

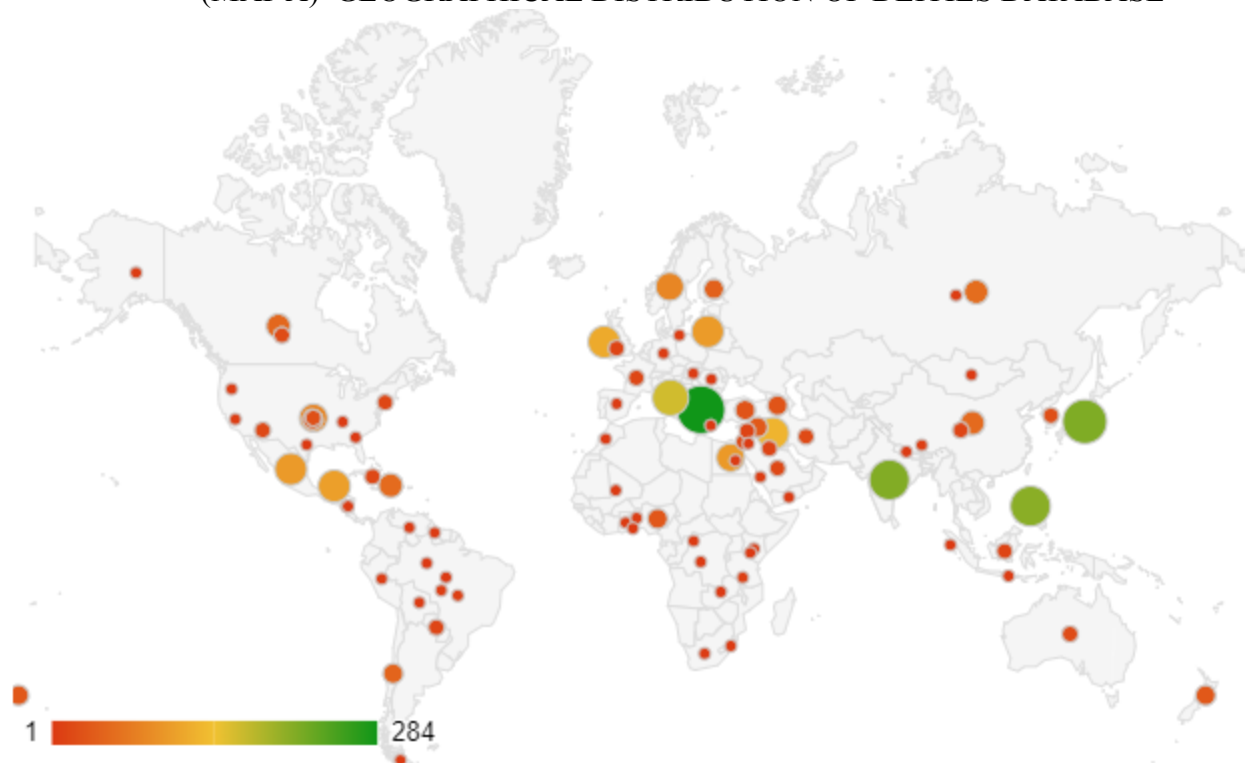
THE DEITIES DATABASE IN [www.SEPTILINA.WEEBLY.COM](http://www.septilina.weebly.com):
EXPLANATIONS, EXAMPLES, AND EXHORTATIONS

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The Deities Database is a compilation of nearly 3,000 deities from 88 cultures spanning from 20,000 BCE to the modern era. It is a work in progress and is expanded weekly – one reason that my website’s name is “Septilina,” loosely translated as “little seven,” as in a little each week. The Deities Database has fields for Deity Name, Culture, Gender, Patron Of, Associations, Characteristics, Syncretic Associates, Parentage, Geography, and Date Range for each culture’s existence. Within the Date Range field is the Mid Year data field which is the average of each culture’s beginning and end dates; the Mid Year is indicative of the period of time when the formation and use of gods for a particular culture was at its “high point.” The Database also contains four sheets named “By Culture,” “Patron Of,” “By Gender,” and “Syncretic Associates” that offer screenable features for isolating subgroups of deities based on common entries in the data fields for Culture, Patron Of, Gender, and Syncretic Associates.

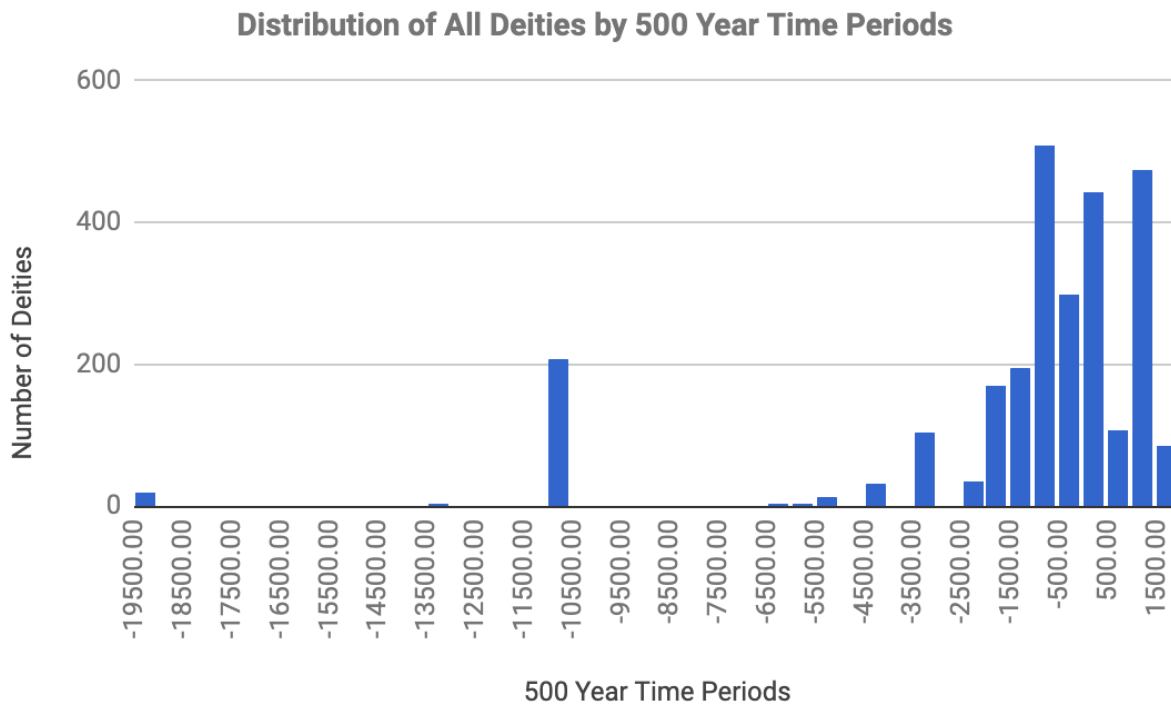
The main heat map (MAP A) shows the distribution of the database’s deities by geography. The legend in the bottom left corner indicates the number of deities that can be found in each geographical region (also indicated by the size of the circles). This heat map is interactive and updates as more deities are added.

(MAP A) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DEITIES DATABASE



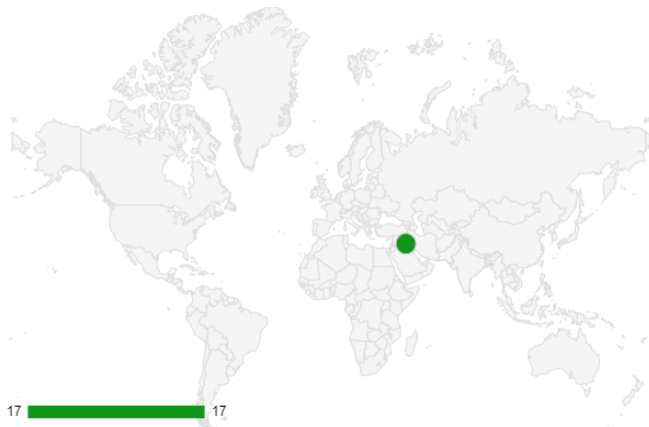
The following chart (CHART B) shows the distribution of the database’s deities by time period divided into 500 year periods. 1CE is designated as year 0, and negative years indicate BCE. The majority of the deities existed between 2000BCE and 1500CE. The earliest deities are Aboriginal and Filipino (stemming from Negrito cultures in the Philippines); the latest deities are Voodoo (still in existence today).

(CHART B)



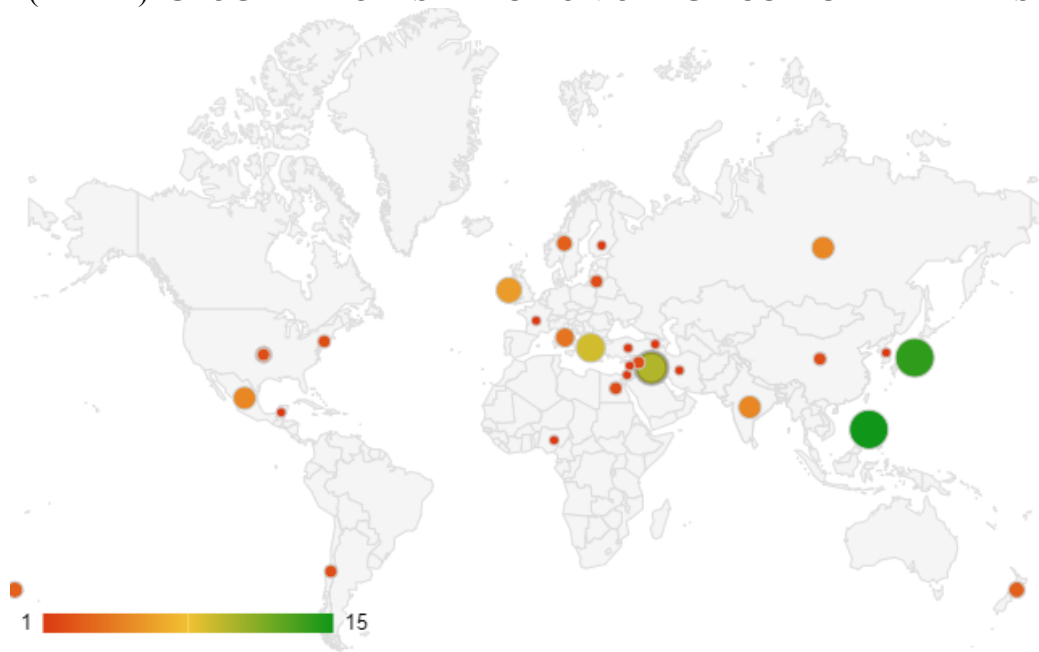
The Deities Database can be screened within the data fields for Culture, Patron Of, Gender, and Syncretic Associates using the corresponding sheets. On the By Culture sheet, for example, all Akkadian gods in the database and their accompanying data fields can be pulled from the rest of the database by selecting “%Akkadian%” from the drop-down menu (the %’s being necessary to search for a word within a multi-word cell). The interactive heat map from the Culture sheet (MAP C) displays where the Akkadian culture existed (Iraq) and the number of Akkadian deities in the database (currently 17).

(MAP C) GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS FOR SELECTED TYPES OF DEITIES



The Patron Of sheet can be screened to isolate all gods of a specific patronage — for example, choosing “%agriculture%” from the drop-down menu will return all the agricultural gods from all cultures in the database (currently 106 deities) and their corresponding data fields. The interactive heat map shows the density of deities in each location. This map (MAP D) shows, for instance, that the Shinto, Filipino, Sumerian, and Assyrian cultures contain the largest numbers of agricultural deities.

(MAP D) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL DEITIES



In this example, the interactive bar chart below (CHART E) shows the time periods in which these gods existed. The bar chart spikes between 1000-1500CE and between 11,000-10,500BCE indicating a higher usage of agricultural gods in these time periods. Comparing the bar chart of agricultural gods with the bar chart for all of the database’s gods (CHART B) shows that the spike in the agricultural god bar chart occurred after the last spike in all the database’s deities.

CHART E

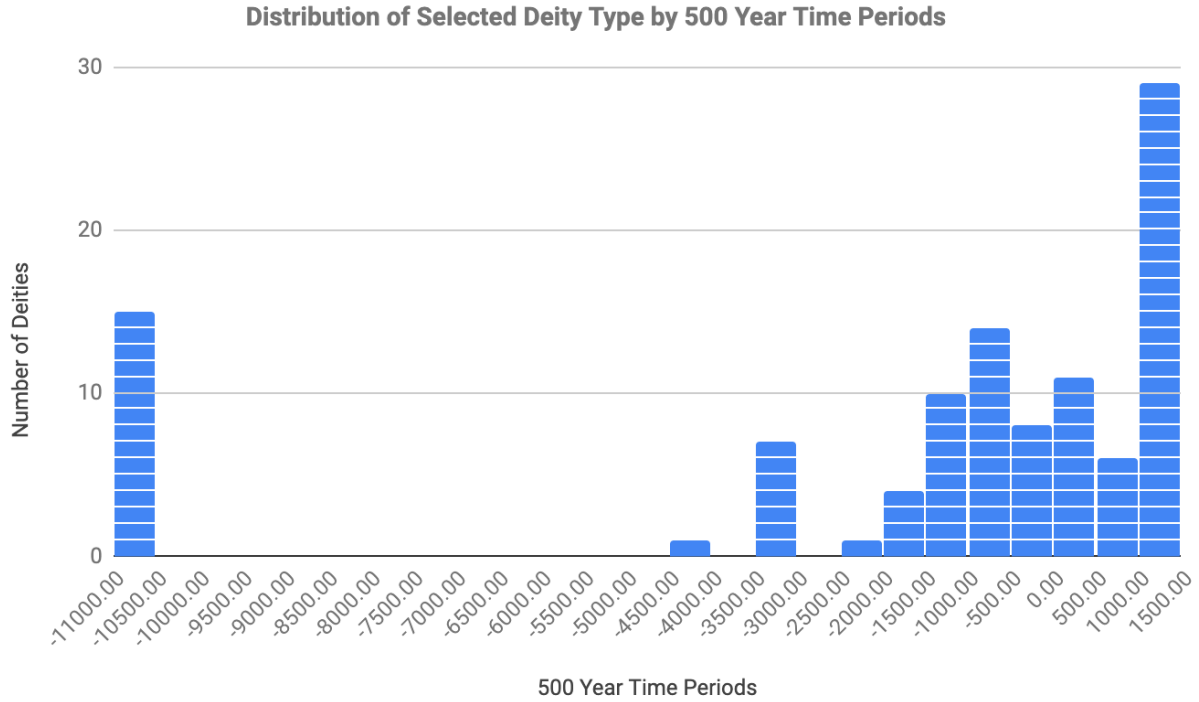
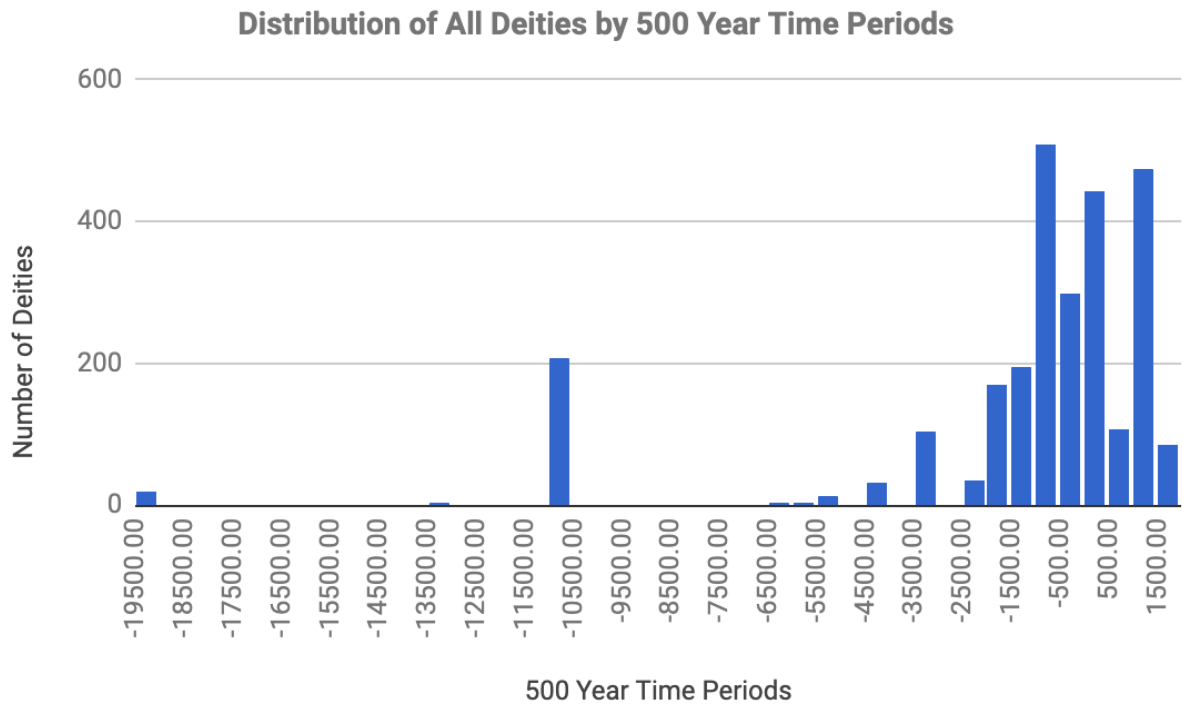


CHART B

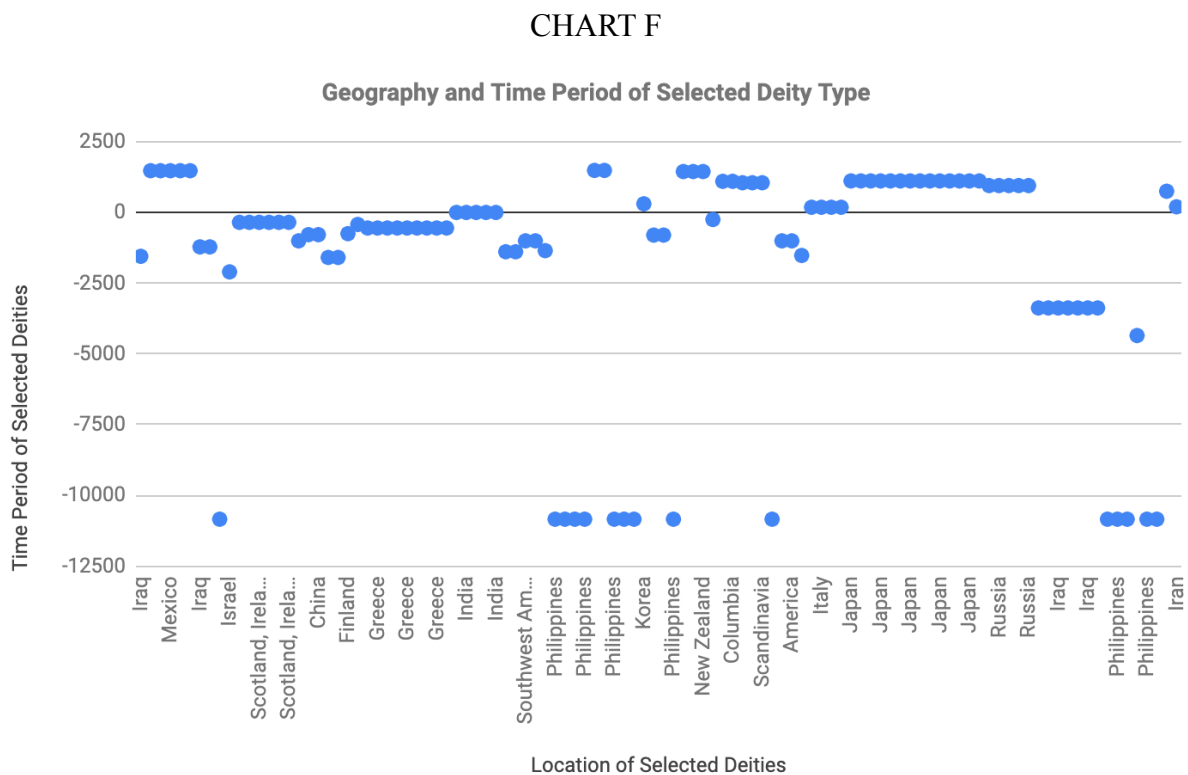


Using my studies in AP Statistics, I hope to prove whether a statistically significant correlation exists between the popularity of certain groups of gods versus the popularity of all deities; one possible research question might focus on whether agricultural gods become less popular when

other types of gods become more so. But even without extensive research or quantitative analyses, the differences in these bar charts indicate a difference in the higher usage of agricultural gods compared to the usage of total gods during those time periods.

These “spikes” in the bar chart of agricultural gods can be explained using timelines that are linked within the database. The 11,000-10,500BCE spike, for example, corresponds to the Younger Dryas Impact Event in which a large asteroid or comet collided with Earth during 10,900BCE and created an ice age which lasted until 9600BCE. That sudden ice age most likely impacted agriculture for many civilizations and could explain why this time period saw a heightened amount of agricultural deities that were worshipped as potential harbingers of better times.

The particularly large spike between 1000-1500CE in the bar graph coincides with The Great Famine of 1315 in Europe; however, the greatest number of agricultural gods did not come from Europe. In order to visualize time and place for these deities, the chart below (CHART F) displays each recorded country’s agricultural gods during each time period so it is possible to see where and when these types of gods were in use.



This graph shows that the majority of agricultural gods during the 1000-1500CE period were in Japan. This incidence can be explained using another timeline which describes The Kanki Famine, “possibly the worst famine in Japan’s history, caused by volcanic eruptions” which occurred in 1230-1231CE (directly in the middle of the time range for Shinto agricultural gods).

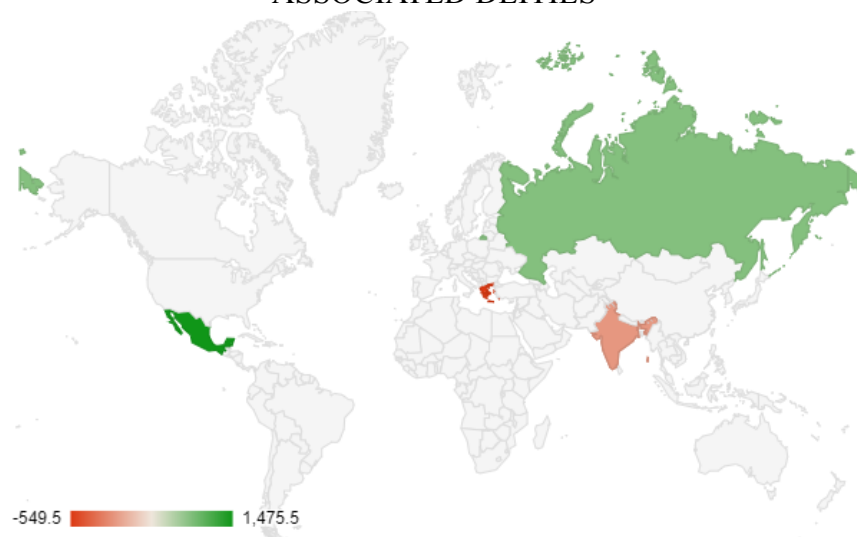
This example of the agricultural gods is one way the Deities Database can be used to draw conclusions about the use and formation of gods. Another example involves the gods of war. The

heat map for these deities shows that the Negrito tribes of the Philippines and the Shinto religion of Japan had more gods associated with agricultural than gods associated with war — these cultures seemed more concerned with eating than with warfare. One explanation for this may be that these civilizations are located on islands that offered a natural defense from invasions while reducing arable land and crop options. I hope to incorporate geographical features such as mountains, deserts, forests and other geographic features into interactive heat maps to allow for new conclusions to be made; however, I must experiment with new software to accomplish this endeavor as it is currently beyond the limits of Google Sheets’s mapping features.

Other examples of interesting correlations between the use of gods and historic events are referenced within the database near the list of linked timelines.

One major goal for my database’s future is to use it to make syncretic associations (the blending together of deities); through this feature, I hope to track the movements of deities among different cultures and geographies over time. One example of this is following the traits of Aphrodite/Venus, the Greco-Roman goddess of love; outside of Greece, Aphrodite/Venus shares many traits with the love goddesses Lakshmi (from India), Laima (from Russia), and Xochiqueztal (from Mexico). The following map (MAP G) depicts this migration of Aphrodite’s features over different geographies and time; the heat map legend in the bottom left corner of the display shows the time period that corresponds to each color in the map. The dark red, corresponding to the earliest Mid Year for these goddesses, flows from Greece to India (light red), and then to Russia (light green) to end in Mexico (dark green), following the trail of Aphrodite/Venus’s transformation into Lakshmi (Hindu), Laima (Slavic), and Xochiqueztal (Aztec).

(MAP G) MIGRATION OVER TIME AND GEOGRAPHY OF SYNCRETICALLY ASSOCIATED DEITIES



These are a few examples of how my database can be used to draw conclusions concerning the formation of deities in the context of history and geography. I will continue to expand this database while discovering and incorporating into it new mechanisms for data visualization and analysis.