

A first look at Mary Hamilton's social networks



(AH/S007121/1, 2019-2022)

DAVID DENISON & TINO OUDESLUIJS
david.denison@manchester.ac.uk tino.oudesluijs@manchester.ac.uk

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Outline

1. Social networks
2. Preliminary networks in the Mary Hamilton Papers
3. Categorisations and parameters
 - 3.1 What is a mentionee?
 - 3.2 What do we consider an item?
 - 3.3 What is family? & what is a friend?
4. What about time & space?

Research Strands

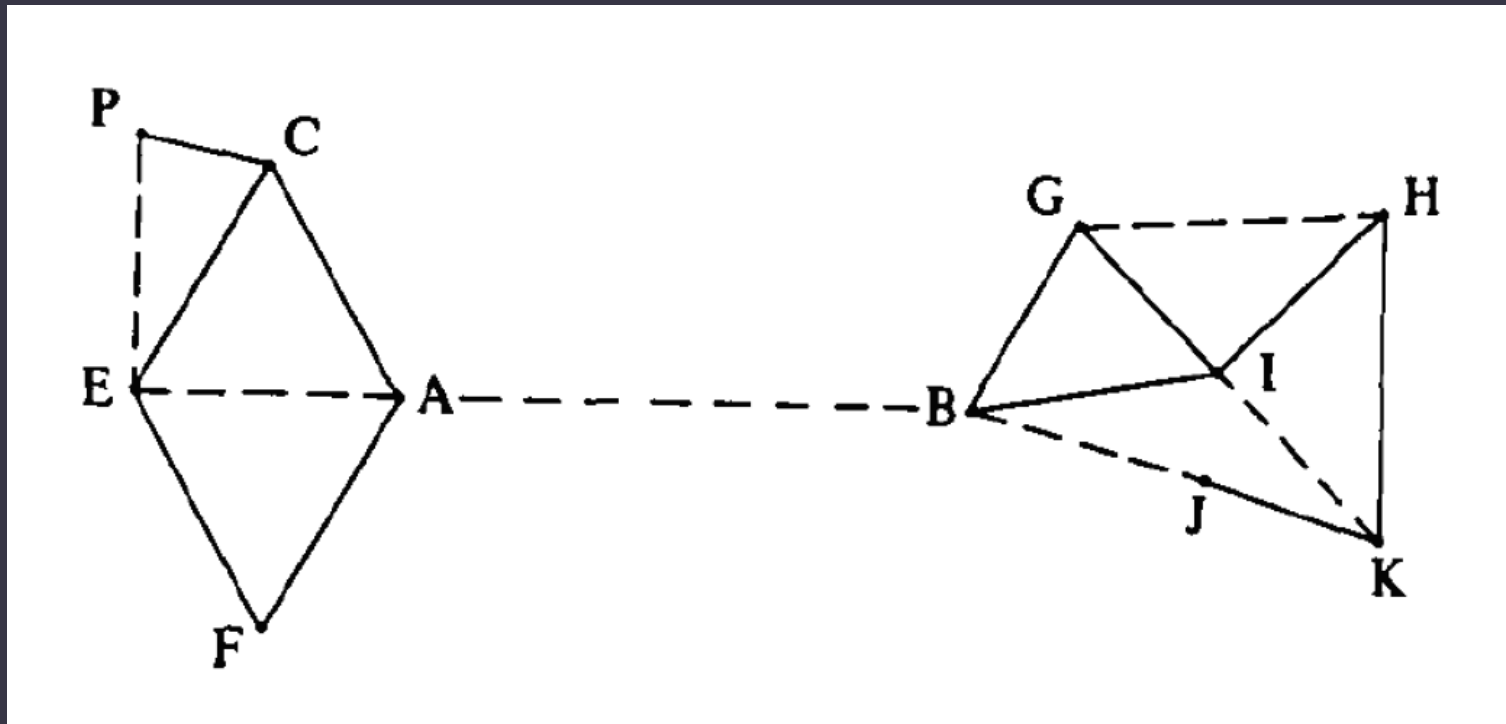
1. Social Networks: What commonalities and differences can be found in the operation and the relevance to reading, letter-writing and everyday language of the social networks around Mary Hamilton?

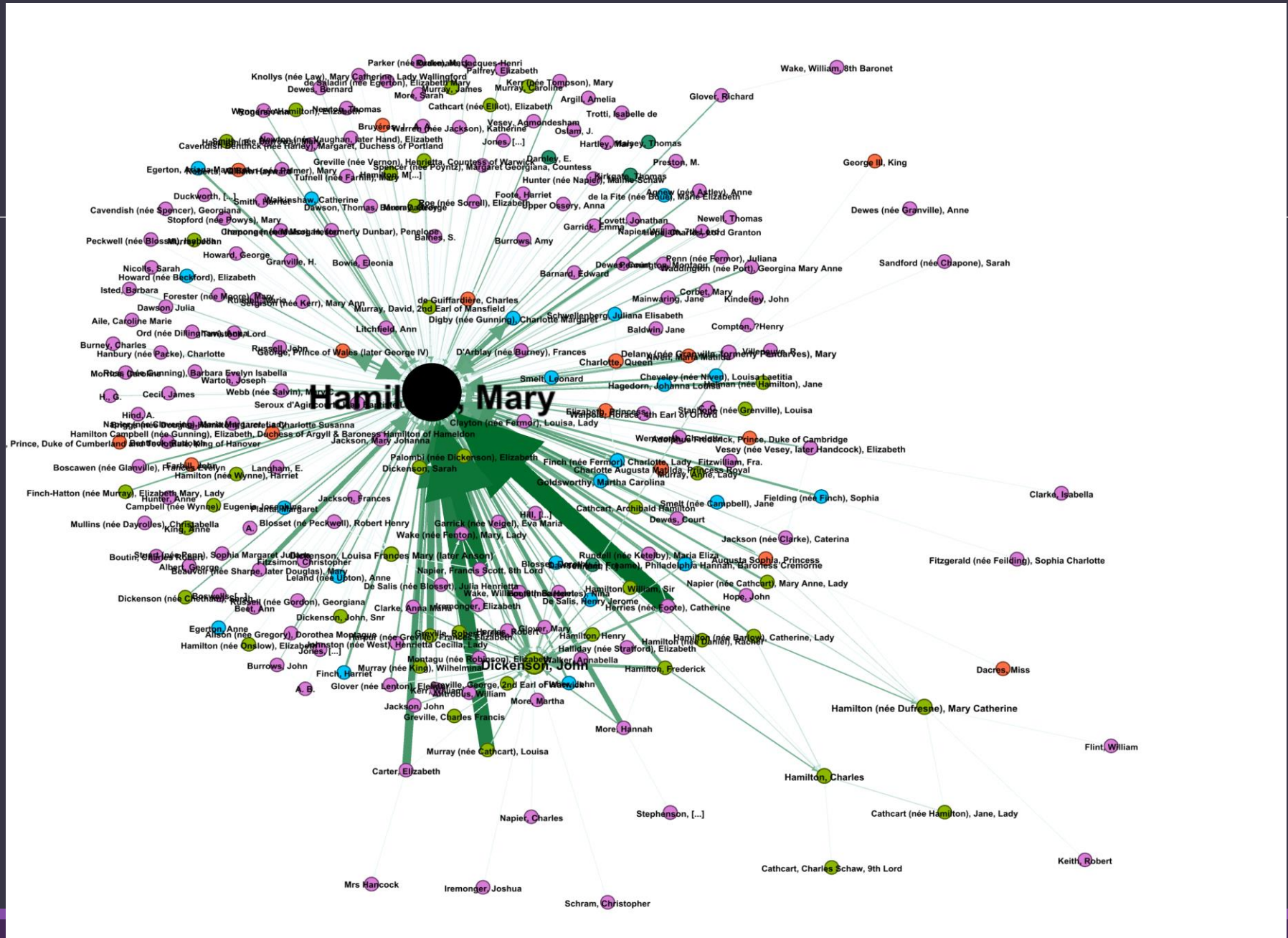
2. Reading Practices: How can textual traces of reader circulation, reception and response contained in the Hamilton Papers help us to think differently about eighteenth-century Romantic literature?

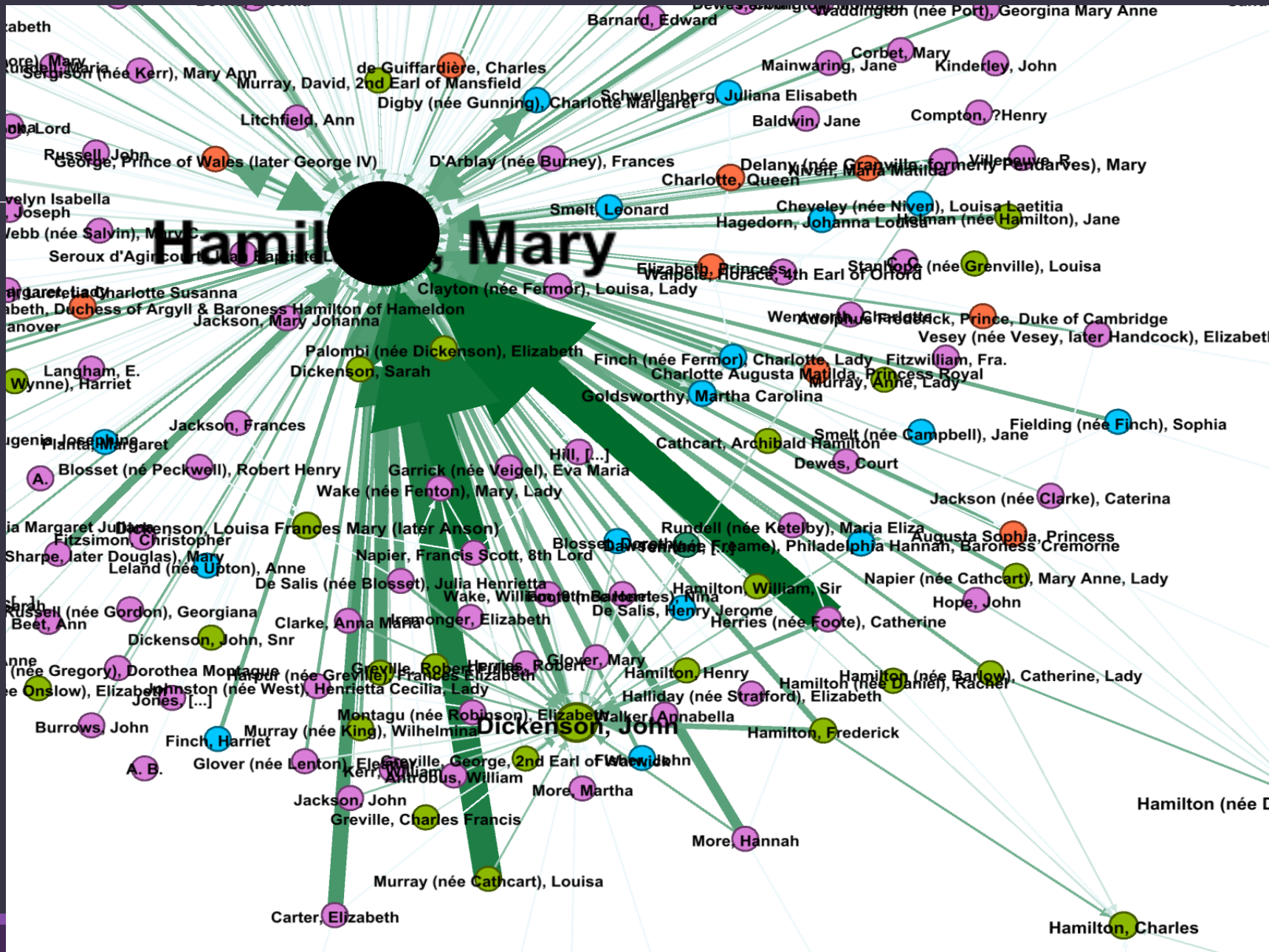
3. Norms and Usage: What evidence can the Hamilton Papers provide of the influence of language standardisation forces on letter-writing practices during the late Georgian period?

4. Language Structure: How do the social networks around Hamilton reflect the progress of the wholesale realignment of the English auxiliary verb system in the late Georgian period?

Social networks



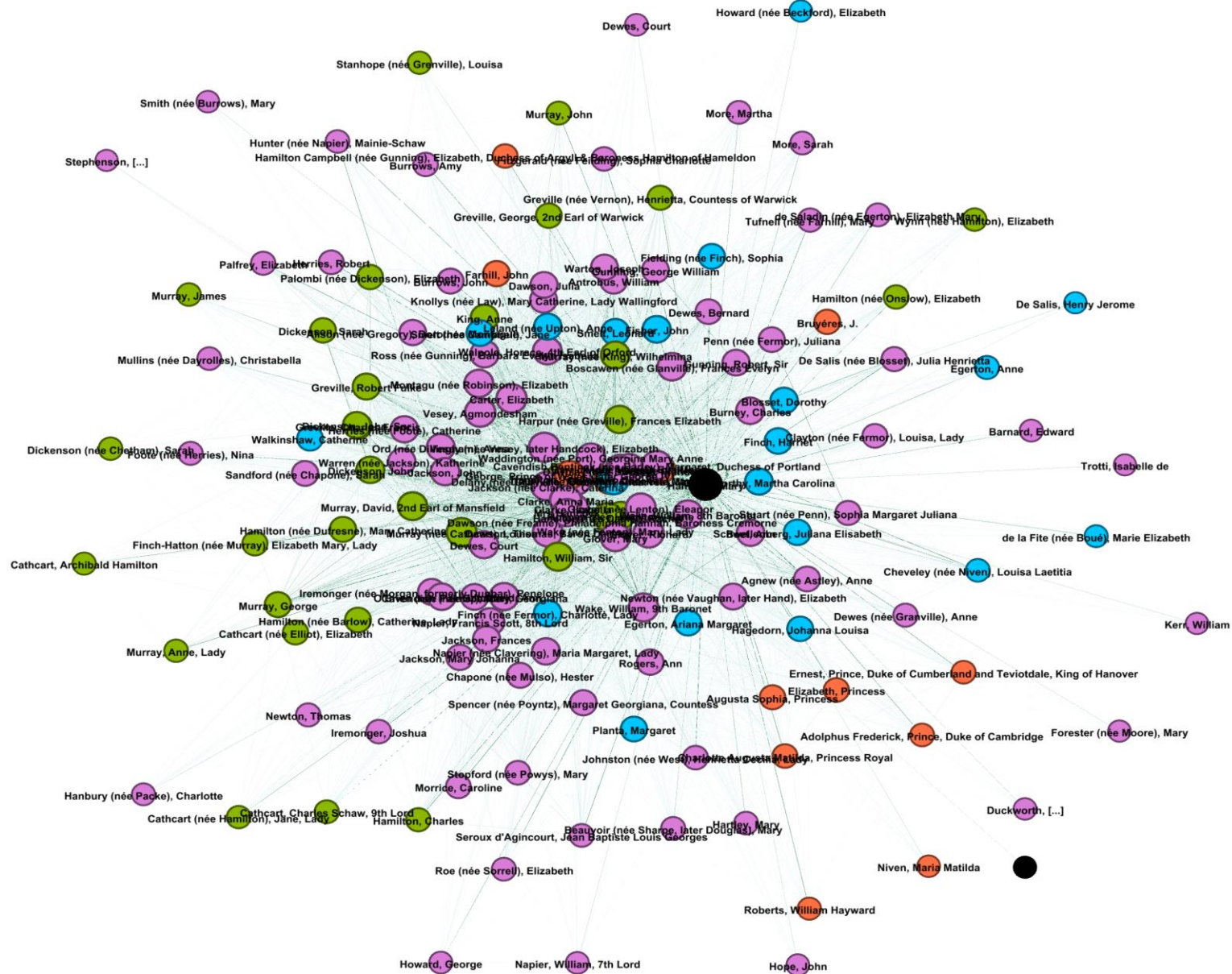


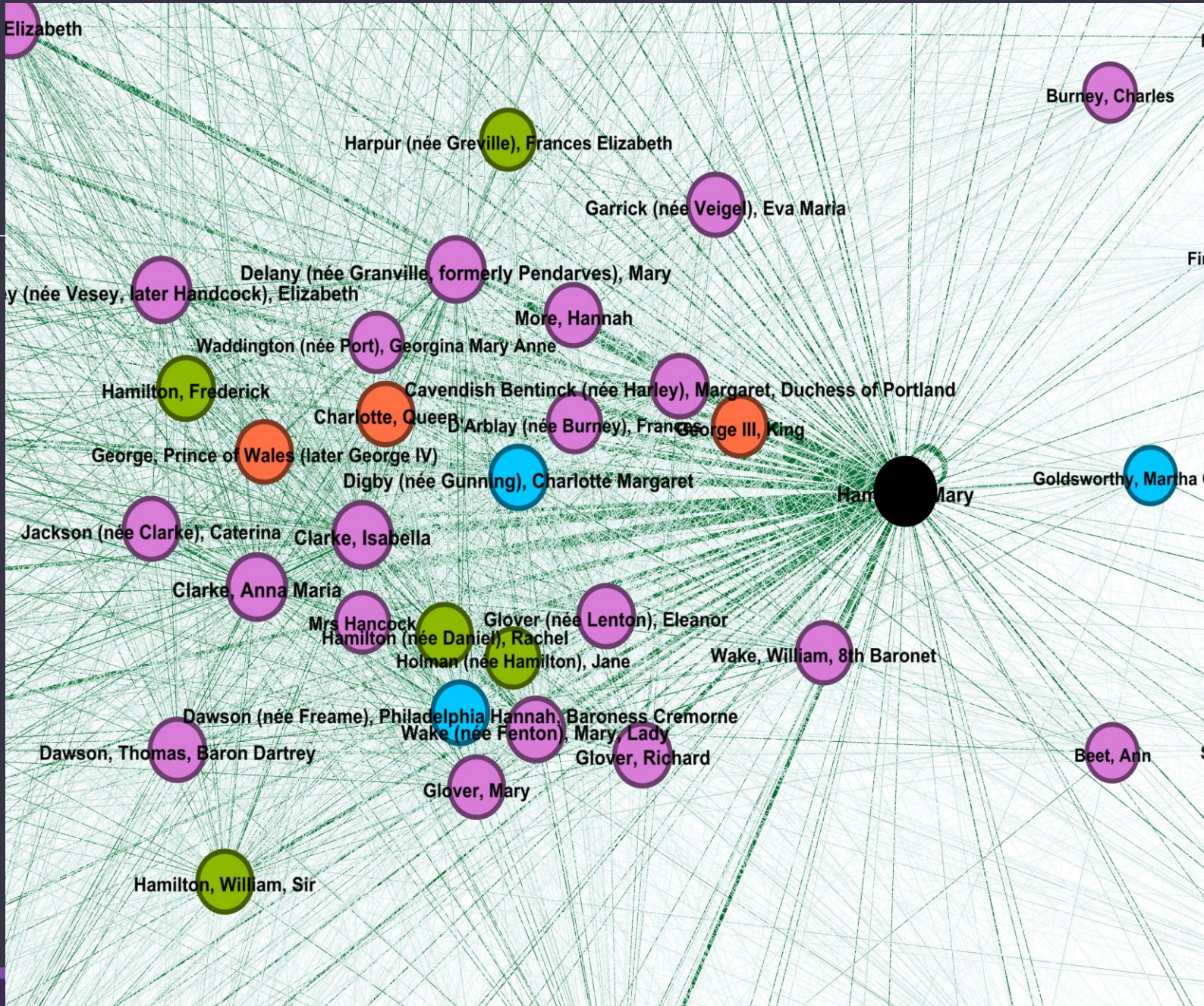


Mary Hamilton Papers - mentionees network

Three types of edges:

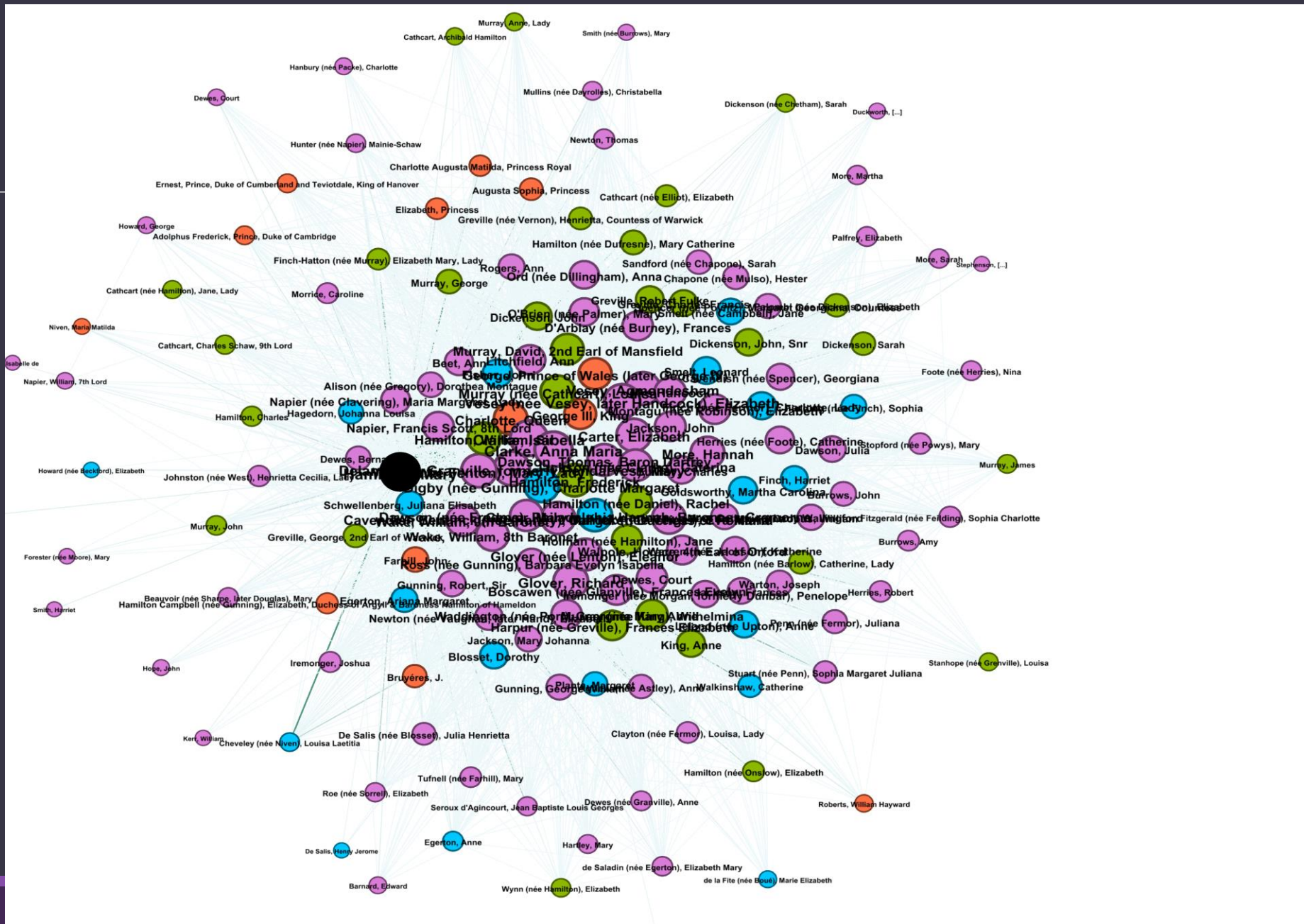
1. Author – mentionee (weighted 1)
 2. Mentionee – recipient (weighted 0.5)
 3. Mentionee – mentionee (weighted 0.1)
- 1 mentionee per item/entry
 - Mentionees in salutations excluded

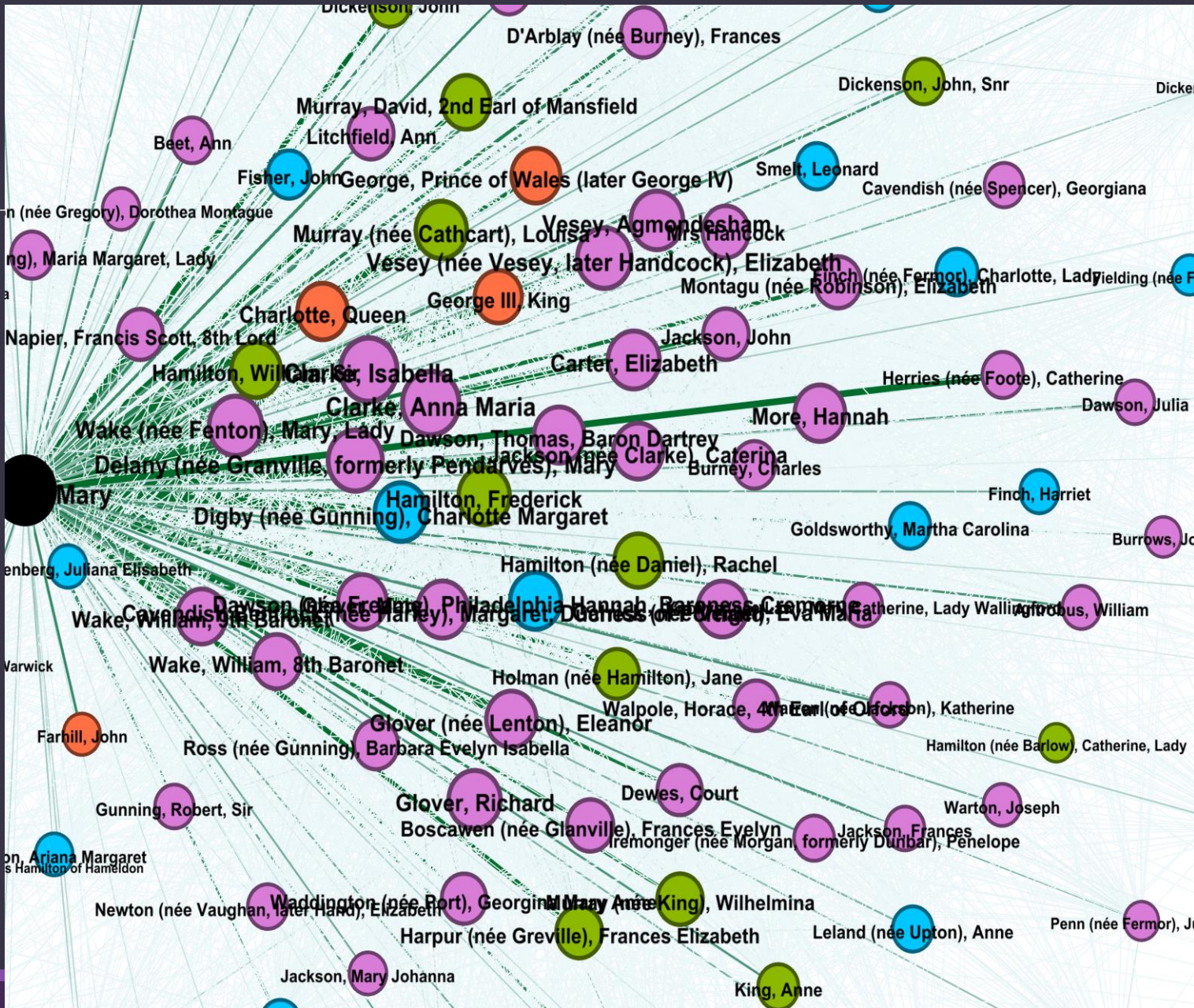




Mary Hamilton Papers - combined network

1. Correspondence: connection between author and recipient (weighted 2)
2. Mentionees: connection between author and mentionee (weighted 1)
3. Mentionees: connection between mentionee and recipient (weighted 0.5)
4. Mentionees: connection between mentionee and mentionee (weighted 0.1)





Outline

1. Social networks
2. Preliminary networks in the Mary Hamilton Papers
3. Categorisations and parameters
 - 3.1 What is a mentionee?
 - 3.2 What do we consider an item?
 - 3.3 What is family? & what is a friend?
4. What about time & space?

What is a mentionee?

- We consider anyone mentioned in the main text of a document who is neither the author or the recipient a 'mentionee'
- So far over 37,000 mentions of identified persons in the edition
- Reasons for mentioning someone
 - physical encounters (e.g. visits)
 - subject of conversation/discussion
 - paying compliments

What is a mentionee?

- Only 1 mention per item/diary entry
- Only individuals who are themselves correspondents (for now)
- Some numbers:
 - 17,711 (all correspondent-mentionees in all items – 9,500 when counting only 1 per item/entry)
 - 5,761 (all correspondent-mentionees in correspondence – 3,400 when counting only 1 per item)

What is an item?

- Different 'items' in the archive: letters, notes, journal-letters, lists, cover sheets, etc.
- How many times do we count items with multiple authors and/or recipients?
- Balance and the issue of working with historical documents

What is family?

- How far do we go?
- What to do with family relations by marriage?

What is a friend?

- Preliminary classification for this paper was largely impressionistic
- Use salutations for more systematic classification? (cf. Strand III)
 - For example, 'friend'
 - But, meaning of 'friend' in 18thC?
- How to deal with the chronology of friendships?
(beginnings, breaks, endings)
- What about suitors or admirers?

Outline

1. Social networks
2. Preliminary networks in the Mary Hamilton Papers
3. Categorisations and parameters
 - 3.1 What is a mentionee?
 - 3.2 What do we consider an item?
 - 3.3 What is family? & what is a friend?
4. What about time & space?

Time & space

- Rather than periods of a set duration, we intend to consider different periods from Mary Hamilton's life (e.g. childhood, Northampton, time at Court, Clarges St., Taxal, Leighton House, London, etc.)
- Edition has been tagged for place names (both in the metadata and in-text); issue of London
- To be further explored...

Unlocking the Mary Hamilton Papers

The Mary Hamilton Papers (c.1740-c.1850). Compiled by David Denison, Nuria Yáñez-Bouza, Tino Oudesluijs, Cassandra Ulph, Christine Wallis, Hannah Barker and Sophie Coulombeau, University of Manchester. In progress, 2019- <https://doi.org/10.48420/21687809>

Thank you for your attention!

<https://www.maryhamiltonpapers.alc.manchester.ac.uk/>

<https://www.digitalcollections.manchester.ac.uk/collections/maryhamilton/>



@Hamilton_Papers



Unlocking the Mary Hamilton Papers

References

- Anson, Elizabeth & Florence Anson. 1925. *Mary Hamilton: Afterwards Mrs. John Dickenson: At Court and at home. From letters and diaries: 1756-1816*. London: John Murray.
- Kydros, Dimitrios & Anastasios Anastasiadis. 2015. Social network analysis in literature. The case of *The Great Eastern* by A. Embirikos. *Proceedings of the 5th European Congress of Modern Greek Studies of the European Society of Modern Greek Studies*, 4, 681-702.
- Sairio, Anni. 2008. A social network study of eighteenth-century Bluestockings: The progressive and preposition stranding in their letters. *Historical sociolinguistics and sociohistorical linguistics*.
- Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ingrid. 1996. Social network theory and eighteenth-century English: the case of Boswell. In Derek Britton (ed.), *English Historical Linguistics 1994*, 327–337. Amsterdam & Philadelphia, PA: Benjamins.
- Wasserman, Stanley & Katherine Faust. 1994. *Social Network Analysis: Methods and applications* (Structural Analysis in the Social Sciences 8). Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Wellman, Barry & Charles Wetherell. 1996. Social network analysis of historical communities: Some questions from the present for the past. *The History of the Family* 1(1), 97-121.
- Wetherell, Charles. 1998. Historical Social Network Analysis. *International Review of Social History* 43(6), 125-144.

With thanks to Oliver Price for an elegant piece of programming.