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VOTING ON FAITH

Understanding the Swiss Reformation through Digital Humanities

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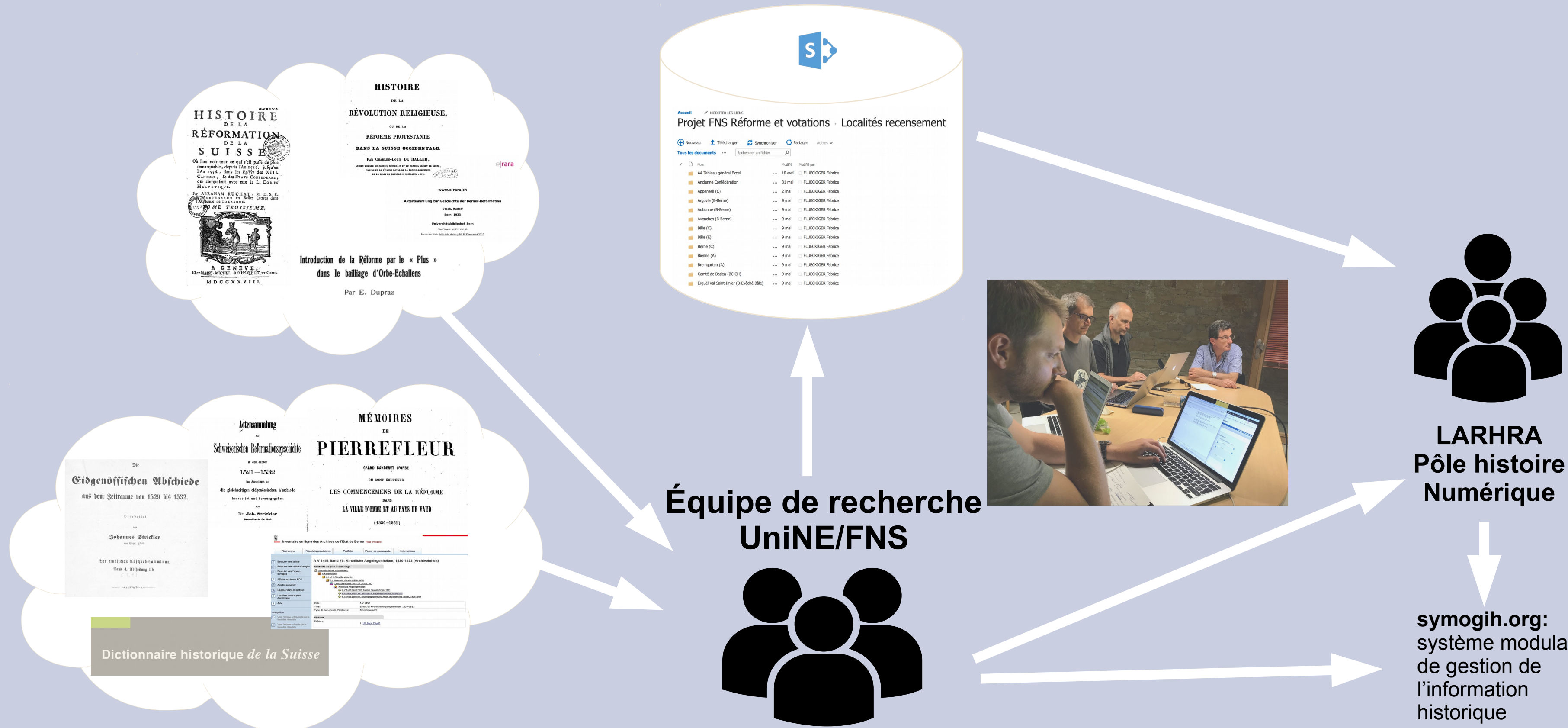


FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE



The commune has spoken! Mass shall not be celebrated anymore, and all sacred images shall be instantly removed!

A similar proclamation may have been pronounced by city heralds after the communities had voted on their faith in many Swiss villages and towns. Our project focuses on ballots held in cities and villages under supervision of the cantons in order to choose between either the reformed ideas or the teachings of the Roman Church. We want to understand why a vote was considered by parishioners and magistrates as the right path to lead to a wise religious choice and under which circumstances ballots were organized.

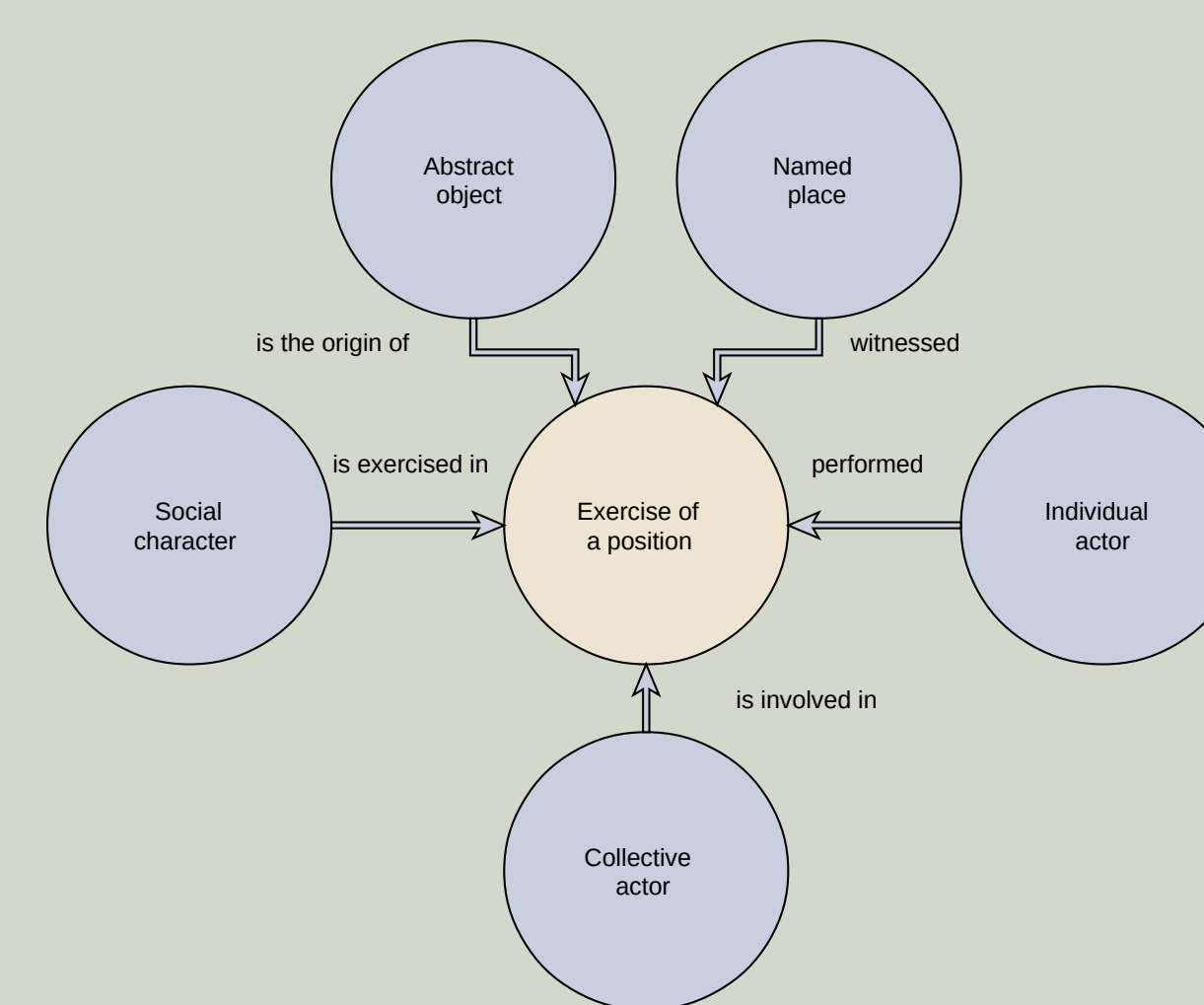
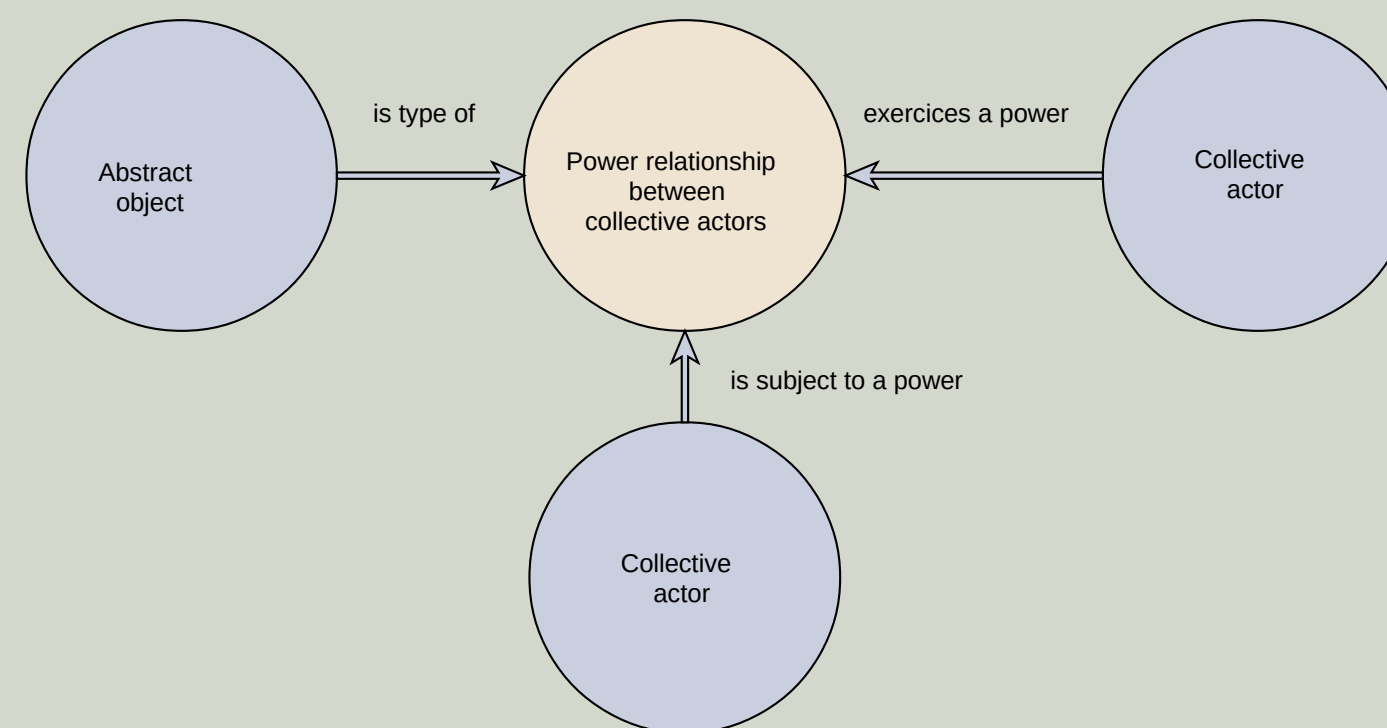
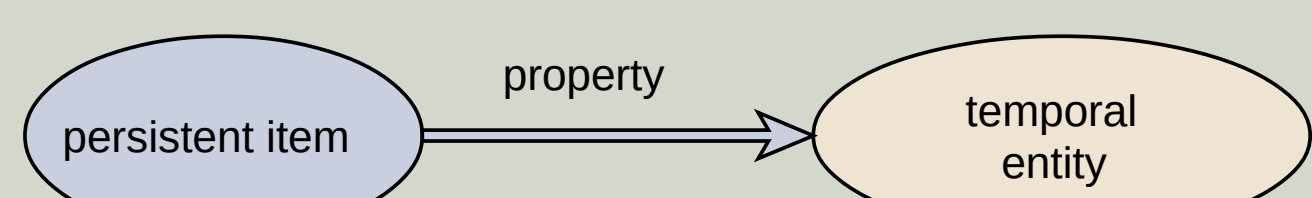


We have noticed that a lot of ballots were held during the 1523-1550 period and that the process differed in various ways between each ballot. Therefore, we thought that the best way to understand the process is to analyse its whereabouts with tools provided by Digital Humanities.

The «Reformation and Ballots» project works therefore in close partnership with the LARHRA-Pôle histoire numérique in Lyon, where the symogih.org project is hosted. symogih.org is an open modular platform that stores geo-historical information. The platform allows researchers to share their knowledge in a collaborative and interlinked environment and to produce structured data.

symogih.org allows us to produce and store structured data about ballots in Reformation times and to make the data available to researchers in compliance with FAIR principles. The information is organised around a CIDOC CRM compatible and an event-centered model: classes (persistent items – *objets* – and temporal entities – *informations*) interact with each other as well as with temporal entities through what the platform calls properties (or *roles*).

The principal benefits of working within this frame rather than to build a specific database for our project are interoperability and evolutive perspectives. As new information will be found, it will be added in the database and connected to the existing information, enhancing existing knowledge and producing new results. symogih.org also allows future research projects to re-use our data in order to develop their own analyses.



Objets	Unités de connaissance	Références	Associations	Gazetteer	Navigation	Déconnexion
Libéris						
Communauté de Saint-James, Moutier-du-Valley, Coarcel, - Relation de pouvoir entre acteurs collectifs	1524-1525					
Communauté de Saint-James, Moutier-du-Valley, Coarcel, - Relation de pouvoir entre acteurs collectifs	1524-1525					
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Objets	Unités de connaissance	Références	Associations	Gazetteer	Navigation	Déconnexion
Combourgeoisie; Communauté de Tavannes; Conseil de Berne - Relation de pouvoir entre acteurs collectifs	1486 - Info:14354					
Combourgeoisie; Communauté de Tavannes; Conseil de Berne - Relation de pouvoir entre acteurs collectifs	1486 - Info:14354					
Combourgeoisie; Communauté de Tavannes; Conseil de Berne - Relation de pouvoir entre acteurs collectifs	1486 - Info:14354					

Objets	Unités de connaissance	Références	Associations	Gazetteer	Navigation	Déconnexion
Moescher, Jacques; Paroisse de Tavannes-Chandorn; Pasteur - Exerce la fonction de: Pasteur [Paroisse de Tavannes-Chandorn]	1511 - Info:14354					
Moescher, Jacques; Paroisse de Tavannes-Chandorn; Pasteur - Exerce la fonction de: Pasteur [Paroisse de Tavannes-Chandorn]	1511 - Info:14354					
Moescher, Jacques; Paroisse de Tavannes-Chandorn; Pasteur - Exerce la fonction de: Pasteur [Paroisse de Tavannes-Chandorn]	1511 - Info:14354					

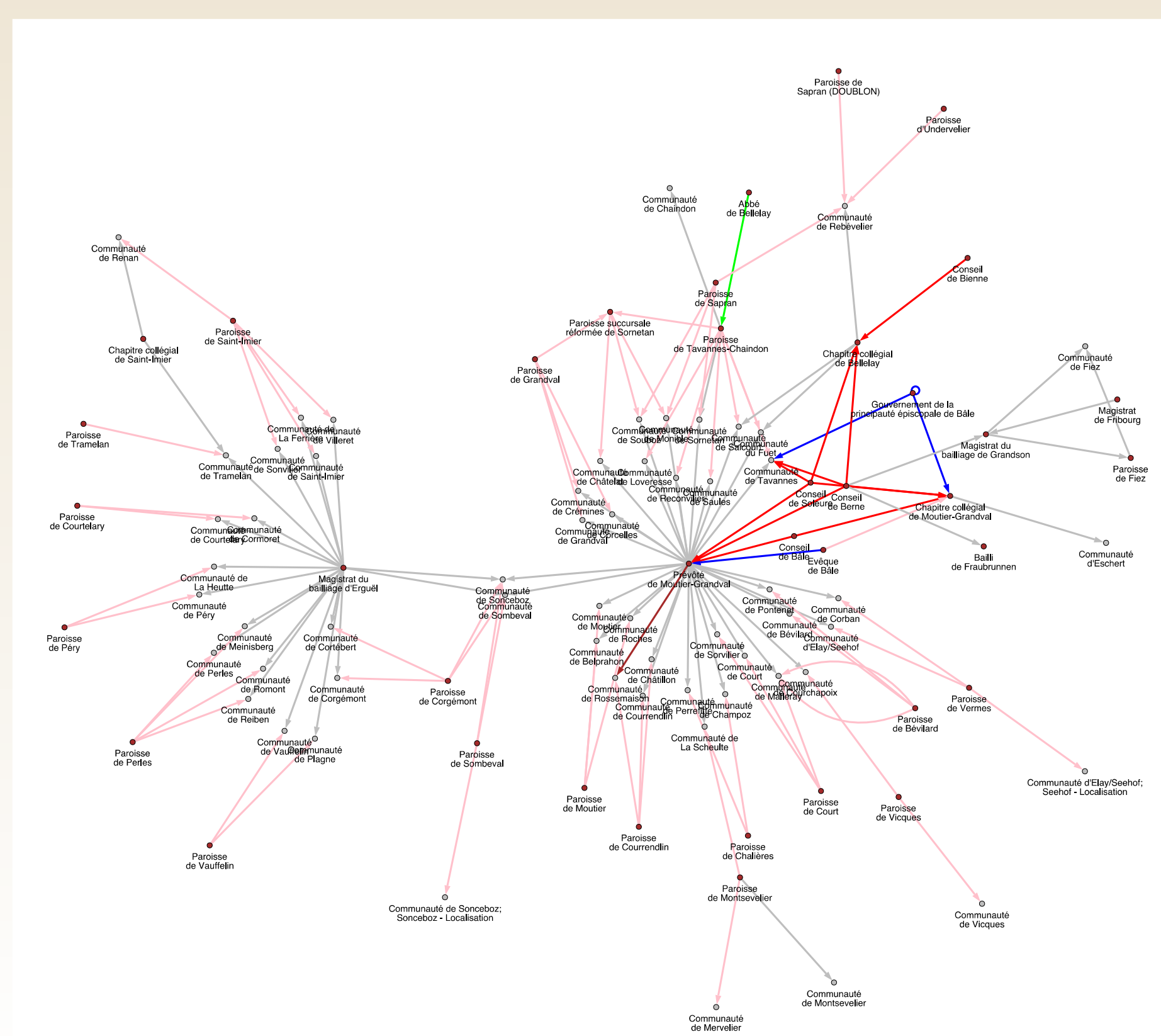
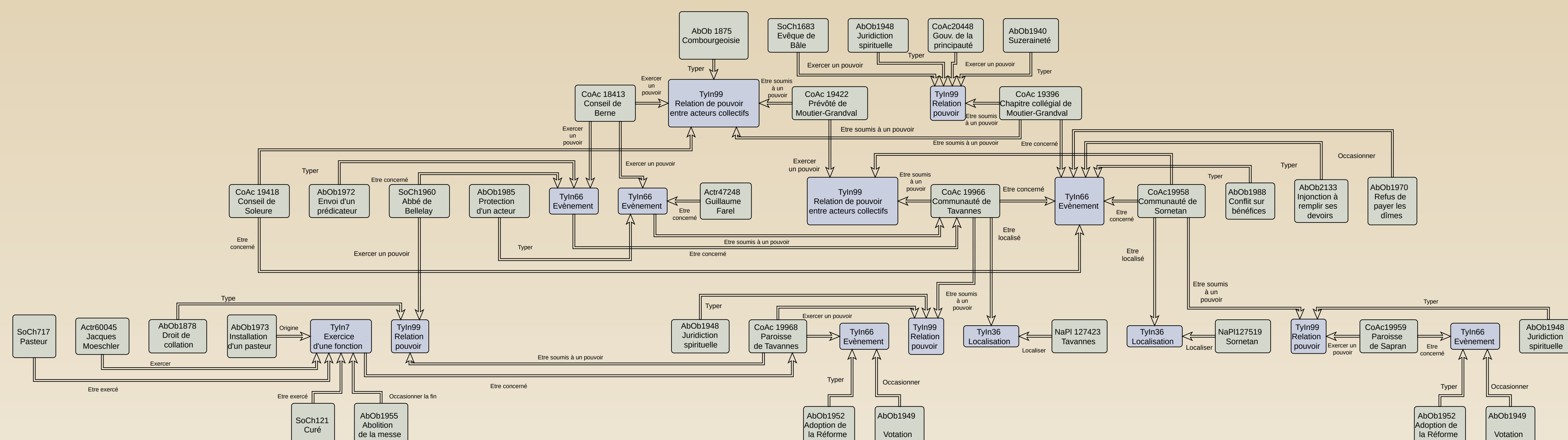
The patterns of the vote are shown through the reconstruction of complex processes:

- What was the object of the vote? People did not vote "yes" or "no" to "the Reformation" in these days; they pronounced themselves on the mass, on devotional images or on financial matters like the very much hated tithe.

Who could vote, and which authority would supervise the process? The communes and parishes which choose their faith in the 1520-1530s were entangled in complex networks of alliances and tied by overlapping jurisdictions. They often found themselves in the middle of political and religious conflicts, the most important one being the growing disagreement over the true faith.

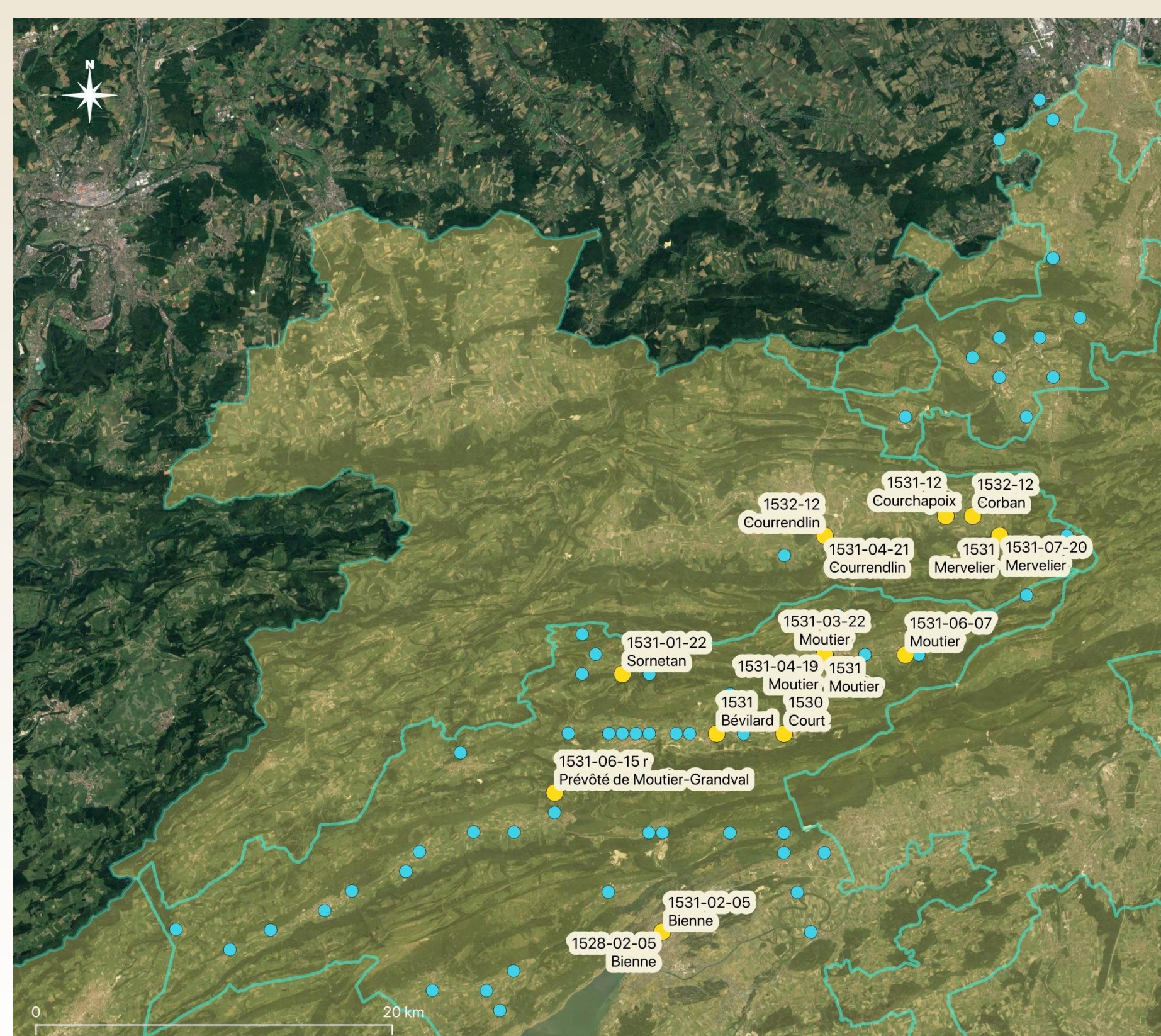
Using qualitative analysis, symogih.org allows us to recreate these relations and leads to a better understanding of the reasons why a commune could vote on its faith, and why the same possibility was denied to another.

symogih.org also allows the use of data visualization processes. Results can be shown in form of diagrams, maps, tag clouds... The diagram on the left shows a part of the complex network of temporal and spiritual jurisdictions which connected communities in the Moutier-Grandval bailiwick: it reveals the link between parishes and communes, which is crucial to determine how many people would be affected by a vote, often hold on parishes level. The map on the right shows which villages underwent a vote to determine the choice between the reformed and Roman interpretations of the Church.



Type of power relationships

- Combourgeoisie - AbOb 1875 : red
- Droit de collation - AbOb 1878 : green
- Suzainereté - AbOb 1940 : blue
- Jurisdiction spirituelle - AbOb 1948 : pink
- Jurisdiction - AbOb 736 : brown
- Type to be completed - à renseigner : grey



“Votation” Events (AbOb1949)

for the Prévôté de Moutier-Grandval communities

Communities in a power relationship : blue

Votation events : yellow

