

This paper will show the outcomes of my ongoing research, which uses DH to inquire into the link between sixteenth-century heretical thought and the rise of modern medicine. In particular, I am reconstructing and examining the network of the Italian heretical physicians that, across Italy and in their European exiles, shaped a community of “learned dissent”, exploring the local, national and trans-national levels of this connection.

In my paper, I will present the preliminary concrete representation of the links among physicians, highlighting the potential of advanced technological tools for data visualisation. Indeed, DH allows to show core and periphery, hierarchy and roles within the network, and to provide many complementary indicators in terms of the sharing of medical knowledge, religious doctrines, books, etc. More generally my paper will show how DH allows to match in an innovative way different fields of study -- i.e. history of medicine and religious history.