Problem 1. Good & Bad Visualizations

a. Good Visualization:


When Sea Levels Attack!
How long have we got?

David McCandless // V3.0// Feb 2014
Illustration: Laura Sullivan, Joe Swainson, Fabio Bergamaschi

InformationIsBeautiful.net

Source: https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/when-sea-levels-attack-2/
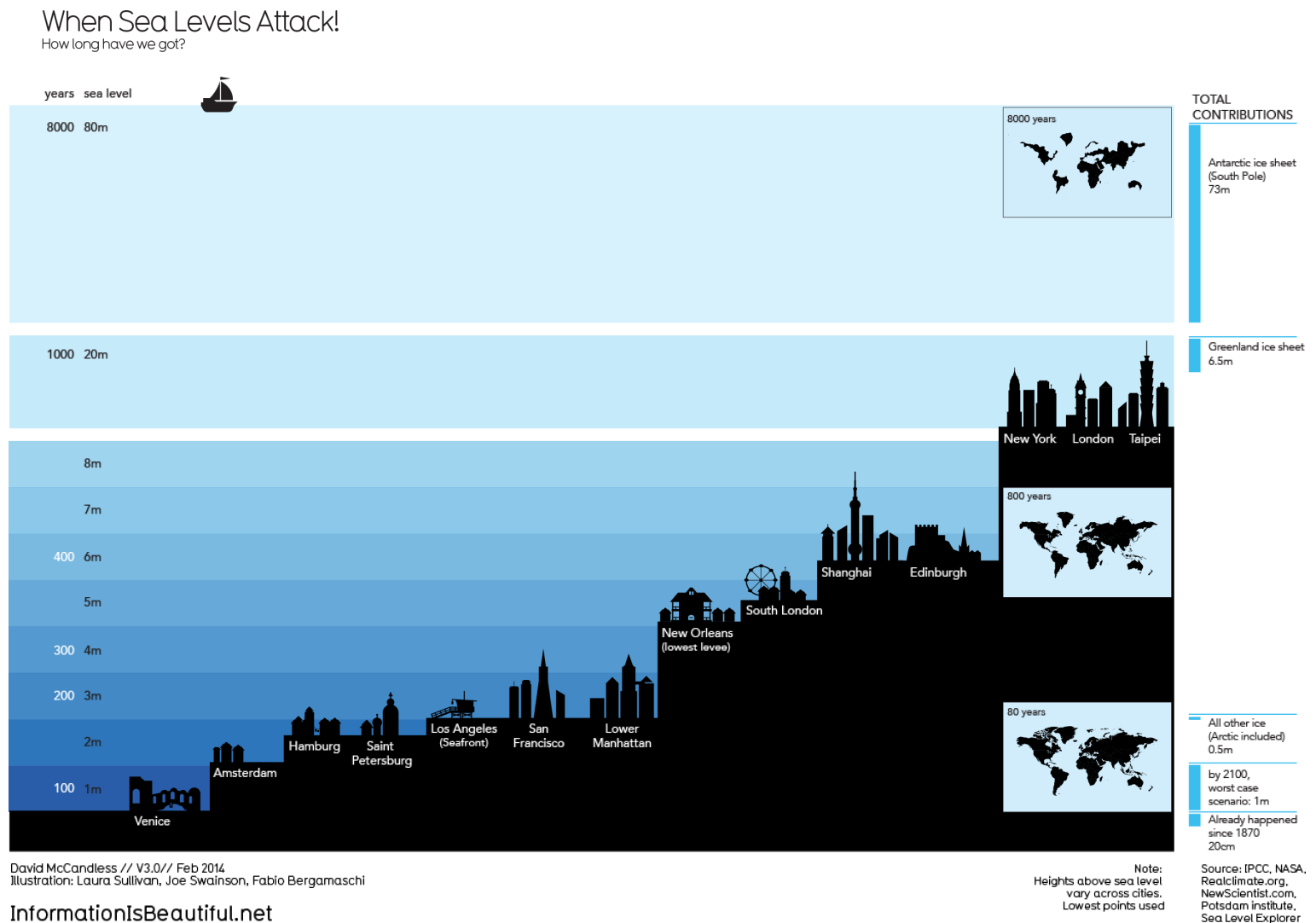
Title: "When sea levels attack"

Rating: 5

This visualization is good because it presents a lot of data in an organized and easy-to-understand way. The use of color and icons makes it visually appealing and draws the viewer in. The authors tried to answer the question of how cities and countries would be impacted if sea levels rise, and they succeeded at doing so by providing the viewer with an interactive tool to explore the data. One improvement that could be made to this visualization is to provide more information about the sources of the data.

b. Bad Visualization:

Source: https://flowingdata.com/2015/12/15/a-day-in-the-life-of-americans/
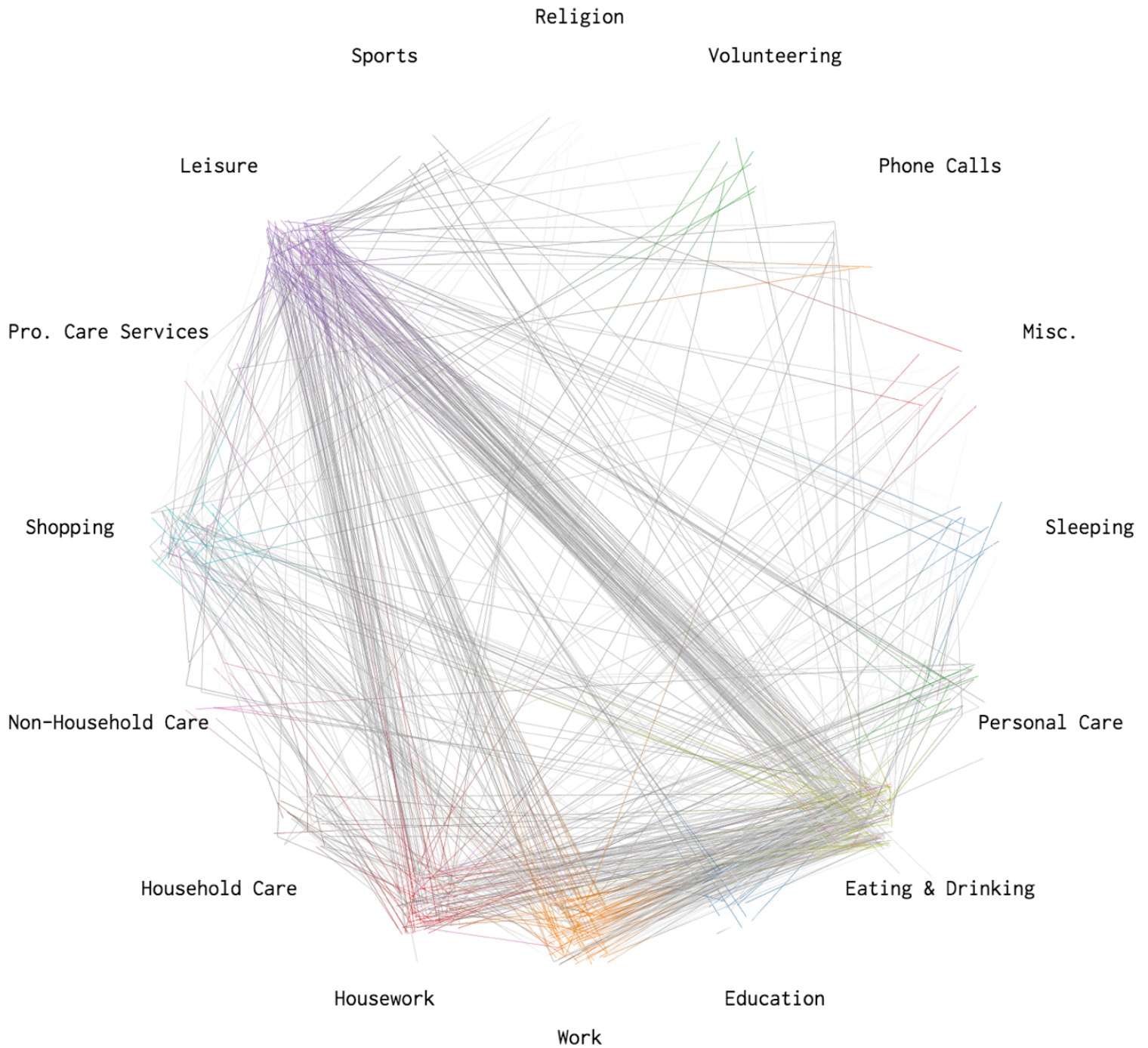
Title: "A Day in the Life of Americans"

Rating: 1

This visualization is a time use chart, showing how Americans spend their day. The chart shows the percentage of time spent during each activity, such as sleeping, eating, relaxing, working, and so

on. The varying sizes and colors of the blocks, along with a considerable number of labels, make it difficult to interpret the data. It is hard for viewers to quickly understand the information presented in this chart. I would give this visualization a 2 out of 5 for its lack of clarity, simplicity, and user-friendliness.

2. Exploratory vs. Explanatory Visualizations

1. You Draw It: How Family Income Predicts Children's College Chances

- This visualization is explanatory as it is trying to explain a relationship between two variables (family income and college admissions) to the audience.
- The authors try to answer the question of how family income affects a child's chance of getting into college.
- The new insight I learned from this visualization is that there is a significant gap between college admission rates for high- and low- income families, which suggests that wealthier families have an advantage in the college admissions process.
- The likely audience for this visualization is the general public, including parents who are concerned about their children's college prospects and policymakers who may be interested in issues of education and income equality.
- The visualization has a point of view or message: that the college admissions process is not purely merit-based and that family income and other factors may also contribute to a student's chances of admission.

2. An Interactive Visualization of Every Line in Hamilton

- This visualization is exploratory as it allows the audience to explore the lyrics of the song and learn more about the content of the musical.
- The authors do not necessarily try to answer a specific question, but rather provide a way for the audience to engage with the lyrics and themes of the musical.
- The new insight I learned from this visualization is a deeper understanding of the content and themes of the musical. The visualization allows the audience to see which characters are singing which parts of the song and how the lyrics relate to one another.
- The likely audience for this visualization is fans of the musical or people interested in musical theater.
- The visualization does not necessarily have a specific point of view or message but rather serves as a tool for exploring the content of the musical.

3. Bussed out - How America moves its homeless

- This visualization is explanatory as it is trying to explain the complex issue of how different cities in America transport homeless individuals to other cities.
- The authors try to answer the question of how and why cities transport their homeless populations to other cities and which cities are most affected by this practice.
- The new insight I learned from this visualization is the extent to which this practice occurs across the United States and the disproportionate impact it has on certain cities and regions.
- The likely audience for this visualization is policymakers and advocates for the homeless who may be interested in addressing issues of homelessness and/or mobility.
- The visualization has a point of view or message: it suggests that the transportation of homeless individuals is a concerning and potentially harmful practice that needs to be addressed through policy changes.