

Southampton University | Hestia 2013

Knot

An Interface for the Study
of Social Networks in the Humanities

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Density Design Research Lab. | @densitydesign

D E N -
S I T Y
G N +

Knot is a tool to explore explicit and not explicit social relationship for humanities scholars.

Knot aims also better understanding the role of communication design and data visualization in the digital humanities research processes.

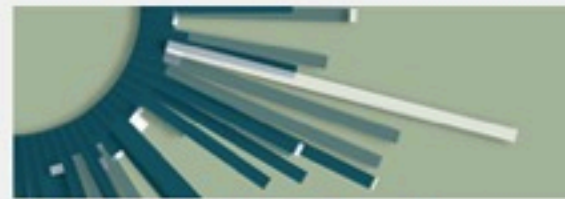
D E N —
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RESEARCH

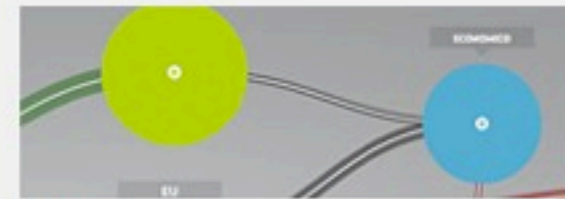
DensityDesign develops research projects in the domain of visual representation, stemming from a design perspective. Our research interests include theoretical and epistemological reflections on visualizations and analyses of their cognitive underpinnings, in addition to the development of large frameworks for data visualization and ad-hoc solutions for speculative narration. We adopt an open approach to visualization, working from visual storytelling to visual analytics. Design is, thus, treated more like a proper language than a tool. We use this language in practice to define a new—visual—epistemology.

[Read More](#)

Visual and Digital Epistemology



Share your knowledge: Mapping...



Turtle



Versus

Data and Information Visualization



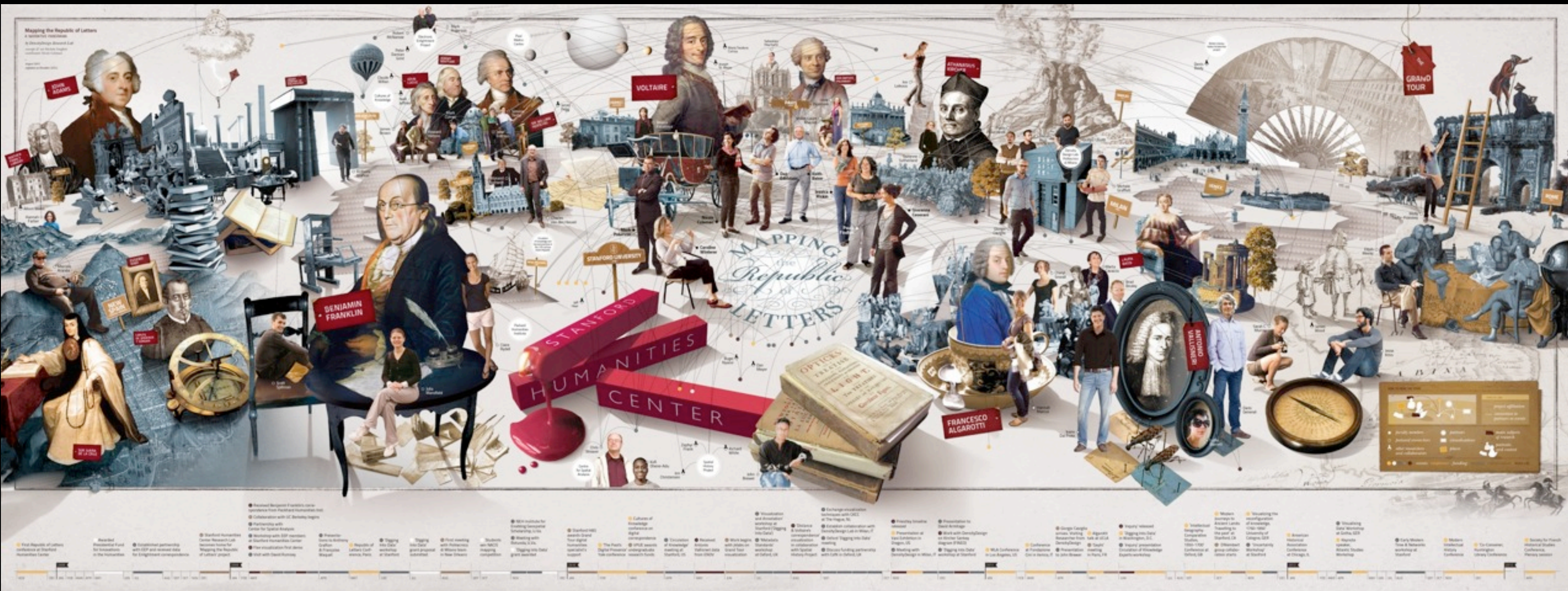
La Lettura



ANDROMEDA – Twitterwall



Fineo



(Artwork: Michele Graffieti)



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LETTERS (subscribers only)

LIVES ▶

LOCATIONS

EDITIONS

LIVES BY SURNAME

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z &c.

- lives by surname
- lives by nationality
- lives by occupation

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INFORMATION

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SEARCH

HELP

Lives listing with initial: A

« first < previous

listing lives 1-15 of 256

next > last »

jump to go!

Abarca y Bolea, Pedro Pablo, conde de Aranda (1718-1798), Spanish — general, diplomat, statesman

Abauzit, Firmin (1679-1767), French — theologian, biblical scholar

Abbot, Charles, 1st Baron Colchester (1757-1829), English — politician, member of Parliament

Abbot, John Farr (1756-1794), English — lawyer, academy member

Abbot, Mrs Mary (c. 1762-1793), English — unknown occupation

Abeille, Jeanne Louise (d. 1810), French — unknown occupation

Abeille, Louis Paul (1719-1807), French — author, economist

Abercrombie, James (1758-1841), American — clergyman

Abercromby, David (d. c. 1701), Scottish — Jesuit, physician, scientist, controversialist

Abercromby, James (1706-1781), Scottish — general, politician, member of Parliament

Abercromby, James, 1st Baron Dunfermline (1776-1858), Scottish — politician, member of Parliament

Aberdeen, Presbytery of (founded 1560), Scottish — ecclesiastical body

Aberdeen, Town Council of (founded 1179), Scottish — municipal body

Abington, Frances (1737-1815), English — actress

Abos de Binanville, Antoine Maximilien d' (1726-1766), French — lawyer

« first < previous

listing lives 1-15 of 256

next > last »

jump to go!

British Library:
Italian Academies
project

Denis
Reidy

THE GRAND TOUR



Molly
Taylor-Poleskey

A Dictionary of British and Irish Travellers in Italy

6000 Grand Tourists

A DICTIONARY OF BRITISH AND IRISH TRAVELLERS IN ITALY 1701 – 1800



compiled from the
BRINSLEY FORD ARCHIVE
by
JOHN INGAMILLS

ALDRIDGE
1750 Rome (Nov. 1750) [Venice (Jul. 1751)]
Aldrich and Neal, 'friends of Mr Harts' [Walter Harte, see Philip Stanhope], were joined in Rome in November 1750 by Edward Thomas 'to view ye Paintings of ye Palaces'; Thomas considered they then had 'ye best judge of paintings in Rome as their antiquary'.¹ He was probably the Aldridge whom Richard Wilson saw in Venice in July 1751.²

1. Thomas letters MSS, L27 (30 Nov. 1750). 2. Constable, Wilson, 22.

ALDWORTH, RICHARD NEVILLE (1717-93), statesman, o. s. of Richard Aldworth (d. 1738) of Stanlake, Berks; *educ.* Eton and Merton Oxf. 1736; Dilettanti 1746; MP 1747-74; *m.* 1748 Magdalen Calandrin of Geneva; changed name to Neville on *suc.* to Billingbear estates 1762; *sec.* and *min. plen.* Paris 1762-3, 1763; in Geneva 1771-4.

c. 1740-1 Rome

1744-5 Milan (Oct. 1744), Florence

Aldworth, 'said to be one of the merriest devils in the world',¹ was one of The Bloods (or Common Room Set) who gathered in Geneva in the early 1740s.² He appears to have been in Rome sometime in 1740-1 with William Windham and others of the Bloods.³ On 11 October 1744 he set out for Italy from Geneva with Sir Thomas Sebright, Horatio Walpole and Dr George Turnbull,⁴ visiting Milan and Florence.⁵ He had returned to England by the end of 1745.⁶

1. Spence Letters, 239. 2. Moore 1985, 44-7. 3. R.W. Keton-Cremet, *Early Life and Diaries of William Windham*, 28. 4. Aldworth, 'Journal of tour in Switzerland & Italy 1743-44 & tour with H. Walpole & others to Milan 1744'; Neville and Aldworth MSS, D/EN/1-54. 5. See Wal. Corr., 20:702. 6. W. Cox ed., *Literary Life and Select Works of B. Stillingfleet*, [1811], 1:75, 170-1.

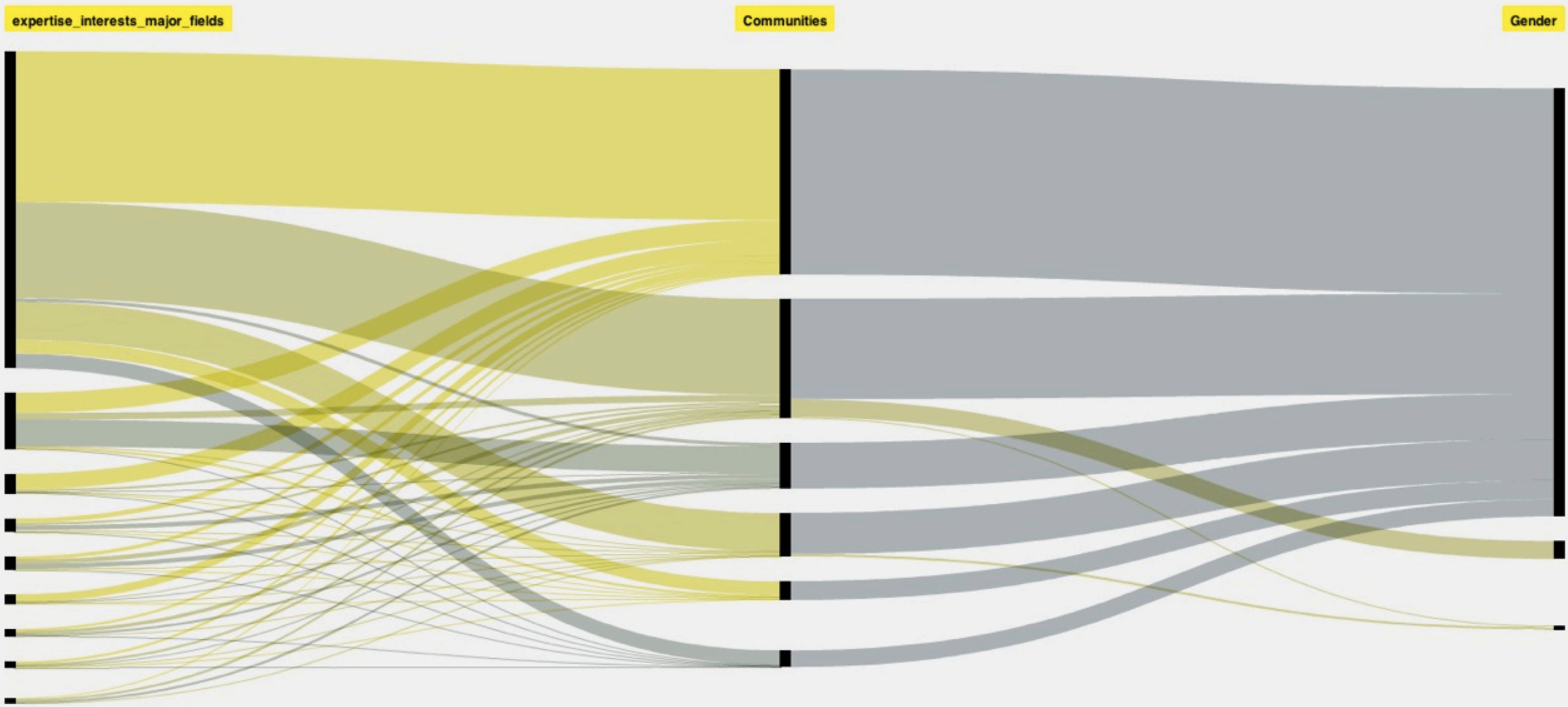
ALEXANDER, CATHERINE (1694-1736)

ing in the Strada Felice with two other Scots, the elderly Jesuit priest Patrick Leith and George Gray, a Scot of his own age.¹ In July 1747 he delivered a letter of recommendation as 'a lad of genius in painting' from Patrick Dawson to his cousin, James Edgar, secretary to the exiled Stuart court.² That same year he was commissioned by the Pretender to paint the portrait of his son Charles Edward Stuart (who was not then in Rome) and it is likely that Alexander made an original portrait by Domenico. Further commissions came from the Pretender's family, the dates on the *books* (priv. colls.) covering his time and his subsequent stay in Paris. He met the painter George Chalmers, brother-in-law, and painted a portrait of him, including the Earl of Warriston. In February 1750 Isabella Lumley went to Edinburgh to her brother Alexander, secretary to the Pretender in Rome, to receive compliments to 'Alexander' and received commissions from other members of the Pretender's family. He copied Caravaggio's *Boy with a girl to sew*, and for Peter Colclough's *Gladiator* (in grisaille) and for James Edgar helped from the 9th Earl of Eglinton's prints and drawing of *The Battle of Marston* ordered from Placcet (sold Christie's, 22 Feb. 1750). Lord Deskford.⁴ Alexander making long visits to Rome, painted William Bolognese, Venice, and

1. AVR SA, S. Andrea delle Fratture. 2. *British Painters at Home and Abroad*, 1:135. 3. Dennistoun, 1:135. 4. [1976], 700.

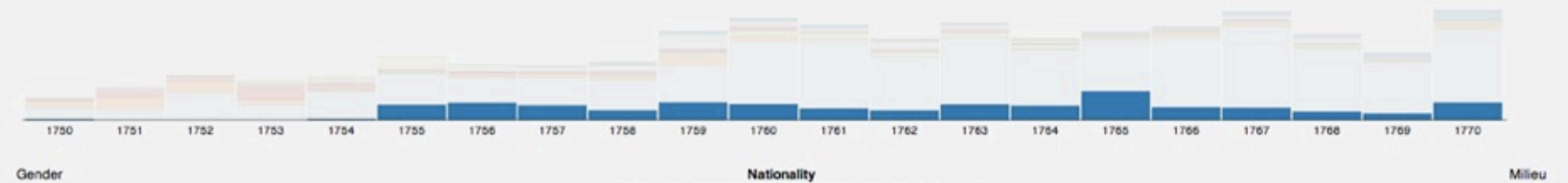
ALEXANDER, GEORGE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
1	Name_Last	Name_First	Name_Maiden	Gender	Name of Spouse	Social Status	Nationality	Nationality_	Title	Expertise1	Expertise2	Expertise3	Educational
2	Hume	David											
3	Abbot	Charles		M	Elizabeth Gibbes	1	1	0	Baron	16	4	0	Westmin
4	Abbot	John Farr		M	Mary Pearce	0	1	0		17	0	0	
5	Bentham	Sarah	Farr	F	John Abbot, Jeremiah Bentham	1	1	0		0	0	0	
6	Abbott	Edward		M		0	1	0		1	0	0	
7	Abbott	John		M		1	1	0		18	0	0	
8	Abercrombie	James		M		0	1	0	Maj.	19	0	0	
9	Abercromby	Ralph		M		3	1	0		0	0	0	Rugby,
10	Aberdeen					0	2	0		0	0	0	
11	Abingdon	Willoughby Bertie		M	Charlotte Warren	2	1	0	4th Earl of Abingdon	0	0	0	Westmin
12	Abram			M		0	1	0	Col.	0	0	0	
13	Murray	Margaret											
14	Ackmooty	Robert		M		1	2	0		16	0	0	
15	Adland	John Dyke		M	Ldy. Chritiana Harriet Caroline Fox	2	1	0	7th Baronet	0	0	0	Univ.Col
16	Acton	John		M		1	1	0	capt. EICo.	20	0	0	
17	Acton	John Francis Edward		M	Mary Anne Acton	2	1	0	7th Baronet	20	0	0	
18	Adair	Robert		M	Lady Carolin Keppel	0	3	0		0	0	0	
19	Adair	William		M		1	1	0		0	0	0	
20	Adam	James		M		1	1	0		21	0	0	
21	Adam	John				0	1	0		0	0	0	
22	Adam	Robert		M		1	2	0		21	4	0	Edinbur
23	Adams	C.		M		0	1	0		0	0	0	
24	Adams	Edmond		M		1	1	0		18	0	0	
25	Adams	Mary		F		3	1	0		0	0	0	
26	Adams			M		0	2	0		0	0	0	
27	Adamson	Andrew		M		0	1	0		0	0	0	
28	Addison	Joseph		M	Charlotte Middleton	1	1	0		22	4	0	Charter
29	Adey	William				0	1	0		18	0	0	
30	Affleck	J.				0	1	0		0	0	0	
31	Agar	Henry Welbore		M	Ldy. Carolina Spencer	2	3	0	B. Clifden, Vct Clifden	0	0	0	Westmin
32	Aikman	John		M		0	2	0		0	0	0	
33	Aikman	John		M		1	2	0		18	8	0	
34	Aikman	William		M	Marion Lawson	1	2	0		1	0	0	
35	Aikman	William		M		1	2	0		18	0	0	
36	Albany	Luoise Maximiliane Stolberg-Gedern		F		3	6	0	Countess of	0	0	0	
37	Albany	Charlotte		F		0	1	0	Duchess of	0	0	0	
38	Aldrich					0	1	0		0	0	0	
39	Aldworth	Richard Nevill		M	Maqдалen Calandrini	1	1	0		4	0	0	Eton an
40	Alexander	Catherine		F		0	1	0		0	0	0	
41	Alexander	Cosmo		M		1	2	0		1	0	0	
42	Alexander	George				0	2	0		0	0	0	
43	Alexander	James		M	Anne Craufurd	0	3	0	B. Caledon, Vct. Caledon, E. Caledon	4	18	0	
44	Alexander	John		M	Isobel Innes	1	2	0		1	0	0	Edinbur
45	Allan	David		M		1	2	0		1	24	0	Foulis A
46	Allard	Simon		M		1	1	0		0	0	0	
47	Allen	Edmund		M		1	1	0		26	0	0	
48	Allen	Edward		M	Catherine Shadwell	1	1	0		27	26	0	
49	Allen	George		M		1	1	0		17	26	0	
50	Allen	Jerome		M		1	1	0		0	0	0	
51	Allen	John		M	Mary Johnston	1	1	0		16	0	0	
52	Allen	William		M		1	1	0		0	0	0	
53	Allen	William		M		1	1	0		18	0	0	
54	Allen			F		1	1	0		0	0	0	
55	Allen			M		1	1	0		0	0	0	
56	Allgood	Lancelot		M	Jane Allgood	3	1	0	Knight	16	4	0	BNC Ox
57	Allott	Brian		M		4	1	0		28	0	0	Univ.Col
58	Alonze	John Baptist		M		1	7	0		18	0	0	
59	Alston	Joseph		M		1	1	0		0	0	0	
60	Alston	Robert		M		1	1	0		0	0	0	



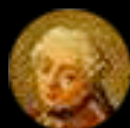


Plottable: 726 Not plottable: 8741

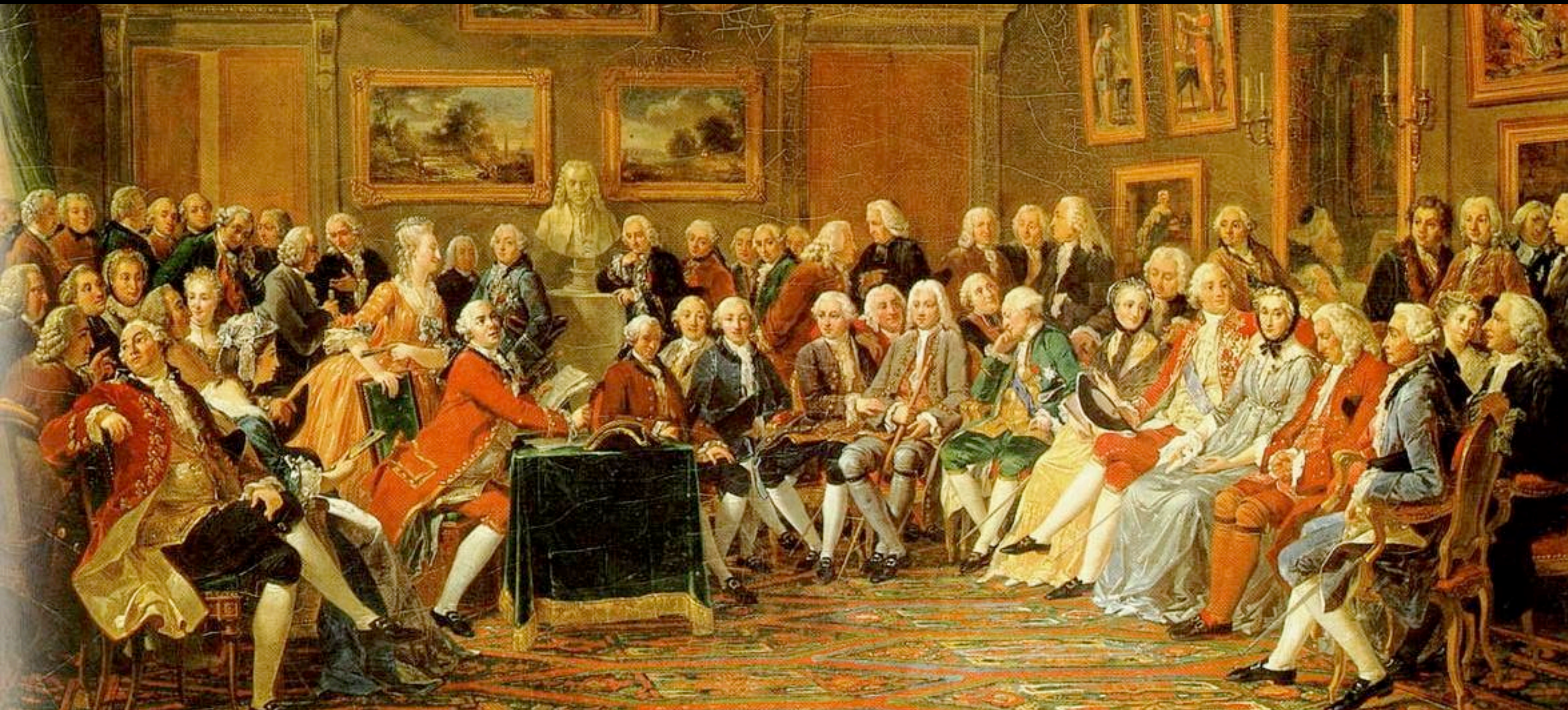


Ink
(G.Caviglia)

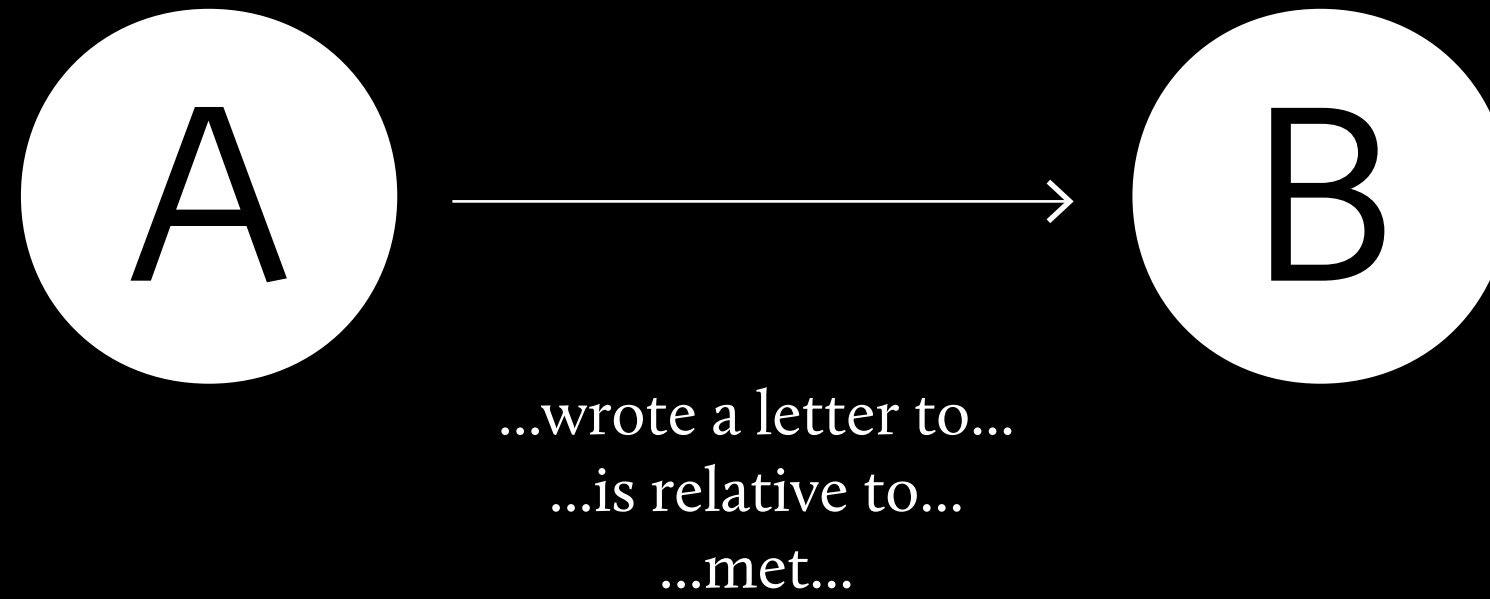
From the visualization of the correspondence network
of some key historical figures of the project...



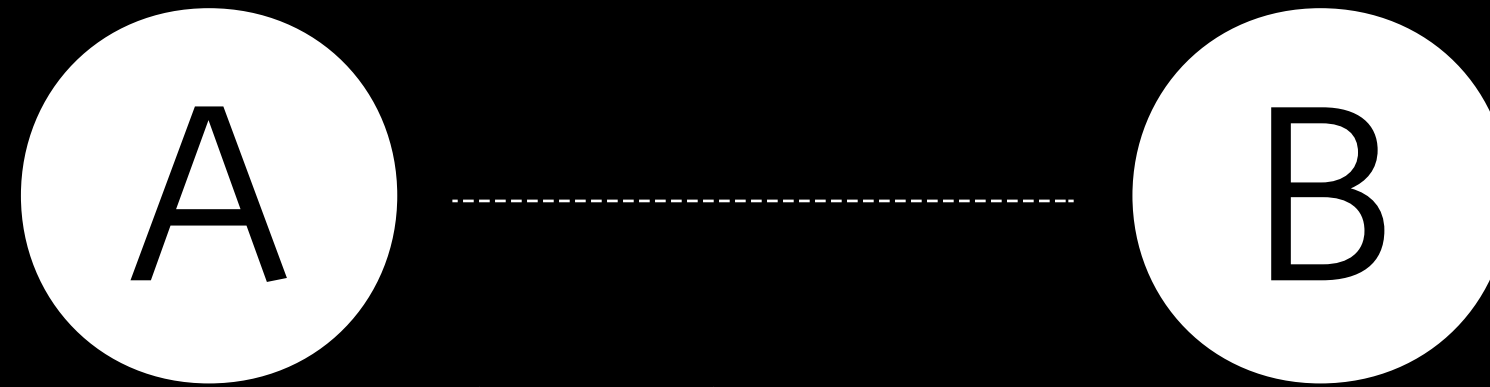
...to deeper focus on the exploration of multidimensional connections between individuals deriving from the different case studies.



Explicit relationships



Not explicit or possible relationships



...is born in the same city of...
...lived in the same period of...
...is part of the same social group of...

...

The “Early Modern Time and Networks” workshop

A humanities + design collaboration

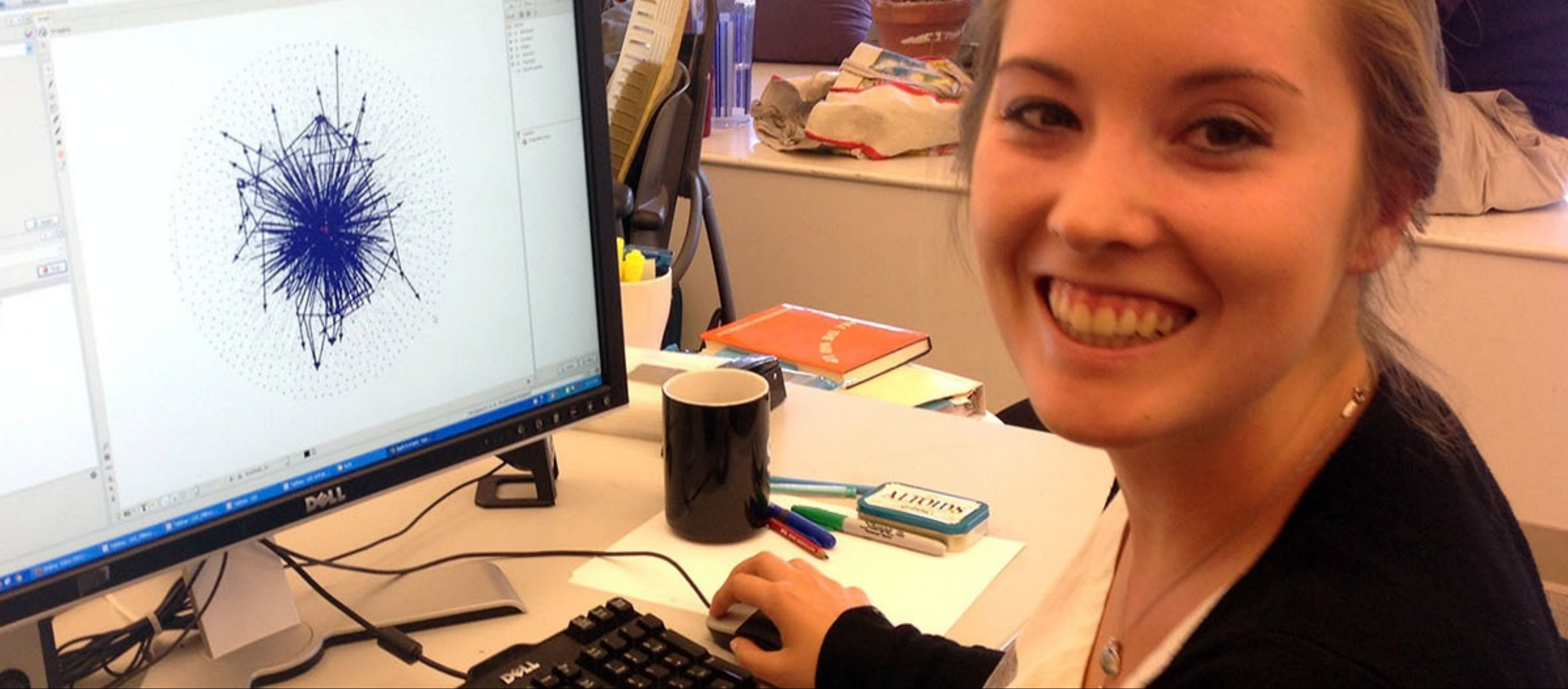


D E N -
S I T Y
G N +





Bringing together designers, scholars, graduate students and developers in a discussion about the design and the use of digital humanities visualization tools.



Testing and reviewing existing network visualization tools, using different case studies from humanities scholars and students.

Overview first, zoom and filter, details on demand.

(Shneiderman 1996)

Advantages

**Identifying communities,
clusters and global properties**

Advantages

**Identifying communities,
clusters and global properties**

Disadvantages

**Low level of interaction focused
on the reduction of the
information**

**Limits in the exploration of
multidimensional data**

**Poor insights with large (and
incomplete) graphs**

**Layout algorithms can be
misleading**

There is also a very large class of users that frequently deal with large network data but are not interested in global patterns in this data. Instead they are trying to learn something more about a particular datapoint in the dataset and how this point relates to the rest of the data.

(Van Ham e Perer 2009)

Search, show context, expand on demand.

(Van Ham e Perer 2009)

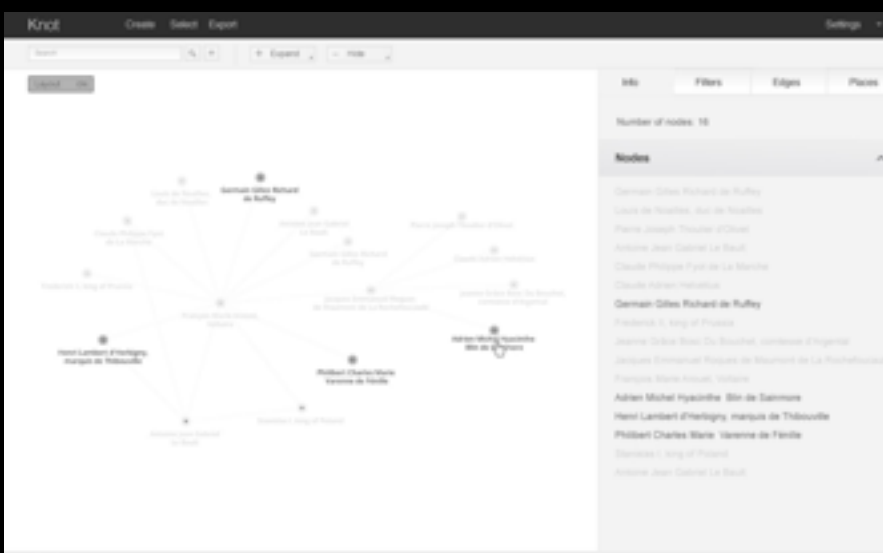
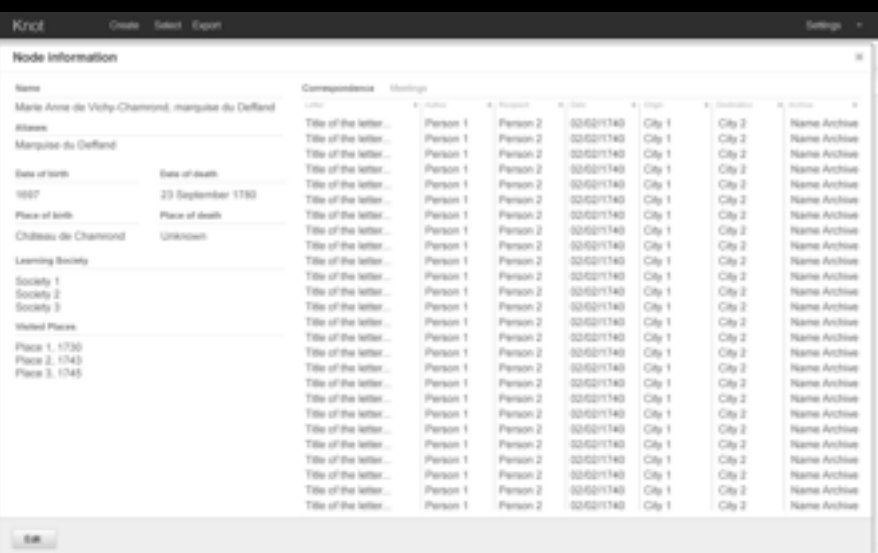
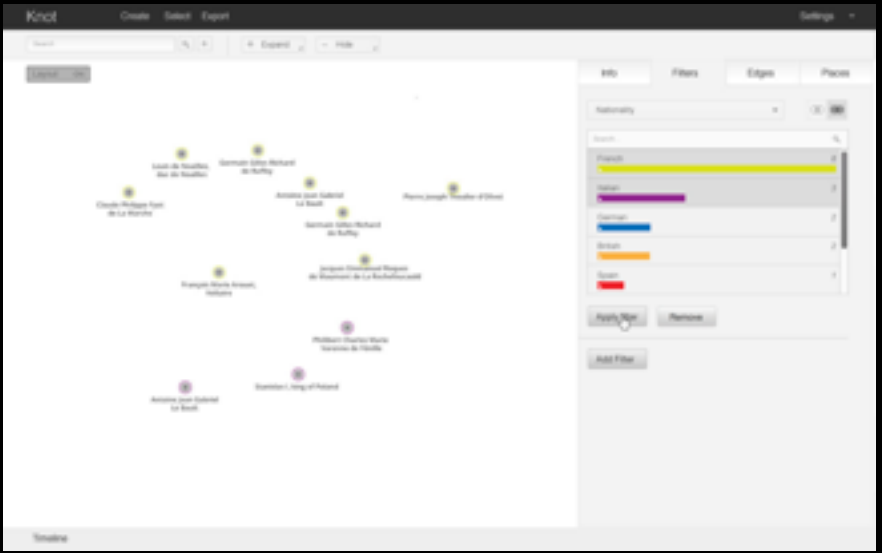
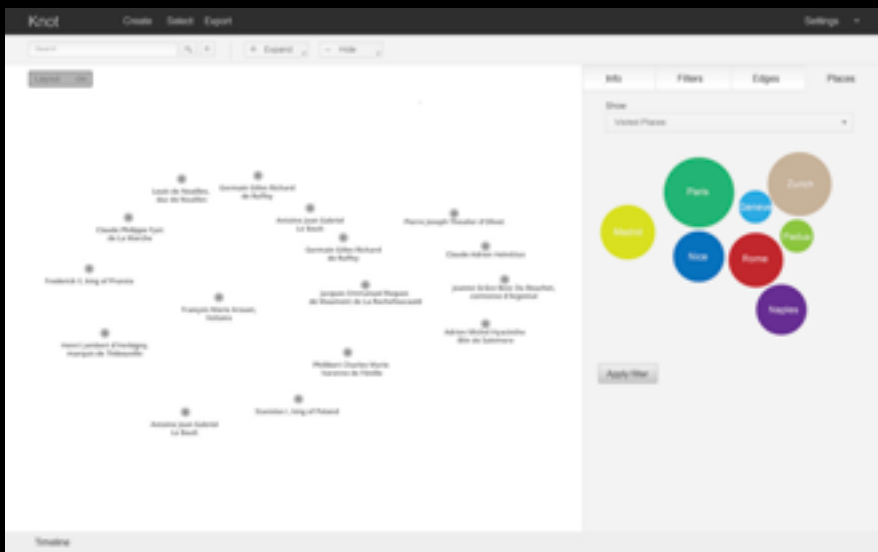
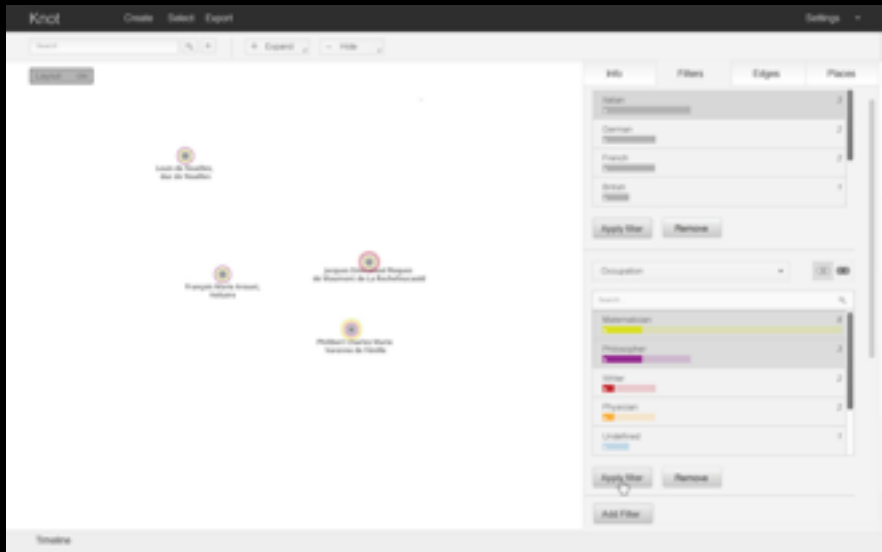
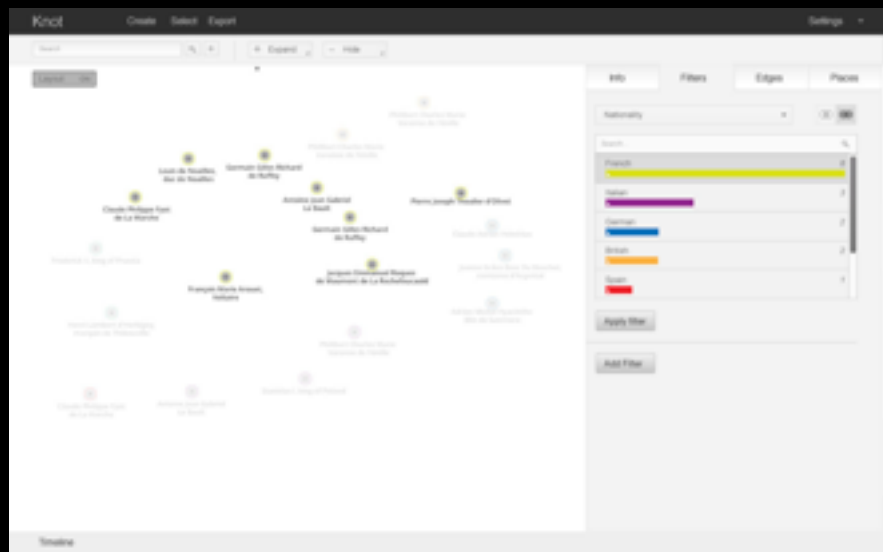
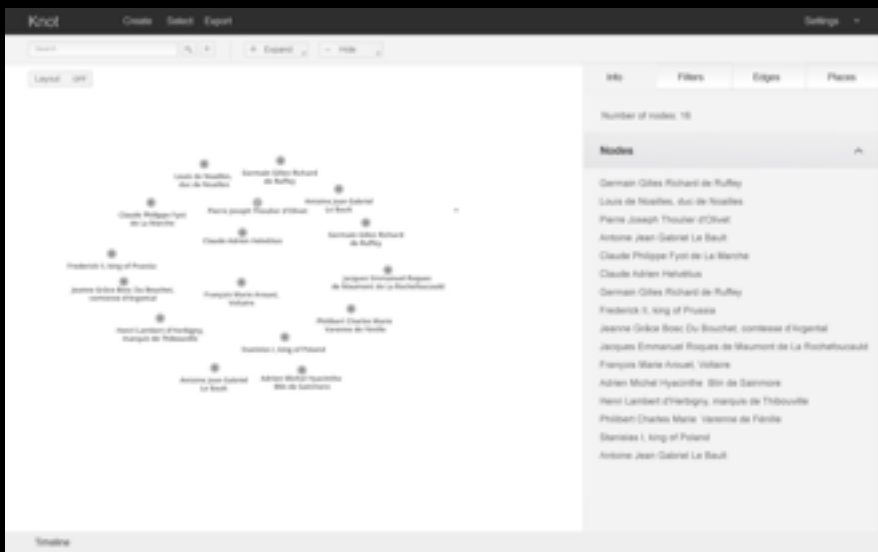
Advantages

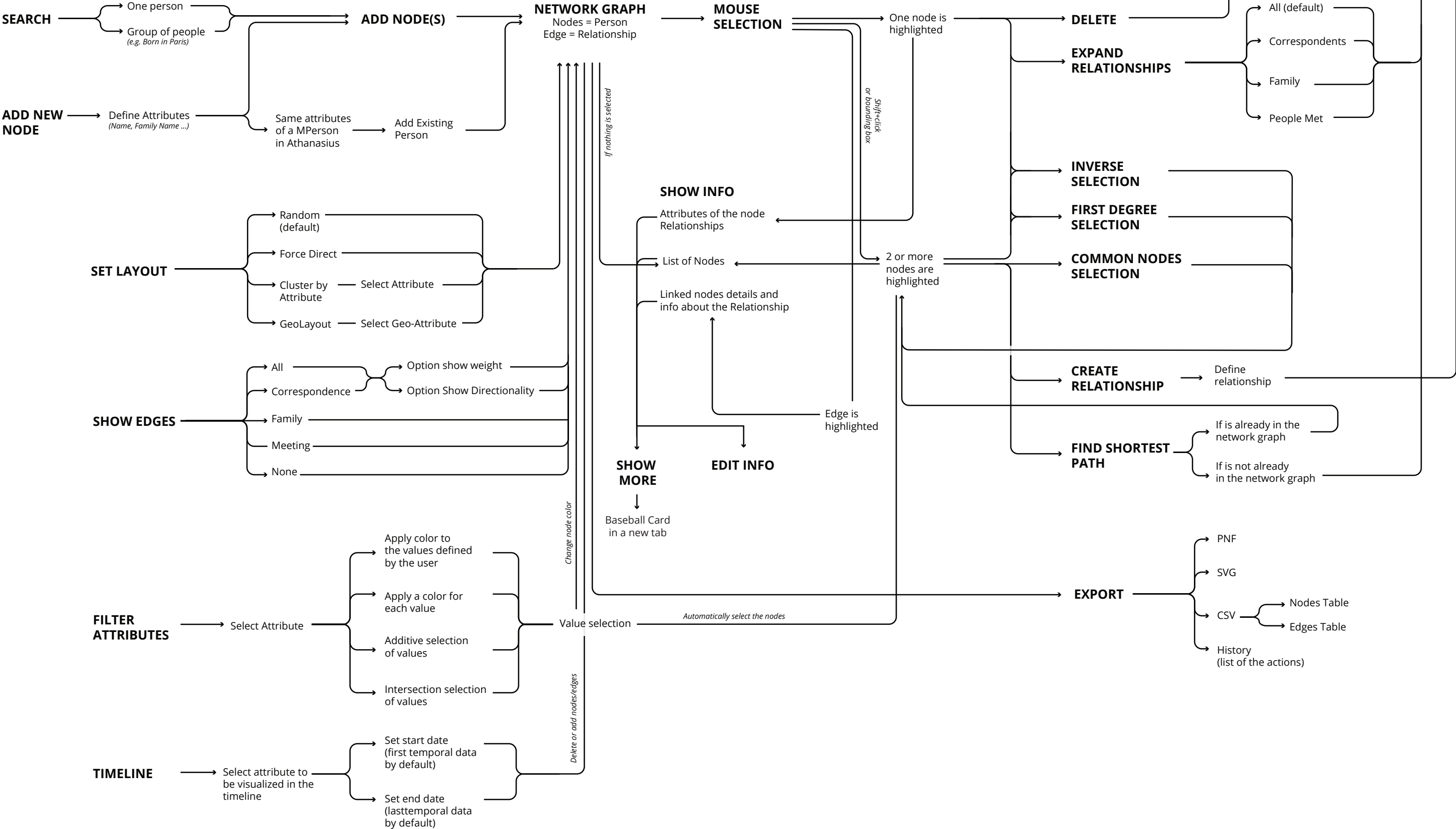
Great for the exploration of the single entities and local context

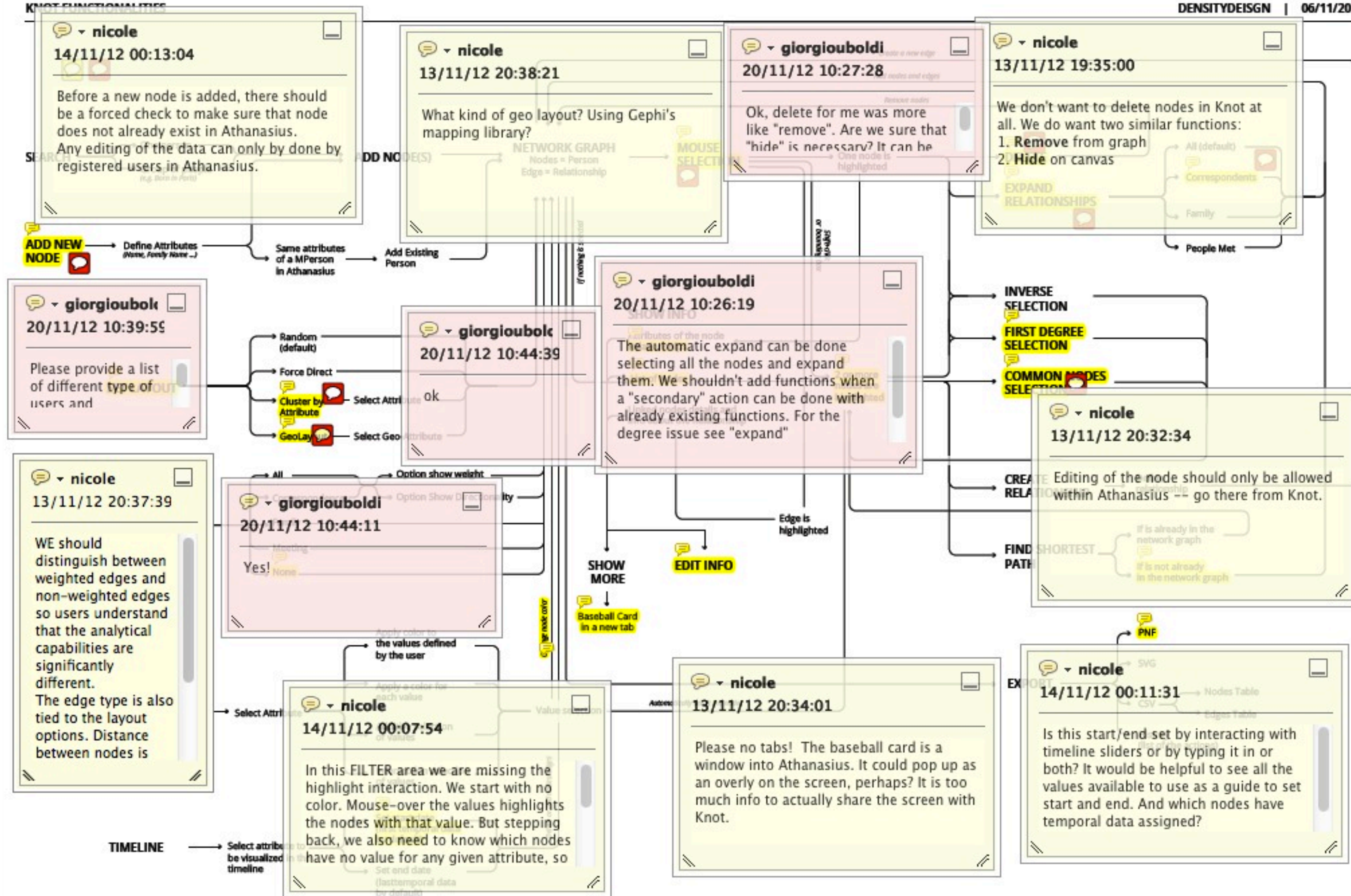
Good for communicating insights



Discussing and defining needs and requirements for the design of a network visualization tool for the MRofL project.







Search for a person (or group of persons)



Graph Layout OFF



INFO

FILTERS

EDGES

PLACES

Number of nodes: 0

Nodes



Design principles

- 1. The interface as an environment for interpretative activities**
- 2. Allowing the construction of the network**
- 3. Exploiting the multidimensional nature of the data**
- 4. Data manipulation and enrichment**

1. Creation of the network



Search for people, places and events

CREATE

LAYOUT

FILTERS



2. Exploration of the data

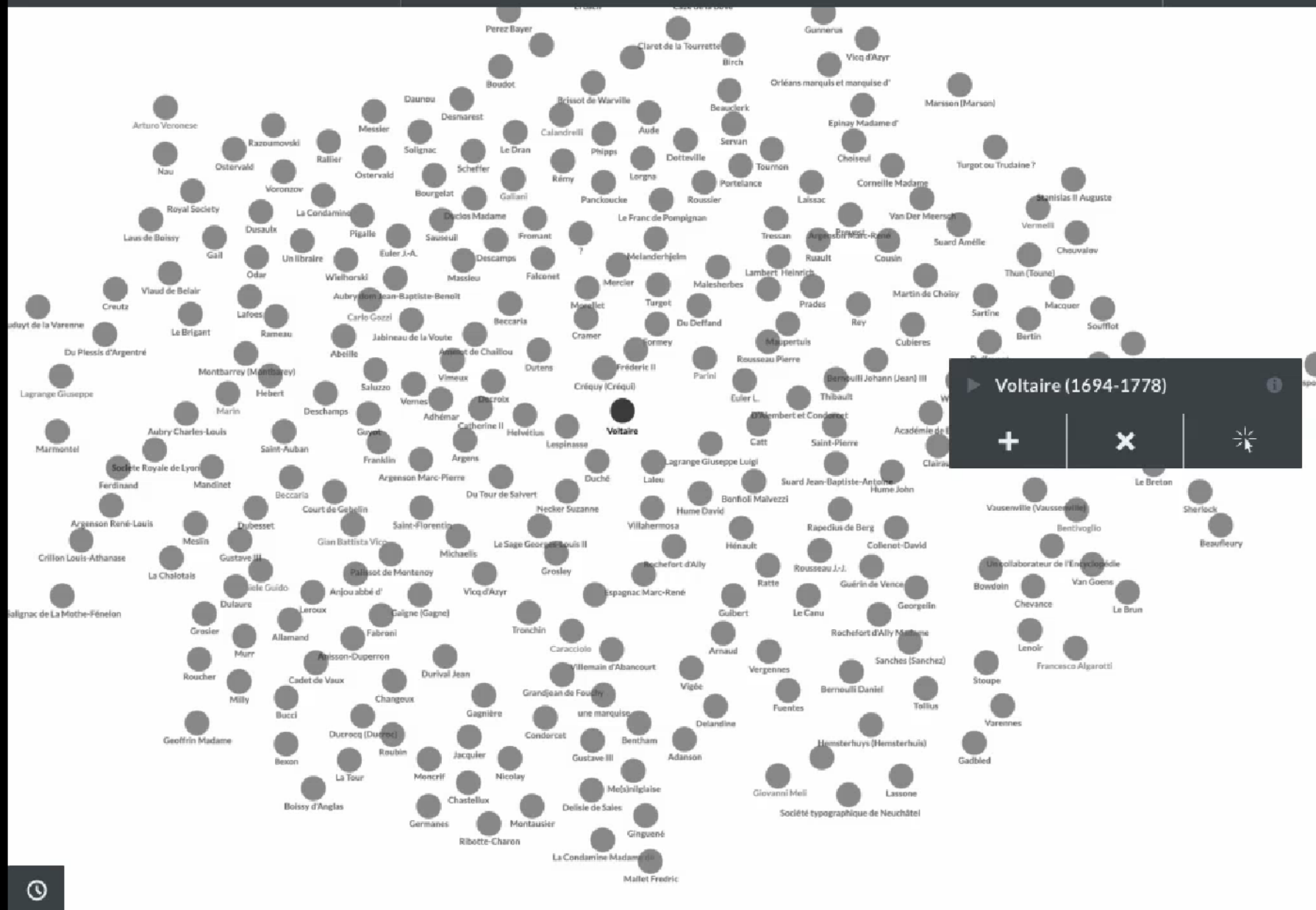


Search for people, places and events

CREATE

LAYOUT

FILTERS



3. Visualization of the graph



Search for people, places and events

CREATE

LAYOUT

FILTERS



Arturo Veronesi

Vincenzo Monti

Benelli XIV

Calandrelli

Gallani

Vernelli

▶ 18 Nodes



Lagrange Giuseppe

Portei

Marin

Goldoni

Carlo Gozzi

Beccaria

Bonivoglio

Gian Battista Vico

Dantele Guido

Caracciolo

Francesco Algarotti

Giovanni Meli



4. Understanding the data and the sources

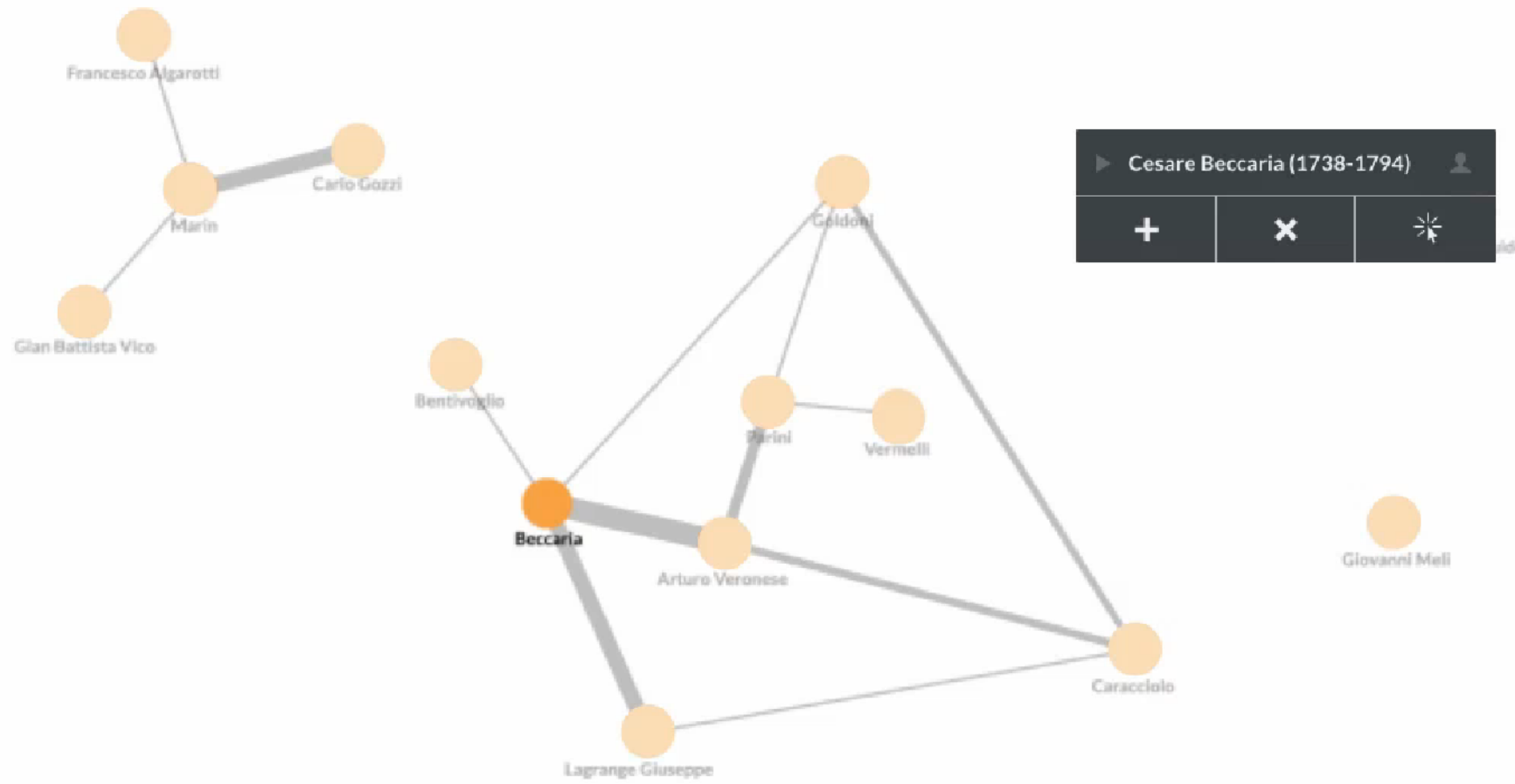


Search for people, places and events

CREATE

LAYOUT

FILTERS



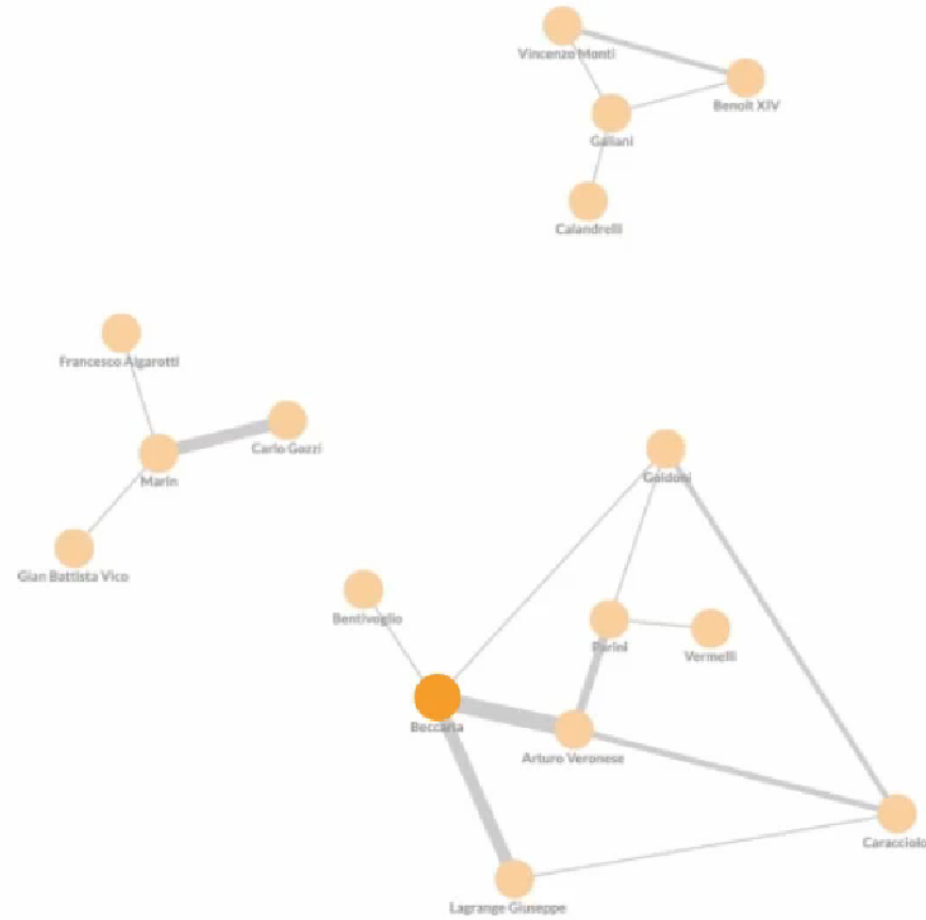
5. Data manipulation and enrichment

🔍 Search for people, places and events

CREATE

LAYOUT

FILTERS



▼ Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794) 👤

Information

Correspondents 4 102

Letters Received 29 258

Letters Sent 17 301

Family 0 4

Meeting 1 12



Giovanni Melli



Next steps

- 1. Implementetion of the new design**
- 2. Test the tool with the scholars**
- 3. Focus on the visual representation of the uncertainty of the data**



HUMANITIES + DESIGN

[About](#) [People](#) [Laboratory Manual](#) [Laboratory Notebook](#)

Our mission is to produce, through the lens of humanistic inquiry, new modes of thinking in design and computer science to serve data-driven research in the humanities. We believe that humanistic inquiry, grounded in interpretation, has much to contribute to the development of technologies if they are to help us reveal uncertainty and ambiguity, and allow human-scale exploration of complex systems.

We focus on developing skills that are broadly applicable to the data humanist including data management, collaboration, visual literacy, and the production of publication-ready visuals. The laboratory setting fosters critical engagement around digital methods and provides a context for the development of a visual language around specifically humanistic inquiry into data. In the process we build both small and large-scale tools driven by specific research needs.

Humanities scholars have an important role to play in problematizing data structures and visual models of data. To do this, humanities scholars need to develop an understanding of technology and its influence in the construction of meaning. Technology has a mediating influence on research, but we can influence the design of those mediating technologies.

Our research agenda is not defined by any one technology nor does it assume that the application of computing to humanities research requires quantitative methods. Instead the aim of the lab is to empower researchers to apply their own methods by exposing them to techniques and tools for managing and manipulating data.

Nicole Coleman, Dan Edelstein, Paula Findlen
September 24, 2012

Related Projects and Partners



Now a project of Humanities + Design, Mapping the Republic of Letters is where our work with data visualization for humanities research began.



DensityDesign Research Lab at the Politecnico di Milano is our partner lab. We have worked with them for years now on developing a visual language compatible with humanistic research.



We are part of the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), funded by the Dean of Research. CESTA is also home to the Stanford Literary Lab and the Spatial History Lab.

design without **designers**

Process is the new god; not product.[...] The theory after theory is anchored in MAKING, making in the poetic sense of poiesis, but also in the sense of design carried out in action.

(Schnapp & Presner, 2009)

humanities + design

design + humanities

Giorgio Uboldi | @giorgiouboldi

Density Design Research Lab. | @densitydesign

Thanks,
Questions?