask new questions:
- Unexpected social trends
- Cultural transmission

Extend tools:
- Multiple input formats
- Authority tracking

Project Team:
Niek Veldhuis (veldhuis@berkeley.edu)
Laurie Pearce (lpearce@berkeley.edu)
Patrick Schmitz (pschmitz@berkeley.edu)
Davide Sememzin (davide.semenzin@berkeley.edu)
Steve Tinney (stinney@sas.upenn.edu)
Eleanor Robson (er264@cam.ac.uk)