Periodicals in Motion
Textual Reuse and the Hebrew Journalistic Networks in the Second Half of the 19th Century

Zef Segal - The Open University of Israel

GrapHNR, Mainz, July 2023
Networks in Communication Studies

• Why study journalistic networks?

• Problems in the implementation of networks

  Possible nodes: people, texts, ...

  Possible edges: writers, events, themes, comments, textual reuse

  Multiple layers: intraconnection vs. interconnection
temporal and spatial layers

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Studying 19th century Hebrew journalistic networks (1856-1897)

- A diasporic communication network

- 130,000 articles, 13 journals, 41 years

- Textual re-use

A map of Hebrew Journals (1856-1897)

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44 percent of the corpus show signs of reuse.

- **Directionality**
- **Duration and spacing**
- **Volume**
- **Typology**
A commercial software

Textual reuse
Textual Re-Use in the 19\textsuperscript{th} Century

- Ongoing copying
- Network authorship
- News Agencies
23% showed textual similarities. 
11% showed significant textual reuse.

On average, 2.5 sentences were copied from an article published eight months ago.
Typology

1) Cultural phrases (one or two mutual sentences)

2) Public announcements (many mutual sentences, simultaneous)

3) Advertisements (many mutual sentences, short time gap)

4) Plagiarism (many mutual sentences, large time gap)

5) Commentary (few mutual sentences)
A network visualization of textual reuse in Hebrew journals (1856-1897)

Each pair is plotted in this graph. Sources appear along the x-axis and targets along the y-axis.

$R^2 = 0.838$

$y = 0.8638x + 258.09$

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Cliques (at least 4 nodes)
Types of newspapers

1) Orthodox vs. Enlightenment

2) Zionist vs. non-Zionist

3) Eastern European vs. Palestine based

4) Commercial conflict between similar minded editors

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## Network roles (by cosine similarity)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sources</strong></th>
<th><strong>Palestine</strong></th>
<th><strong>Targets</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Havazelet ≈ HaZvi (0.97)</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>Havazelet ≈ HaZvi (0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HaYom ≈ HaMeliz (0.9)</td>
<td>Enlightenment</td>
<td>HaYom ≈ HaMeliz (0.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashkafa ≈ HaZvi (0.94)</td>
<td>Multiple names</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makhzikey Hadat ≈ Kol Makhzikey (0.87)</td>
<td>Multiple names</td>
<td>Makhzikey Hadat ≈ Kol Makhzikey (0.92)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Temporality**

- A constant rise from the 1860s
- Plateaued in the 1880s and 1890s

**Interjournal reuse by year**
Conclusion

- The network as a common public sphere
- The roles within the network
- Comparative approach
Thank You for your attention!