

## Maps and Networks

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Franco Moretti in his now classic study of literature from a decidedly geographic perspective notes:

An atlas of the novel. Behind these words lies a very simple idea: that geography is not an inert container, is not a box where cultural history "happens," but an active force, that pervades the literary field and shapes its depth. Making the connection between geography and literature explicit... will allow us to see some significant relationships that have so far escaped us (Moretti 1998, 3).

In this presentation, I extend Moretti's focus to include the concept of "network." Networks are an imminent component of most literary study yet frequently remain an implicit component of such study. This implicit role for networks obtains even for areas of study where networks could easily be brought to the fore; such as folkloristics.

Folklore by definition is communication across networks. This model of folkloric communication recognizes that people come together in local communities or in groups based on other affinities--work, gender, faith--and exchange stories. The visualization and subsequent analysis of these networks can offer intriguing new vistas on this material. Subsequent projection of these networks into geographic mapping environments adds a subsequent layer of complexity to these visualizations.

Using the Danish folklore collection of Evald Tang Kristensen (1843-194) as an example, I explore two forms of networks in the collection: a largely "internal" network of stories drawn on the basis of collection proximity and a poorly labeled topic model; and a largely "external" network of storytellers based on occupational and gender affinity coupled with shared. story feature affinities (these story features include named entities and topics). Both of these networks are projected into a historic GIS environment. I present preliminary results of these network based models and suggest areas for future exploration.