The intended audience includes anyone who is interested in philosophers throughout history (dating back to approximately 624 B.C.) and how they compare in terms of birth year, significance (i.e. degree of influence) and their influence on one another's work. Additional biographical information is also displayed when the viewer clicks on a specific philosopher's data point.

This visualization answers the following questions: In what year was philosopher X born? Who influenced philosopher X's work? Whose work did philosopher X influence? What degree of influence did philosopher X have in relation to other philosophers throughout history? Which philosophers are most similar to philosopher X? What is some additional biographical information about philosopher X?

Quantitative, qualitative, and ordered data are all displayed in this visualization. The quantitative data includes philosopher birth year, while the qualitative data includes who influenced philosopher X's work, whose work did philosopher X influence, which philosophers are most similar to philosopher X, and the additional biographical information presented about philosopher X when the viewer clicks on the philosopher's data point. Lastly, ordered data includes the significance of a certain philosopher (i.e. their degree of influence) in relation to other philosophers throughout history.

Size of the data point indicates the philosopher's influence in relation to other philosophers throughout history (as size increases, influence increases). Color indicates similarity of philosophers. For example, if philosopher A and B produced very similar work, their data points will be colored similarly. Philosophers who produced work that isn't very similar at all, will have oppositely colored data points. Upon clicking on data point B, arrows with wide bases that grow increasingly narrow from data point A to data point B indicate philosopher A had an influence on the work of philosopher B. Similarly, upon clicking on data point B, arrows of constant width from point B to point C indicate philosopher B had an influence on the work of philosopher C. When viewing the timeline visualization, placement of the data point along the number line represents the philosopher's birth year (placement further to the right indicates more recent birth year).

Color is being used to indicate degree of similarity among the work of philosophers. For example, the data points of two philosophers will be colored very similarly if their work is similar, whereas their data points will be oppositely colored if their work isn't similar at all. This is a rainbow color scale.

This visualization could be made more efficient by including the meaning behind the distance between two data points in the legend. While color indicates similarity between philosophers, what does distance indicate? I assumer distance also indicates similarity seeing as data points close in proximity are colored similarly. If this is the case, then distance should indicate degree of similarity while color should be used to indicate some other metric, such as the popularity of the philosopher (which, keep in mind, is different from significance of the philosopher. It is one thing to have produced "significant" work and another to have produced philosophical work that is popular/widely accepted). This, of course, is just one possibility. Other possible changed include using a monochromatic color scale to avoid the lack of a "beginning" and "end" of a spectrum, which the rainbow scale does not offer. For example, the use of a monochromatic blue scale could indicate the genre of philosophy the philosopher's work fell in, with white indicating the philosophy of logic (along the lines of Leibniz) and the darkest blue could indicate the philosophy of existentialism (along the lines of Sartre).