Maps & Macroscopes: Drawing Actionable Insights From Data

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A New Map of the Whole World with Trade Winds According to the Latest and Most Exact Observations - Herman Moll - 1736

INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

Science & Technology Outlook: 2005–2055

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A map is a tool for navigating an unknown terrain. In the case of this map, **Science & Technology Outlook: 2005–2055**, the terrain we're navigating is the uncharted territory of science and technology (S&T) in the next 50 years. However, the map of the future is not a tool for prediction or, for that matter, the product of predictions. Nor is it comparable to modern navigation techniques in which we rely on a shrinking number of strong signals, like GPS coordinates, to show the right path. Rather, it's more akin to classical low-tech navigational techniques with their reliance on an array of weak signals such as wind direction, the look and feel of the water, and the shape of cloud formations. Taken together, these signals often prove more useful for navigation than high-tech methods because, in addition to aiding travelers in selecting the "right" path, the signals contextualize information and reveal interdependencies and connections between seemingly unrelated events, thus enriching our understanding of the landscape. That's precisely the intention of this map of the future of S&T—to give the reader a deeper contextual understanding of the landscape and to point to the intricacies and interdependencies between trends.

While developing the map, the **Institute for the Future (IFTF)** team listened for and connected a variety of weak signals, including those generated during interviews and workshop conversations involving more than 100 eminent U.K. and U.S. experts in S&T—academicians, policymakers, journalists, and corporate researchers. The IFTF team also compiled a database of outlooks on developments that are likely to impact the full range of S&T disciplines and practice areas over the next 50 years. We also relied on IFTF's 40 years of experience in forecasting S&T developments to create the map and an accompanying set of **S&T Perspectives** that discuss issues emerging on the S&T horizon and are important for organizations, policymakers, and society-at-large to understand.

On this map, six themes are woven together across the 50-year horizon, often resulting in important breakthroughs. These are supported by key technologies, innovations, and discoveries. In addition to the six themes, three meta-themes—democratized innovation, transdisciplinarity, and emergence—will overlay the future S&T landscape influencing how we think about, learn about, and practice science. Finally, S&T trends won't operate in a vacuum. Wider social, demographic, political, economic, and environmental trends will both influence S&T trends and will be influenced by them. Some of these wider trends surround the map to remind us of the larger picture.

MAP THEMES

Small World

After 20 years of basic research and development at the 100-nanometer scale, the importance of nanotechnology as a source of innovations and new capabilities in everything from materials science to medicine is already well-understood. Three trends, however, will determine how nanotechnology will unfold, and what impacts it will have. First, nanotechnology is not a single field with a coherent intellectual program; it's an opportunistic hybrid, shaped by a combination of fundamental research questions, promising technical applications, and venture and state capital. Second, nanotechnology is moving away from the original vision of small-scale mechanical engineering—in which assemblers build mechanical systems from individual atoms—toward one in which molecular biology and biochemistry contribute essential tools (such as proteins that build nanowires). Finally, nanotechnology will also serve as a model for transdisciplinary science. It will support both fundamental research and commercially oriented innovation; and it will be conducted not within the boundaries of conventional academic or corporate research departments, but in institutional and social milieux that emphasize heterogeneity.

Intentional Biology

For 3.6 billion years, evolution has governed biology on this planet. But today, Mother Nature has a collaborator. Inexpensive tools to read and rewrite the genetic code of life will bootstrap our ability to manipulate biology from the bottom up. We'll not only genetically re-engineer existing life but actually create new life forms with purpose. Still, we will not be blind to what nature has to teach us. Evolution's elegant engineering at the smallest scales will be a rich source of inspiration as we build the bio-nanotechnology of the next 50 years.

Extended Self

In the next 50 years, we will be faced with broad opportunities to remake our minds and bodies in profoundly different ways. Advances in biotechnology, brain science, information technology, and robotics will result in an array of methods to dramatically alter, enhance, and extend the mental and physical hand that nature has dealt us. Wielding these tools on ourselves, humans will begin to define a variety of different "transhumanist" paths—that is, ways of being and living that extend beyond what we today consider natural for our species. In the very long term, following these paths could someday lead to an evolutionary leap for humanity.

Mathematical World

The ability to process, manipulate, and ultimately understand patterns in enormous amounts of data will allow decoding of previously mysterious processes in everything from biological to social systems. Scientists are learning that at the core of many biological phenomena—reproduction, growth, repair, and others—are computational processes that can be decoded and simulated. Using techniques of combinatorial science to uncover such patterns—whether these are physical, biological, or social—will likely occupy an increasing share of computing cycles in the next 50 years. Such massive computation will also make simulation widespread. Computer simulation will be used not only to help make decisions about large complex scientific and social problems but also to help individuals make better choices in their daily lives.

Sensory Transformation

In the next ten years, physical objects, places, and even human beings themselves will increasingly become embedded with computational devices that can sense, understand, and act upon their environment. They will be able to react to contextual clues about the physical, social, and even emotional state of people and things in their surroundings. As a result, increasing demands will be placed on our visual, auditory, and other sensory abilities. Information previously encoded as text and numbers will be displayed in richer sensory formats—as graphics, pictures, patterns, sounds, smells, and tactile experiences. This enriched sensory environment will coincide with major breakthroughs in our understanding of the brain—in how we process sensory information and connect various sensory functions. Humans will become much more sophisticated in their ability to understand, create, and manage sensory information and ability to perform such tasks will become keys to success.

Lightweight Infrastructure

A confluence of new materials and distributed intelligence is pointing the way toward a new kind of infrastructure that will dramatically reshape the economics of moving people, goods, energy, and information. From the molecular level to the macro-economic level, these new infrastructure designs will emphasize smaller, smarter, more independent components. These components will be organized into more efficient, more flexible, and more secure ways than the capital-intensive networks of the 20th century. These lightweight infrastructures have the potential to boost emerging economies, improve social connectivity, mitigate the environmental impacts of rapid global urbanization, and offer new future paths in energy.

META-THEMES

Democratized Innovation

Before the 20th century, many of the greatest scientific discoveries and technical inventions were made by amateur scientists and independent inventors. In the last 100 years, a professional class of scientists and engineers, supported by universities, industry, and the state, pushed amateurs aside as a creative force. At the national scale, the capital-intensive character of scientific research made world-class research the property of prosperous advanced nations. In the new century, a number of trends and technologies will lower the barriers to participation in science and technology again, both for individuals and for emerging countries. The result will be a renaissance of the serious amateurs, the growth of new scientific and technical centres of excellence in developing countries, and a more global distribution of world-class scientists and technologists.

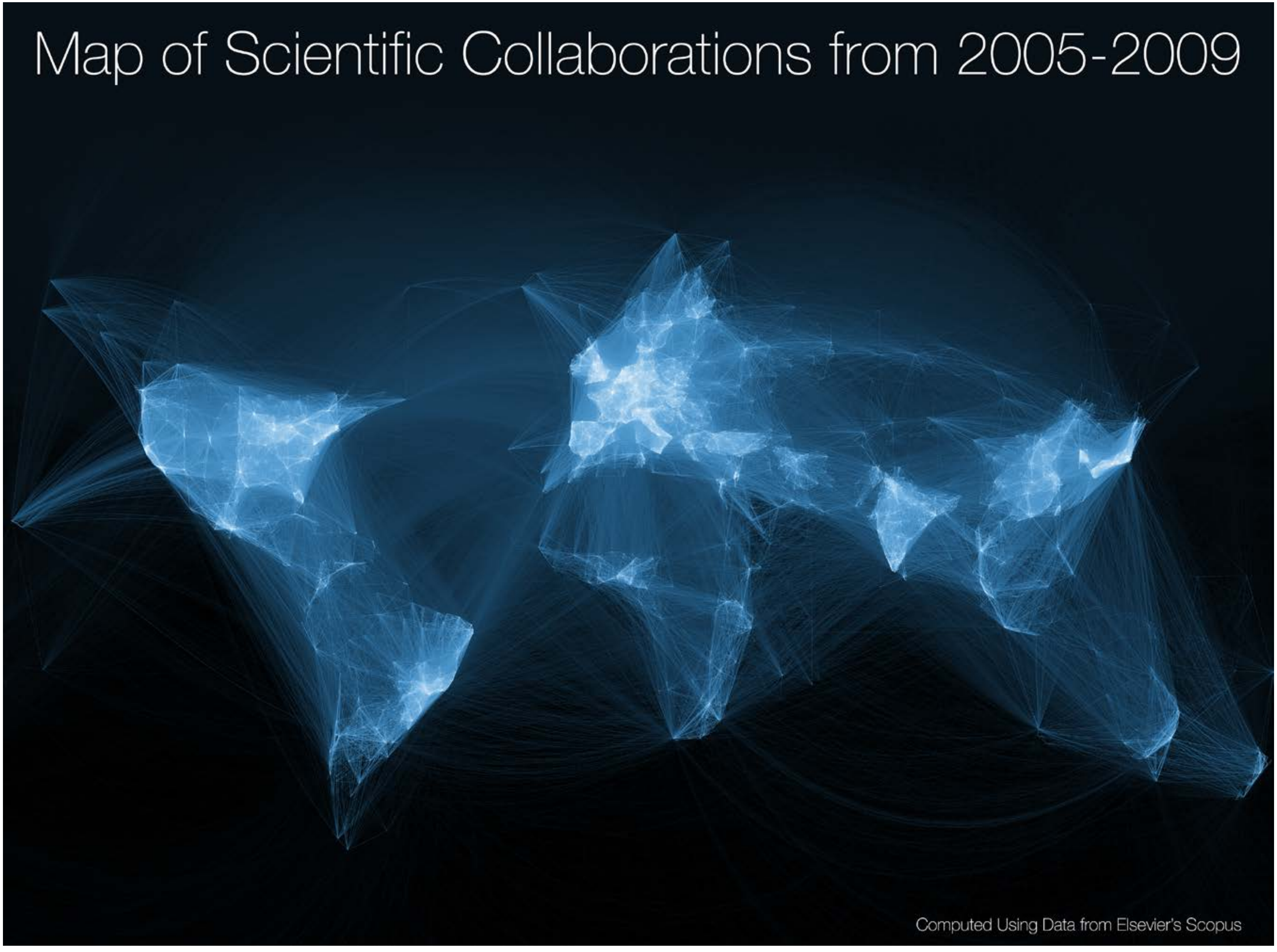
Transdisciplinarity

In the last two centuries, natural philosophy and natural history fractured into the now-familiar disciplines of physics, chemistry, biology, and so on. The sciences evolved into their current form in response to intellectual and professional opportunities, philanthropic priorities, and economic and state needs. Through most of the 20th century, the growth of the sciences, and academic and career pressures, encouraged ever-greater specialization. In the coming decades, transdisciplinary research will become an imperative. According to Howard Rheingold, a prominent forecaster and author, "transdisciplinarity goes beyond bringing together researchers from different disciplines to work in multidisciplinary teams. It means educating researchers who can speak languages of multiple disciplines—biologists who have understanding of mathematics, mathematicians who understand biology."

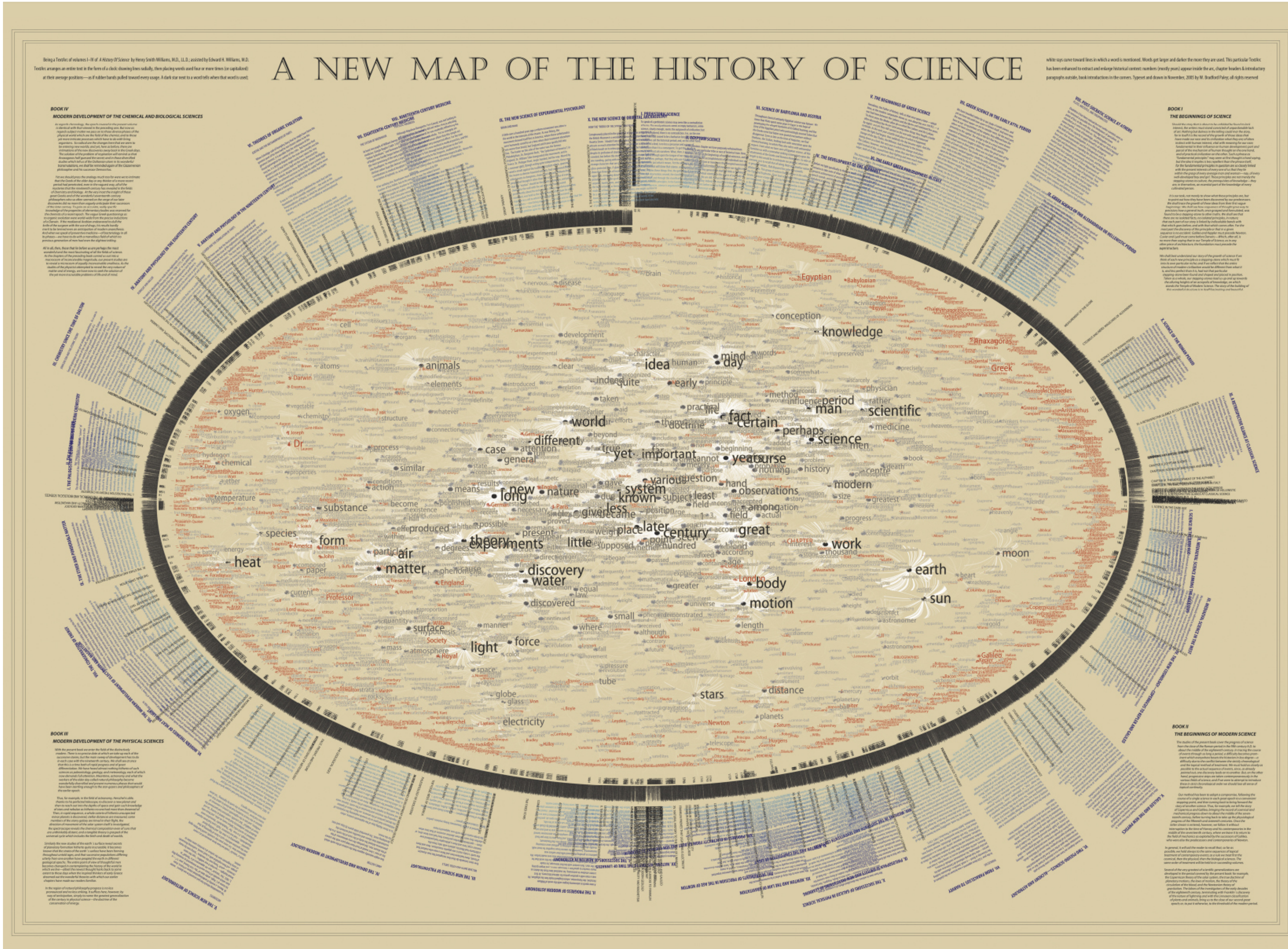
Emergence

The phenomenon of self-organizing swarms that generate complex behavior by following simple rules—will likely become an important research area, and an important model for understanding how the natural world works and how artificial worlds can be designed. Emergent phenomena have been observed across a variety of natural phenomena, from physics to biology to sociology. The concept has broad appeal due to the diversity of fields and problems to which it can be applied. It is proving useful for making sense of a very wide range of phenomena. Meanwhile, emergence can be modeled using relatively simple computational tools, although those models often require substantial processing power. More generally, it is a richly suggestive as a way of thinking about designing complex, robust technological systems. Finally, emergence is an accessible and vivid a metaphor for understanding nature. Just as classical physics profited from popular treatments of Newtonian mechanics, so too will scientific study and technical reproductions of emergent phenomena likely draw benefits from the popularization of its underlying concepts.

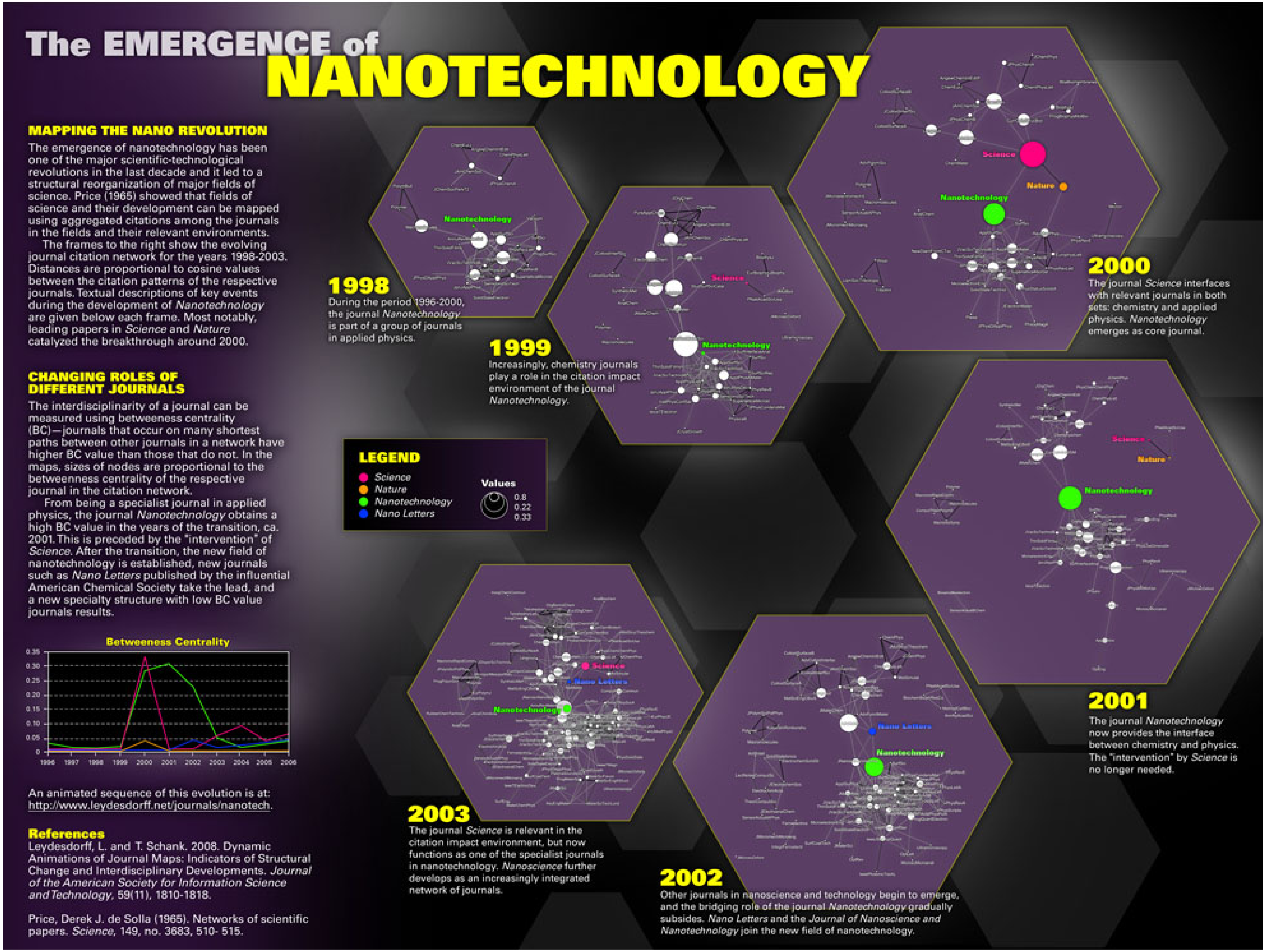
Science & Technology Outlook: 2005-2055 - Alex Soojung-Kim Pang, David Pescovitz, Marina Gorbis, Jean Hagan - 2006



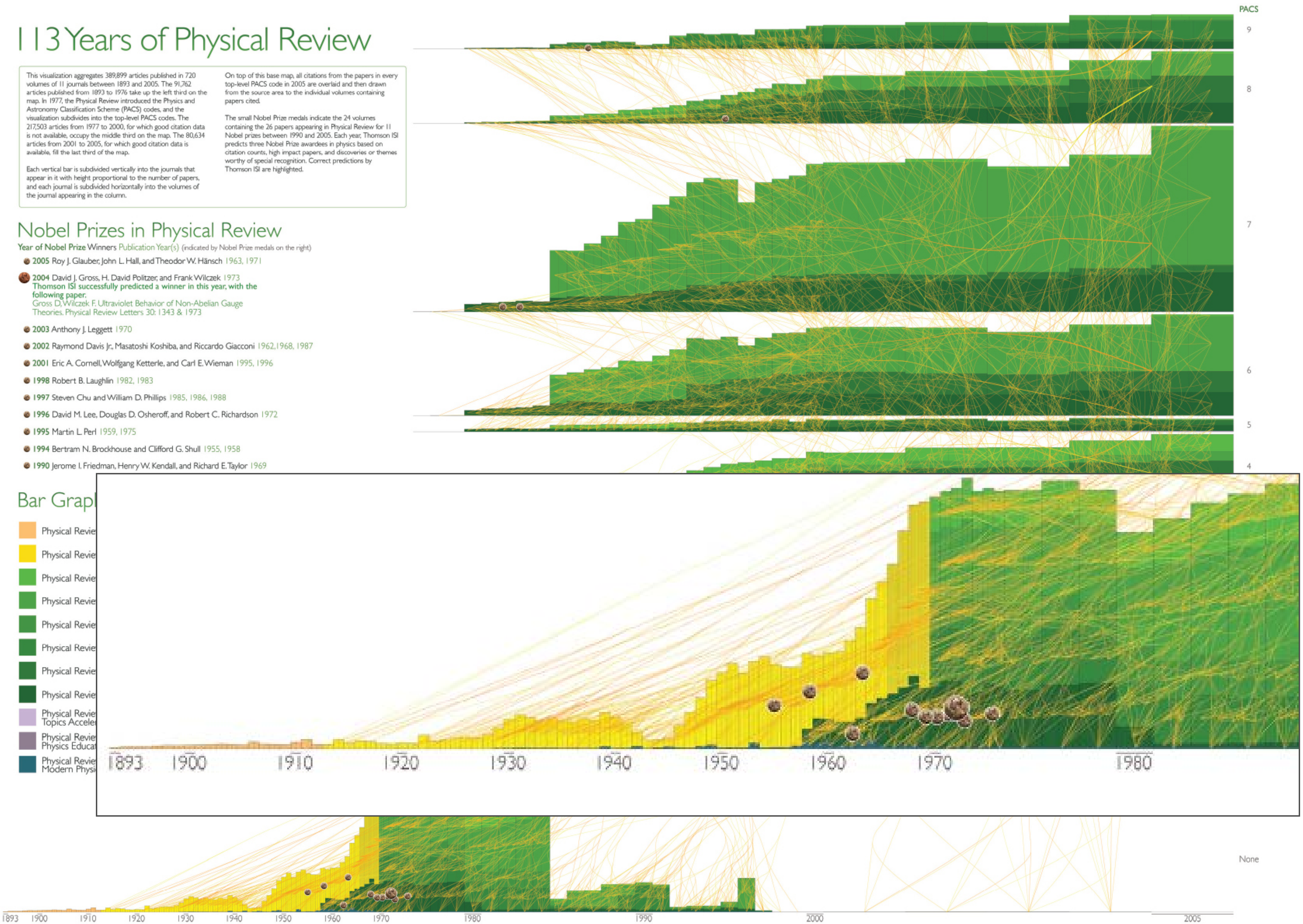
Stream of Scientific Collaborations Between World Cities - Olivier H. Beauchesne - 2012



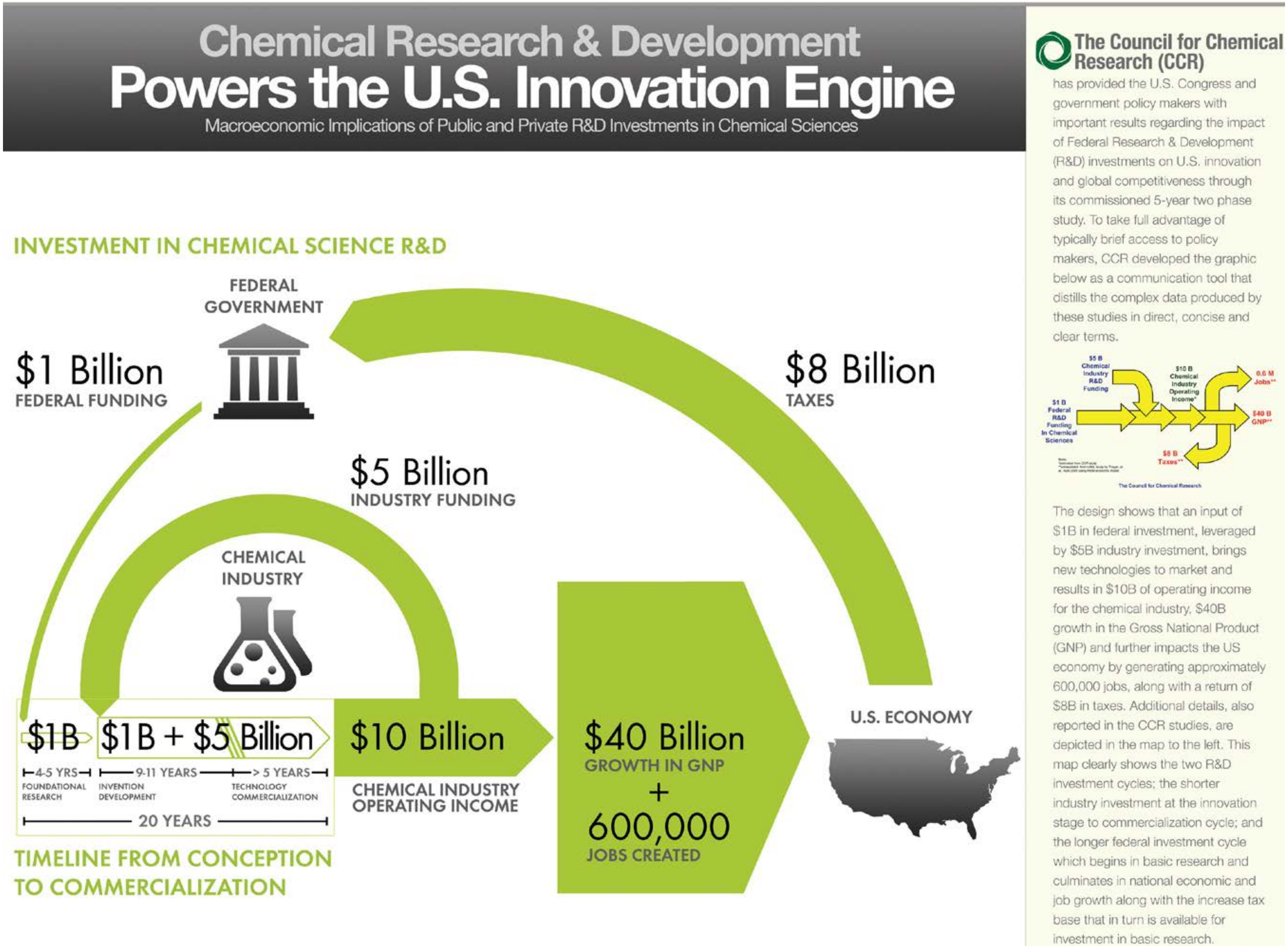
TexArc Visualization of "The History of Science" - W. Bradford Paley - 2006



The Emergence of Nanoscience & Technology - Loet Leydesdorff - 2010

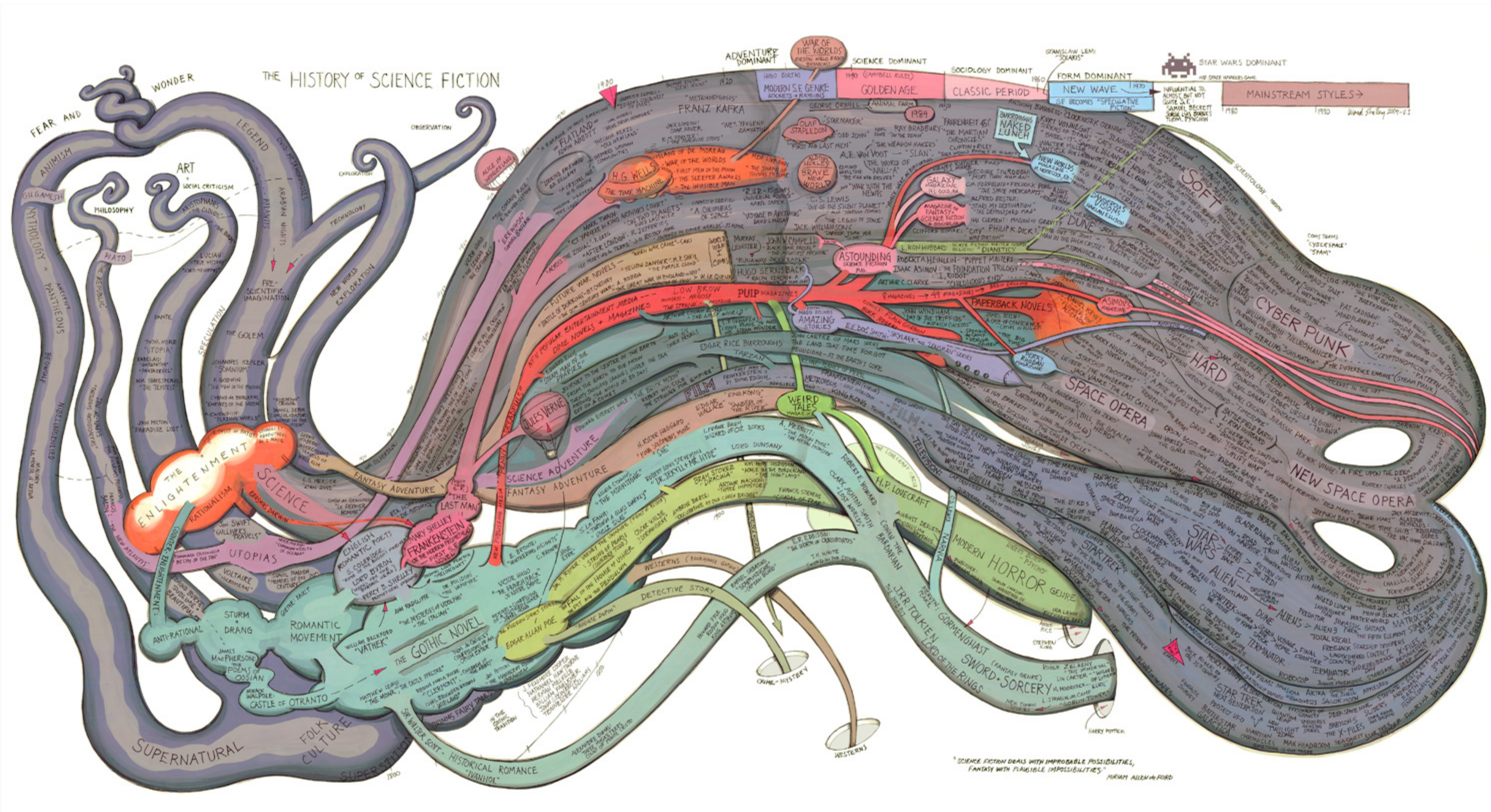


114 Years of Physical Review - Bruce W. Herr II, Russell Duhon, Katy Borner, Elisha Hardy, Shashikant Penumarthy - 2007



Chemical R&D Powers the U.S. Innovation Engine - The Council for Chemical Research - 2009

Map of the Internet - Martin Vargic - 2014



History of Science Fiction - Ward Shelley - 2011

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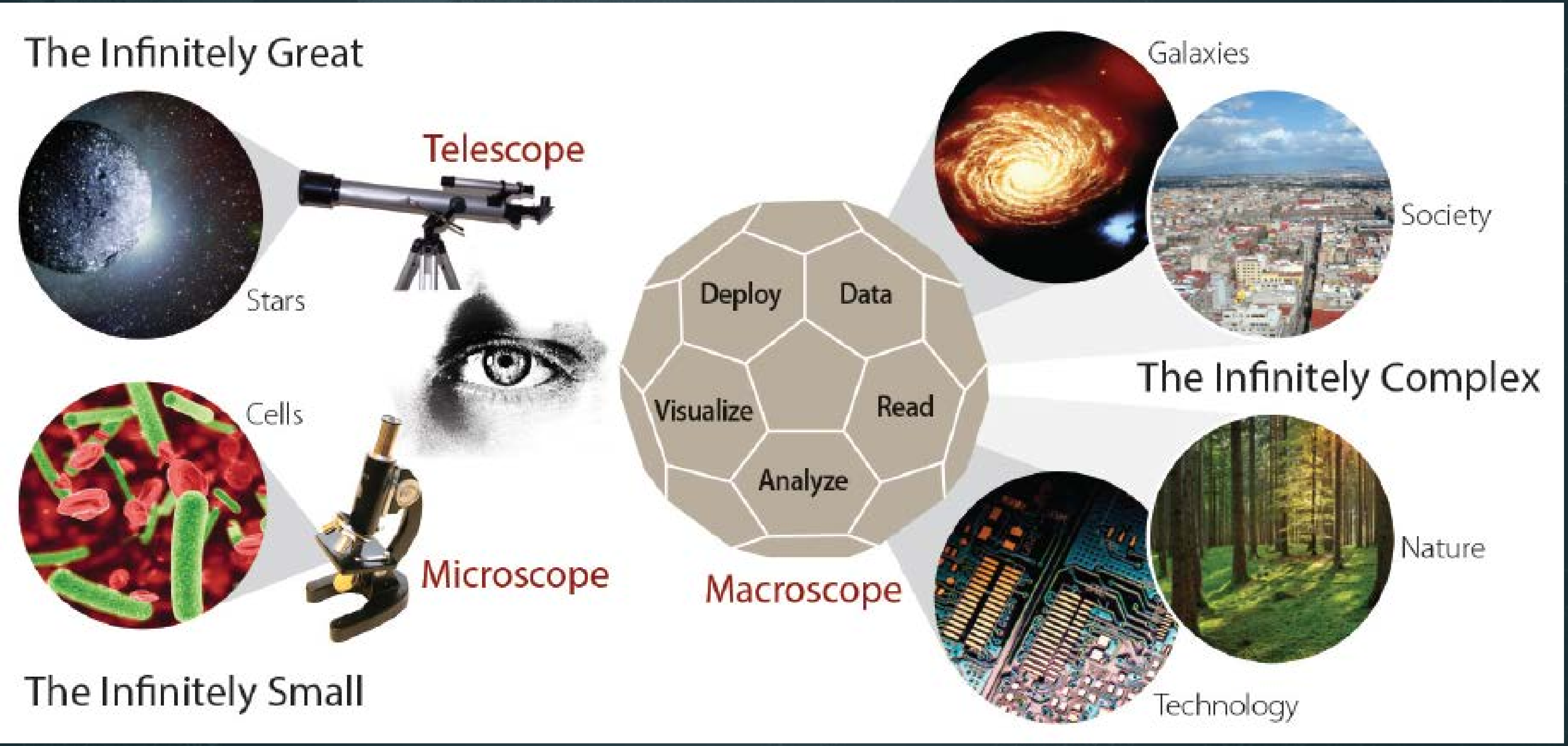

IVMOOC 2017

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Register for free: http://ivmooc.cns.iu.edu. Class started Jan 10, 2017.

Iteration XI (2015): Macroscopes for Interacting with Science
http://scimaps.org/iteration/11

A visitor explores the macroscope kiosk at the Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University.

Call for Macroscope Tools for the *Places & Spaces: Mapping Science* Exhibit (2017) http://scimaps.org/call

Background and Goals

The *Places & Spaces: Mapping Science* exhibit is designed to open people's hearts and minds to the value, complexity, and beauty of maps of science and technology.

Drawing from across cultures and across scholarly disciplines, the *Places & Spaces: Mapping Science* exhibit demonstrates the

Science Maps in "Expedition Zukunft" science train visited 62 cities in 7 months.
Opening on April 23rd, 2009 by German Chancellor Merkel

Places & Spaces Digital Display in North Carolina State's Immersion Theater

Places & Spaces Exhibit at the David J. Sencer CDC Museum, Atlanta, GA January 25-June 17, 2016.

CDC Opening Event: Maps of Health
Tutorial and Symposium
February 4-5, 2016

Science Forecast
S1:E1, 2015

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Arthur M. Sackler COLLOQUIA

Upcoming Colloquia

Unless otherwise indicated, most Sackler colloquia are held at the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center, in Irvine, California.

Reproducibility of Research: Issues and Proposed Remedies

March 8-10, 2017; Washington, D.C.
Organized by David B. Allison, Richard Shiffrin and Victoria Stodden
Registration now open

Science of Science Communication III

November 15-16, 2017; Washington, D.C.
Organized by Karen Cook, Baruch Fischhoff, Alan I. Leshner and Dietram A. Scheufele
Registration will open May 2017

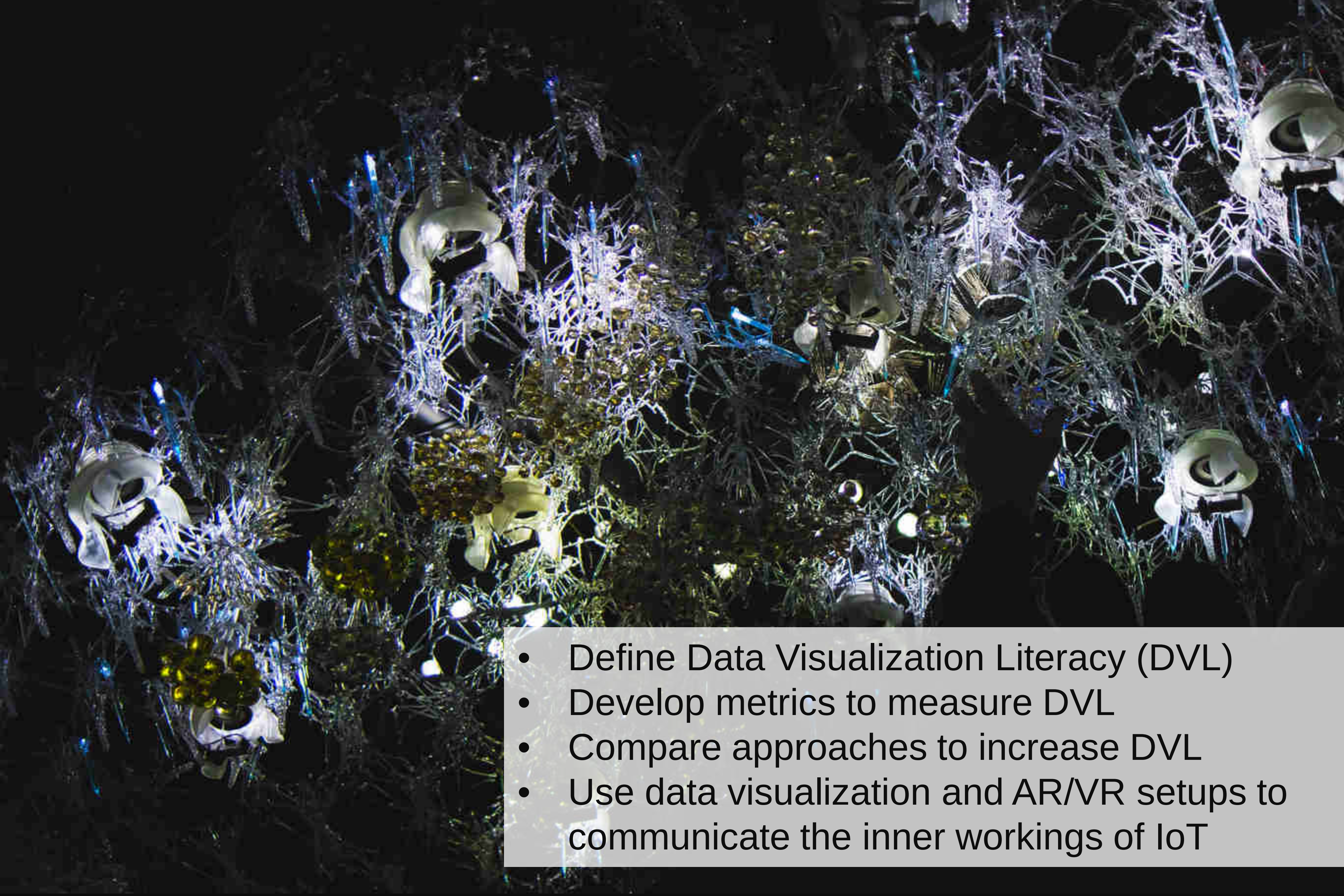
Modelling and Visualizing Science and Technology Developments

December 4-5, 2017; Irvine, CA
Organized by Katy Börner, William Rouse and H. Eugene Stanley
Registration will open August 2017

http://www.nasonline.org/programs/sackler-colloquia/upcoming-colloquia

NAKFI Conference on Art and Science, Engineering, and Medicine Frontier Collaborations: Ideation, Translation & Realization, Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center in Irvine, CA on November 12-14, 2015

Slides, recordings, and report are available via http://modsti.cns.iu.edu/report



- Define Data Visualization Literacy (DVL)
- Develop metrics to measure DVL
- Compare approaches to increase DVL
- Use data visualization and AR/VR setups to communicate the inner workings of IoT

Sentient Veil, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA (2017)

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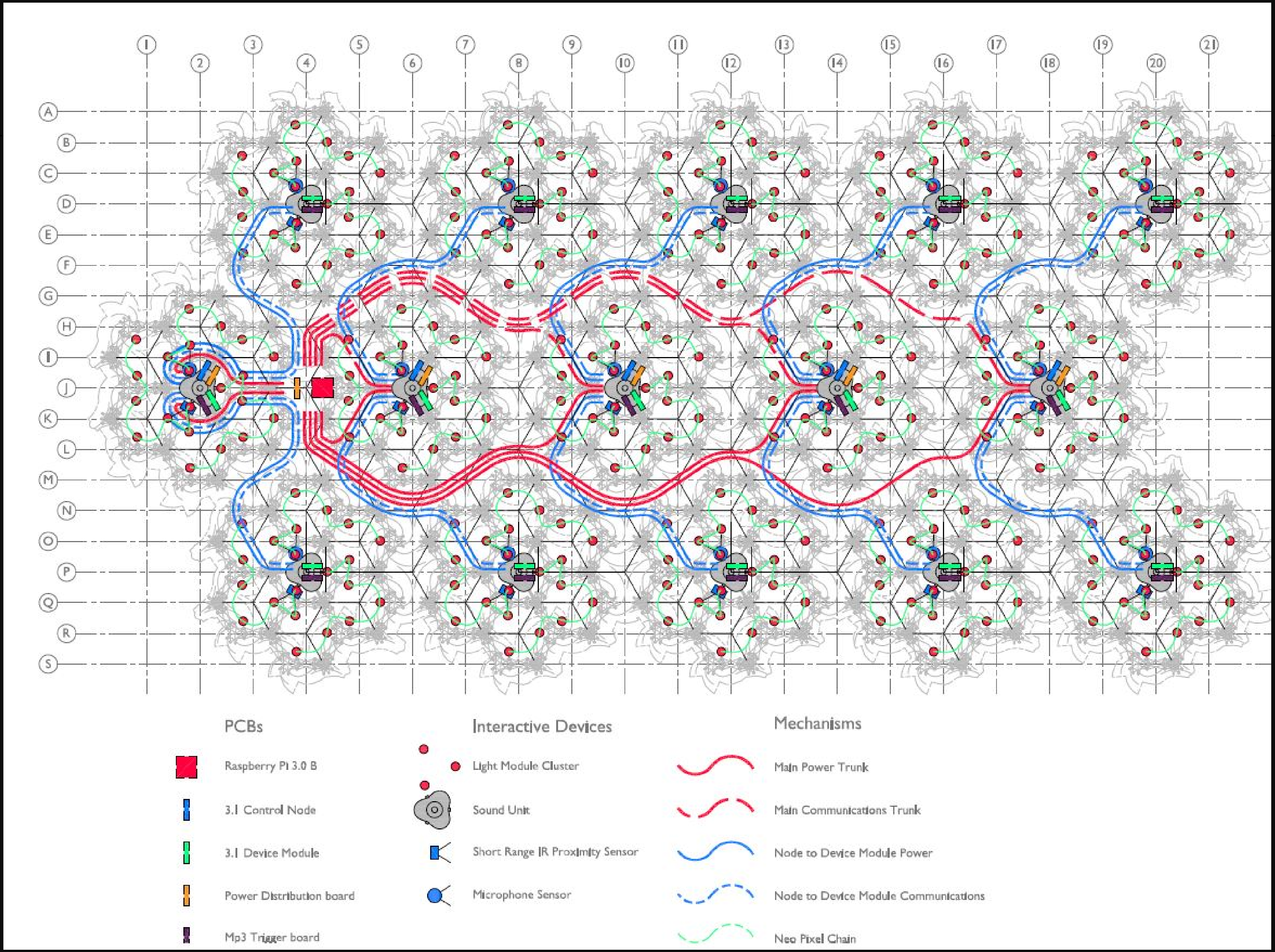

Sentient Veil, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA (2017)

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Sentient Architecture — Sculptures that Listen and Talk

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As the built environment becomes increasingly more complex and integrated with new technologies—including the emerging Internet of Things (IoT)—there is an urgent need to understand how embedded technologies affect the experience of individuals that inhabit these spaces.

View Sentient Architecture Camp

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Students aged 13+ are welcome to register: http://camps.engineering.indiana.edu

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Philip Beesley

Practicing Visual Artist, Architect
Professor in Architecture at the University of Waterloo
Professor of Digital Design and Architecture & Urbanism at the European Graduate School

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