

Yannis Siglidis

[GitHub](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[Website](#)



Short Bio

I'm Yannis Siglidis and I'm 27 years old and I come from Athens.

I'm a researcher, artist and theorist of SI, based in Paris.

I'm a Computer Scientist by training (NTUA, ENS).

I'm a PhD student in Computer Vision, working with Diffusion Models.

Introductory Statement

In terms of research, I insist on data-science being a *social science*.

In terms of coding I like abstraction, APIs and computational junction of multimodal flows, fascinated by the emergent phenomena of scale.

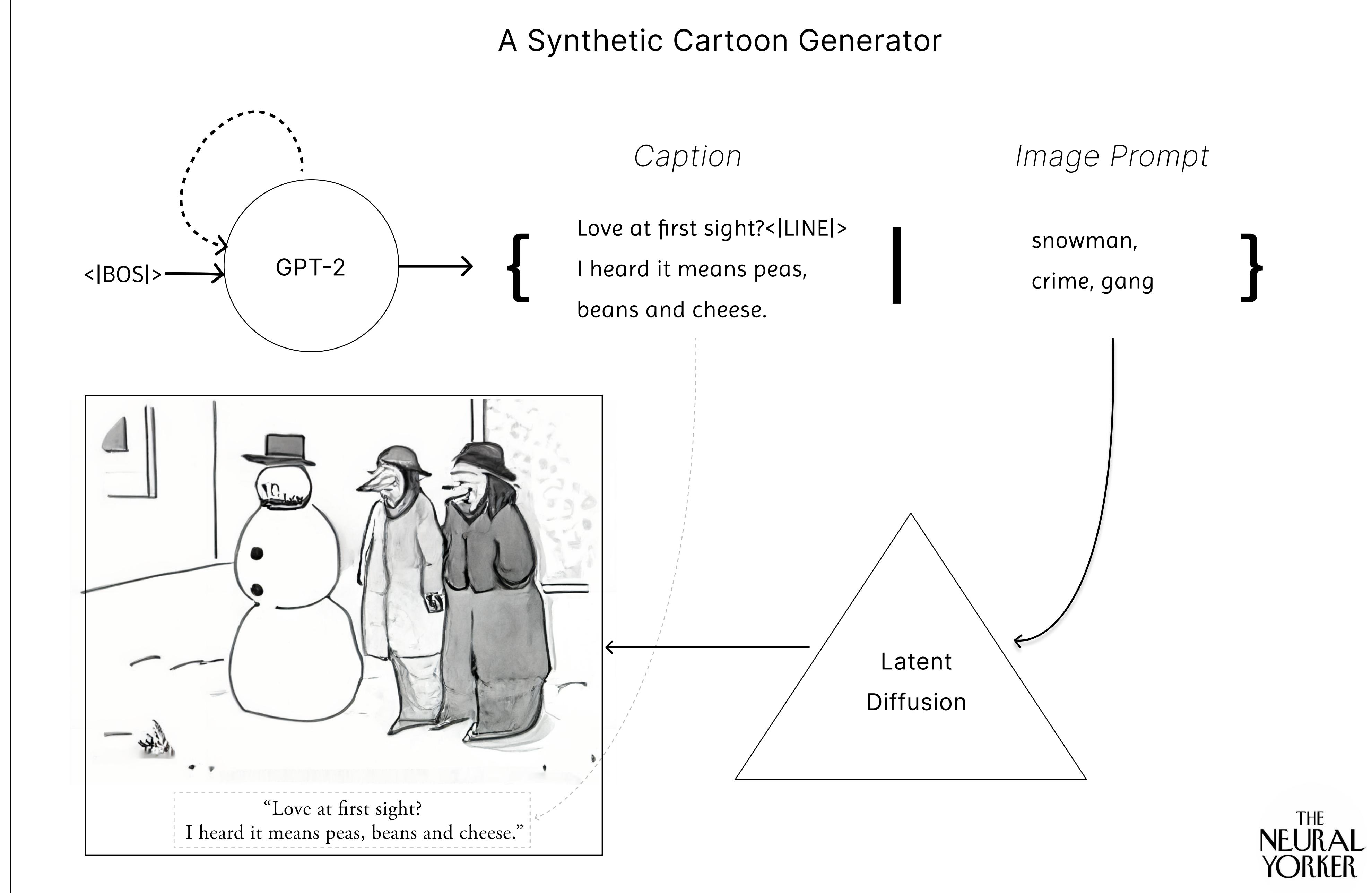
In terms of art I see generative models as a dialectic negation to aleatoric composition, even an emergent form of post-formalism.

In terms of writing I'm interested in articulating contemporary political and philosophical understandings with the concepts, terminologies and language of the present modes of production.

The Neural Yorker



The Neural Yorker is a project that we started at 2019 with Ilan Manouach with the goal of creating Synthetic Cartoons in the style of New Yorker. Drawing from Ilan's idea that Comics is a form of Big-Data and inspired by his previous book The Cubicle Island, we created a whole pipeline that generates both images and captions, which recently became fully generative.

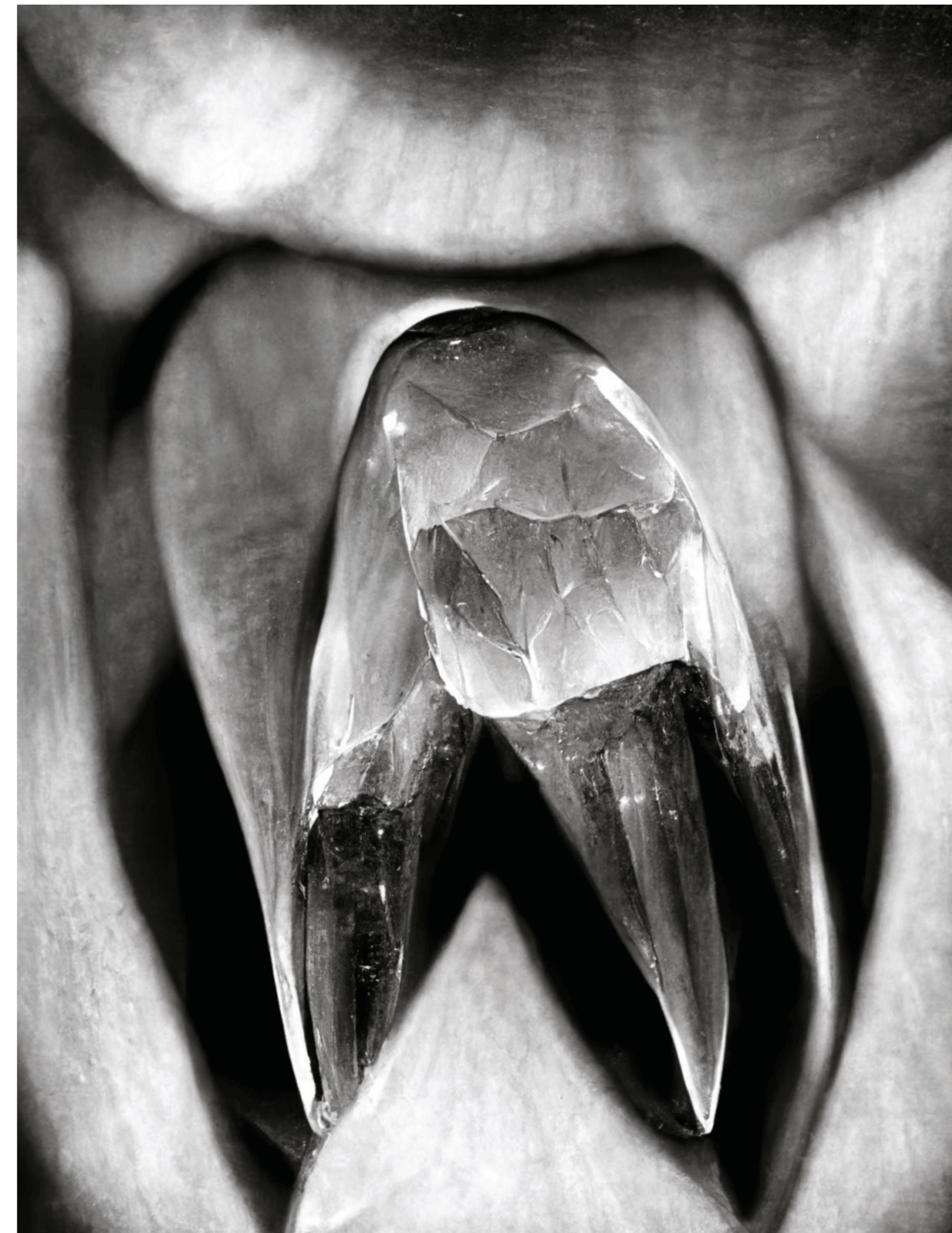
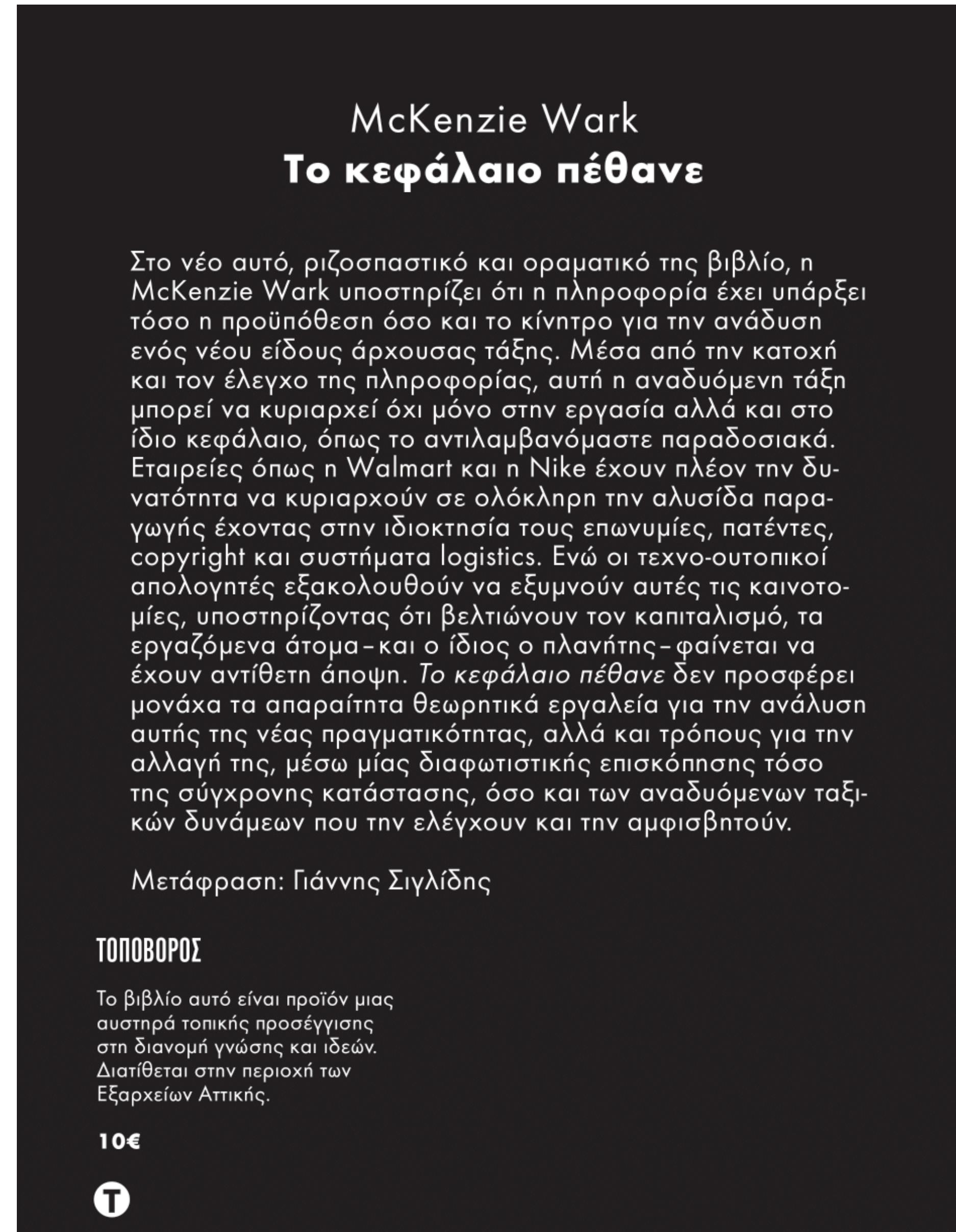


Examples

Please also refer to an interview we gave for hyperallergic for an earlier stage of the project.

Literary Works

Translating McKenzie Wark

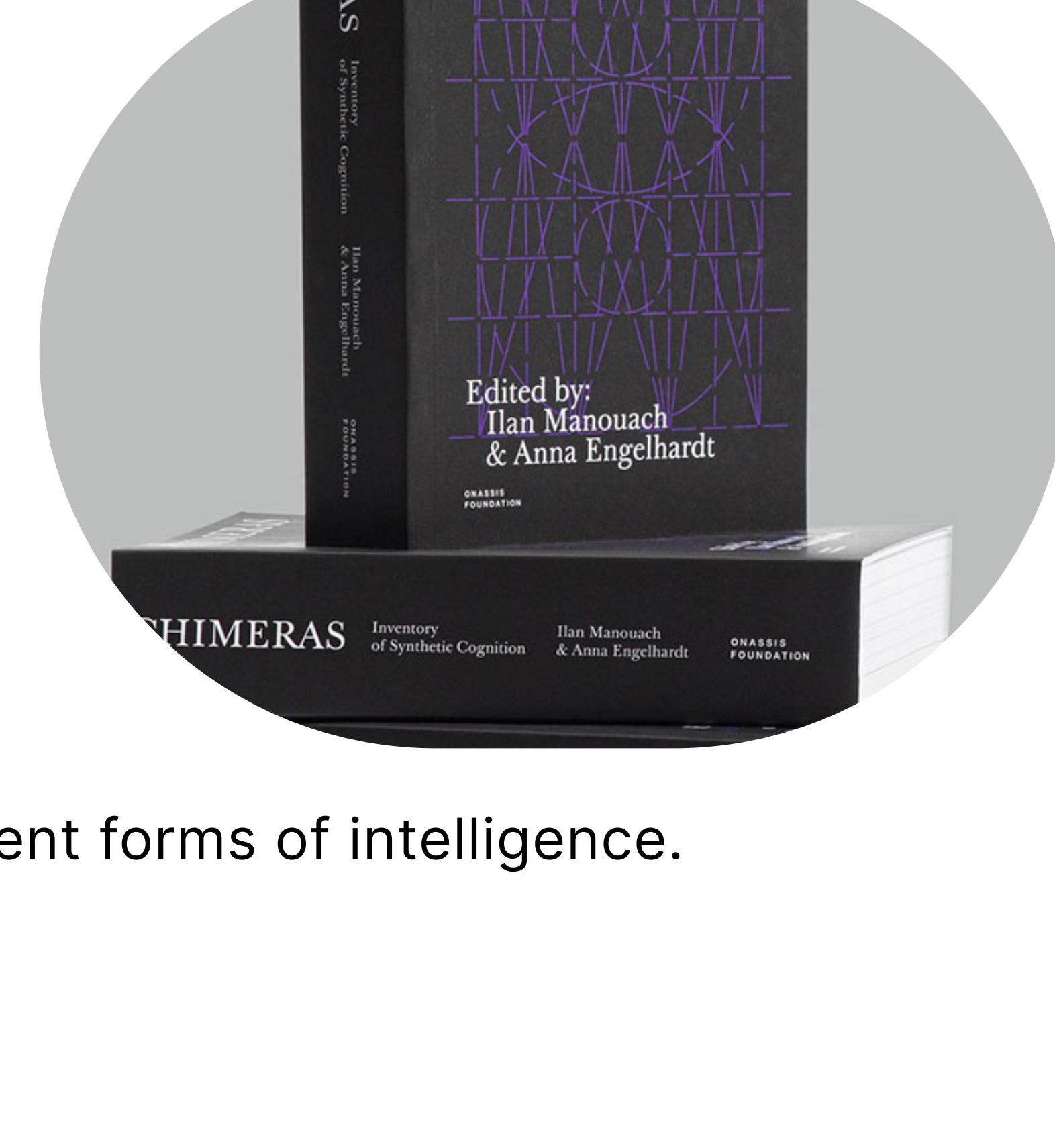


I translated the book Capital is Dead of McKenzie Wark in [greek](#). The whole process took a bit more than 2 years and it was arguably one of the hardest things I have ever done, but also one of the most fulfilling and enlightening ones. It allowed me to engage deeply with concepts like the Stack, intellectuals like Nick Srnicek and to situate my thinking inside the contemporary political discourse of the climate crisis and the Anthropocene/Capitalocene. Additionally I took an interview of McKenzie Wark, which was published in [english/greek](#) (and [printed](#)).

Latent Reading (Chimeras)

By *Latent Reading* I envisioned the scientific practice of studying and analyzing the synthetic data produced by a generative model trained on the data trails of a certain entity. The name of the term situates it between "Close Reading" that focuses on the close study of the texts of a certain entity and "Distant Reading" that applies computational methods to its big-data and extracts high level statistical conclusions, without a close qualitative analysis.

This method is a form of discourse and collaboration between different forms of intelligence.



Latent Reading

by Yannis Siglidis

"Abuse of power is one of the defining features of a free society"¹

I recently co-authored the "AI Against the Alt-Right" Twitter bot² in which a state-of-the-art language model (GPT-2) was trained on alt-right posts and replies from Twitter, with the purpose of generating back both posts and replies. For me observing the behavior of such a model can allow a form of meta analysis of the alt-right parole, while isolating it from its facticity. Inspired by this I propose "Latent Reading", a research method for social sciences. In Latent Reading, instead of directly analyzing and interpreting the data-artifacts of a social entity (either individual or group)

what is analyzed and interpreted instead is their *latent representation* in a generative model that has been trained to reproduce them.

Recent advances in Deep Learning make generative modeling a much more feasible task and have motivated a research shift from studying problems of recognition to problems of generation. This has improved the expressive power of generative architectures and demonstrates their potential to accurately reproduce the statistical properties of complex forms of data, such as language. Although the required amount of (training) data increases in parallel with the evolution of deep-learning, in practice, fine-tuning a pre-trained model to a specific category of data can require significantly smaller amounts³. This indicates that latent reading could potentially become a low-resource interdisciplinary task.

Latent Reading draws from those studies of both social or natural complex systems (from sociology to earth-sciences), where research is not presented on observations made from a system under examination, but rather from its computer simulation⁴. In this case the research objective is not to analyze the data-output of such a system, but instead to understand how a learning system has learned to reproduce it, either by analyzing samples of its generated outputs, or by interpreting its trained architecture. Moreover, due to its nature this modeling technique is indifferent to the facticity of the given data and allows the

research findings to be posed only in terms of their latent representation (and not the subject itself). Another potential benefit of this method is that it limits interaction with the subject to that of data collection (and is thus absent for data trails). Last but not least, the fairness of such architectures is an open research problem that is being increasingly studied and addressed by respective scientific communities⁵.

1. <https://twitter.com/radicaldumb/status/1379032768680693764>.

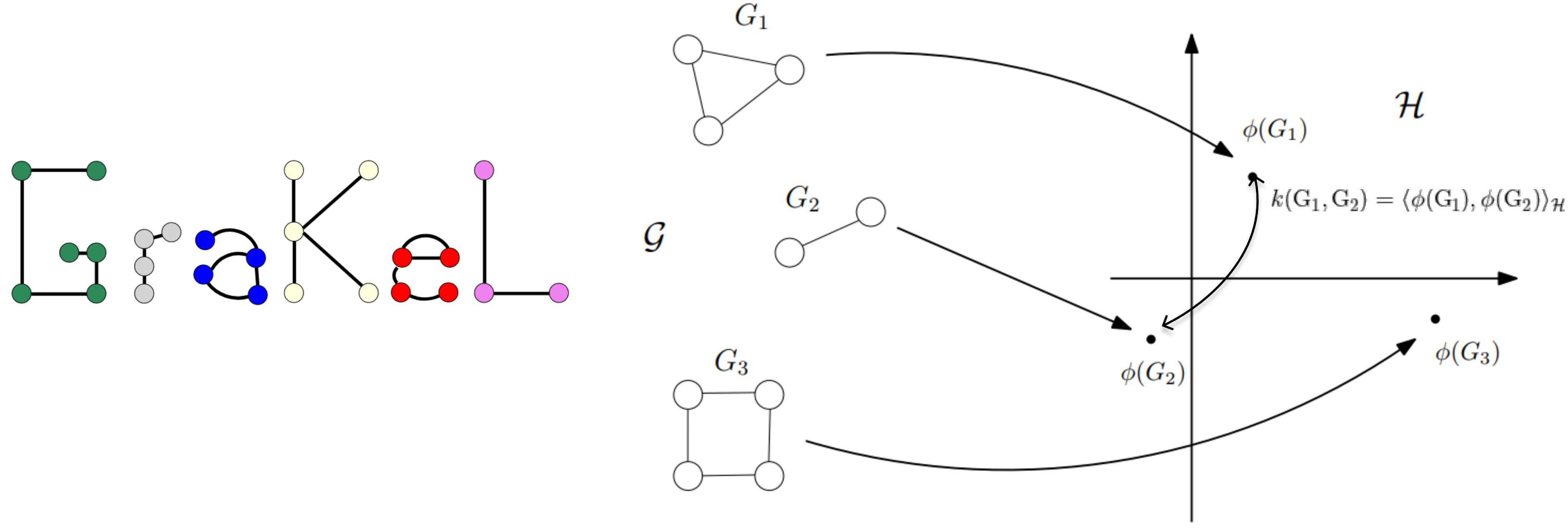
2. <https://twitter.com/radicaldumb>.

3. Tom B. Brown, Benjamin Mann, Nick Ryder, Melanie Subbiah, Jared Kaplan, Prafulla Dhariwal, Arvind Neelakantan, et al., "Language Models Are Few-Shot Learners," arXiv.org (June 1, 2020), arxiv.org/abs/2005.14165v4.

4. Eric Winsberg, «Computer Simulations in Science», *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2014 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2019/entries/simulations-science/.

5. Nisar Mehraei, Fred Morstatter, Nripulla Saxena, Kristina Lerman, and Aram Galstyan, "A Survey on Bias and Fairness in Machine Learning," arXiv.org (September 17, 2019), arxiv.org/abs/1908.09635.

Software



GraKeL is a machine learning library that implements an extensive list of graph kernels. These methods allow a vast framework of machine learning (kernels) to be extended to graphs. GraKeL has 108 citations to date and has been used to tackle real world tasks (e.g. 1, 2, 3). It was published in JMLR Software and as an extensive survey in JAIR. Full stack development and design of this library was my first job and experience in Python.

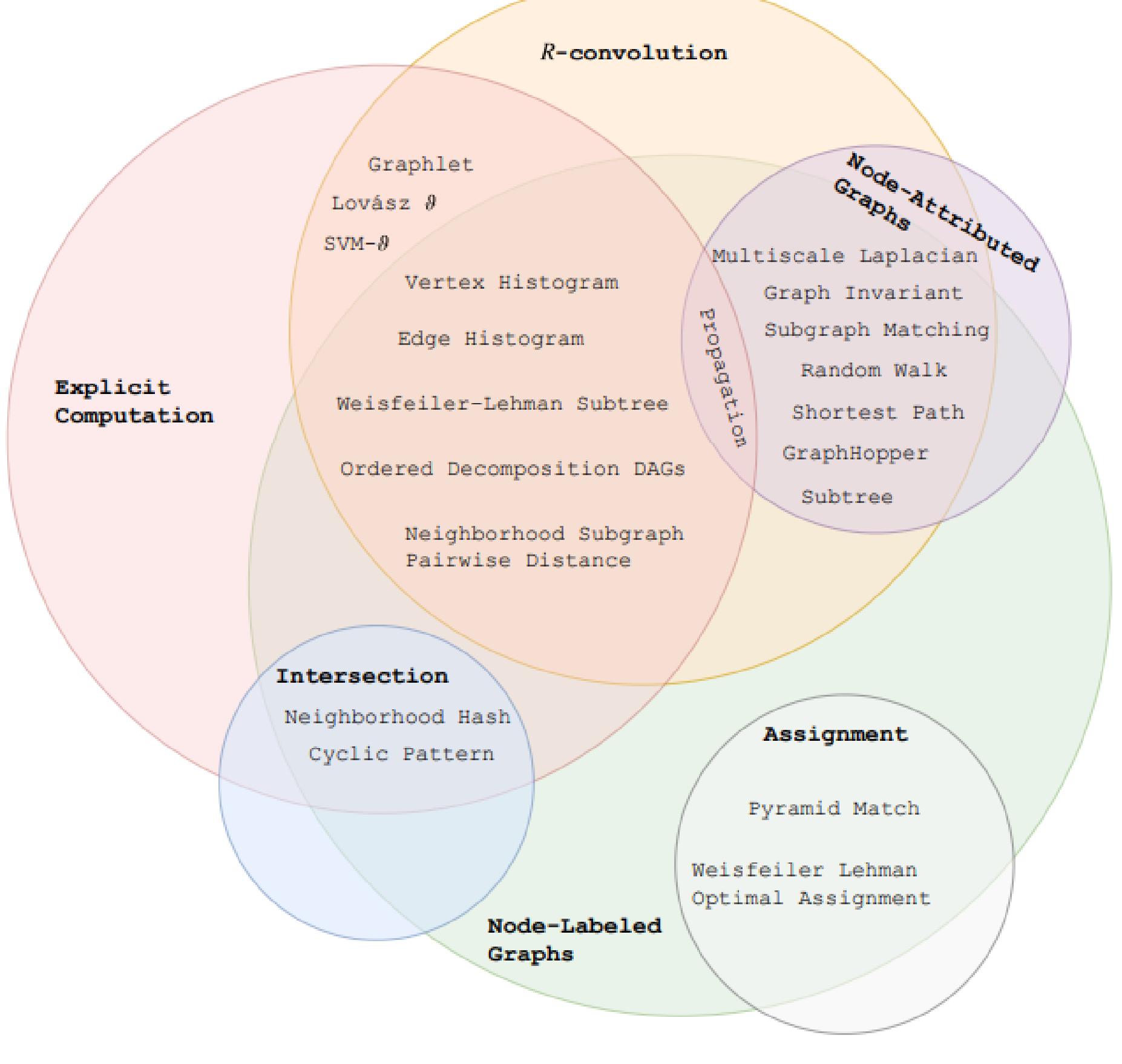
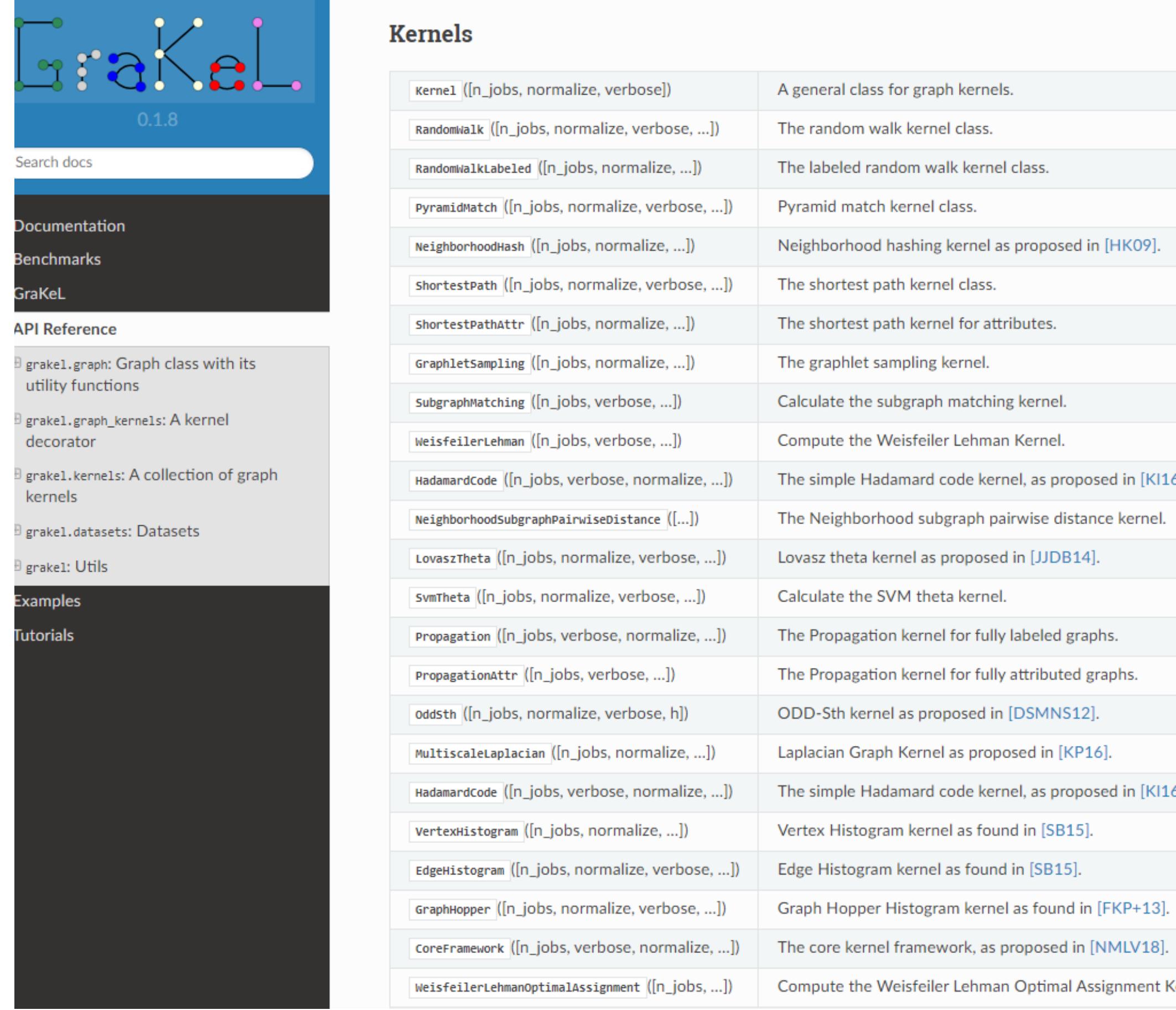
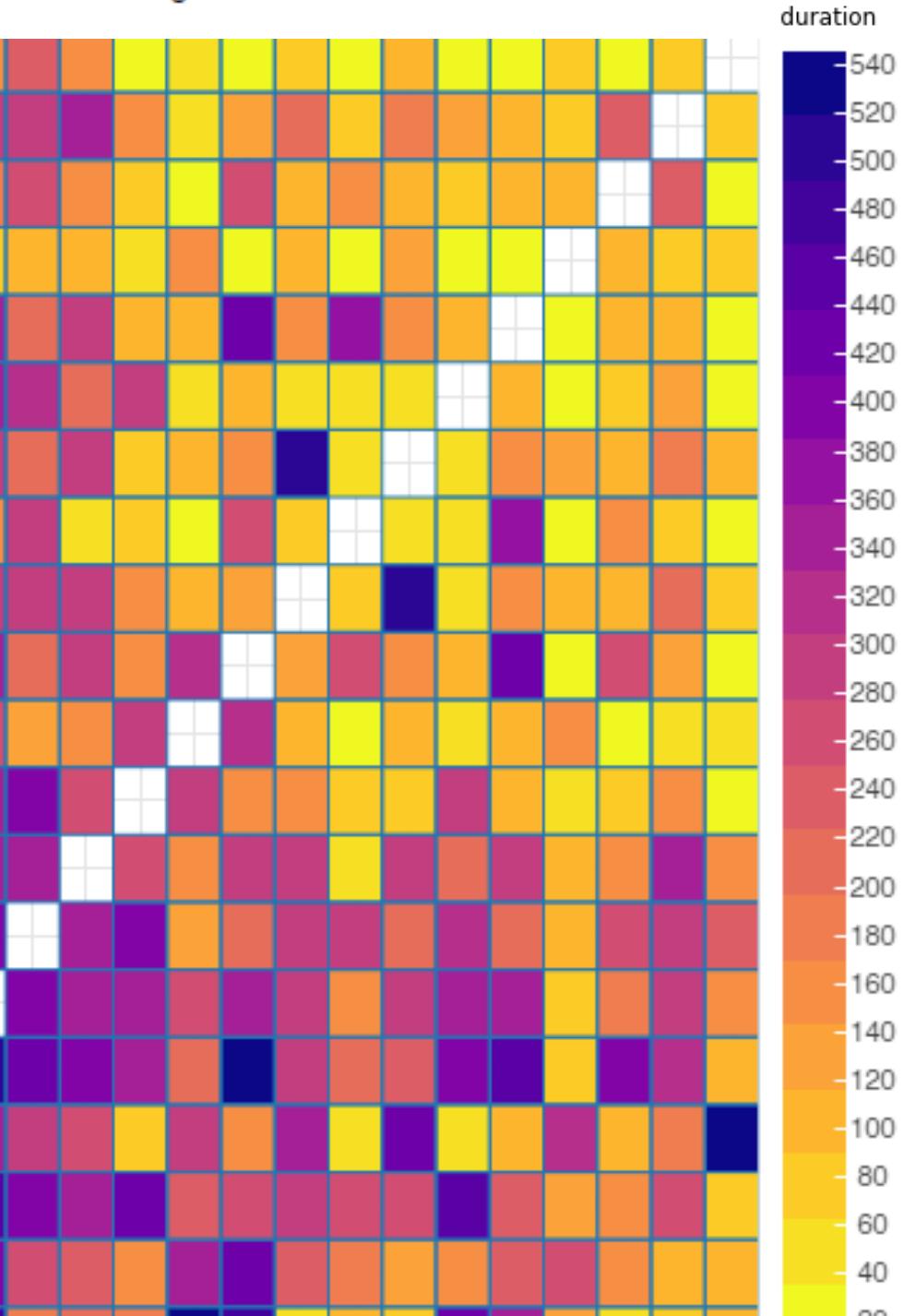
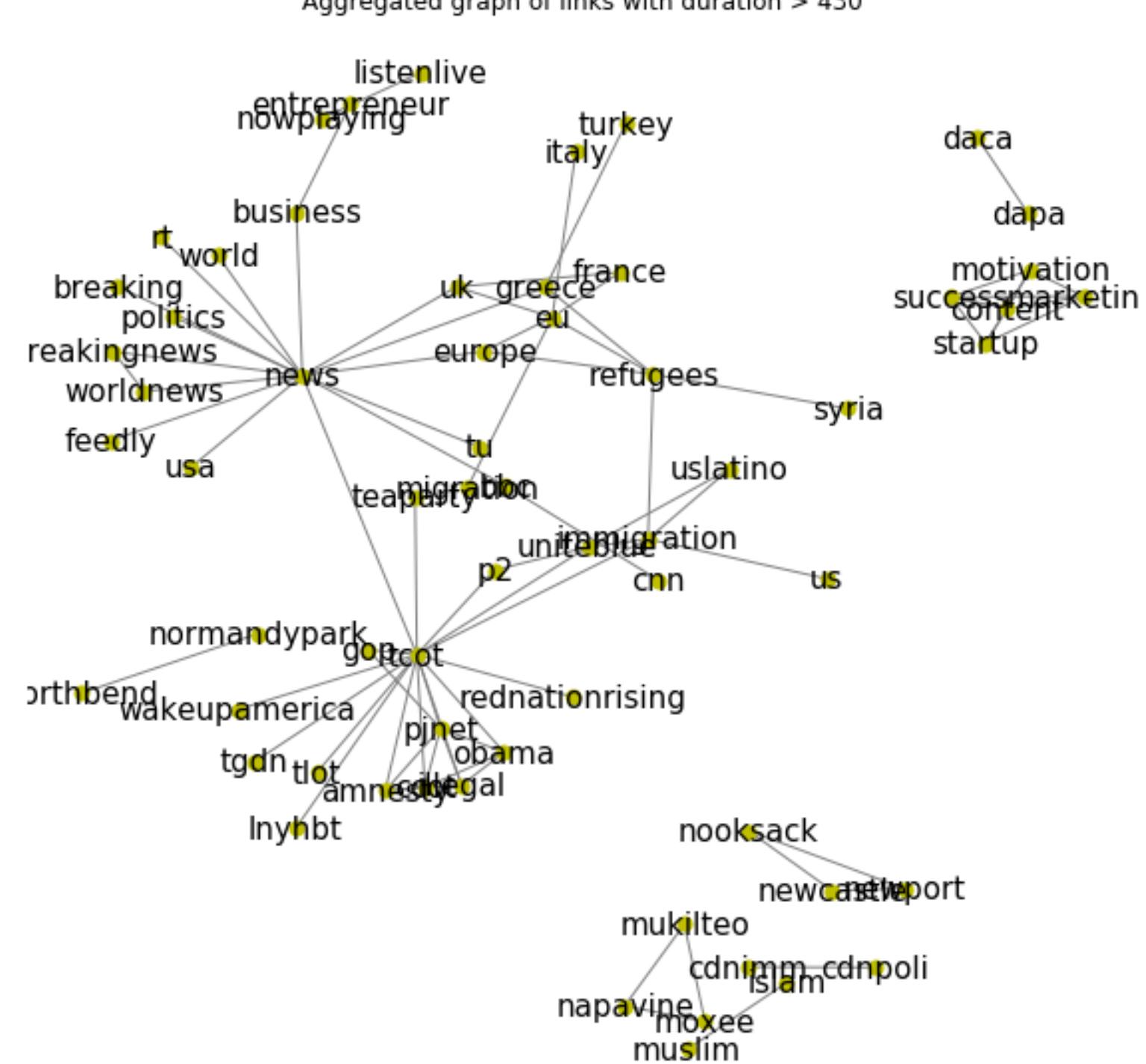
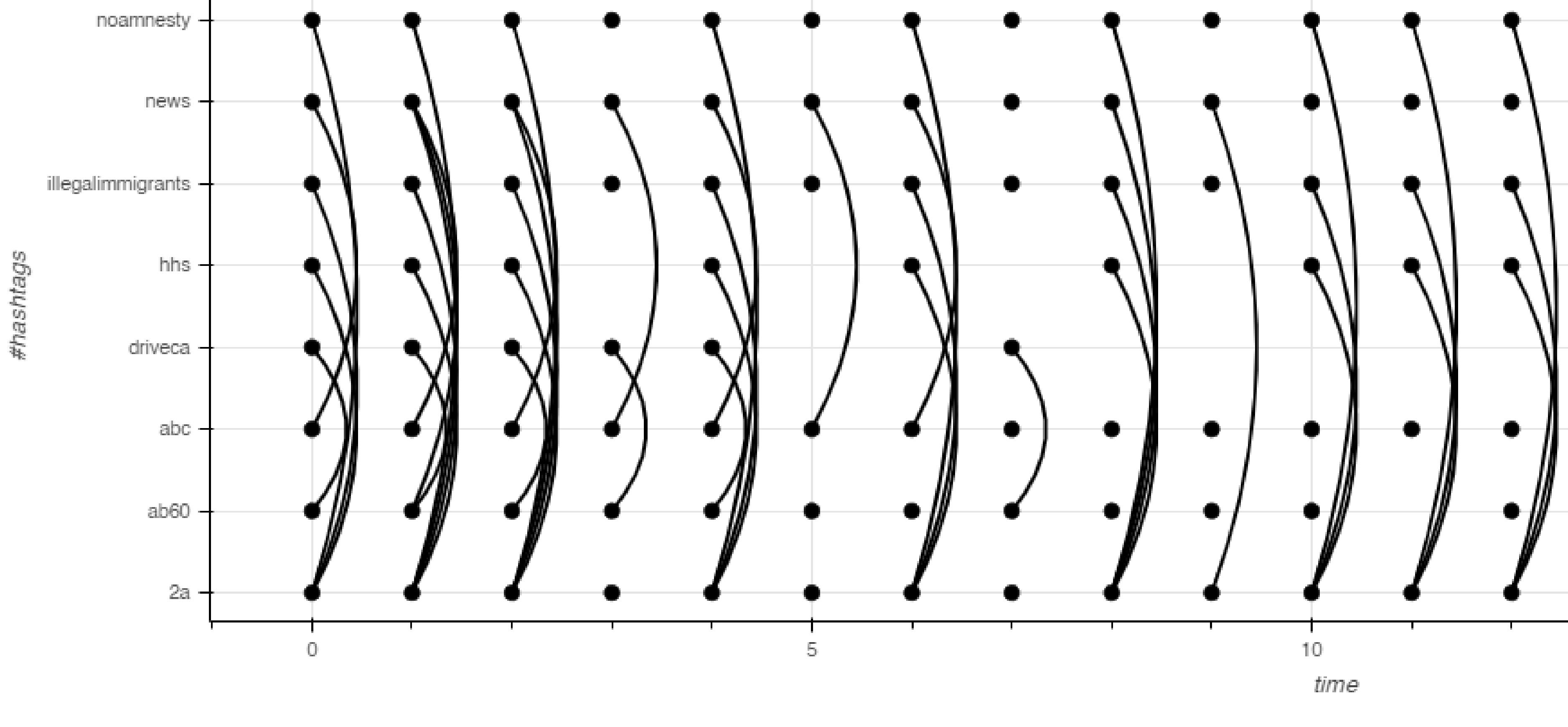


Figure 3: Taxonomy of graph kernels.

stream_graph

stream_graph is a library I developed as part of the complex networks team at LIP6 in Paris. It was part of the broader interdisciplinary European project of ODYSSEUS, with the goal to study the “opinion dynamis and the cultural conflicts of european spaces.”

A stream graph is a mathematical framework of qualitative analysis of temporal interactions, which was developed by extending concepts of graphs (shortest path, clique, ...) to the time dimension. [A full tutorial of the library](#), was presented at the ODDYCEUS summerschool: “Democracy in the Age of Big Data and AI” in Venice at Sep 2019.



Art Projects



Fastwalkers (Expected: Jan '23)
A delirious synthetic AI manga comic.
(image models) | See [earlier project](#).



Le VTT Comme Je L'aime (Jan '22)
Algorithmic sensuality.
(text scraping & modelling)



Den Eimai Ego (Mar '21)
GAN face-editing on a greek pop artist.
follow-up: It's not YOU, it's me | consultancy

Al against the alt-right. @radicaldumb · Jun 15, 2020
If you disagree with me on everything, please, and please follow me.
#WeakPresident

Alt-right shitposting bot (Jun '20)
Models for Posts + Replies!

Both bots capitalize on an emergent discovery we made at the time, that GPT-2 had the ability to *impersonate*.

Informal Creativity

- Technology is a false metaphor for nature: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)
- Twitter posts: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)
- Website texts: See [1](#), [2](#)
- Photography: recent favorite.
- I've written a Scifi Novellette in greek.
- I was writing poetry until I turned 26, that I still admire.

Gertrude Stein's Buttons @gertrudesteinV2 · Sep 15

George washington too wrote a novel. He told a story and it is a great

comfort that when it is told they feel well.

Gertrude Stein Poetry bot (Jun '20)
Nourishing the repetition bias of LMs