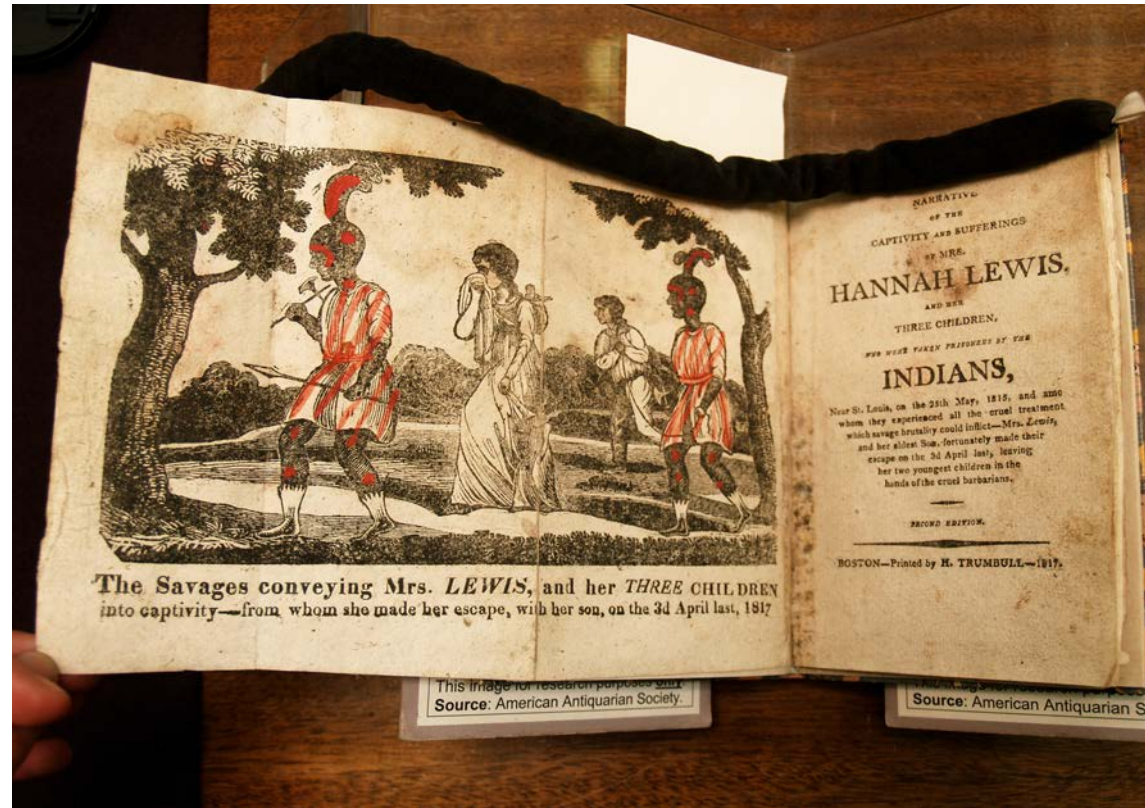


Tracing Early American Captivity Narratives (TEACaN)



Captivity Narratives

- (1680-1716): „the first **coherent myth-literature** developed in America for American audiences“ (Slotkin 1973, 94-95)
- „[T]he captivity paradigm, as here articulated by a handful of survivors and their ministers, **helped to shape and promote a particularly American discourse regarding our historical identity**. And, in a twist on the conventional image of an untethered man conquering a ‚virgin‘ wilderness, the **American rhetoric of self-creation** in these Puritan captivity narratives issued **predominantly from women**.“ (Fitzpatrick 1991, 3)
- „Most obviously, captivity narratives **served potent ideological functions** in fostering feelings of outrage against all those who suppressed liberty . . . **anti-British, anti-Native American, anti-Muslim**“ (Williams 2006, 7).



Captivity Narratives

1. inventories or surveys of specific historical moments
2. sensationalistic and propagandistic narratives
3. religious narratives
4. sources of information about colonial encounters and conflicts
5. narratives of immunity against the “Other”
6. early (quasi-)ethnographic depictions

Research

- Myth and Symbol School
- Cultural studies and Gender studies
- the “transnational turn”
- problem: research is based on a single work or a small selection of texts.

TEACaN aims to study:

- transnational developments in literary history,
- questions of authorship in relation to the narrating agency,
- the make-up of a particular captivity narrative “grammar” from transhistorical and transnational perspectives.

Best Practice Digital American Studies

- [The Early Caribbean Digital Archive \(Northeastern University\)](#)
- [HyperCities \(Harvard University\)](#)
- [Chinese Railroad Workers \(Stanford University\)](#)
- [Global Currents: Cultures of Literary Networks, 1050-1900 \(McGill, Stanford, Groningen, Montreal\)](#)

Digital Archives

- Early Americas Digital Archive
- Early American Imprints
- EVANS
- Text Creation Partnership
- Oxford Text Archive

A screenshot of the Early Americas Digital Archive website. The page has a dark blue background. At the top left is a "Submit a Text" button. The main title "Early Americas Digital Archive" is in a large, white, serif font. Below the title is a horizontal banner image showing a historical scene with a man in a red coat holding a flag, a ship, and a Native American. Below the banner are several navigation buttons: "INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHIVE", "ARCHIVE", "GATEWAY", "CONTACT US", and "NEWS". A search bar is located below these buttons, with an "AUTHOR/TITLE SEARCH" button to its right. On the right side of the page, there is a paragraph of text describing the archive and its mission, followed by a small illustration of a Native American animal.

Submit a Text

Early Americas Digital Archive

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE GATEWAY

CONTACT US NEWS

SEARCH

AUTHOR/TITLE SEARCH

The Early Americas Digital Archive (EADA) is a collection of electronic texts originally written in or about the Americas from 1492 to approximately 1820. Open to the public for research and teaching purposes, EADA is published and supported by the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), at the University of Maryland. Intended as a long-term and interdisciplinary project in progress committed to exploring the intersections between traditional humanities research and digital technologies, it invites scholars from all disciplines to submit their editions of early American texts for publication on this site (see [Submit a Text](#)). To learn more about EADA, please see [Introduction to the Archive](#). In order to search the database of .xml encoded documents housed at EADA, as well as for a Gateway of Early American authors on the internet, see [Browse/Search the Archive](#).

Project scope

- 1500-1900
- 400 texts (1-200 pages)
- c. 100 images



This image for research purposes only
Source: American Antiquarian Society

This image for research purposes only
Source: American Antiquarian Society



1818
Barber's, Boston,
Shocking murder by the
savages ... in the State
of Georgia, last ...
(Boston: 1818)

This image for research purposes only
Source: American Antiquarian Society

machine-readable corpus of captivity texts

automated text
analysis – methods
and tools from
computer linguistics

IT-visualizations and
mappings

digital research
environment and
information platform

“grammar” and
construction of literary
texts

time-space dissemination and
networks of literary texts

Forschungsumgebung TEACaN

Materialsichtung- und aufbereitung

Überprüfung der Urheberrechte

Digitization on Demand
John-F.-Kennedy Bibliothek
Harvard University
American Antiquarian Society

Kanon
Fachbibliografien
Garland Library

Digitale
Fachdatenbanken
EEBO
EVANS
Early American Imprints
Haiti-Trust

Kostenfreie öffentliche
Transkriptionsdienste
TCP
Oxford Text Archive

Manuelle und Digitale
Codierung

Manuelle Analyse

Annotationsprinzipien

Transkriptionsregeln

Transkription mittels Text-
Editor Oxygen +
Manuelle Annotation

OCR-
Lesbarkeit

Forschungsmodul

Soziale Beziehungen
/ Handlungsstrukturen

Autorschaft / Agency

Rezeption
Übersetzung

Intertextualität

Computerlinguistische
Verfahren

Flache Verfahren

Dariah-Geobrowser

XML/TEI-
Codierung

Output / Nutzung

Multidimensionales
Web-Interface



Karten-Text
Interface



Materialschau

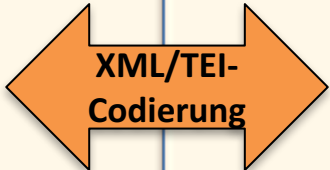
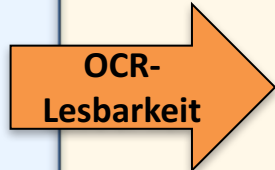


Scalable
Reading



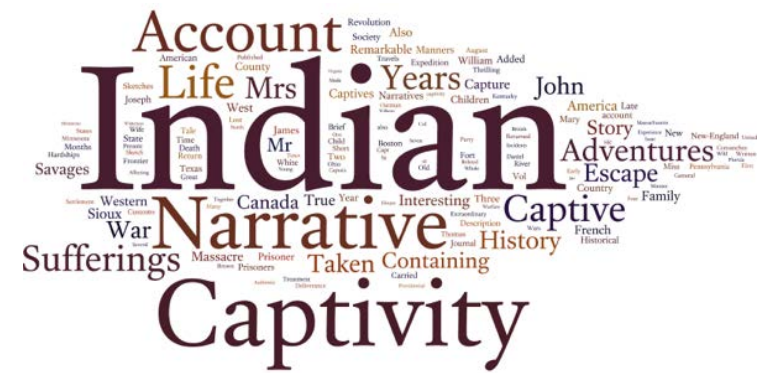
Gläserne
Werkstatt

Analoge
Publikation



Text-mining

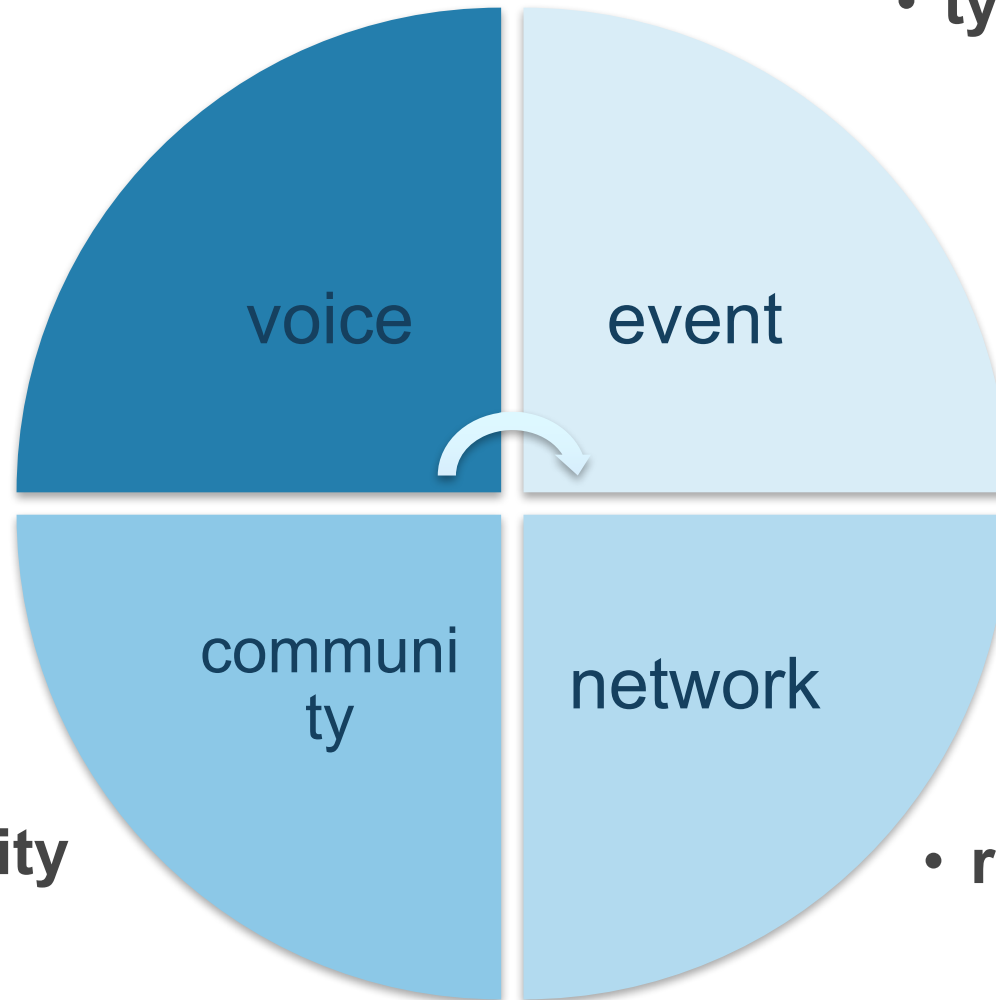
- How can automated, IT-based methods and tools help us understand and represent the continuities and uncertainties of narrative patterns (characters, event structures, motifs, perspectives, etc.)?



Modules

• **authorship**

• **typology**



• **intertextuality**

• **reception**



Mapping

- How can we represent intertextual connections digitally? How might this help us understand national and transnational disseminations of captivity narratives (adaption, appropriation, modification)?

Digital Palimpsest Mapping Projects: Deep Maps

Are **open-access digital archives** that collect all manner of multilinguistic primary and secondary text, paratext, ephemera, oral and written history, critical studies, and **interdisciplinary and mixed media**... in a series of **overlaying and overlapping palimpsests** built on a specific geolocation **manifest on the surface of a digital map** that serves as gateway to the archive. (Fisher Fishkin 2011)



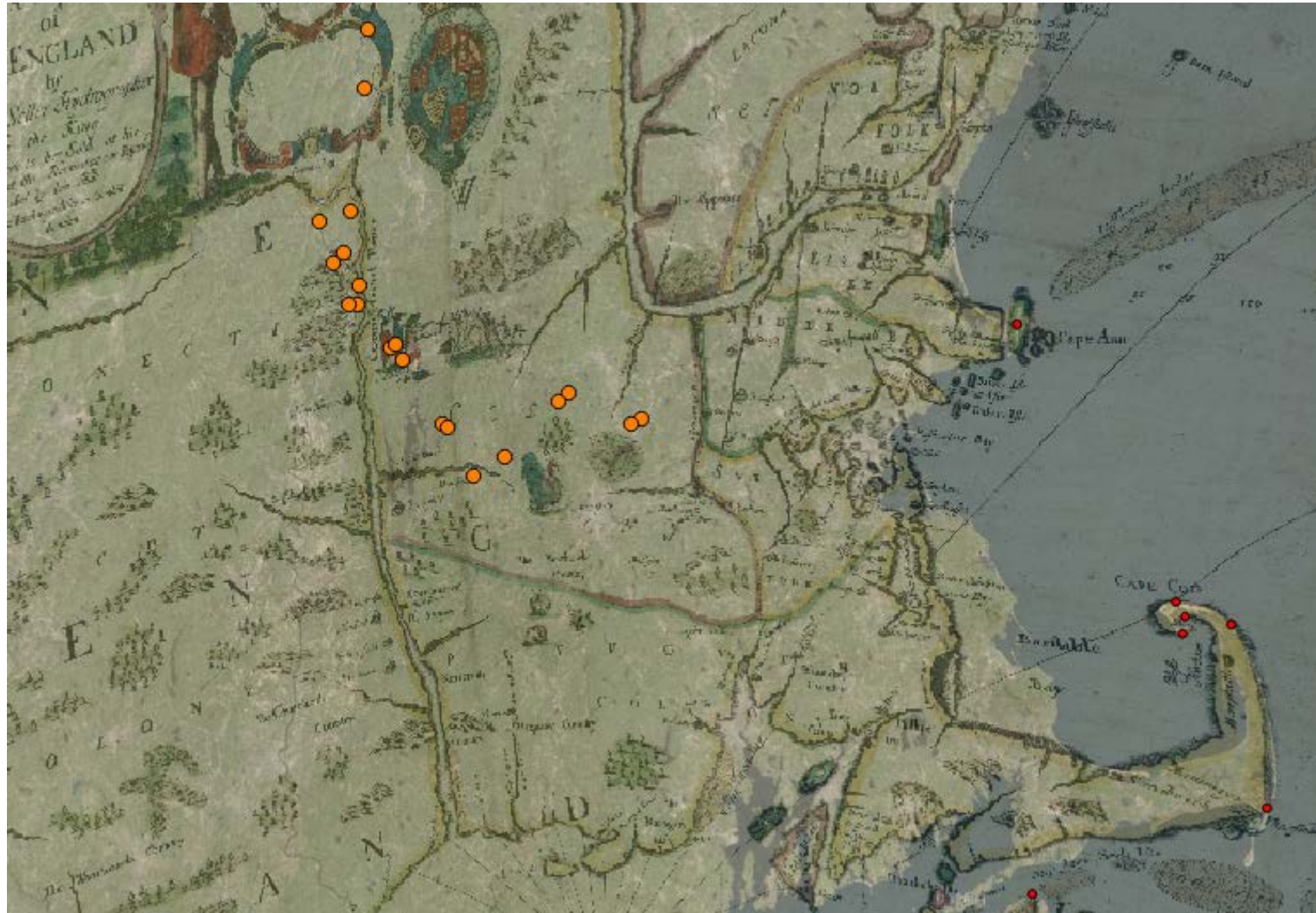


Mapping the Garland Library of Narratives of North American Indian Captivities

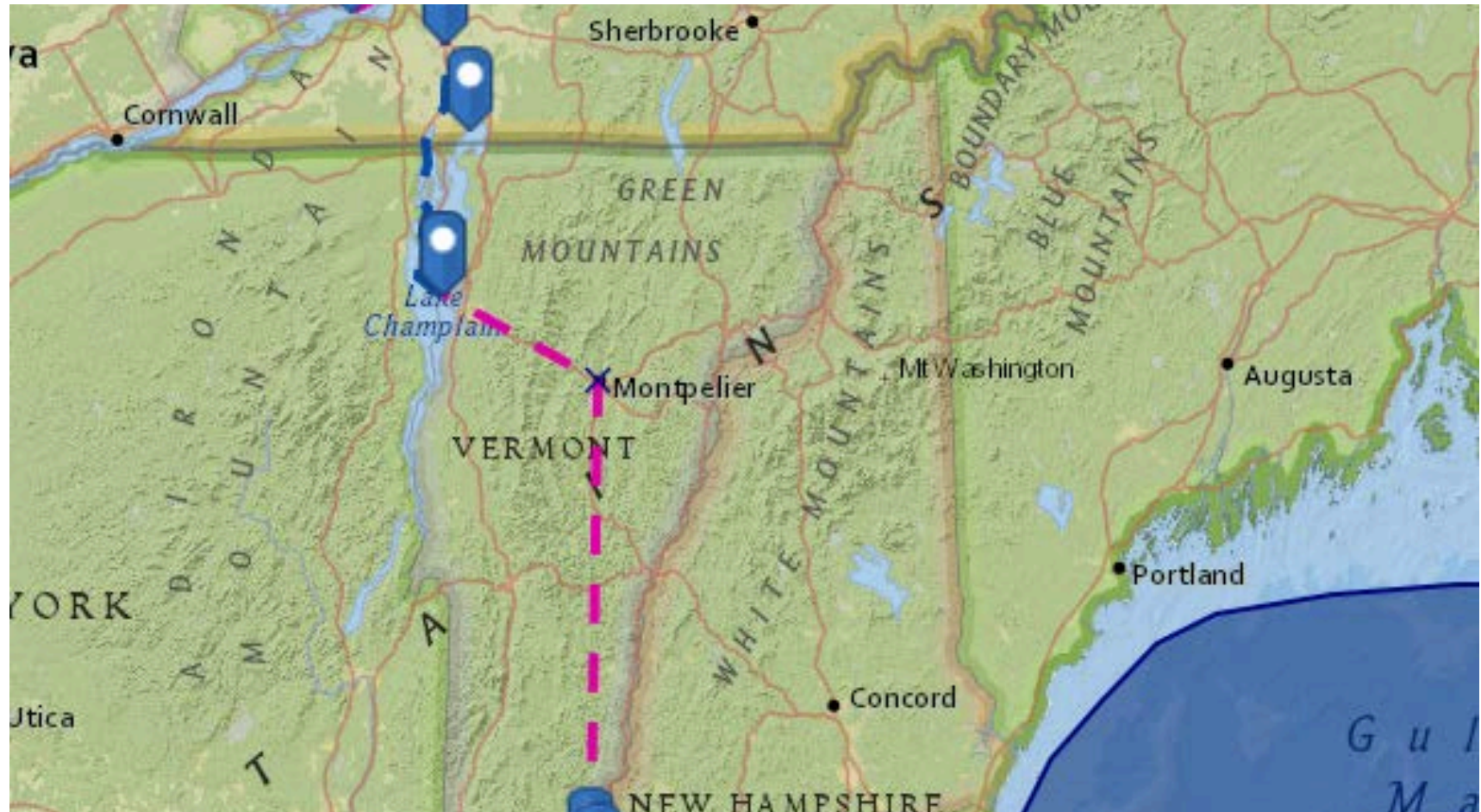


Mary Rowlandson's Removes

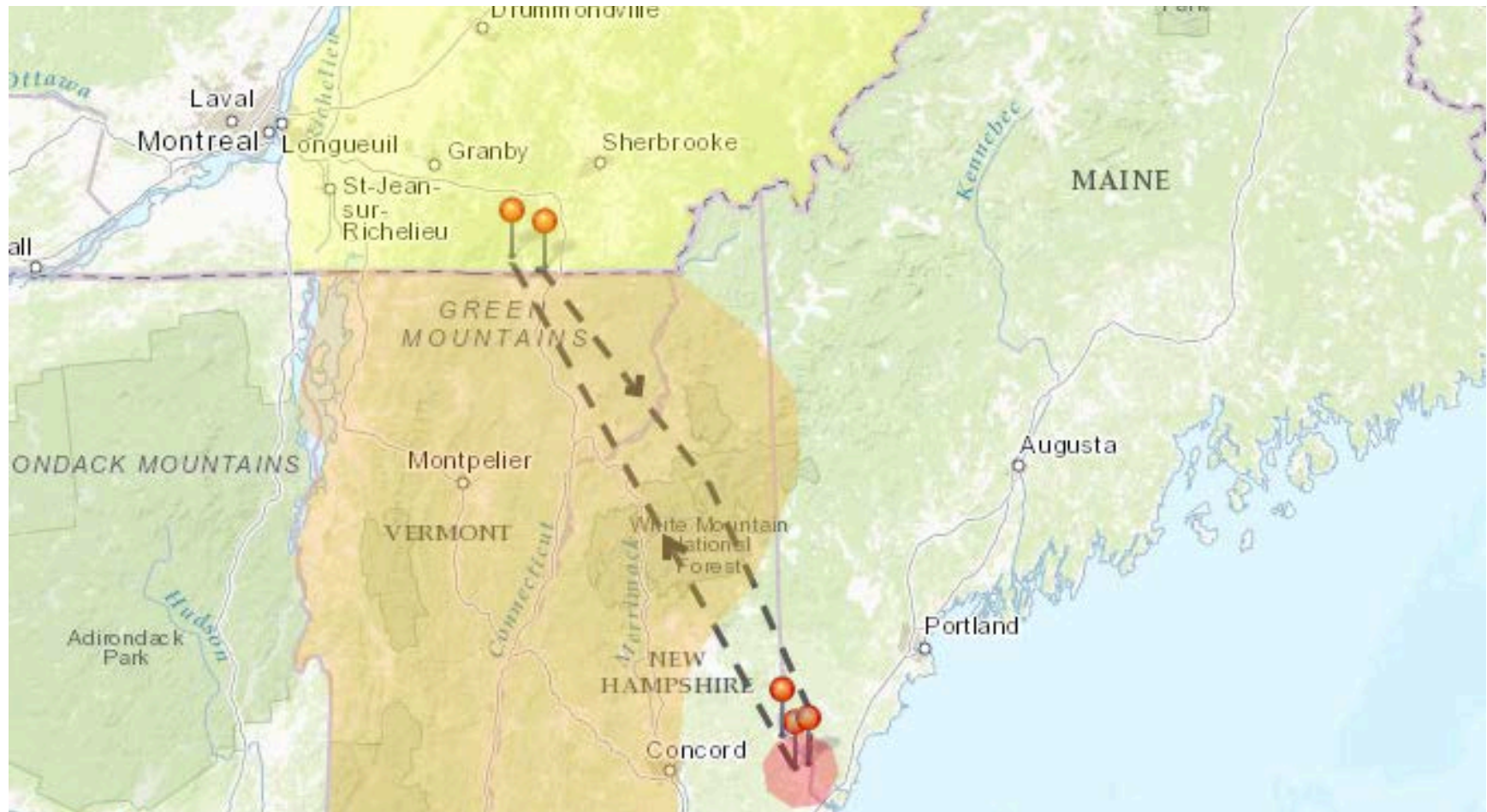
Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative* (1682)



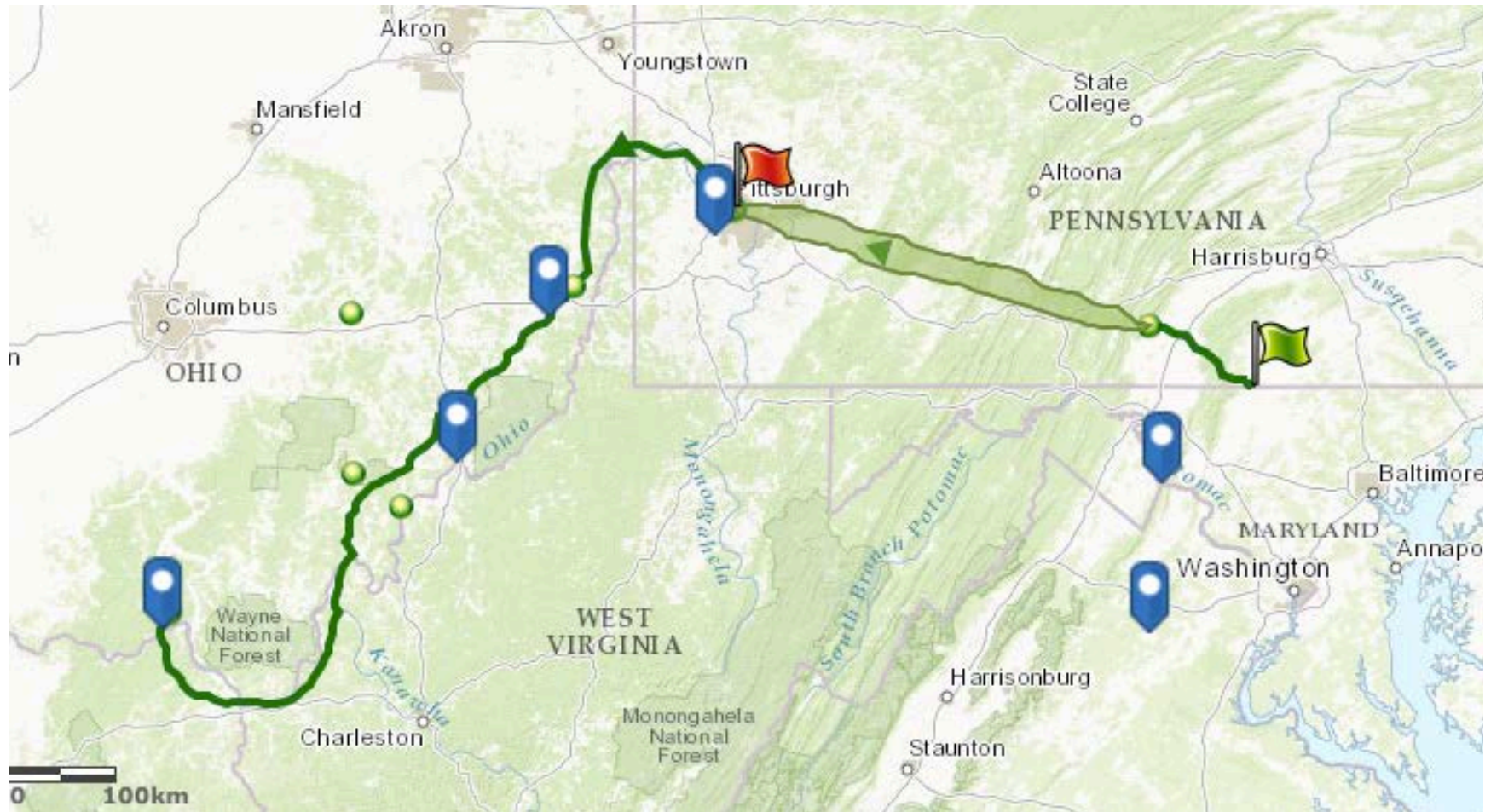
John Williams, *The Redeemed Captive* (1704)



Account of the Captivity of Elizabeth Hanson (1728)



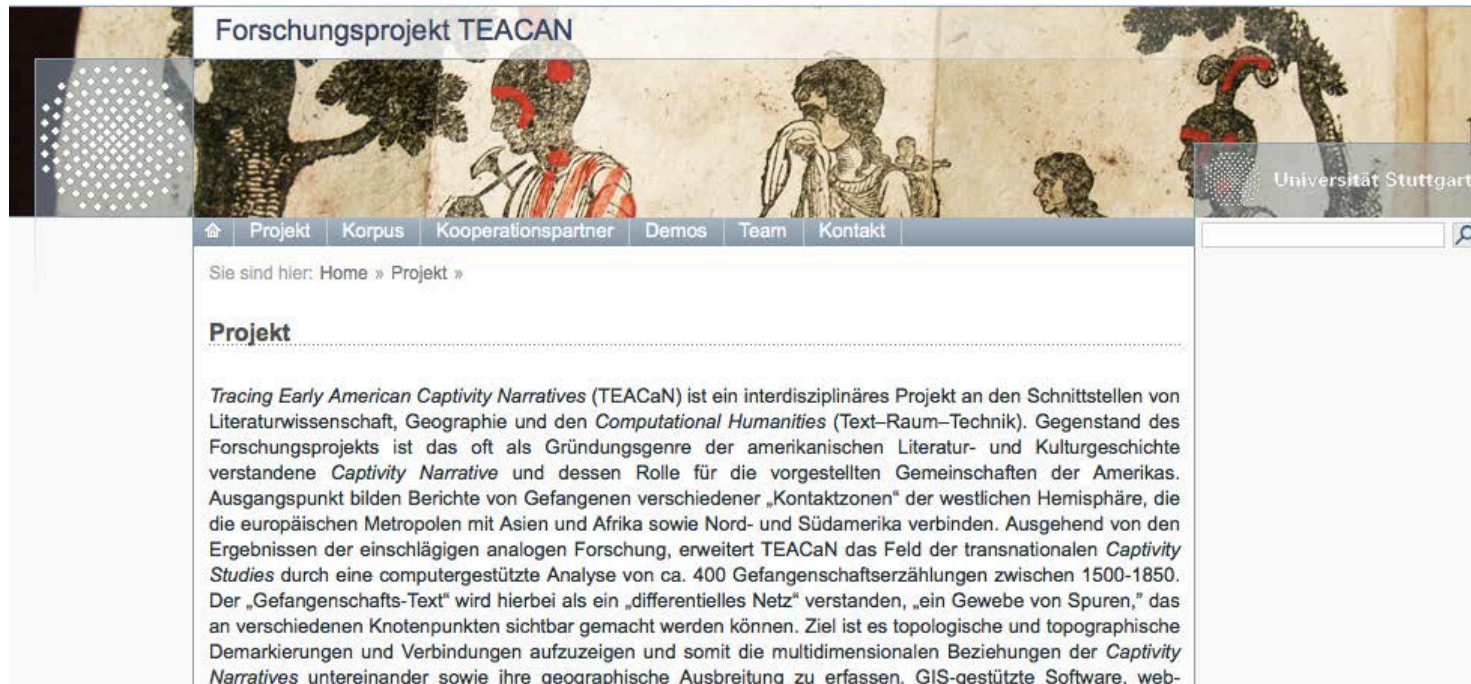
Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison (1824)



Challenges

„**We will have to develop reading strategies** that allow them [the reader] to navigate embedded archival material efficiently for specific scholarly purposes or more as cyberflâneurs, moving à la dérive through layers and layers of primary and secondary source documents that make up lived and literary history.“ (Bishop 3)

Thanks for coming!



The screenshot shows the website for the 'Forschungsprojekt TEACaN'. The header features a historical illustration of people in a landscape, with red markings overlaid on it. A navigation menu includes 'Projekt', 'Korpus', 'Kooperationspartner', 'Demos', 'Team', and 'Kontakt'. Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Sie sind hier: Home » Projekt »'. The main content area is titled 'Projekt' and contains a detailed description of the project's interdisciplinary nature, focusing on the intersection of literature studies, geography, and computational humanities. The text describes the project's goal to analyze early American captivity narratives using computational methods to explore transnational connections and topographic relationships.

Forschungsprojekt TEACaN

Universität Stuttgart

Projekt Korpus Kooperationspartner Demos Team Kontakt

Sie sind hier: Home » Projekt »

Projekt

Tracing Early American Captivity Narratives (TEACaN) ist ein interdisziplinäres Projekt an den Schnittstellen von Literaturwissenschaft, Geographie und den *Computational Humanities* (Text–Raum–Technik). Gegenstand des Forschungsprojekts ist das oft als Gründungsgenre der amerikanischen Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte verstandene *Captivity Narrative* und dessen Rolle für die vorgestellten Gemeinschaften der Amerikas. Ausgangspunkt bilden Berichte von Gefangenen verschiedener „Kontaktzonen“ der westlichen Hemisphäre, die die europäischen Metropolen mit Asien und Afrika sowie Nord- und Südamerika verbinden. Ausgehend von den Ergebnissen der einschlägigen analogen Forschung, erweitert TEACaN das Feld der transnationalen *Captivity Studies* durch eine computergestützte Analyse von ca. 400 Gefangenschaftserzählungen zwischen 1500-1850. Der „Gefangenschafts-Text“ wird hierbei als ein „differentielles Netz“ verstanden, „ein Gewebe von Spuren,“ das an verschiedenen Knotenpunkten sichtbar gemacht werden können. Ziel ist es topologische und topographische Demarkierungen und Verbindungen aufzuzeigen und somit die multidimensionalen Beziehungen der *Captivity Narratives* untereinander sowie ihre geographische Ausbreitung zu erfassen. GIS-gestützte Software, web-



Bishop, Karen Elizabeth. „The Propositional Logic of Mapping Transnational American Studies – A Response to „Deep Maps’: A Brief for Digital Palimpsest Mapping Projects““. *Journal of Transnational American Studies* 3(2). <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/90r5479j>

Fisher Fishkin, Shelley. „DEEP MAPS’: A Brief for Digital Palimpsest Mapping Projects (DPMPs, or ‚Deep Maps‘)“. *Journal of Transnational American Studies* 3. 2 (2011): 1-2. Print.

Fitzpatrick, Kathleen. „The Humanities, Done Digitally“. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. May 8, 2010. <http://chronicle.com/article/The-Humanities-Done-Digitally/127382/>

Fitzpatrick, Tara. „The Figure of Captivity: The Cultural Work of the Puritan Captivity Narrative.“ *American Literary History* 3 (1991): 1-26. Print.

Pearce, Roy Harvey. „The Significances of the Captivity Narrative“. *American Literature* 19 (1947): 1–20. Print.

Sayre, Gordon. „Renegades from Barbary: The Transnational Turn in Captivity Studies“. *American Literary History*. 22.2 (2010): 347-359. Print.

Slotkin, Richard. *Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600- 1860*. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1973. Print.

Williams, Daniel E. *Liberty’s Captives: Narratives of Confinement in the Print Culture of the Early Republic*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006. Print.

Wood, Dennis. *Rethinking the Power of Maps*. New York: Guilford Press, 2010. Print.