



# Peter Damian and Networking

Taryn Glodowski  
[trglodo@ilstu.edu](mailto:trglodo@ilstu.edu)

Illinois State University



# Introduction

Peter Damian was a monk who was born in Ravenna. He wrote many different pieces of work, and a few of his letters have been analyzed here to show his networking between many different people, most of which were abbots of Montecassino, as well as the monks who resided there.



# Research Objectives

My main objective was to see how he went about speaking to different religious figures, such as Desiderius and Alberic, who were both abbots in Monte Cassino. I mostly analyzed what he talked about in his letters to these people, what his biggest values were, and how he addressed them.



# Research Questions

1. Who did Peter Damian insist on bringing into his line of “networking”?
2. What did he discuss with these people he was pursuing?
3. Was there any kind of pattern in the words he chose to use in his letters to these people?



# Methods

My original course of action was to map out where his letters were going, as well as figuring out what he wanted to discuss/get out of writing these various letters from the people he chose to send them to.

I mostly used Adobe Acrobat and MAXQDA. I used Adobe Acrobat to edit the letters to make sure there were no typos, as well as deleting footnotes and headers so they would not show up when I started tagging words, as well as sentences.

Using MAXQDA, I was able to highlight key words, which I eventually grouped up into “bigger pictures.” My plan was to continue this by using sentences instead of just words, however I lost my data for these sentences.



# Problems

The biggest issue I ran into was MAXQDA crashing and wiping all my work for the sentences I was tagging.

Another problem I ran into was when I decided to make my map. With the selection of letters I worked with, they were all being sent to the same place, Montecassino. I then had to adjust my plans and chose to add a few more letters into my process of analyzing.



# Results

MAXQDA was definitely helpful (in the beginning, at least) because I was able to tag keywords and attempt to analyze how they fit in the letters, as well as being able to see what he talked about the most.

I also did enjoy using Adobe Acrobat because I was able to get rid of “unnecessary” captions and footnotes, which ended up making my text mining and tagging a lot easier.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YgE\\_L-l1f211TOgVQT7MCStvFO2hsx6WMt8\\_D9uERTs/edit#gid=2087346293](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YgE_L-l1f211TOgVQT7MCStvFO2hsx6WMt8_D9uERTs/edit#gid=2087346293)



# Conclusion

From what I have gathered, Damian was very big on using metaphors when telling his stories, such as the use of the serpent in many of his letters that I analyzed.

As for his networking with these people, I would say it was rather one sided with Desiderius and Alberic. Neither of them found it fit to respond to him, which most likely meant that they did not think he was worthy of conversation with them.

For now though, most of what I have is inconclusive, but I do hope to continue with this project in the future.





# Resources

*Letters 91-120:* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt32b06r>

*Letters 121-150:* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt32b1sd>

*Letters 151-180:* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt32b382>