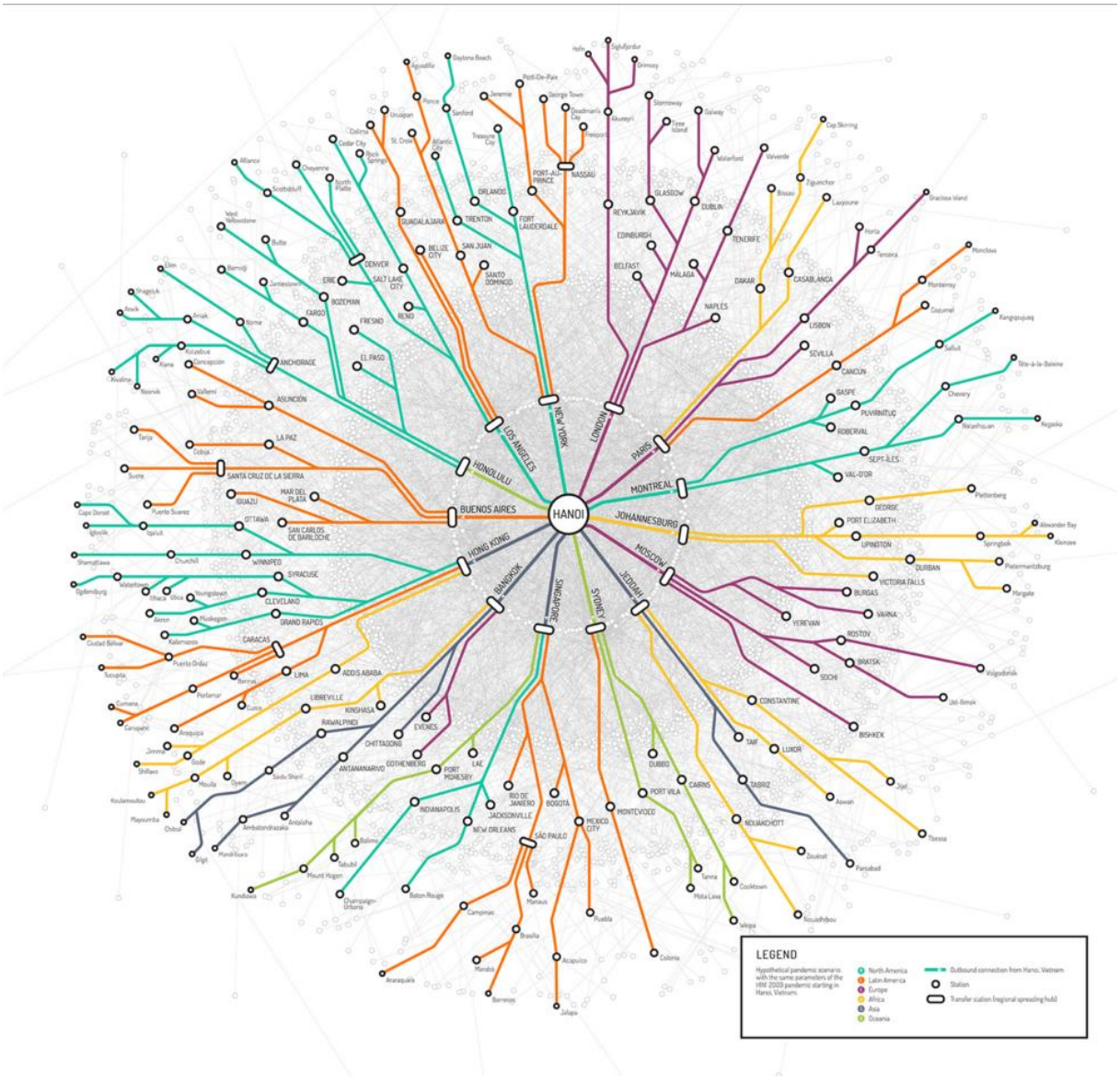
Reading 1, assignment Tom Schoufour (10346562)

1.



http://www.wired.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/epi-rail-web1.jpg

2. **Colour:** Each colour represents the continent where the infected place lies. In this graph colour can be used to identify intercontinental spread of the virus and track the route of the virus across the globe. Although using colours helps to identify the continents more quickly, it is debatable how relevant the different continents are. Not all continents are the same size, some but not all are connected by land and Hanoi has flights going to all continents. Though it is interesting to see that some stations only spread the virus in their own continent and some are able to spread it to multiple continents.

Size change: The length of the lines indicates the amount of time it takes for the virus to reach that place. The further away a place is located on the line, the more days it takes the virus to infect that area. Though it is a nice indication of the time it takes for the virus, many of the places

illustrated here are not known to everyone so it's hard to put this in perspective. Also the time in days isn't represented as a number, only relative, making it hard to interpret.

3. I agree that visualisation is a functional art to a certain degree. For me the art is to make a visualisation as clear as possible to a wide audience or showing data in a whole new way. Making a graph visually attractive would be a secondary requirement for the graph. The look of the graph can in no way hinder the ability of the visualisation to make the data clear. But I think visualising data in a way that the patterns and meaning is clear is an art on its own.

4. This visualisation should help with: identifying key stations in the spread of the virus, the speed of the virus spread, the fastest possible route to specific places.

Identifying key stations in the spread of the virus.
The big key stations are located around Hanoi in the centre of the graph and are what you see first when you look at the graph. This goal is nicely fulfilled by the designer.

The speed of the virus spread.
The designer tries to visualise the speed of the spread by the length of the lines, but to convert length line to time in days is not initiative and would need the number of days next to the places to make this clear.

The fastest possible route to specific places.
This is very nicely illustrated in the graph, the shortest route from the outbreak of the virus to the most distant places is illustrated smoothly.