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DSGN 352 Design with Data

Final Project Proposal

(Due) 11/3/2015

* **What is the purpose of the visualization? Is there a question driving the creation of the visualization? What do you intend for users to learn from your visualization?**

I would like to focus on the question of whether communities exhibiting a more fundamentalist set of religious beliefs also tend to show greater levels of conflict. Some aspects of this question that I think would be interesting to tease out include how age (mean age of a community or ages of those directly involved), ethnicity (this may be overcomplicating the assignment, but ethnicity and religion are often connected in many areas of the world), and religious denomination relate to areas with different levels of conflict. Another layer of this investigation could involve overlaying economic data to see whether reduced household income and increased unemployment correlate with greater levels of conflict. While it’s hardly a new phenomenon, I find that much of our political discourse today revolves around differing perceptions of different religions. Though I believe that there is a trend towards tolerance and a more nuanced understanding of how different ideologies may become violent under certain circumstances, there are still those who prefer to broadly designate certain religions as bad or more predisposed to violence. I would like to address this issue by contextualizing conflict areas as well as showing a more complete map of conflict and its perpetrators. My goal is to prove the idea that greater levels of fundamentalism (regardless of religion) coincide with greater levels of conflict.

* **From where will you obtain a dataset? How much work will it take to acquire, sift, and format your dataset?**

Potential sources: <http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/>

<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/>

<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

<http://www.thearda.com/>

<https://www.ciser.cornell.edu/ASPs/datasource.asp>

* **What is the scope of functionality or features that you wish to implement?**

I’m interested in the idea of creating a visualization of religion and conflict statistics across the world so as not to distort findings regarding which religions are more often associated with conflict. My thought is that a country with a higher percentage of any one religion may show more practitioners of that religion in conflict regions. Another strategy to create a more comprehensive investigation of this question might be to focus on a particular set of countries as smaller case studies. It may also be worth considering including information about areas in which conflict appears more ingrained or reoccurs with some frequency. I could also single out individuals related to different violent movements to make my visualization appeal to those drawn to ‘storytelling’ features.

* **Are there similar extant visualizations that inspire your proposed visualized or might serve as a starting point?**

There are a number of data visualizations on the Internet mapping religions across the globe or exploring different facets of religion. I have not yet found anything exploring the relationship between religion and conflict, but I imagine something must exist somewhere.

*Source of some data visualizations relating to religion:*

[*http://www.pdviz.com/tag/religion*](http://www.pdviz.com/tag/religion)

* **What challenges are you anticipating? Can you think of some ways to address these challenges at the outset?**

I anticipate having to collect and combine datasets from different sources. I also expect I need to decide how detailed I would like to make descriptions of different kinds of conflicts or religions.