

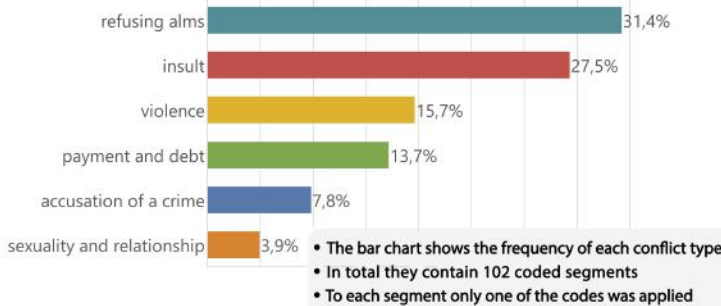
The Sourcerer's Apprentices

Using MAXQDA for teaching the study of historical witchcraft documents



HERMANN HEINRICH (23)
History BA
6th semester

I'm interested in why the accused supposedly used magic.
What personal conflicts caused witchcraft persecutions ?



- procedure**
- Searching for the keyword 'Ursache/Ursache' (cause)
 - Auto coding all paragraphs containing that word
 - Validating the results and creating inductive subcodes
 - Analysing code frequencies

conclusion

The most common conflict was the refusal of alms. This shows that the people accused of witchcraft were mainly beggars living in the streets. Insults and violence are also frequently mentioned. Conflicts about payment, debt, accusations of crimes and relationships are rare and individual phenomena.

I want to know what the devil looked like.
How did he appear during pact, flight or sex ?



BERND BRENNER (21)
Ethnology BA
3rd semester

- procedure**
- Broad-brush coding with the code 'appearance of the devil'
 - Fine coding into subcodes for each individual shape (animal, human...)
 - Second coding of the text segments with context codes (pact, sex, flight...)
 - Analysis of code co-occurrence with Code Relations Browser

conclusion

The appearance of the devil is not random, but rather limited to a specific set of forms. The devil is often described in the narrative of the devil's pact, where he took the form of a dog or rich man. The shape of a goat appears when the Sabbath or the witches' flight are occurring. During intercourse the devil's appearance is rarely mentioned.

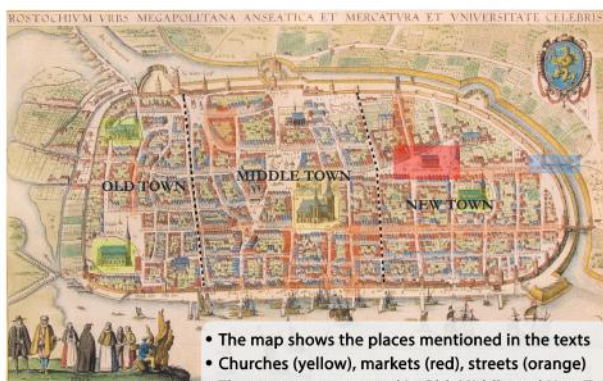
| Code System | devil's pact | sex with the devil | witches' Sabbath | magical flight | harmful magic |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| appearance of the devil | | | | | |
| animal | | | | | |
| dog | ■ | | ■ | | ■ |
| cat | ■ | | | | |
| goat | | | ■ | ■ | |
| other | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| human | | | | | |
| man | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| rich man | ■ | | | | |
| young man | ■ | | | | |
| old man | ■ | | | | |

- The size of squares shows the frequency of the code co-occurrence
- The columns indicate the context (pact, sex, Sabbath flight)
- The rows show what form the devil took in these contexts



JULIA STREUER(28)
Archelogy BA
11th semester

I am curious, where the events happened in the city.
Are certain places or streets related to specific events ?



- procedure**
- Identify streets, churches and markets with keyword-in-context search
 - Code the relevant places in the text and on the image
 - Analyse frequencies for Old Town, Middle Town, New Town
 - Interpret events and analyse functions of the places

conclusion

Most events took place in the New Town (right), whereas most of the accused lived in the poor Old Town (left). Apparently the beggars who were accused of witchcraft moved on a daily basis to the richer parts of the town, where most conflicts with their later persecutors occurred.



LECTURE (EXERCISE)
Mo. 10:00-12:00
WS 2018/19

I want to do a lecture that teaches MAXQDA &
the analysis of historical witchcraft documents !

format & data

This poster shows the different research questions asked, tools used, and solutions developed by students of the MLU Halle/Wittenberg in an exercise during WS 2018/19.

The lecture was held in a computer room and it strongly integrated teaching context and conducting individual research. For the lecture and the analysis a common pool of sources was used, consisting of 18 'confessions' taken from witchcraft trials in Rostock (1584).

concept

The lecture consisted of 15 weekly meetings, 2 hours each. Few students were enrolled in the course, therefore intensive coaching was possible. The lecture was made up of four parts:

- Basic introduction into goal, software, sources and topic (3 sessions)
- Thematical introductions with explorative work in MAXQDA (7 sessions)
- Assisted analysis following individual research questions (4 sessions)
- Presentation of results (1 session)