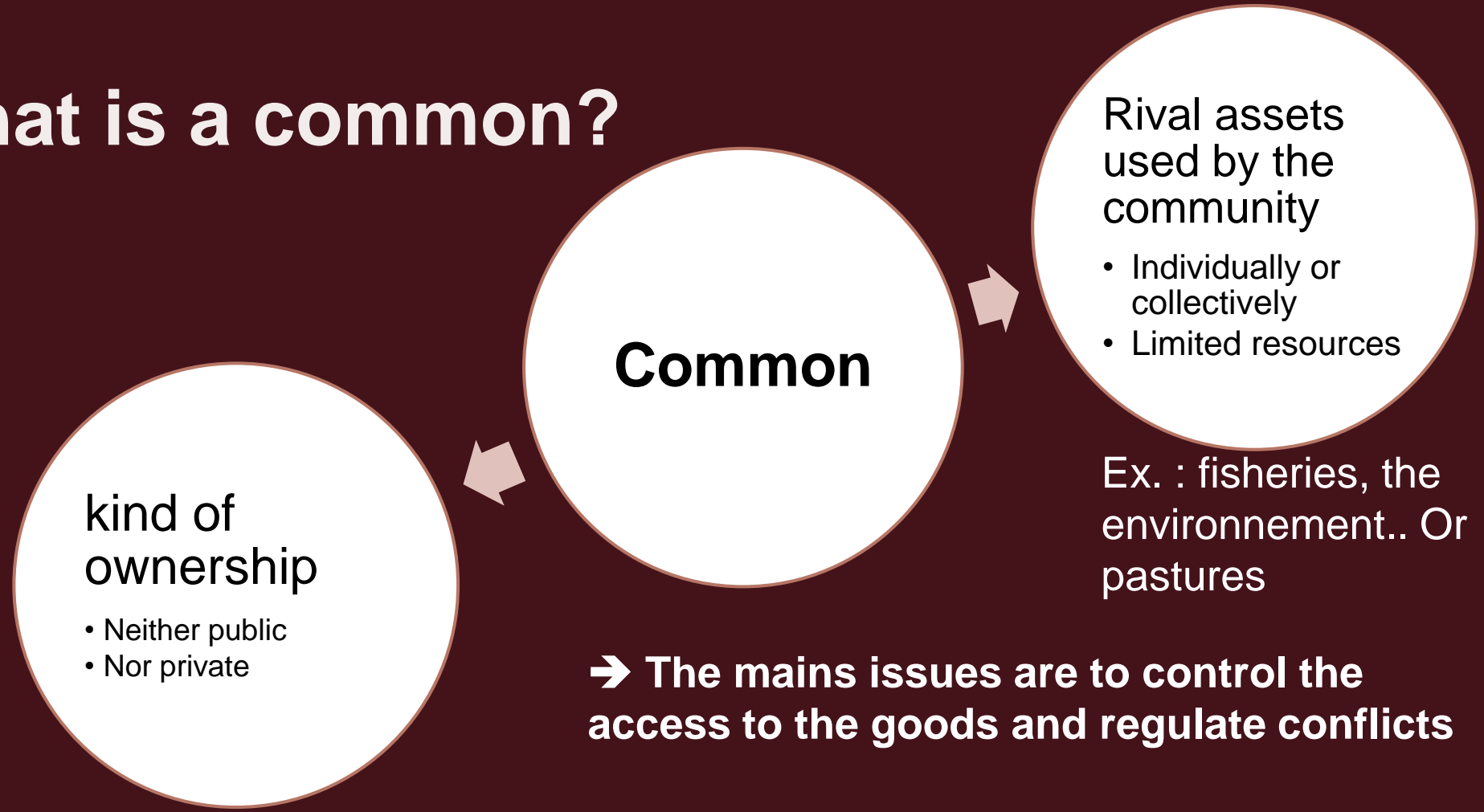


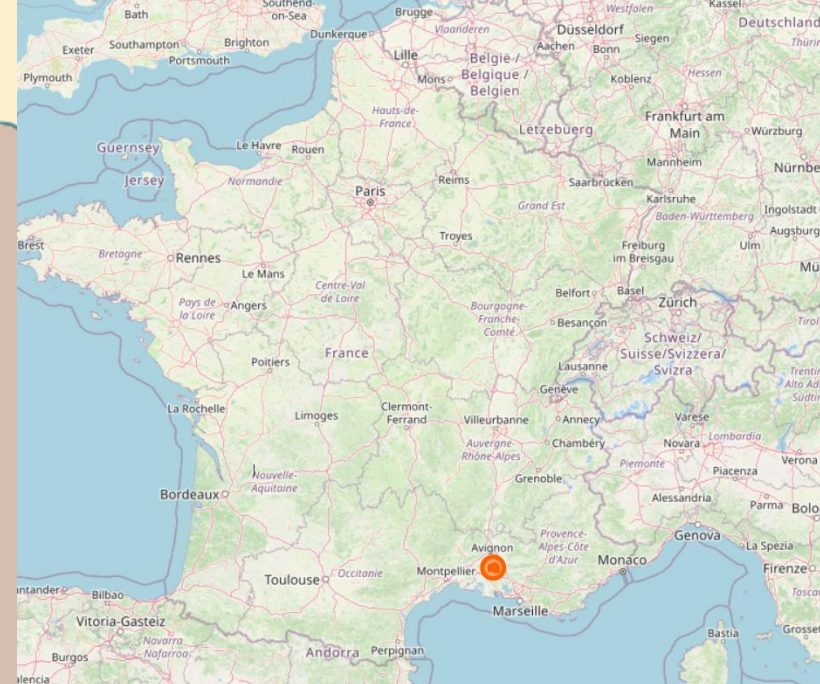
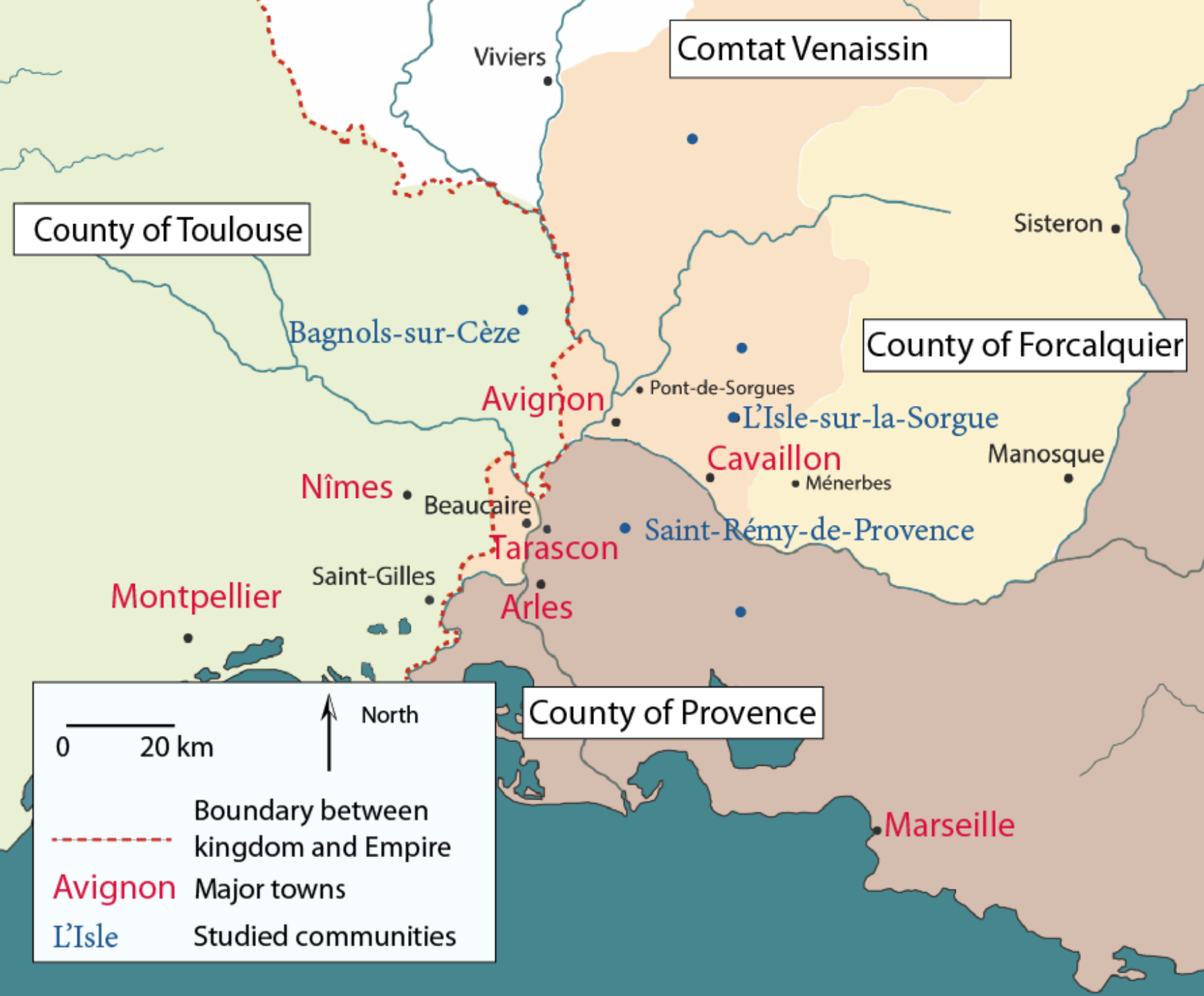
# Studying Small Medieval Communities in the Light of the Historiographical Revival of the Commons

- Revising Revisionism – International Conference of the Doctoral School in History
- Cluj-Napoca – 11 November 2023
- Simon Rozanès
- (Université Lumière Lyon 2 – CIHAM / Aix-Marseille Université – TELEMME)

# What is a common?







**The communities studied**

- **Why is the historiographical revision of the Commons very useful for studying the relationship between these communities and their environment, and for handling the way they organized?**
- I. Commons in historiography
- II. Reconsidering Saint-Rémy's commons in the light of new historiography

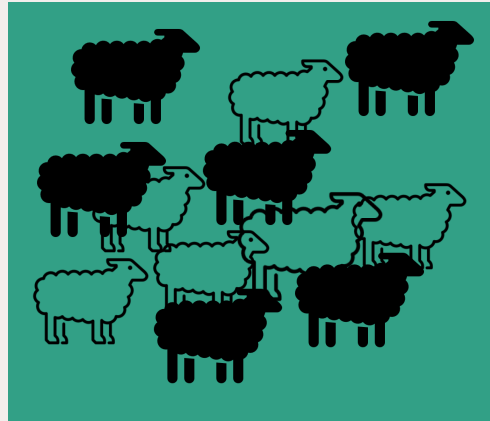
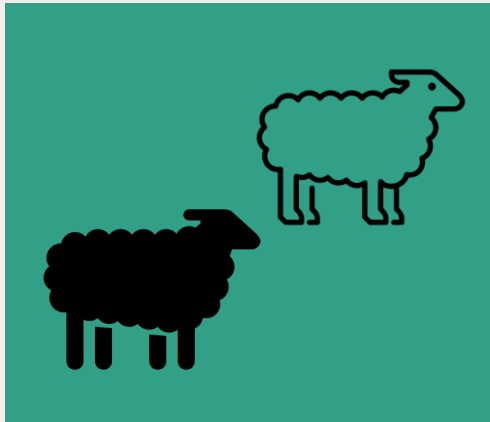


# Commons in historiography

- **Economic and juridical approaches during the 19th and 20th centuries**
  - Bourgeois law and liberalism
  - Positivism and romanticism
  - 1870s-1880s : Henry Sumner Maine, Émile Louis Victor de Laveleye and Numa Denis Fustel de Coulanges
    - relationship between public property and Roman and/or Germanic law

# Commons in historiography

- **Economic and juridical approaches during the 19th and 20th centuries**
  - Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons", 1968



# Commons in historiography



- **New approaches to commons since the 1970s**
- Criticisms levelled against Hardin
  - The lack of regulation
  - The *homo-economicus* theory
  - Fabien Loché : “a social cosmology of individualism and agonism”
  - Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, 1990
    - why do some communities manage to “devise rules and [rely on] social norms to enforce sustainable resource use, while others do not?”

# Reconsidering Saint-Rémy's commons in the light of new historiography

- **The importance of commons in the political life of the community**
- The *universitas*, the political form of the community
  - Michaud-Quantin, *Universitas*, 1972
  - a "legally constituted group with the express or tacit authorisation of the competent superior".
  - Joseph Morsel (dir.), *Communautés d'habitants*, 2018




LEGEND:

- Saint-Rémy 
- Other communities in conflict with Saint-Rémy for the delimitation of the territory 

0 1 km



  
Saint-Rémy

Molleges   
(1306-1336)

  
Romanin  
(1308-1315)



# 1335 statutes

- March 1335, the 3rd: the Bailiff of the Court of Saint-Rémy, representing the administrative authority, convened the representatives of the inhabitants, according to their request.
  - 8 articles are produced, specifying the mandates of the representatives :
    - 12 « exacteurs de taille »
    - Council of 6 members, also procurators
  - Among them :
    - 1 knight & 2 notaries (Porcelet family)
    - 4 exactors, 5 syndics or procurators of the inhabitants
- 1<sup>st</sup> April – 17 may : writing and promulgating the statutes
  - 19 articles, 13 regarding rural and environmental issues
  - Valid until October 1335

# Reconsidering Saint-Rémy's commons in the light of new historiography

- **Regulate or dismantle the commons?**
- Commons are mentioned in 1335 statutes
  - Article 1 & 3
  - Pastures, commons and the “défens”
  - Higher fee for foreigners
  - Territorial demarcation started in the 1260s
- Distinction between the divided and the non-divided part of the swamp



# 1336 statutes

- Dividing the swamp → Porcelet family
- access roads to the palud (article 5)
- restricted access to ploughing and pack animals (article 6)
- limited grazing to certain areas in autumn (article 7)
- banned fires, presumably given the risk of eco-burning (article 10).

The header features a series of overlapping pink shapes and patterns. From left to right, there are concentric circles, a solid semi-circle, a dotted semi-circle, a solid semi-circle, a semi-circle with radiating lines, a solid semi-circle, and a dotted semi-circle.

# Conclusion

- Overgrazing
- 1345 investigation





**Thank you for your attention**