Animating Shapeshifters: The Shadow of the Wolf in Myth and Media
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From ancient myth to popular media, wolves have long captivated the human imagination. As immediately recognizable and iconic as wolves are, however, they have inhabited strikingly diverse, seemingly opposing roles in the many narratives that have shaped our images of them. Wolves are the protectors and guardians of feral children, but also stalkers and slaughterers of the innocent; the kin of domestic dogs, yet an iconic symbol of the untouched wild; a loner and a pack animal; dangerous predator, and victim of human interests. Twentieth-century animated film brought wolves to life in a new medium, but they were often drawn in the mold of well-worn tropes. In my own animated piece, created using Synfig software, I explore the transforming figure of the wolf and the shadows of its many iterations through the uniquely transformative medium that is animation, highlighting both the artificiality and the potential for connection through mediated experiences of the animal.
The Poetry of Migration – Mapping Palestinian Poetry in the Twenty-First Century
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The members of the first Undergraduate Migration Research Cluster (2018-2019) worked together to explore the possibilities of mapping an archive of poetry of migration and movement. This project broadly considers and attempts to concretize the floating archive of what we are referring to as “poetry of migration.” As a genre, this body of poetry is characterized by writers whose work was tangibly impacted by their migrant experiences. To address the full scope of migrant journey, our project approaches this body of work on multiple scales. From the broadest reducing of books into points on a map using ArcGIS software to much more detailed close readings of individual poems, this project illuminates the relationship between migration, lived experience, and literary expression and works to understand the impact of migration on diaspora poetry. “Mapping Palestinian Poetry in the Twenty-First Century” explores the impact of migration and changing borders on Palestinian poets. The map will initially examine poetic traditions established by Mahmoud Darwish and Samih al-Qasim in the wake of the 1948 exodus of Palestinian refugees from the newly established state of Israel. In keeping with this, the map will overview the political and historical developments leading to forced migration from Palestinian territories. After touching on their influence and contemporary writing published after 2000, the map explores the migration stories and the work of thirteen poets of the Palestinian diaspora as they depict themes of statelessness, exile, and diaspora in their own writing.