


Jer Thorp

Candice Chan

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Jer Thorp is an artist, writer and teacher originally from Vancouver, Canada and currently living in New York City. For the last ten years, he has been **examining the ever-changing boundaries between data, art and culture** and is driven to find where data intersects with humans. Almost all of his projects are **human-oriented**.

Past Roles



2011

Speaker



2010 - 2012

Data Artist in Residence at the New York Times R&D Group

The
Office for
Creative
Research

2012 - 2017

Co-Founder of the Office for Creative Research



2017 - present

Innovator in Residence at the Library of Congress



Present

Adjunct Professor at New York University's ITP program

Work:

Herald/harbinger

How we moved a vanishing glacier to the center of Canada's fastest growing city

Date: 2018

For: Brookfield Place

This artwork incorporates a collection of data feeds to illustrate the interrelationship between human activity in Calgary and the Bow Glacier in the Canadian Rockies, which exists in a perpetual state of physical transformation.



<https://vimeo.com/250393598>

“Herald/Harbinger is a living wake. In fifty years or so the Bow Glacier will have receded up to the level of our seismic station. In the years after that, the signal from the mountain will start to grow quiet. Eventually the sounds of the ice will fade, and the plaza will again sound only with the sounds of our footsteps and the thrum of our vehicles.”

What Does He Do Well?

Engages more than one of the senses



Work: Office for Creative Research



Convene

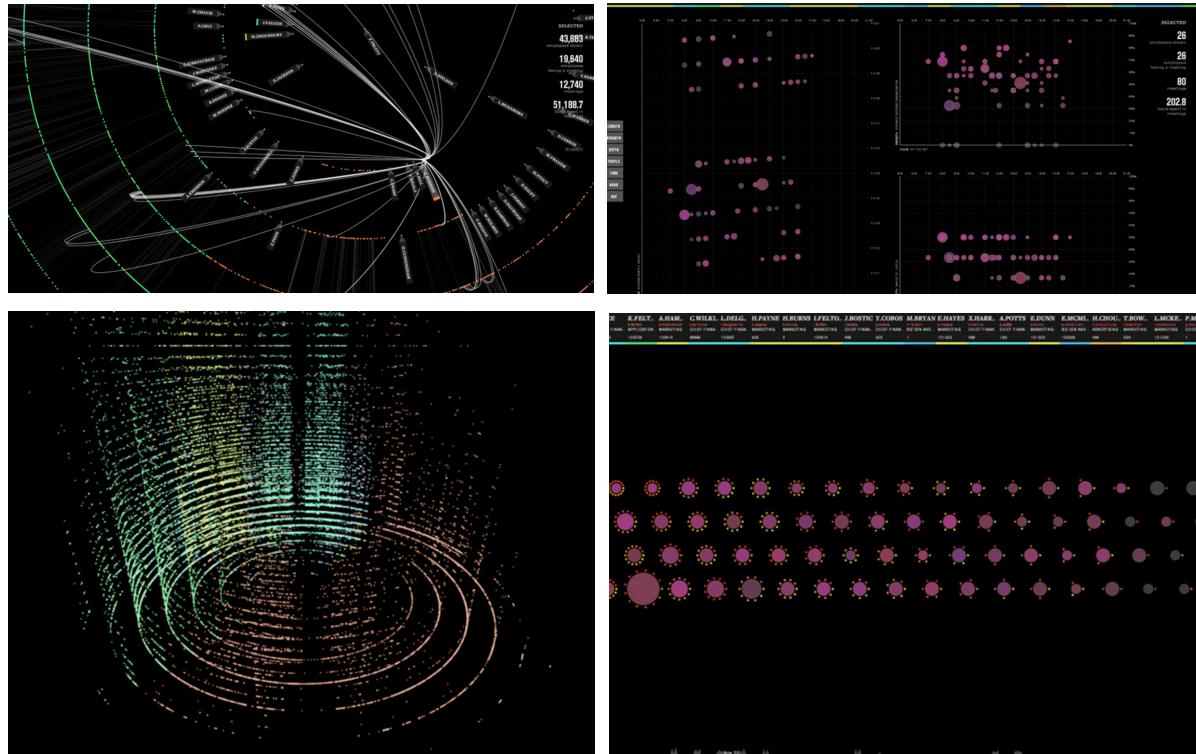
Mapping millions of meetings across one of the world's largest corporations

Date: Spring 2014

For: Microsoft

Working closely with Microsoft's Envisioning Group, the Office for Creative Research team developed Convene, a prototype visualization tool for exploring and understanding meeting activity across large organizations.

<https://vimeo.com/153157145>



What Does He Do Well?

- Encourages collaboration because it allows for multi-user exploration
- Does not dictate how you should view the data and allows you to personalize charts



Not so well?

- Restricted to the touch-base machines
- At times, there may be too many data points displayed at once that we miss out on many of them



Work: Local Projects

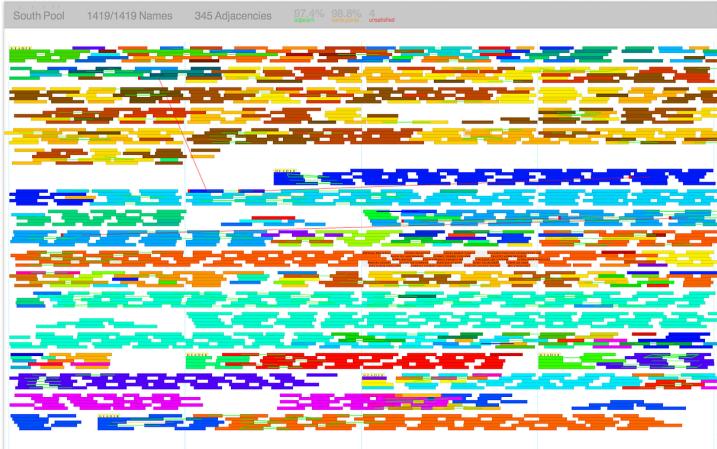
9/11 Memorial Names Placement Algorithm

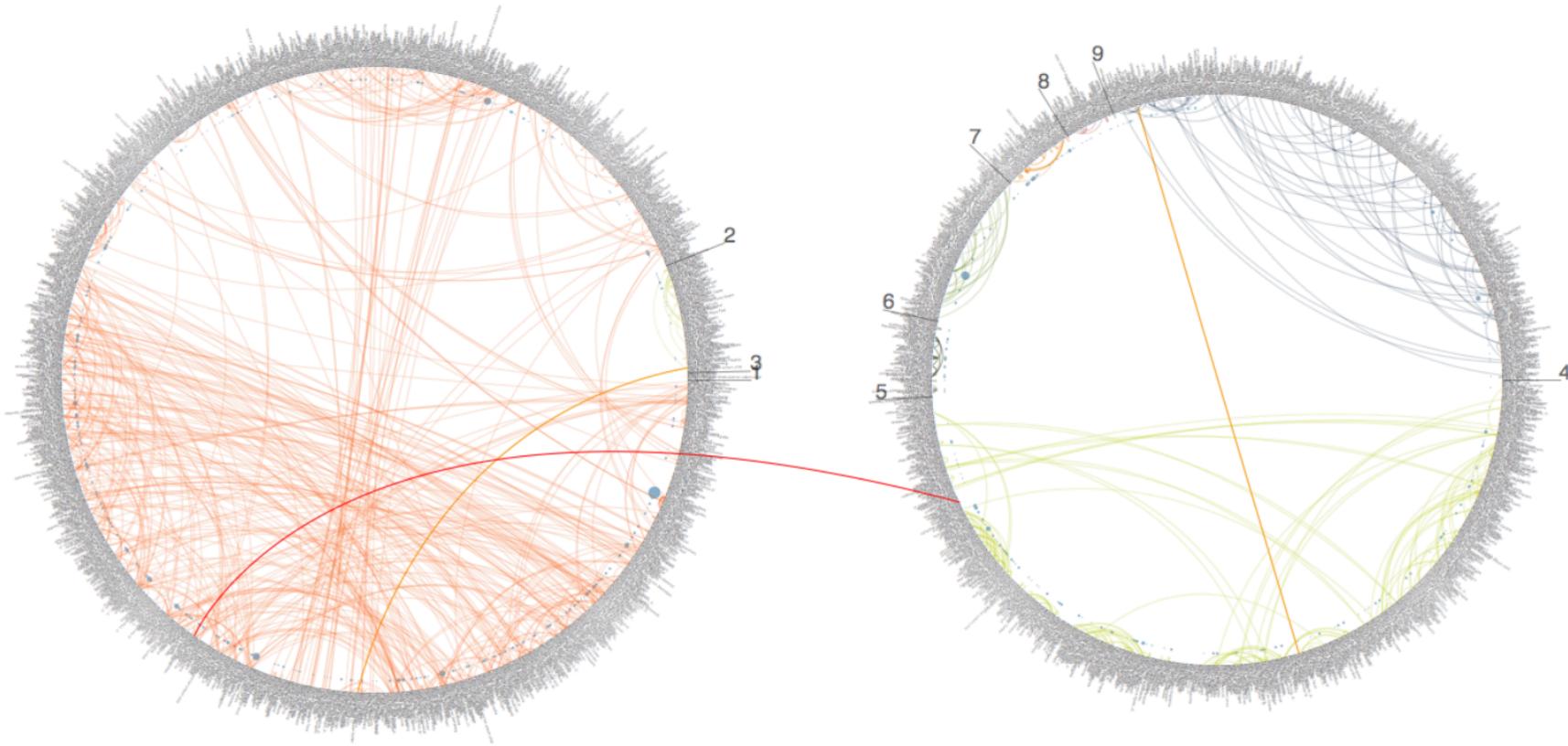
Date: 2010

For: Local Projects

Jer Thorp designed an algorithm and an accompanying software tool to aid in the placement of the nearly 3,000 names on the 9/11 Memorial in Manhattan to satisfy the nearly 1,500 'meaningful adjacency' requests made by family members of 9/11 victims.

<https://vimeo.com/23444105>





South Pool

1419/1419 Names

345 Adjacencies

97.4% adjacent
96.8% intra-pool
4 unsatisfied

Detail

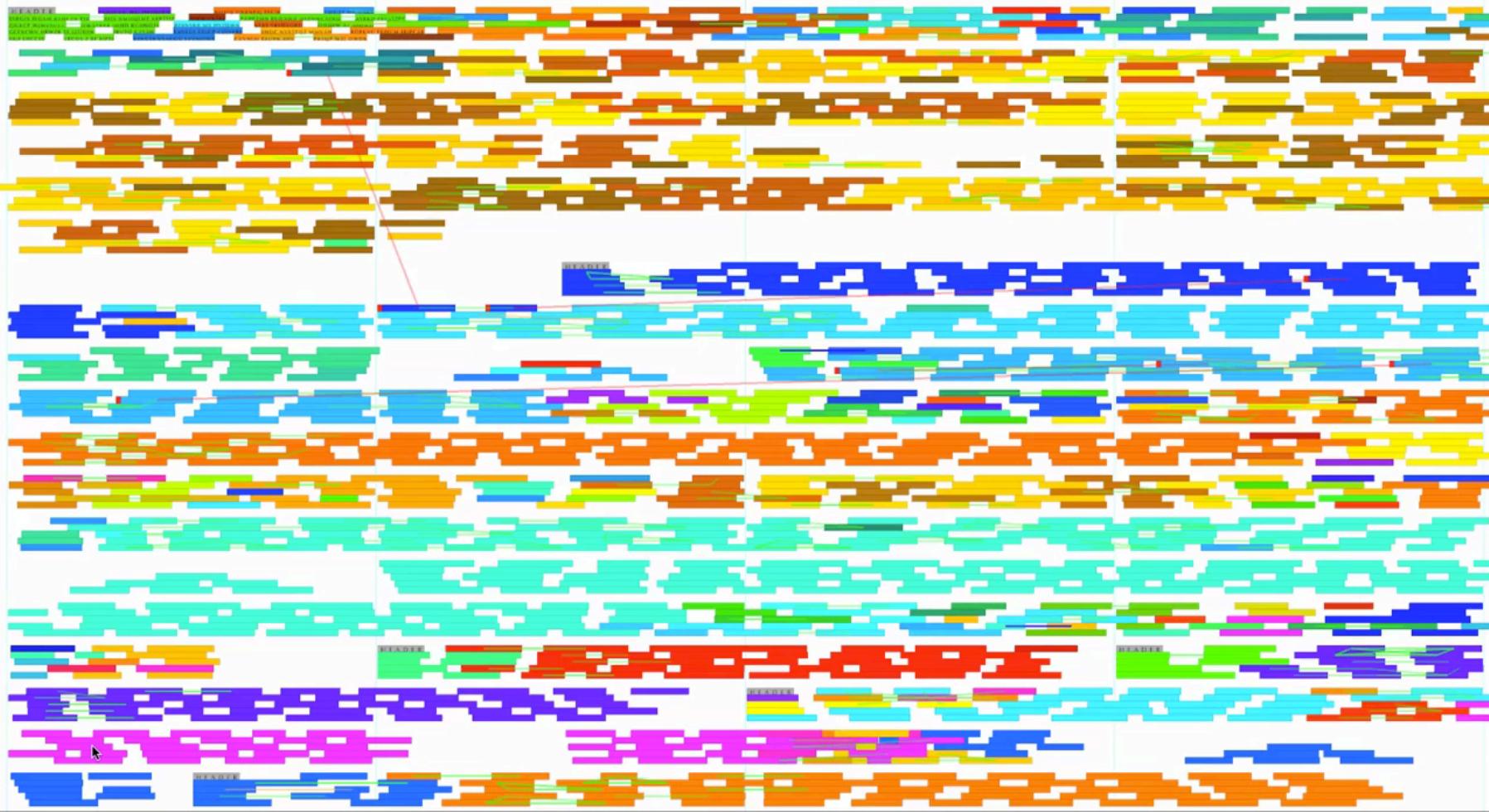
Full

DeptColor
Text
Blocks
Adjacencies

DeptColor

Search

500.00 0.00 0.00



“This project was a very real reminder that information carries weight. It’s easy to download a data set – census information, earthquake records, homelessness figures – and forget that the numbers represent real lives. As designers, artists, and researchers, we always need to consider the true source of data, and the moral responsibility which they carry.”

Work:

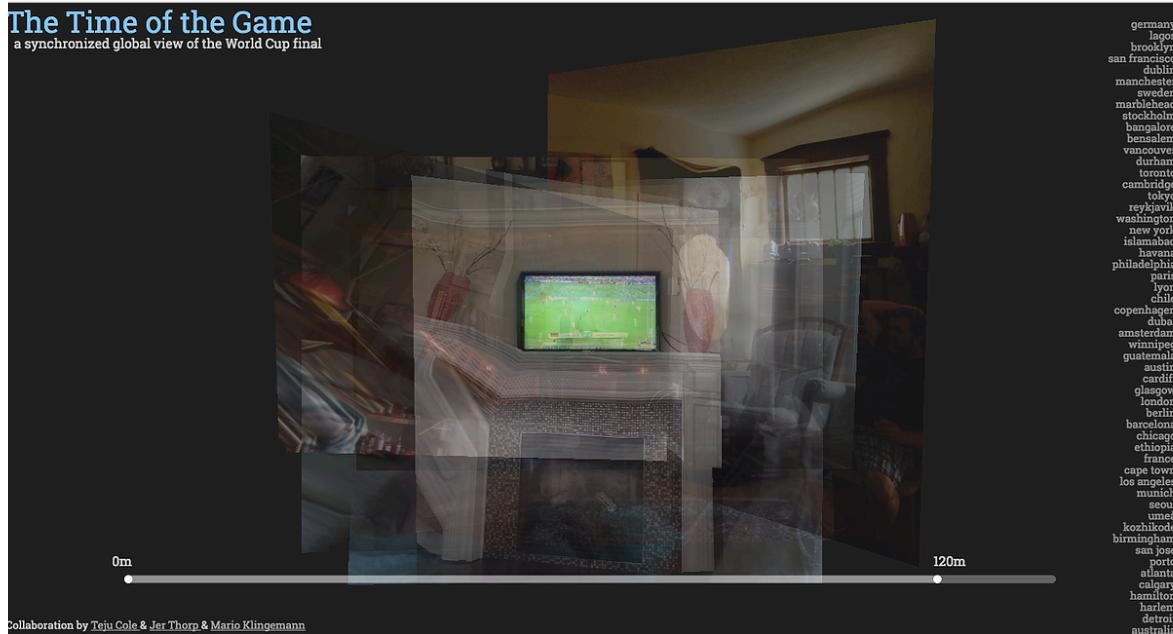
The Time of the Game

A synchronized global view of the World Cup Final

Date: Summer 2014

For: National Football Museum in Manchester

The Time of the Game is a collection of photos from people watching the World Cup across the globe. The site displays 100 photos at a time, all overlaid on top of each other to create a single world centered around a television set that's showing the game.



<https://vimeo.com/221429434>

Atlanta
Tokio

#theimeintheimage

How does he build empathy throughout his work and
how would you include this in your own work?

Thank You



Work: NYTimes R&D Group

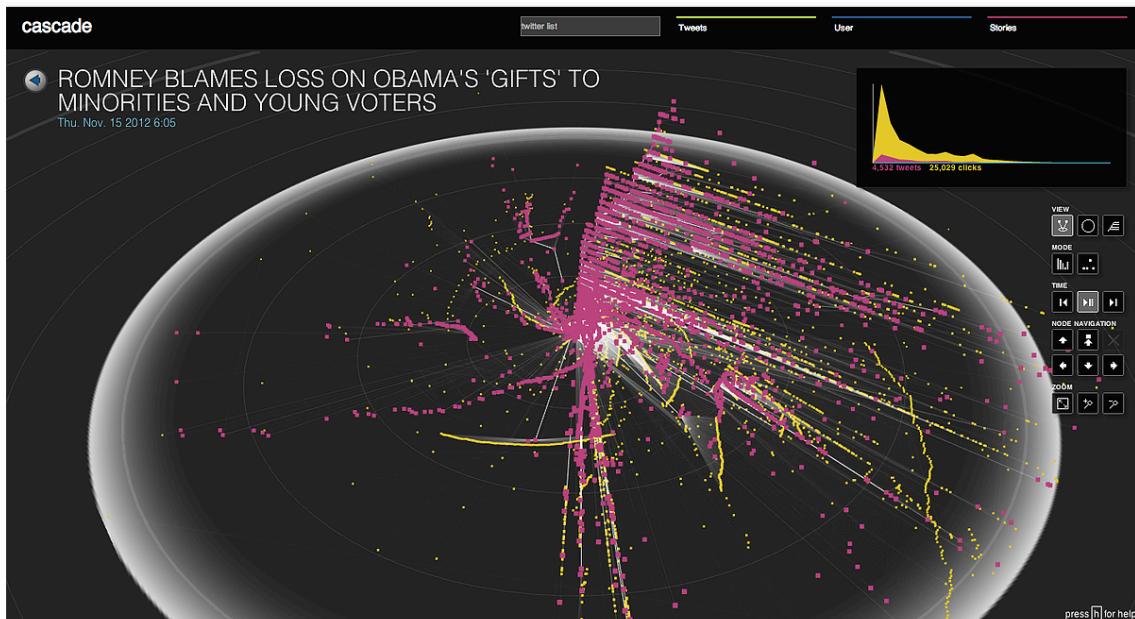
Cascade

Visualizing sharing networks of NY times content

Date: 2011

For: New York Times R&D Group

This tool links browsing behavior on a site to sharing activity to construct a detailed picture of how information propagates through the social media space.



<https://vimeo.com/22757113>



icascade

The logo consists of the lowercase word "cascade" in a white sans-serif font. To the left of the letter "c", there is a vertical bar composed of four colored segments: yellow at the top, followed by pink, blue, and green at the bottom.

What Does He Do Well?

Shows the big picture and different views of the data

