Analysis and Visualization of Archival Data about South Tyrolean “Return Migration” ("Return-Option")	
Level	Master
Prerequisites	Knowledge of Python or R, (possibly) experience with creating interactive websites
Category	Data Science, History
Supervisor	Adam Jatowt (in collaboration with Prof. Eva Pfanzelter and Sarah Oberbichler)

Return migration, also known as remigration or repatriation, is still an often neglected topic within migration research and migration history. This also applies to those South Tyrolean migrants who left their homeland in the course of the "voluntary" expatriation (that became known as the "option"). In 1939 the so-called "option agreement" was announced between the two dictators Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini: the German-speaking population of South Tyrol had to decide either to emigrate to the German Reich and thus for German citizenship, or to remain in Italy and thus finally adopt the Italian language and culture. By 1943, around 75,000 people had left their homeland to face an uncertain future in the German Reich. Only after 1948 could those who had moved abroad apply to regain or retain Italian citizenship and legally return to their homeland. Previous historical research assumes that about a third of the emigrants eventually returned to South Tyrol.

Researchers from the Department of contemporary History at UIBK (Eva Pfanzelter and Sarah Oberbichler) have collected from different archives and digitized various kinds of material (often handwritten data) and some oral histories related to the participants of the return migration to South Tyrol. The data about the same persons (e.g., archival acts of returning) can be fragmentary and in different formats, however, there are often some pieces of information allowing to identify the same persons across different documents (e.g., name, birth date or identifier numbers). The thesis topic is about analyzing the collected data, which involves among others, cleaning and merging data, identifying missing or wrong personal accounts, and then deriving various kinds of aggregated knowledge about the return migration process. The task involves also designing an approach to automatically recognize the jobs of mentioned persons and their classification with HISCO (Historical International Standard Classification of Occupation, https://historyofwork.iisg.nl/), however for the German historical language (https://www.geschichte.uni-halle.de/struktur/hist-data/ontologie/) which poses a certain challenge. Finally, we would like to investigate if there is a way to link with historical norm data and visualize them (https://histhub.ch/).