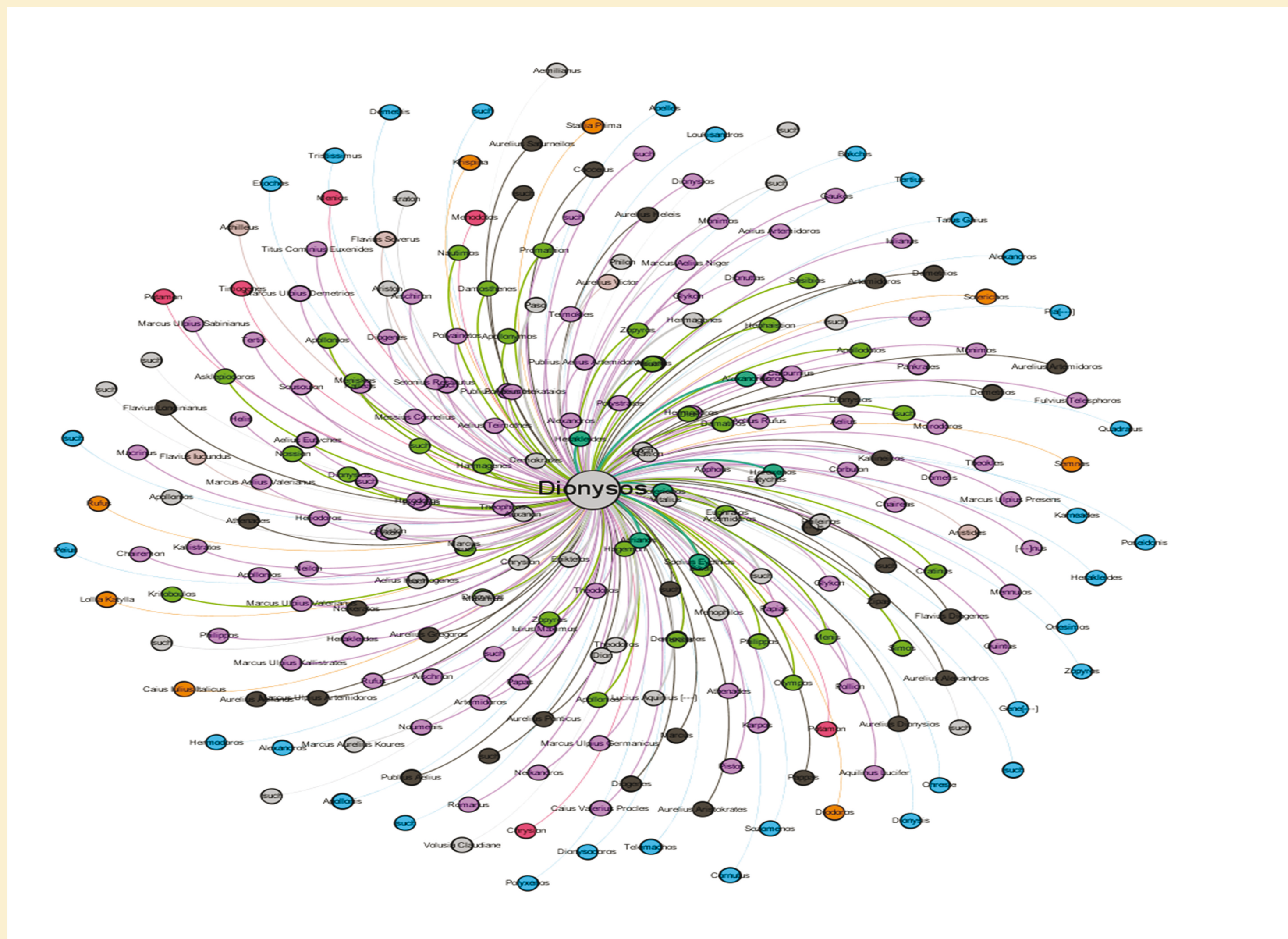


# Six degrees of Dionysos in the Greek colonies of the Black Sea: A Social Network Analysis of the Associative Universe

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Network including all the members of private Dionysian associations, distributed according to their origin.

Credit: the author

## Dionysos & Social Network Analysis

Social Network Analysis is a technique used in sociology to research social structures. Basically, SNA examines the individuals registered in a dataset (understood as „nodes” in Gephy), and the relation between them (understood as „edges” in Gephy), in order to answer specific research questions. The data can be analysed by using different software, such as NodeXL and Gephy, through the help of which various visualisation aspects are made possible. The poster uses this technique in order to investigate the networks created around Dionysos, in an associative *milieu*. The expression six degrees of Dionysos from the title describes precisely the network of individuals who are connected to the divinity, as well as the individuals who are connected to these, but without being directly connected to the God.

The data targeted by this poster consist of the individuals from the private associations dedicated to Dionysos and coming from the Greek colonies situated on the Black Sea shore. Besides providing two case studies (Histria, Byzantion), the network of Dionysos as a one-degree graph is also included, showing the simple direct connections between the divinity, and the members of all the associations (first image, top, centre). The different colour of the nodes indicates the fact that the individuals belongs to a specific association, each association having a different weight (colour).

In our area of study, there have been recorded 31 private associations devoted to Dionysos (as recorded in the graph), inside which 244 individuals were active as regular or non-regular members (leaders), out of which 127 come from Histria.

Due to the fact that Histria provides most of the members, and to the fact that their outer *entourage* can be identified, this case will be singled out (among the members of the association we have representatives of the elite, and very important political figures, who, in their turn have a wider network of acquaintances). Here, the network of individuals connected to Dionysos goes beyond not only the social status (which varies from „regular” Greek citizens, to Roman citizens, and Roman citizens as representatives of the elite, and of the political power), but also beyond the *πόλις*, and the divinity: among its members we also find individuals who are mentioned in an association devoted to Cybele, at Tomis (ISM II 83), where they expand their personal networks. The second image (second, right) provides a six degree

visualisation of the networks created starting from Dionysos, which translates this complex web of people.

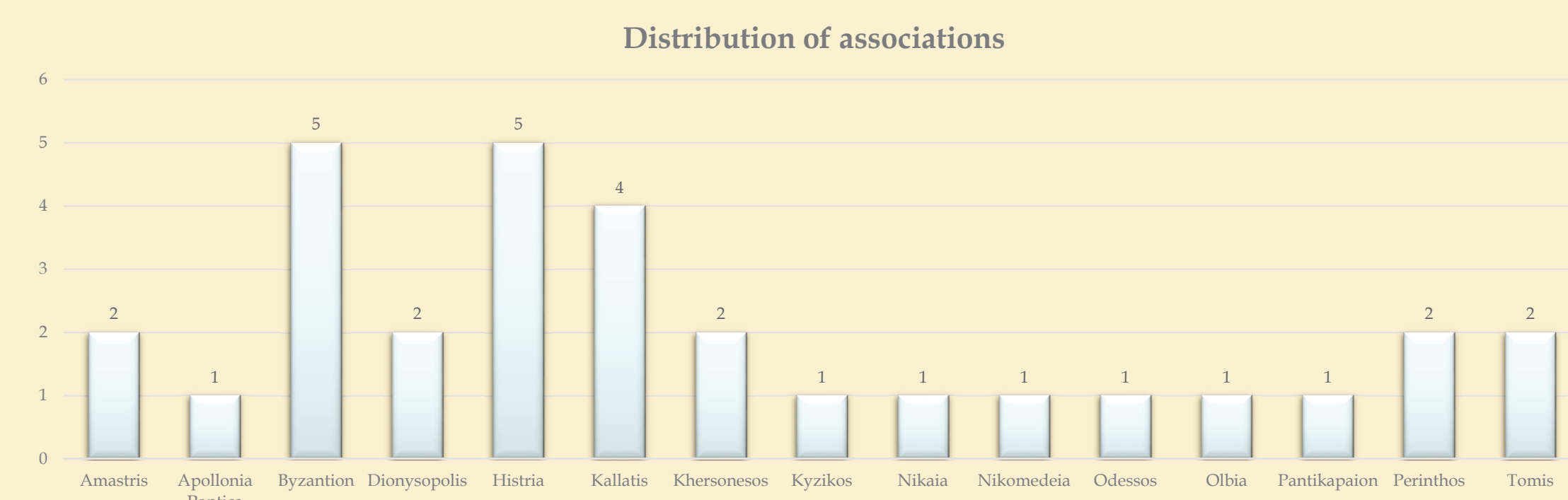
The third, as well as the four image (third & fourth, right, bottom), singles out the case of the association dedicated to Dionysos Kallon, from Byzantion. More precisely, this is an example of a smaller scale association, which was formed almost exclusively of family members. The analysis shows the fact that there are two main connection types: that of member (blue), and that of family member (red). From the overall actors („nodes”) which have family ties, Quintus is the one which is the most prominent as a node, due to the relation he has with all members, but at the same time he is the only who is not mentioned as an association member by the inscriptions. This is a clear example of how an association can be mapped based on the type of members it has.

## Concluding remarks

By using the software Gephy, and the methodology of SNA, a dataset comprising characters can be modelled in order to answer some particular questions (in this case: who has a wider network; on what type of connections are associations based), which otherwise would have been more difficult to answer, or the answer would not have been so obvious. Certainly, other types of questions can be asked, but these are left to be explored in other scientific circumstances.

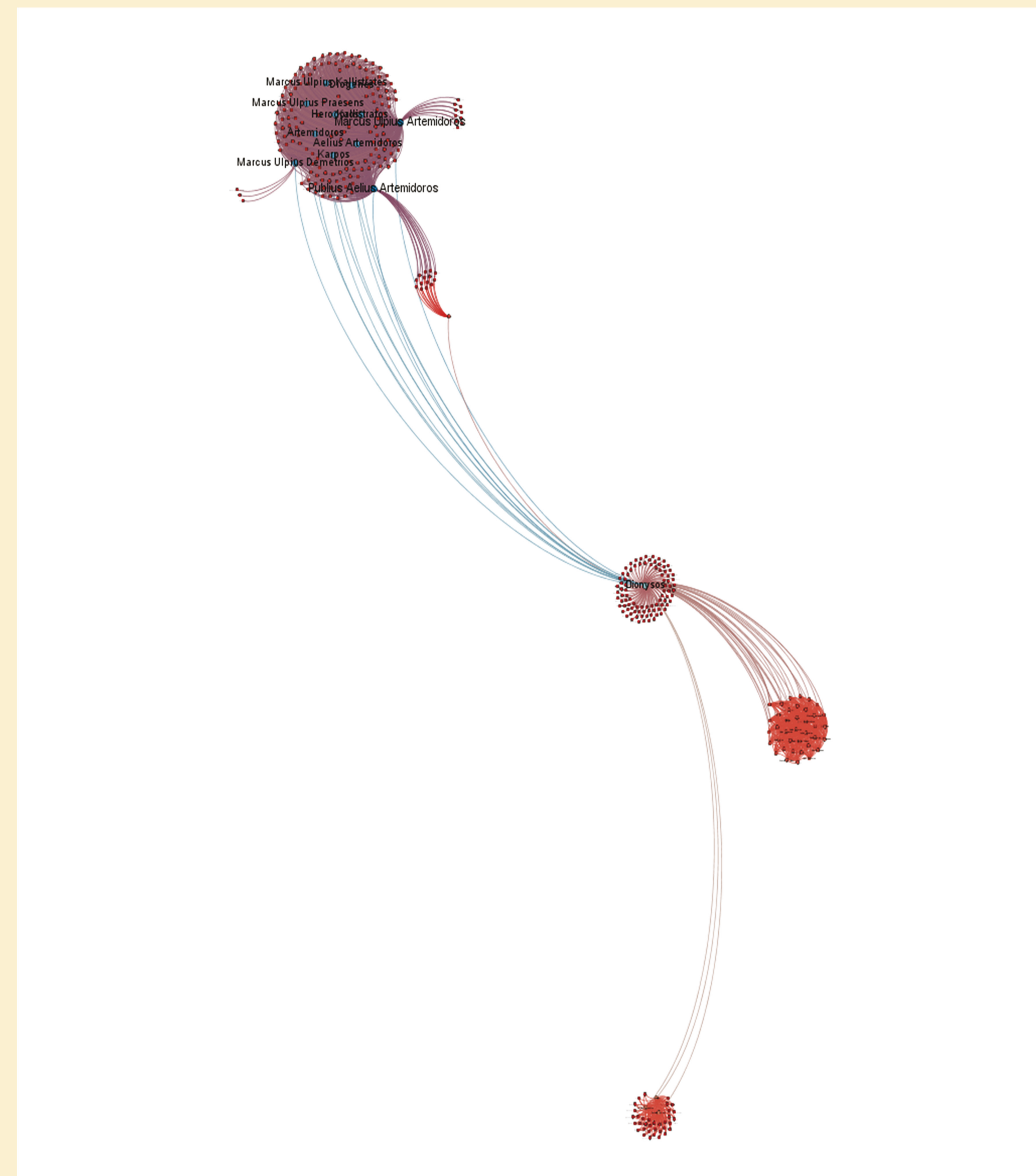
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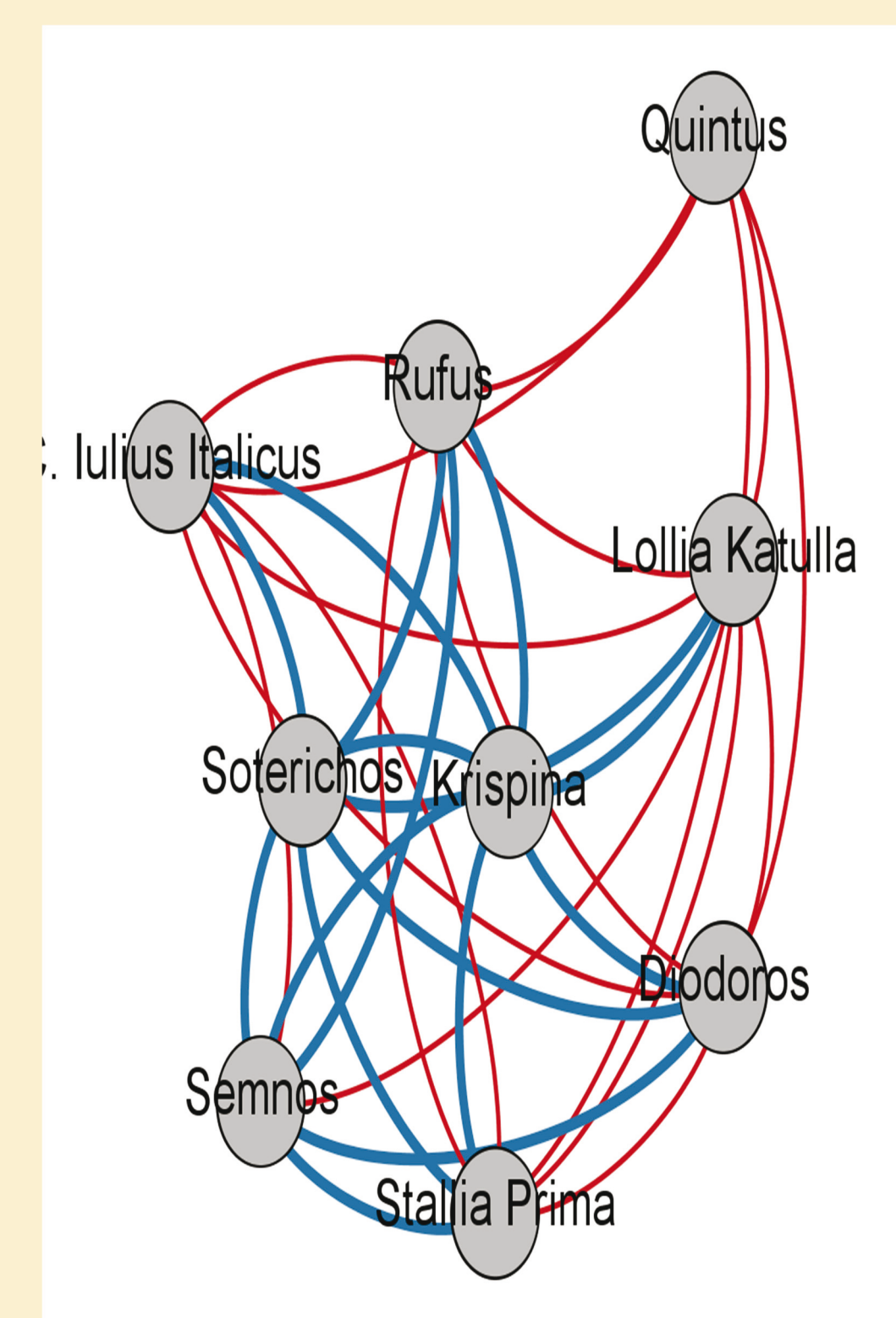
Graphic representing the distribution of associations dedicated to Dionysos in the Greek colonies of the Black Sea.

Credit: the author



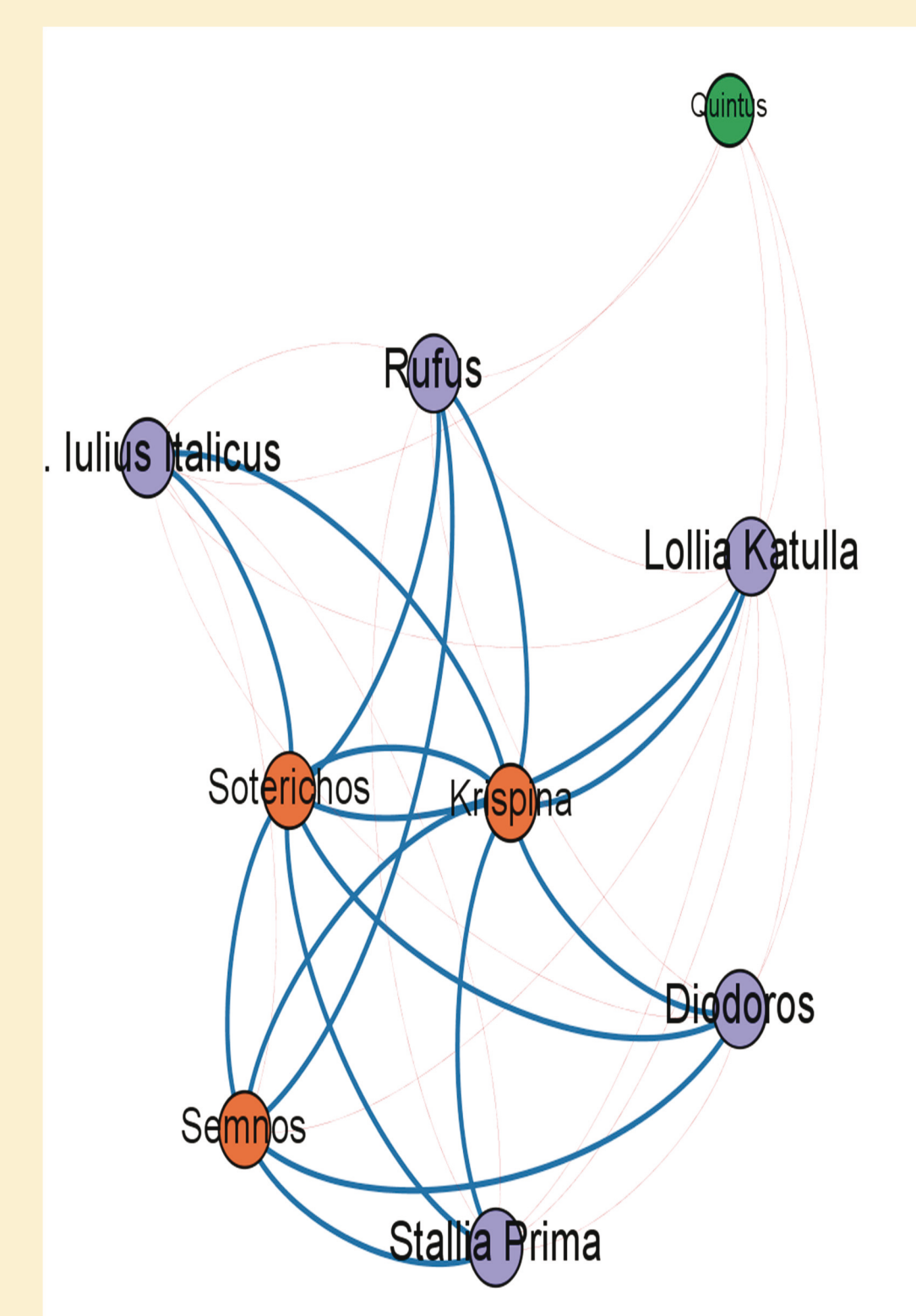
Network of Dionysiastai, which includes their connections with individuals outside the association.

Credit: the author



Social network of the worshippers of Dionysos Kallon.

Credit: the author



Degree of centrality of the worshippers of Dionysos Kallon.

Credit: the author

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