Arno Bosse (STSM)

1. Aim & Motivation: All letter records require the accurate identification of people, places, and dates. For places, this requires capturing data describing changes in the manner in which places are both named and nested within larger geographical, administrative, and ecclesiastical entities. But most modern gazetteers (e.g. GeoNames) capture very little of this historical complexity. They typically lack both historical usage and a chronology of the contexts which a given place has occupied throughout its history. The main goals of the STSM will be to prepare (1) a draft data model capable of capturing multiple dimensions of geospatial change over time, and (2) a draft user-interface and set of workflows for an implementation of the data model as a standaline resource (EM Places). If time permits, as a secondary goal, some initial preparatory work will be done on a set of draft workflows and user-interfaces for an associated resource for converting between early modern calendars and dates (EM Dates).

2. Contribution to the Scientific Objectives of the Action: The STSM directly addresses point II.3 in the goals for Working Group 1 'Space and Time', namely: "Develop means of creating new sub-gazetteers for extending, enhancing, and correcting existing gazetteers."

3. Techniques and Planning: Starting out from a review of the current research literature on enriched gazetteers (e.g. 'Enriching and Integrating Gazetteers', ed. Mostern et al, 2016), evaluate the data models and editorial policies employed by relevant historical geo-gazetteers such as GeoNames, GettyTGN, Pleiades, and GOV. This stage of the planning has been underway at Oxford for several weeks and is now largely complete. Next, at the Huygens during my STSM, prepare a draft data model which can accomodate the requirements of the Action's community and which adheres to current technical best practices. This work will be undertaken in close collaboration with Dr. Marnix van Berchum and colleagues at the Huygens. Finally, also at the Huygens, prepare the suggested workflows and draft user-interfaces (mock-ups) for an implementation of this data model as a standaline geo-gazetteer, based on the Huygens' Timbuctoo infrastructure. This work will be undertaken in close collaboration with Dr. Glauco Mantegari, a UI/UX designer who will be visiting the Huygens during the time of my STSM. A report describing the above work will be shared inside the Action and with other relevant communities (Pelagios Commons) for feedback and comment. Following this, the report will form the basis for 'EM Places', a standalone, Linked Open Data geo-gazetteer, created jointly by the Huygens Institute and the Cultures of Knowledge project at the University of Oxford.