

# CAMPUS MEDIUS – Mediality as Experience

Dr. Simon Ganahl | [simon.ganahl@univie.ac.at](mailto:simon.ganahl@univie.ac.at) | [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net)

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**ABSTRACT:** *Campus Medius* explores and expands the possibilities of **digital cartography in cultural and media studies**. The project, headed by Simon Ganahl, is developing from a historical case study to a mapping platform. The initial version of [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net) consists of an interactive map with a timeline displaying selected events within **24 hours in Vienna on May 13 and 14, 1933**. The forthcoming version of the website will additionally focus on the main event of this exemplary time-space: an Austrofascist "**Turks Deliverance Celebration**" (*Türkenbefreiungsfeier*) in Schönbrunn Palace Park, which is mediated in three different interfaces—from a bird's-eye perspective, panoramically, and in street view. The aim of *Campus Medius* is to establish a collaborative **platform for mapping media experiences** in everyday life.

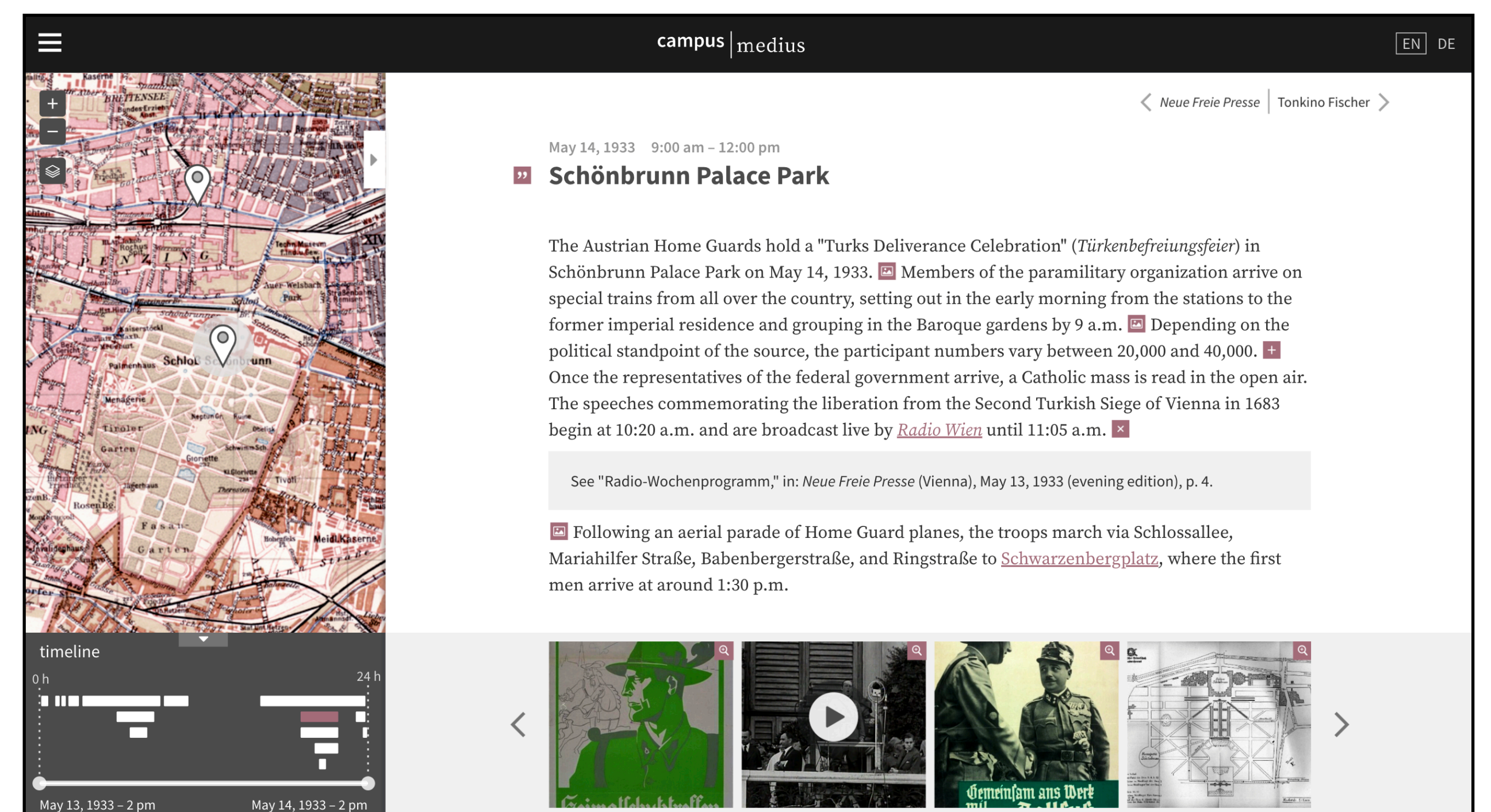


Fig. 1: Screenshot of the desktop version of [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net) in English.



Fig. 2: The mobile version of [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net) in English.

**FEATURES & INFRASTRUCTURE:** The website [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net), which was programmed by Andreas Krimbacher and designed by Susanne Kiesenhofer, is **bilingual** (English & German) and fully **responsive** (desktop & mobile). Apart from the challenging interplay of map and information, we spent much time devising an interface that is suited for **scholarly communication**. We did not implement hyperlinked footnotes, but chose to integrate notes and media into the running text through an **icon system** and to offer the relevant **metadata** by way of a quote icon placed next to the page title. The software was developed with **open-source technologies**: the front end in Angular and Mapbox GL JS, the back end in Django using a PostgreSQL database. The project code is freely available under the MIT license at GitHub. We use open-source fonts (Source Sans Pro & Source Serif Pro) and publish the content (except the media objects protected by copyright) open-access under **Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0**. Regarding the digital infrastructure, the website is housed on a **virtual server provided by the University of Vienna**, with all media objects hosted in its **repository Phaidra**.



Fig. 3: The mobile version of [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net) in German.

**DATA MODEL & MAPPING PLATFORM:** Both the database and the interface of the website have been constructed in an **interdisciplinary cooperation** between scholars of culture and media, programmers, and designers. Methodologically, *Campus Medius* operationalizes the concepts of **(1) heterogeneous actors or mediators**, understood here as anyone or anything given in an experience that makes a difference in the course of action, and of **(2) historical dispositives**, which we define as patterns of relations in terms of space, time, and value. After finishing the case study on the Austrofascist "Turks Deliverance Celebration" in Vienna on May 14, 1933, we plan to develop [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net) into a **digital platform for media education**. Instead of geo-referencing data sets, the students will be encouraged to consider **mapping as a critical practice** by selecting and inquiring into media experiences in their daily lives: Who or what is given in such a course of action? How are these mediators connected with each other? To which demand is the media experience responding? And what might an alternative response be?

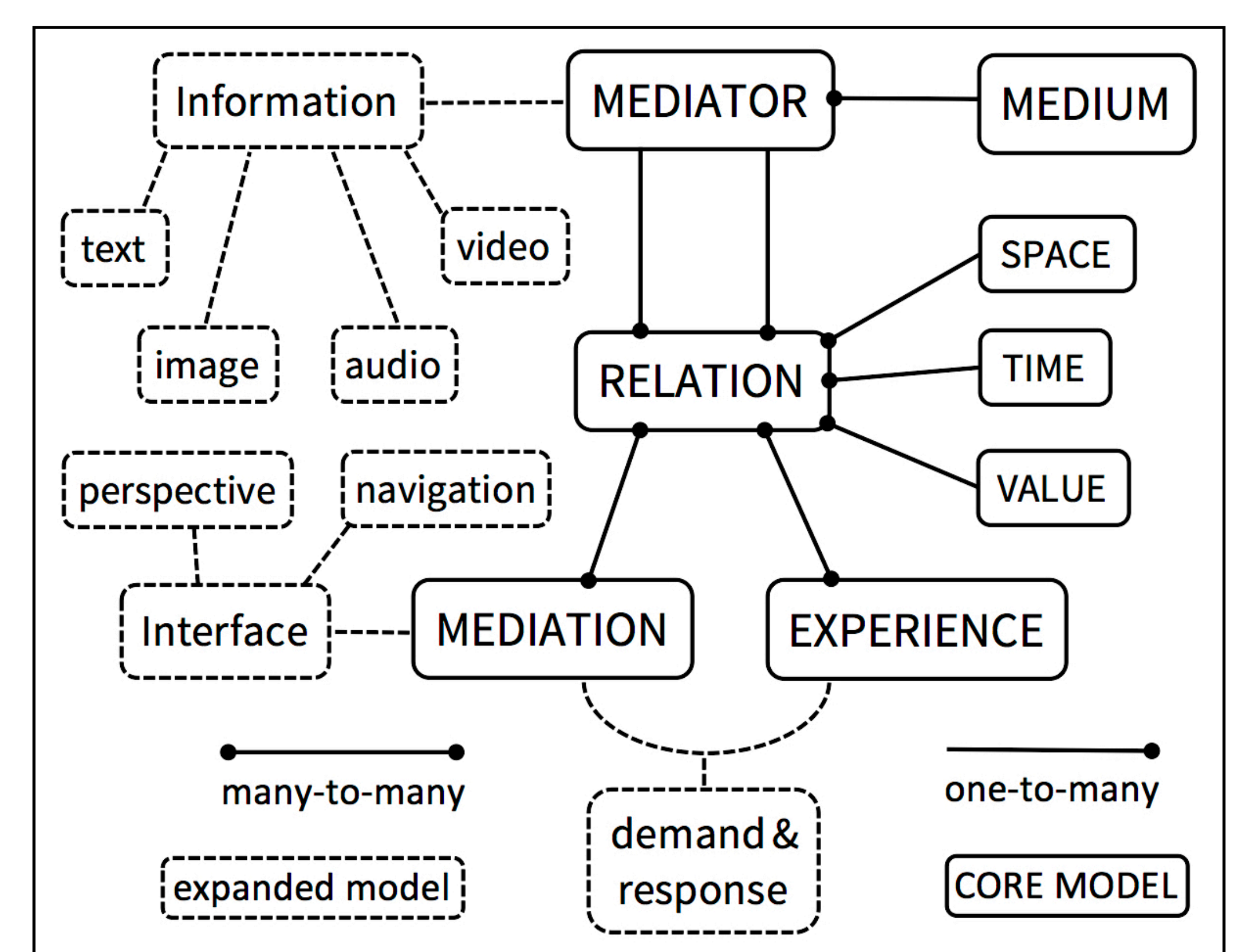


Fig. 4: Data model of [campusmedius.net](http://campusmedius.net) and "Mapping Modern Media."

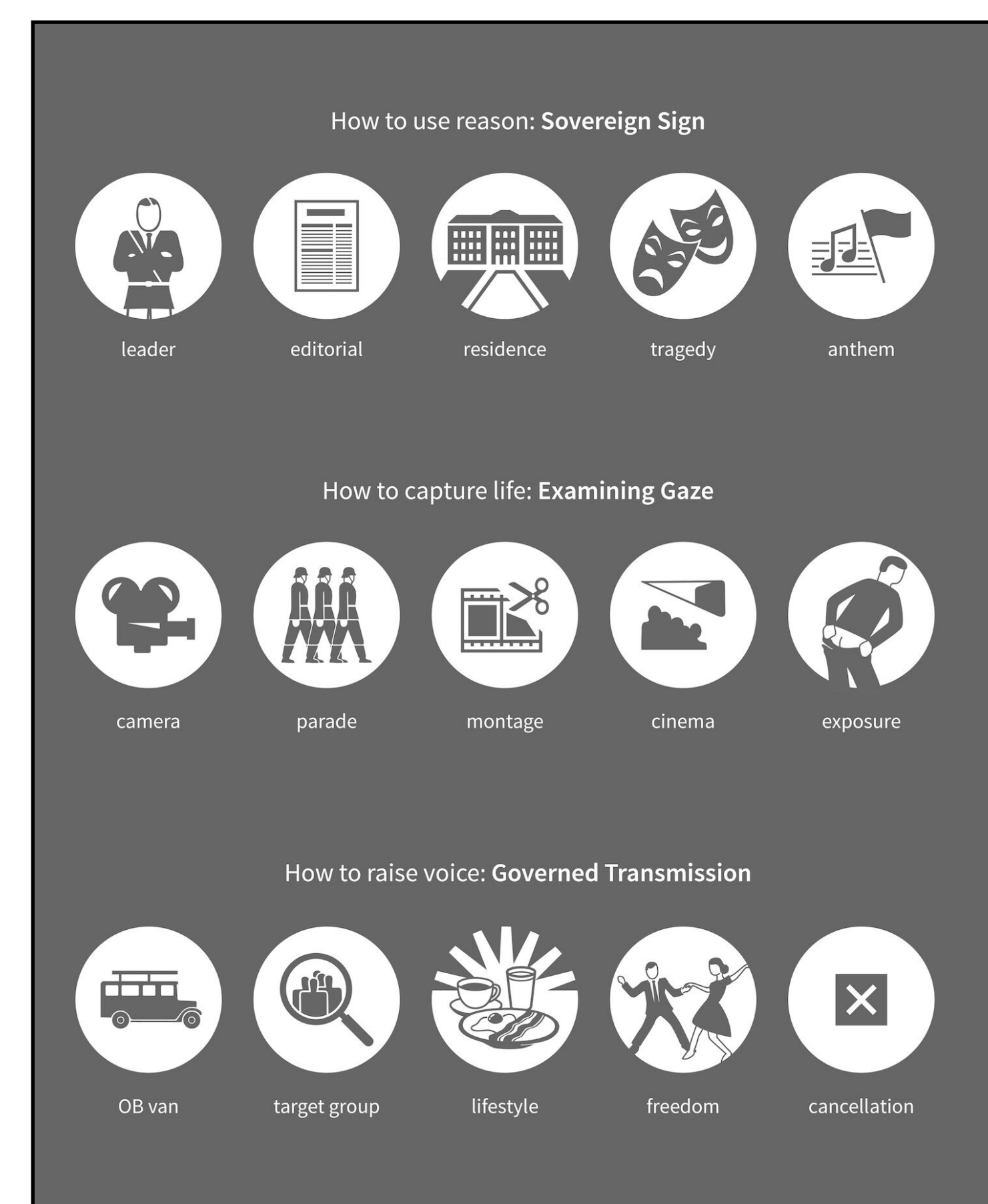


Fig. 5: Mediator icons of the historical case study.

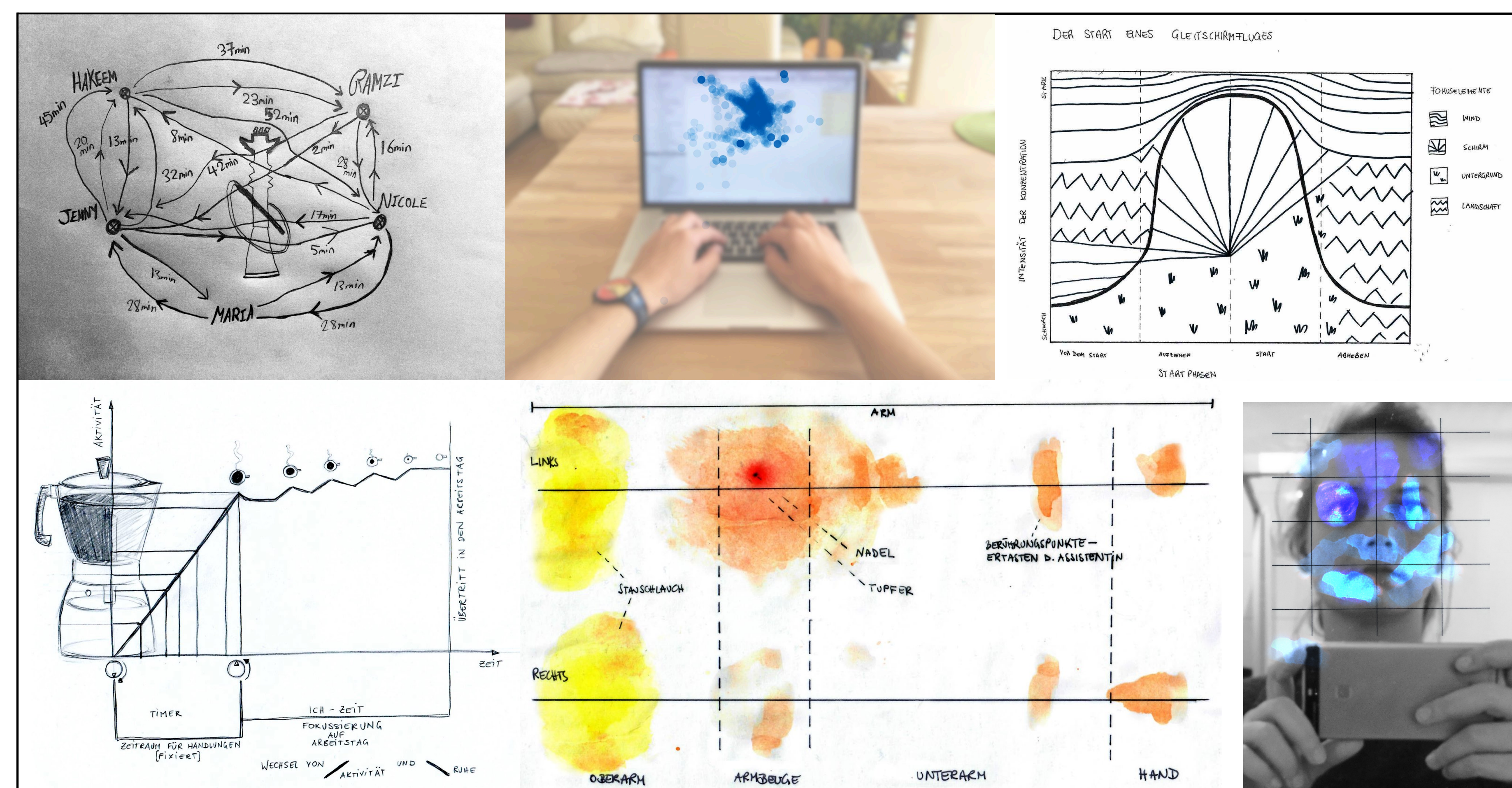


Fig. 6: Collage of student maps created in a series of courses on "Mapping Modern Media" taught by Simon Ganahl in the Center for Digital Humanities at UCLA in 2016, the program InterMedia at Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences in 2017, and the University of Liechtenstein's cross-faculty elective subjects in 2018.