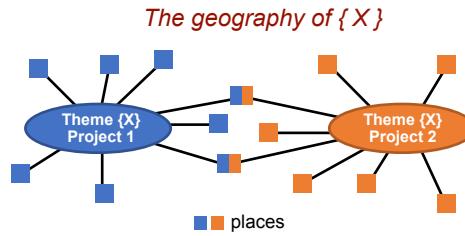




## In Theory

Gazetteers, databases of named places, describe relationships between people and the world. After all, place names reflect linguistic, cultural, and political authority. When gazetteers are historical, they also describe how the power to name places changed hands. However, other than simple relationships of containment, gazetteers cannot describe connections between places.

Therefore, we have developed traces to assert relationships between places and non-spatial phenomena. Traces attest that given places were waypoints on journeys, centers of artistic movements, or residences of individuals. Since journeys, movements, and lifespans entrain multiple places, traces are a solution for how to illustrate complex and heterogeneous human geographies.



**traces** are historical things of interest, both material and non-material

objects



people

events

concepts



## In Practice

Peripleo <https://peripleo.pelagios.org>



The Peripleo search engine developed by the Pelagios project indexes trace annotations in addition to place records. A record displayed for a given place may therefore include images of historical objects for which the place was a findspot - for example coins, hoards, and inscriptions, and links to contributors' records of the objects.

World Historical Gazetteer <http://whgazetteer.org>

The World Historical Gazetteer project has incorporated an index of trace annotations into its platform as well, and has begun developing trace annotation data for historical events and processes, e.g. journeys and expeditions, lifepaths, and commodity trade.

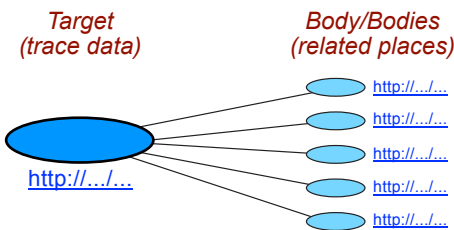
**trace data** are web-published descriptions or depictions of a trace or traces

http://.../...    http://.../...    http://.../...    http://.../...    http://.../...    http://.../...

**trace annotations** associate trace data URIs with places related to them (and how & when)

W3C Web Annotation records

<https://www.w3.org/TR/annotation-model/>  
<https://www.w3.org/TR/annotation-vocab/>



```
{
  "@id": "http://whgazetteer.org/traces/78",
  "@context": {
    "http://www.w3.org/ns/anno.jsonld",
    "http://www.w3.org/ns/anno.jsonld",
    "type": "Annotation",
    "created": "2020-06-16",
    "creator": {
      "id": "",
      "name": "Susan Grunewald",
      "homepage": ""
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    "motivation": "Linking",
    "tag_suggest": [
      "Cortes",
      "Conquest",
      "Mexico",
      "Aztec",
      "Conquistador"
    ],
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      "type": "Event",
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      "format": "text/html",
      "language": "en"
    },
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              "start": "1521-02-22"
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          }
        ]
      },
      {
        "id": "http://whgazetteer.org/place/82786",
        "title": "Cempoala",
        "place_id": "82786",
        "relations": [
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            "relation": "battle_site",
            "when": {
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              "start": "1520-05-29"
            }
          }
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

what else ??

Trace annotations of the lifepath of Gautama Buddha and a journey of 7c. Buddhist monk Xuanzhang illustrating their intersection 1000 years apart.

A trace of colonialism and empire: annotations of a dataset about Hernan Cortes' Conquest of the Aztec Empire with its relevant locations, including waypoints and battles.