

Cryptocurrency Cultures & the Value of Blockchain

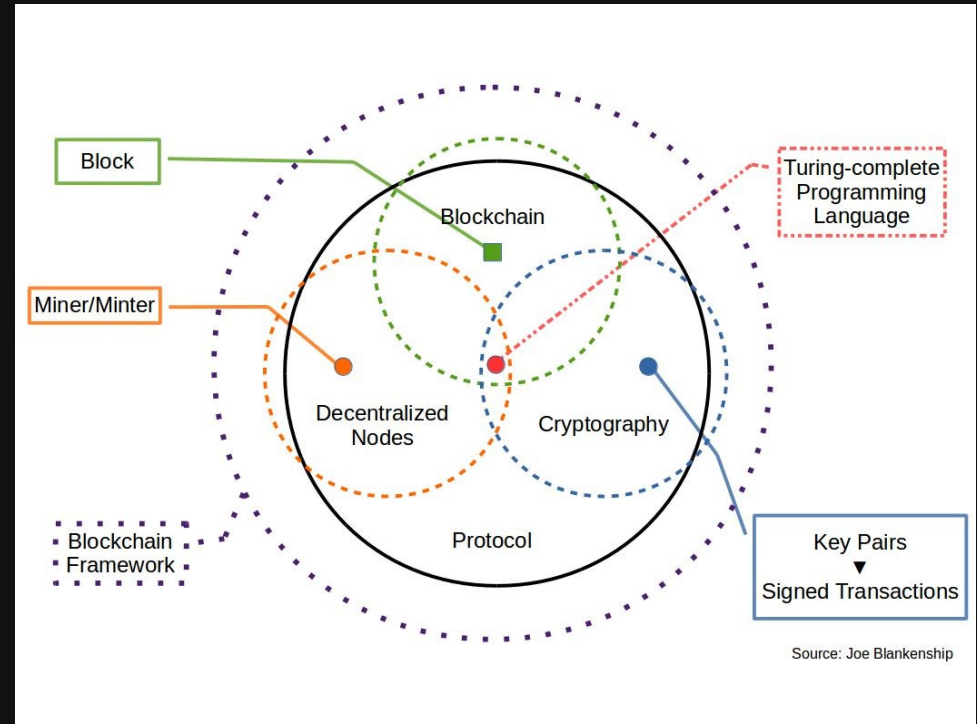
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Department of Geography

About me

- Economic Geographer
 - People and Financial Technology
- Organizer
 - Bluegrass Developers Guild
- A bunch of other stuff
 - thejoeblankenship.com
 - @joeblankenship1 on Github

Basic Terms

- Blockchain
 - Canonical record of transactions in blocks
 - Miners/Minters
 - Consensus algorithms – Proof of work
 - Encryption
 - Hashes and Hash Trees
- Cryptocurrency
 - Currency \leftrightarrow (Digital) Money \leftrightarrow Tokens

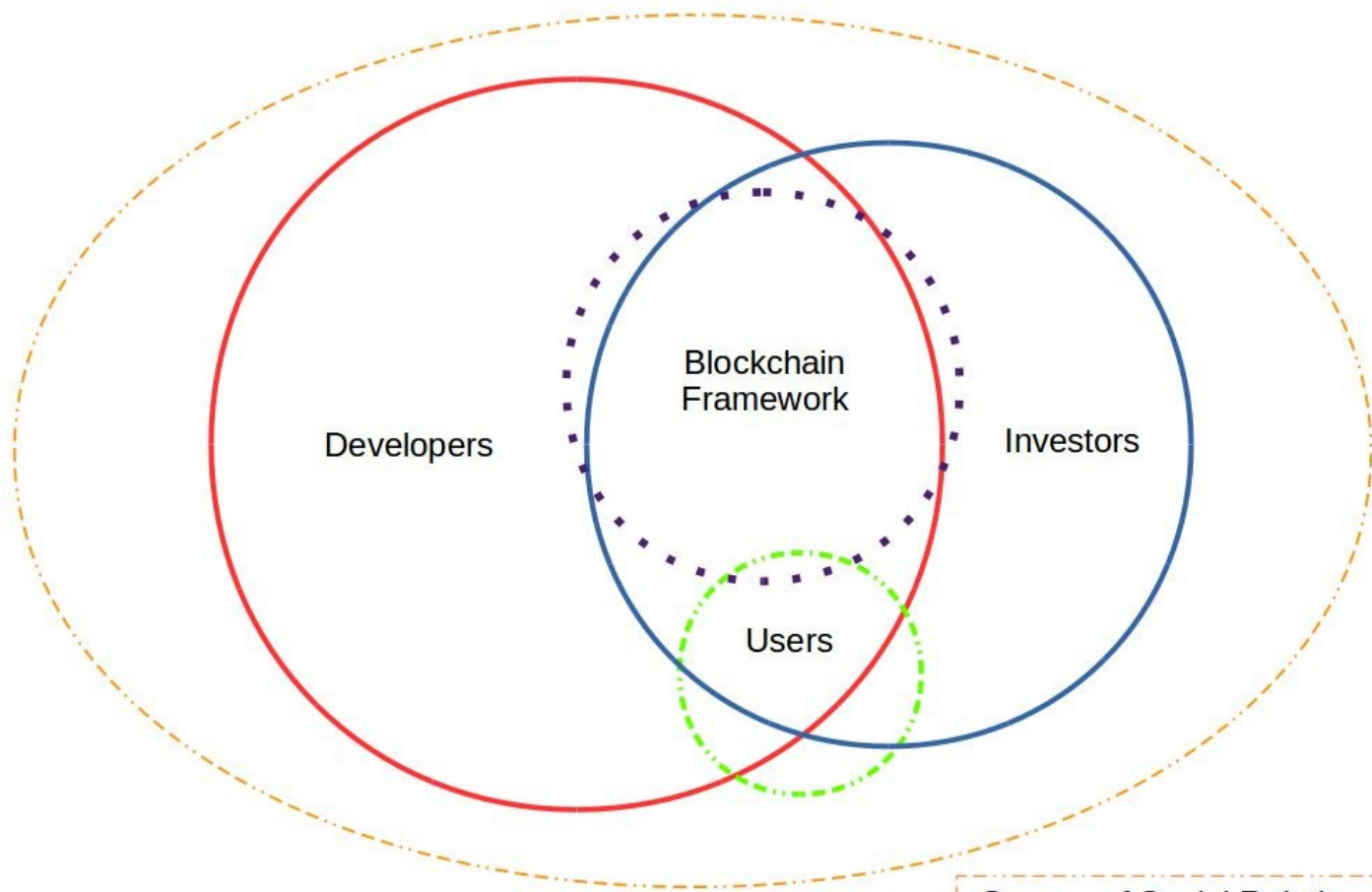


Bitcoin

- 2008
 - White Paper by Satoshi Nakamoto
 - 2007/2008 Financial Crisis
- 2009
 - Bitcoin Blockchain goes online
- 2011
 - Silk Road adopts Bitcoin
- 2013
 - FBI arrest of Silk Road DPR
- 2014
 - Ethereum ICO and Smart Contracts
- 2017/2018
 - Bitcoin Prices skyrocket to +20K USD and then crash to below 4K USD

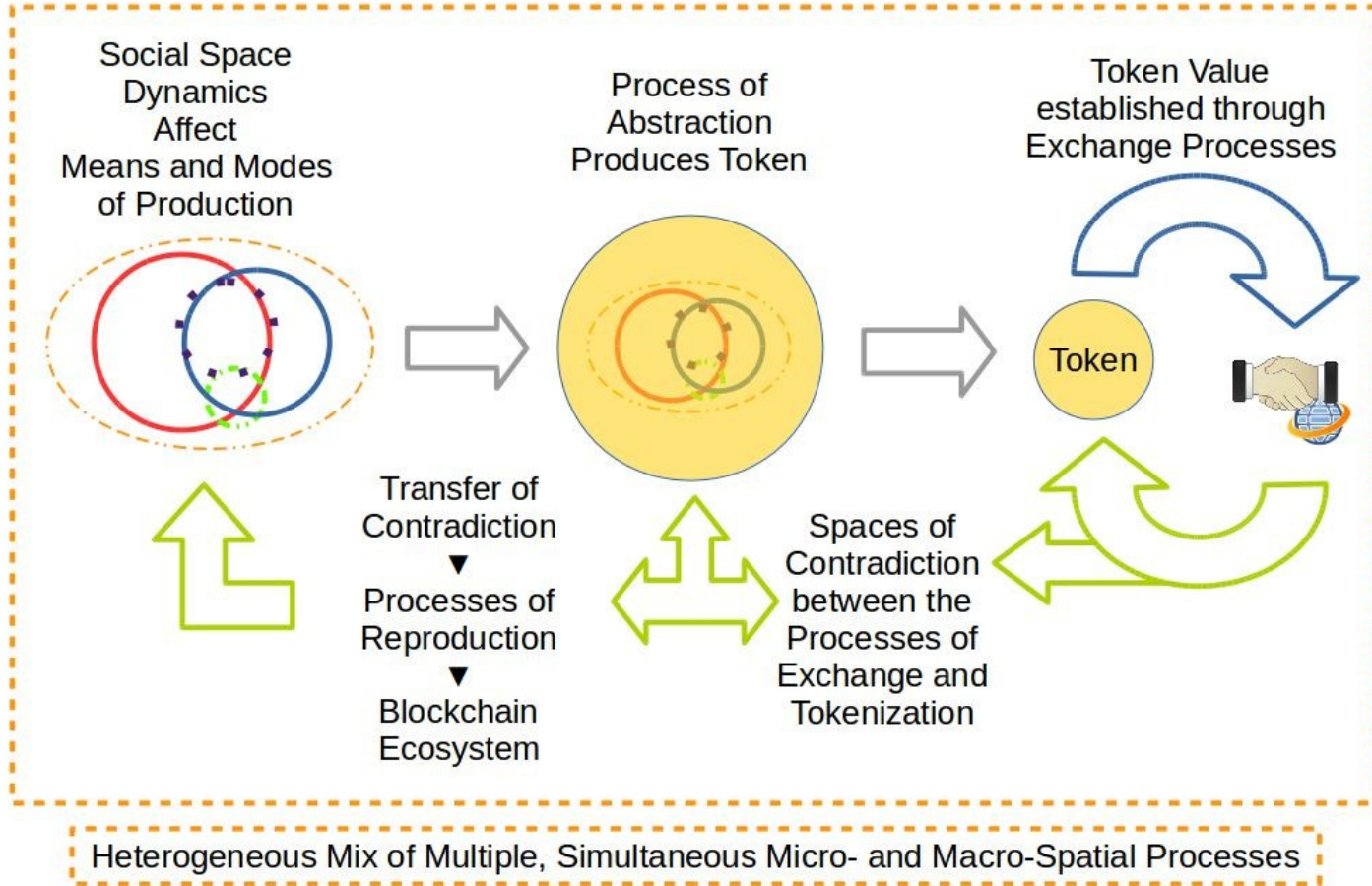
Initial Research

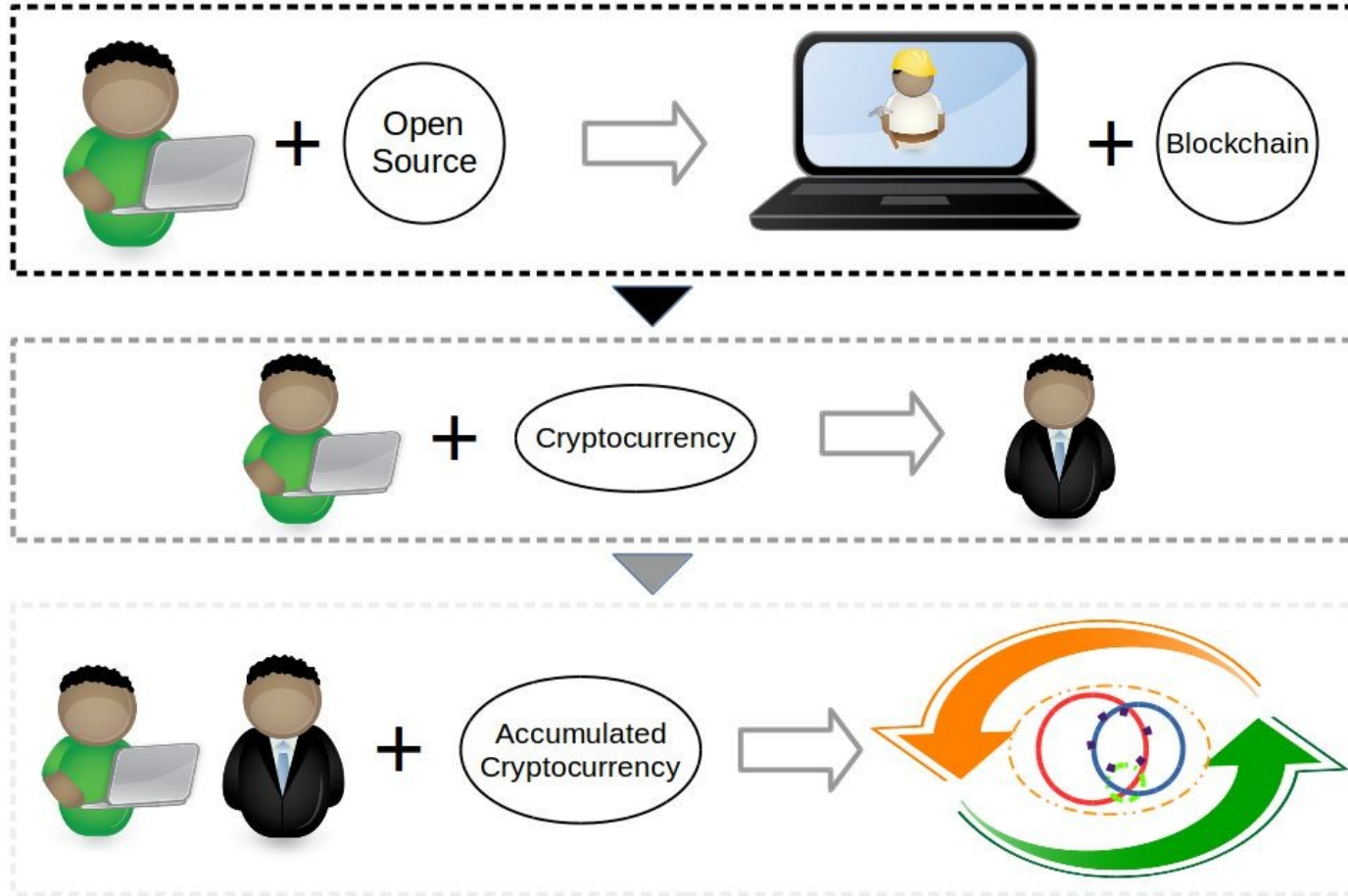
- How do blockchain technologies indicate shifts in everyday economic spaces?
 - Who is using the technology?
 - How are they using the technology?
 - Where do they see this technology going?



Source: Joe Blankenship

Spaces of Social Relations





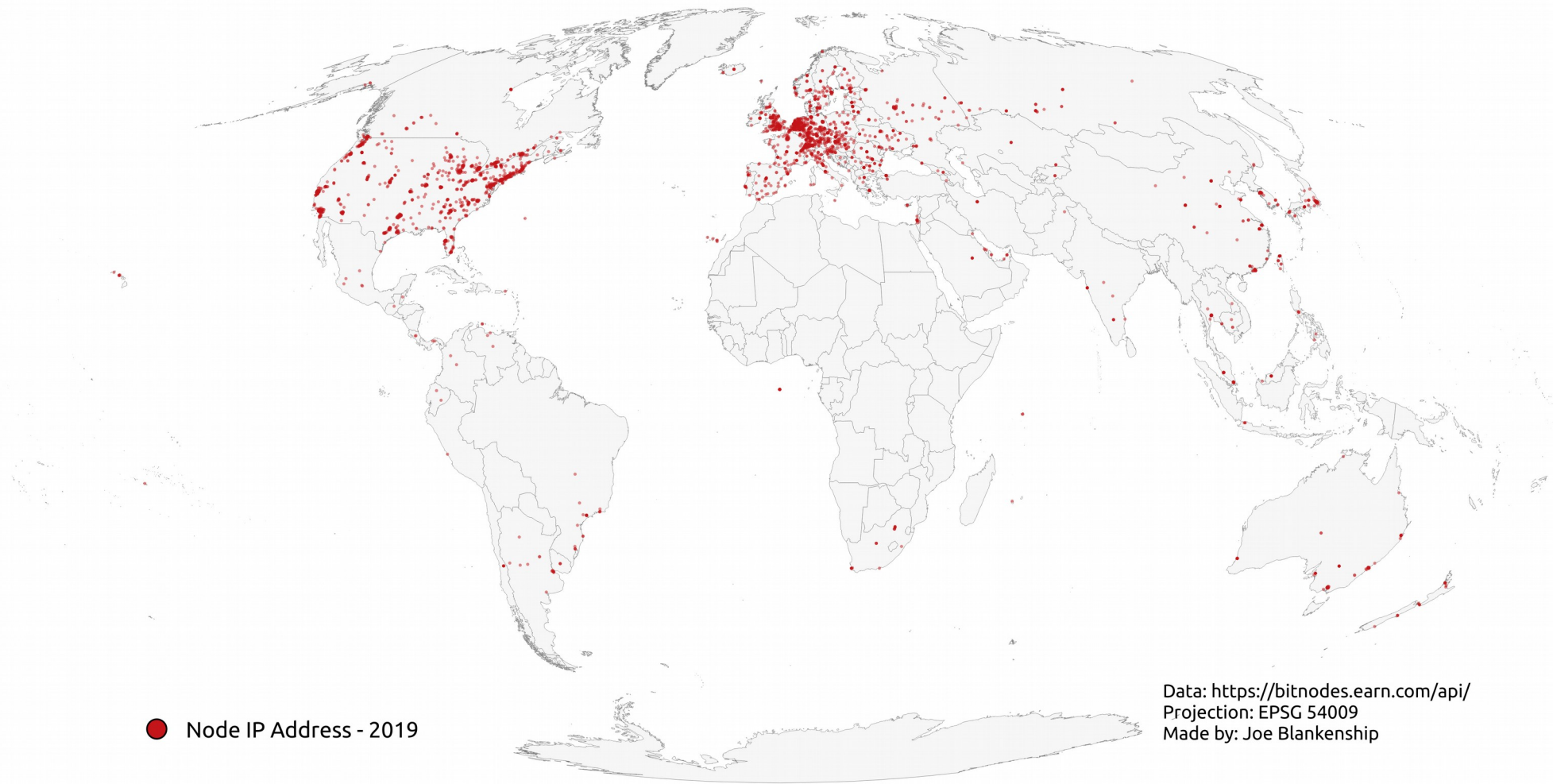
Source: Joe Blankenship

Initial Research

- Blockchains not revolutionary
- Developer-dominant Spaces
- Investor sentiment
- Pragmatic application > Indicator of value

Current Research

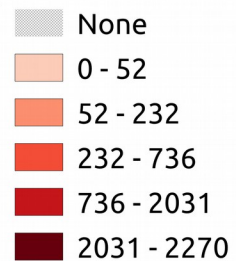
- Material spaces and practices
 - Mining Impacts
 - Location, Energy, Resource footprint
 - Algorithmic governance
- Social connection to token market value
 - Tacit knowledge of social groups
 - Developers, Investors, Users



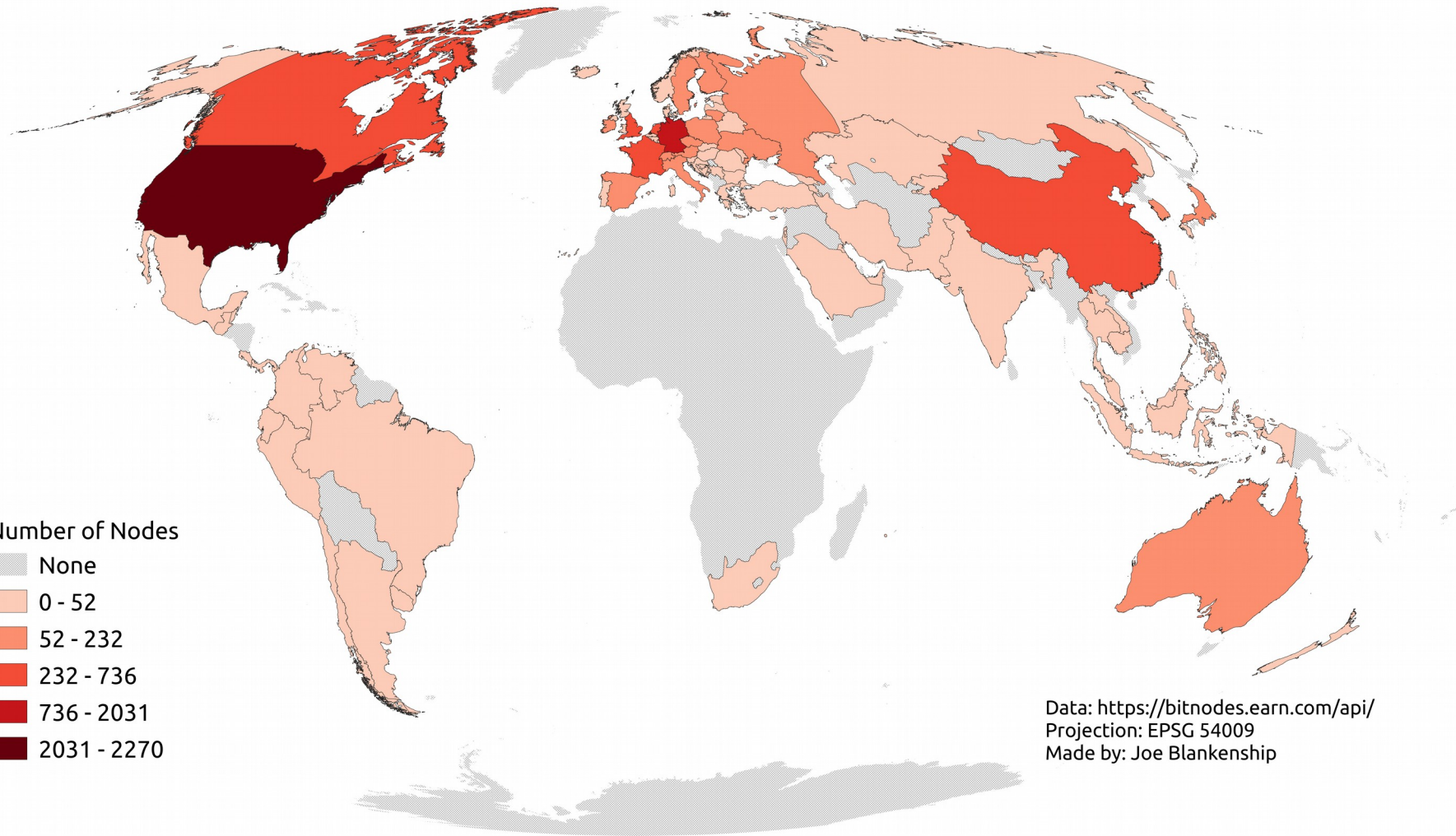
● Node IP Address - 2019

Data: <https://bitnodes.earn.com/api/>
Projection: EPSG 54009
Made by: Joe Blankenship

Number of Nodes

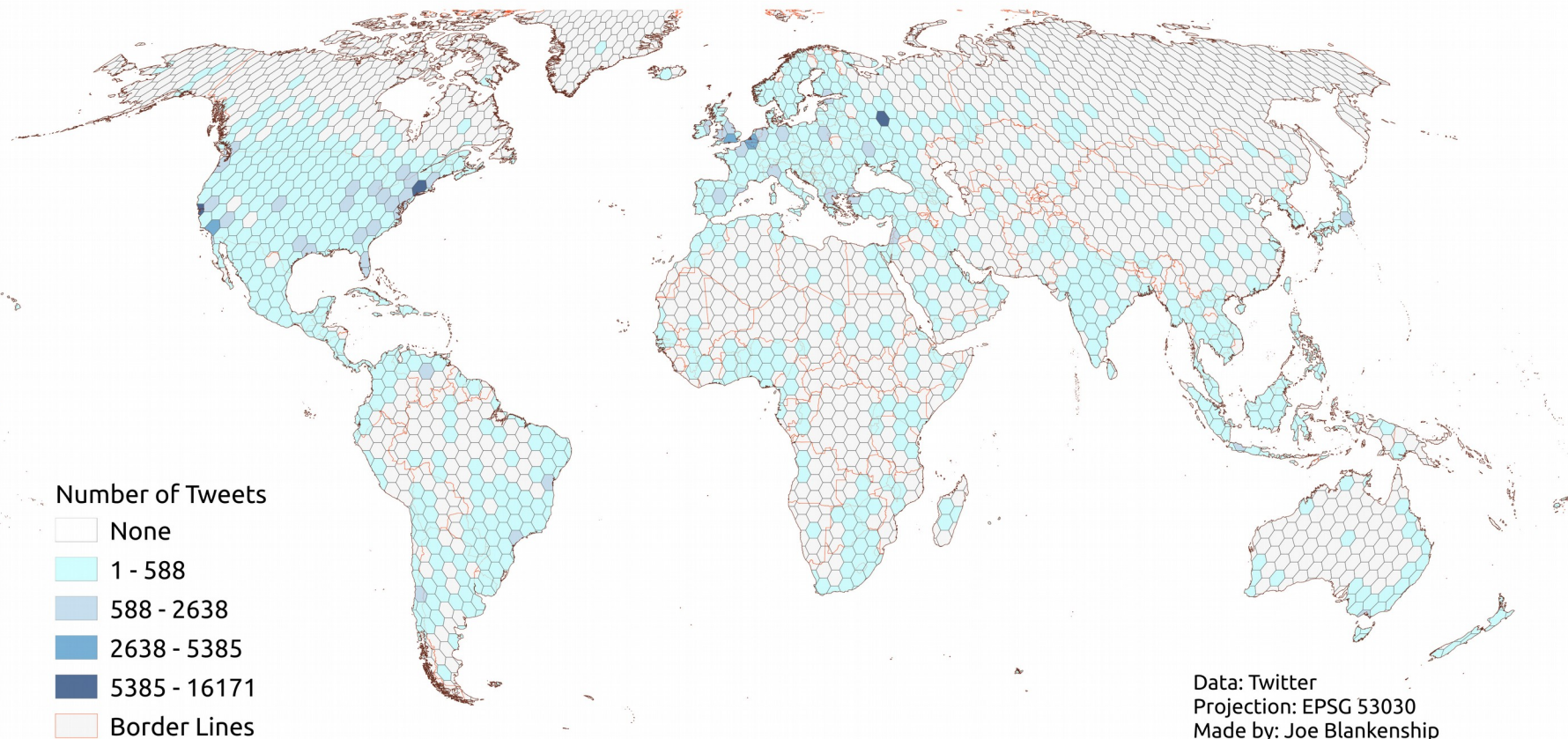


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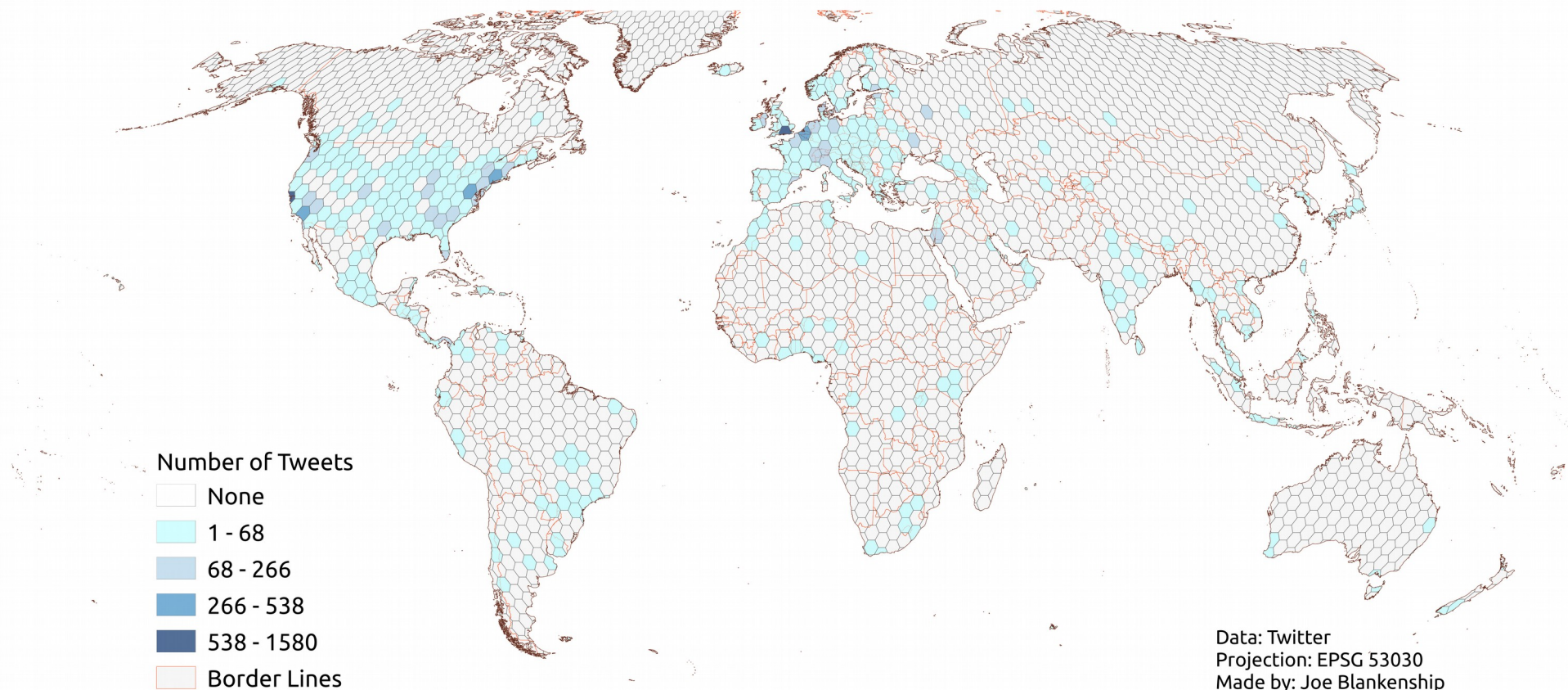


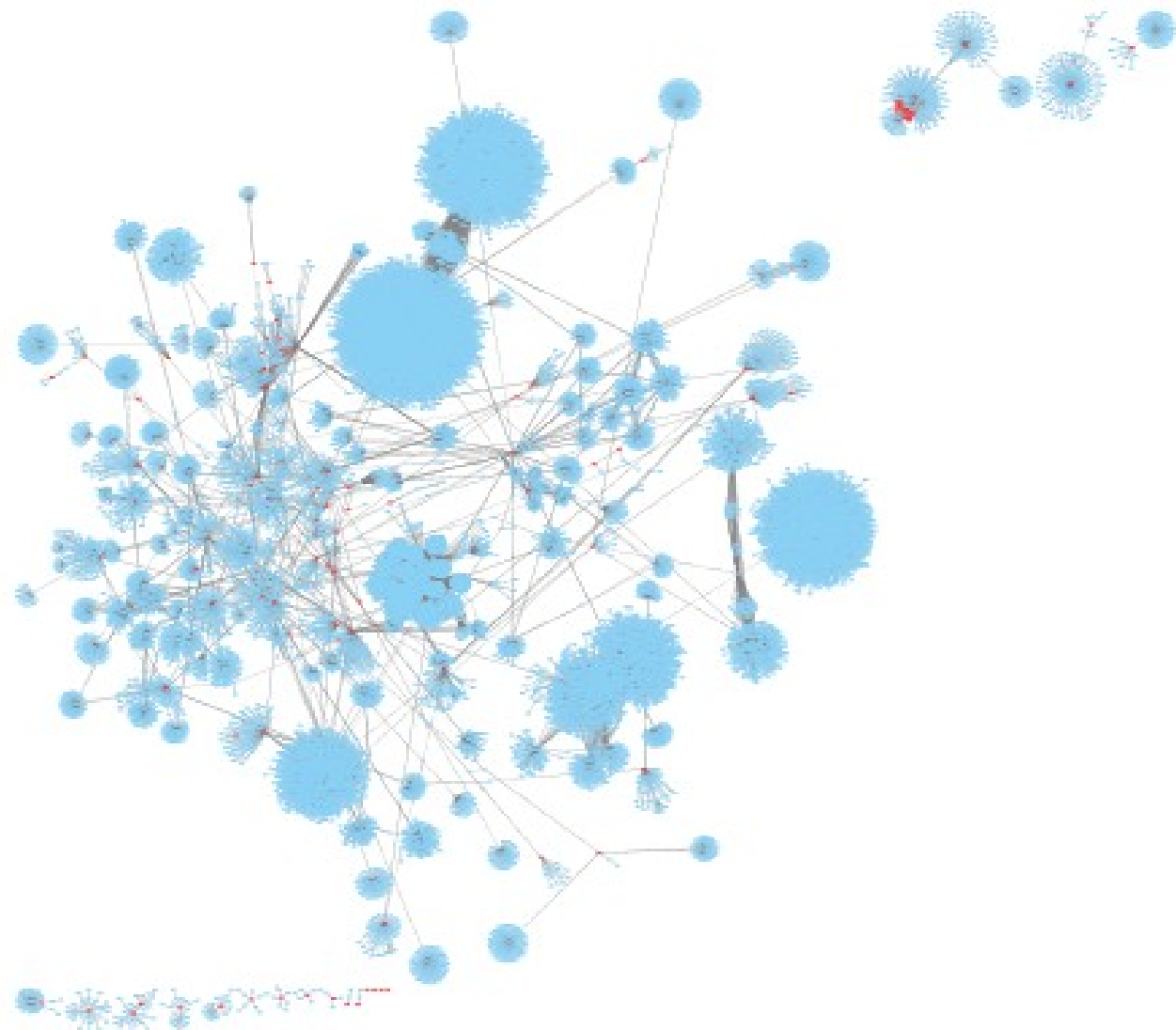


Number of Tweets Containing the Keyword - Bitcoin



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Current Research

- Continued Mapping of Miner Pools/Machines
 - Chinese/Russian data
 - Open data API
- Social Network Analysis of Bitcoin Transactions
 - Alt-right Communities and Value
 - DL/NLP for coding of dyadic relationships
 - Python library for transaction graphs

Thanks!

Joe Blankenship

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