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# **Text Analysis of Stecci Inscriptions**

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# About Stecci\*

## forms



## inscriptions



## decorations



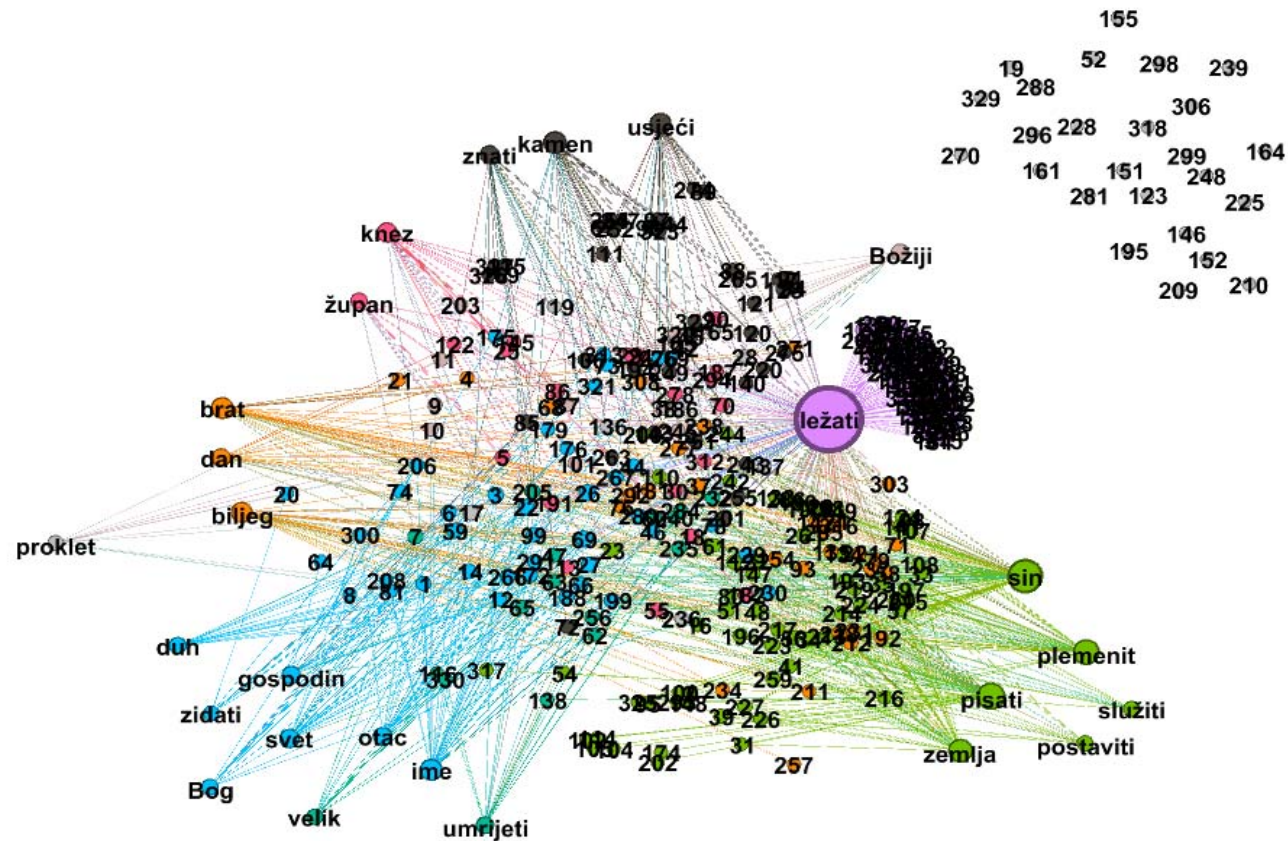
\*UNESCO World Heritage: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/>

# Study Description

- **Prior Research:** Focused on visual aspects
- **Current Objective:** Investigate **verbal** aspects
- **Research Method:** Computational text analysis grounded in the distant reading paradigm
- **Source Data:** 330 inscriptions (Kardas 2015)
- **Analysis Procedure:**
  - Identification of the most repeating words (nouns, verbs and adjectives)
  - Classification of word clusters produced by Gephi software

# Results: Most Frequent Words

	NOUN			VERB			ATTRIBUTE	
Bosnian	English	No	Bosnian	English	No	Bosnian	English	No
sin	son	83	ležati	lie	216	plemenit	noble	49
zemlja	land	41	pisati	write	55	svet	holy	24
kamen	stone	37	usjeći	carve	31	Božiji	God’s	16
brat	brother	34	znati	know	23	velik	great	12
ime	name	34	umrijeti	die	17	proklet	cursed	10
biljeg	note	30	postaviti	erect	11			
knez	duke	27	služiti	serve	11			
gospodin	lord	21	zidati	build	10			
otac	father	21						
dan	day	21						
duh	ghost	15						
Bog	God	13						
župan	governor	13						



**Results: Focal Word Clusters**

# **Main Findings: Funeral and Memorial Function**

- **Emerged themes regarding the deceased:**
  - Heroic (lies on his noble land, died in loyal service)
  - Religious (follows Christian teaching, not rejecting Old Testament)
  - Biographical (indicates high social status, family, places, events etc.)
  
- **Emerged messages to the living:**
  - Curse (those who touch, move, etc.)
  - Artist (scribe/stonemason)

# Contribution to ARKWORK

- **WG2 Objective:** To integrate and push forward the current state-of-the-art in understanding and facilitating the use and curation of (museum) collections and repositories of archaeological data for knowledge production in the society.
- **Contribution:** Empirical evidence of the value of **novel techniques (e.g. distant reading) and tools (e.g. Gephi)** in facilitating archaeological knowledge discovery and visualisation

## Further Reading

- Handzic M (2020), On the Digital Road: A Case of Stecci, *International Conference on Digital Heritage (Web-EuroMed 2020)*, 2-5 November, Limassol, Cyprus.
- Handzic M. and Ismajloska M. (2019), Transferring Cultural Knowledge Through Arts: Two Digital Stories, chapter 5 in Handzic M. and Carlucci D. eds, *Knowledge Management, Arts and Humanities: Interdisciplinary Approaches and the Benefits of Collaboration*, Knowledge Management and Organisational Learning Series (Vol.7), Springer Nature Switzerland AG, Cham, Switzerland, pp. 79-96.
- Handzic M (2019), Archaeology in Contemporary Arts: A Case of Stecci, COST ARKWORK Conference: On Shifting Grounds, 3-5 October, Rethymno, Crete, <https://www.arkwork.eu/archaeology-in-contemporary-arts-a-case-of-stecci/>
- Handzic M., Zulic H. and Guja Z. (2019), Knowledge Discovery from Arts Data: A Case of Distant Listening, in *Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics – Knowledge Ecosystems and Growth (IFKAD 2019)*, 5-7 June, Matera, Italy, pp. 256-263.
- Handzic M. and Dizdar S. (2017), Picturing the Past: A Case of Knowledge Management Application in Archaeology, *Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics – Knowledge Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Resilience, Creativity and Co-creation (IFKAD 2017)*, 7-9 June, St.Petersburg, Russia, pp. 1251-1261.