

The Science of Culture?

Theory and examples of computational analysis
of visual culture

Dr. Lev Manovich

Professor of Computer Science, The Graduate Center, City
University of New York | Director, Software Studies Initiative,
California Institute for Telecommunication and Information

03/2016

manovich.lev@gmail.com

@manovich

instagram: levmanovich

facebook: lev.manovich

our lab:

www.softwarestudies.com

2004 - present:

new types / cheaper **urban sensors**; new ways to **capture human behavior** / **new forms of digital culture**

- social media + user generated content
- higher resolution satellite photography
- location + movement data (phones)
- Arduino for interfacing with sensors
- data from city bike programs
- open data movement
- etc.



Unsaved View

Save As...

Revert

Based on NYC Wi-Fi Hotspot Locations
Wi-Fi Providers:

More Views

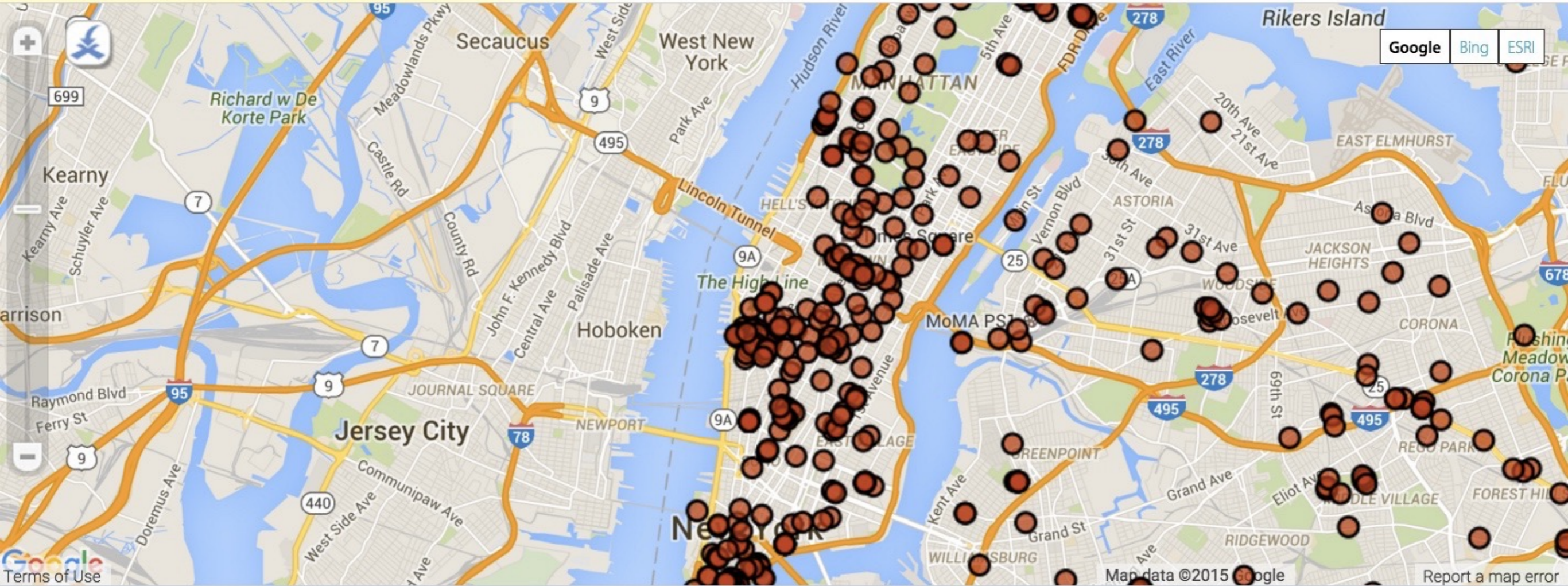
Visualize

Export

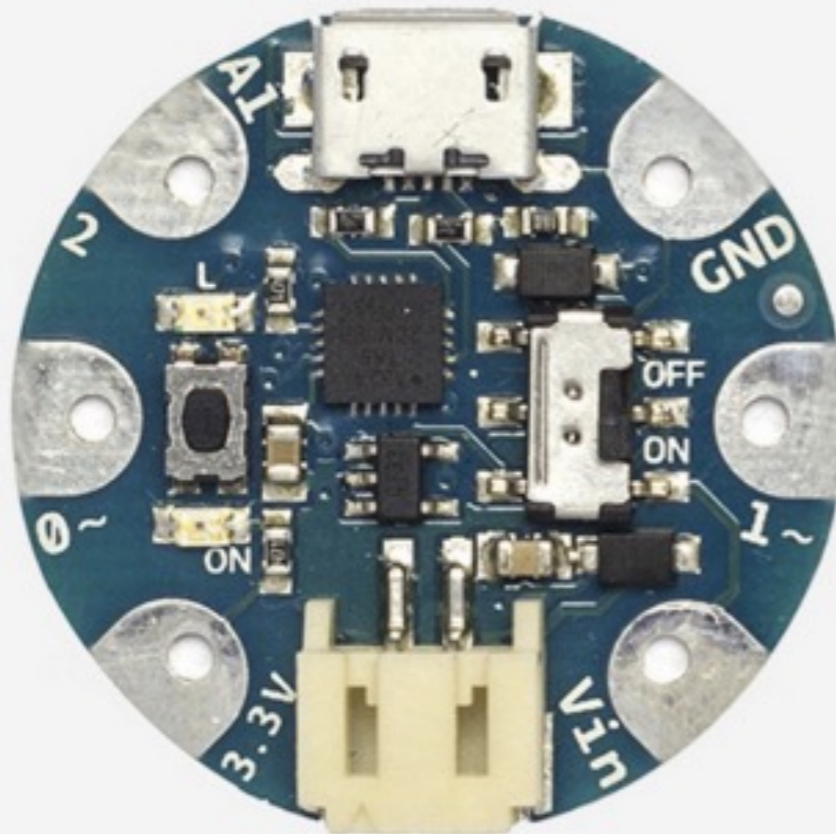
Discuss

Embed

About



Google Bing ESRI



Arduino Gemma

Arduino Gemma is a miniature wearable microcontroller board based on the ATtiny85. It contains everything needed to support the microcontroller; simply connect it to a computer with a USB cable or power it with a battery to get started on your wearable projects!

[GETTING STARTED](#)

[SHOP NOW](#)

[Overview](#)

[Technical Specs](#)

Overview

3.3V

8-bit

8 MHz

ATtiny85



65% Off

Hall Element Hall Switch sensor Magnetic for Detect
\$1.59 \$4.59



35% Off

1pcs HC-SR04 Ultrasonic Module Distance
\$1.59 \$2.45



41% Off

5pcs KY008 Laser Transmitter Module for
\$4.29 \$7.29



59% Off

ICSG010A PIR Motion Sensor Infrared module
\$2.12 \$5.12



51% Off

3-axis ADXL335 Analog Output Accelerometer
\$2.84 \$5.84



59% Off

2pcs KY-008 Laser Transmitter Module for
\$2.09 \$5.09



28% Off

10pcs TCRT5000 Infrared Reflective Photoelectric
\$7.56 \$10.56



32% Off

DHT22 AM2302 Digital Temperature and Humidity
\$6.29 \$9.29



60% Off

HX711 Weight Sensor 2.6-5.5V 10HZ/80Hz 1mA
\$2.00 \$5.00



44% Off

5PCS Soil Humidity Sensor Module Hygrometer
\$3.79 \$6.79



43% Off

Correlation Photoelectric Switch Infrared Sensor
\$3.91 \$6.91



57% Off

Capacitive Touch Dimmer LED Dimmer Precise PWM
\$2.24 \$5.24

2006 - present:

new research fields that use **big cultural data** (including social media, user generated content and digitized cultural heritage) to study social and cultural patterns and cultural histories

- social computing
- computational social science
- other CS fields: computer vision, media computing, web science, NLP
- science of cities, urban analytics
- digital humanities, digital history, digital art history



twitter dataset



Scholar

About 329,000 results (0.04 sec)

My Citations

20

Articles

Case law

My library

Any time

Since 2015

Since 2014

Since 2011

Custom range...

Sort by relevance

Sort by date

include patents

include citations

Create alert

Enhanced sentiment learning using **twitter** hashtags and smileys

D Davidov, O Tsur, A Rappoport - Proceedings of the 23rd International ..., 2010 - dl.acm.org

... If there are no matching vectors found for v, we assigned the default "no sentiment" label since there is significantly more non-sentiment sentences than sentiment sentences in **Twitter**. 4 **Twitter dataset** and sentiment tags ... 4.1 **Twitter dataset** ...

Cited by 363 Related articles All 17 versions Cite Save

[PDF] from aclweb.org

Semi-supervised recognition of sarcastic sentences in **twitter** and amazon

D Davidov, O Tsur, A Rappoport - Proceedings of the Fourteenth ..., 2010 - dl.acm.org

... Using the Mechan- cal Turk we created a gold standard sam- ple in which each sentence was tagged by 3 annotators, obtaining F-scores of 0.78 on the product reviews **dataset** and 0.83 on the **Twitter dataset**. ... **Twitter Dataset**. ...

Cited by 148 Related articles All 23 versions Cite Save

[PDF] from aclweb.org

Predicting flu trends using **twitter** data

H Achrekar, A Gandhe, R Lazarus... - ... WKSHPs), 2011 IEEE ..., 2011 - ieeexplore.ieee.org

... Until October 23, 2010 we have collected 4.7 million tweets from 1.5 million unique users from **Twitter**. Since CDC does not provide weekly ILI activity data for the period from May 23, 2010 to October 9, 2010, we have 31 weeks of CDC data for the **Twitter dataset**. ...

Cited by 141 Related articles All 13 versions Cite Save

[PDF] from psu.edu

Why we **twitter**: understanding microblogging usage and communities

A Java, X Song, T Finin, B Tseng - Proceedings of the 9th WebKDD and ..., 2007 - dl.acm.org

... Based on our study of the communities in **Twitter dataset**, we observed that this is a representative community in **Twitter** network: people in one community have certain common interests and they also share with each other about their personal feeling and daily experience. ...

Cited by 2403 Related articles All 24 versions Cite Save

[PDF] from umbc.edu

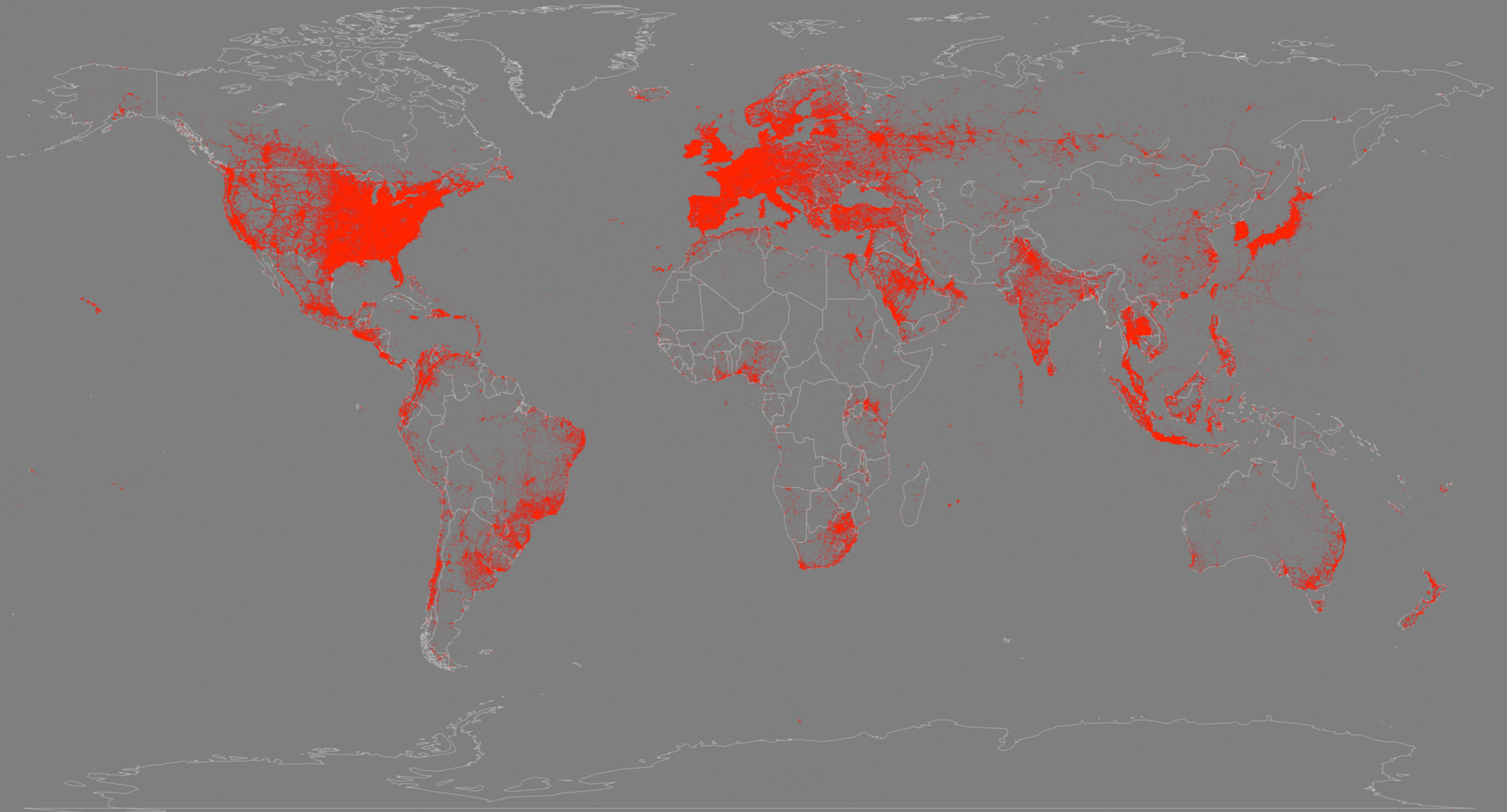
[PDF] Measuring User Influence in **Twitter**: The Million Follower Fallacy.

M Cha, H Haddadi, F Benevenuto, PK Gummadi - ICWSM, 2010 - aaii.org

... Page 2. The **Twitter dataset** used in this paper consists of 2 billion follow links among 54 million users who produced a total of 1.7 billion tweets. ... **Dataset** We asked **Twitter** administrators to allow us to gather data from their site at scale. ...

Cited by 1644 Related articles All 39 versions Cite Save More

[PDF] from aaii.org



We have to always remember that not everybody is using social media.
Example: our map of 100 million tweets with images (sampled from 265 million tweets, 2011-2014)

Key characteristics of social media
relevant for the study of cultural and
social patterns:

1

very high spatial and temporal resolution
in cities (time and location metadata)

2

automatic detection of subjects + styles +
sentiment

3

connectivity (content propagation,
influences, groups, structure of networks)

4

engagement: likes, comments, shares, web navigation, gameplay, etc. -

for the first time, we can study **cultural reception** on mass scale

data allows us to qualitatively study interactions between -

a) people (online and physically)

b) people and spaces

c) people and cultural software tools

d) people and cultural artifacts (“reception,” “engagement”)



VSCO Cam Filters

Fadhilla Surya Utomo

727 Pins

380 Followers



Exposure +2 Contrast +1 Saturation +1 Fade +7
Pinned from Uploaded by user



LV1 +9 Exposure +3 Temperature -2 Highlight Yellow +2
Pinned from Uploaded by user



C1 +5 Exposure +2 Contrast +4 Saturation +3 Shadows Yellow +3 Tint +4
Pinned from Uploaded by user



F2 Exposure +2 Saturation +2 Highlight Save +4
Pinned from instagram.com



Exposure +2 Saturation +2 Highlight Save +12 Shadows Save +12 Temperature -6
Pinned from Uploaded by user



M5 +6 Exposure +3 Contrast +2 Highlight Save +6 Temperature -2
Pinned from Uploaded by user



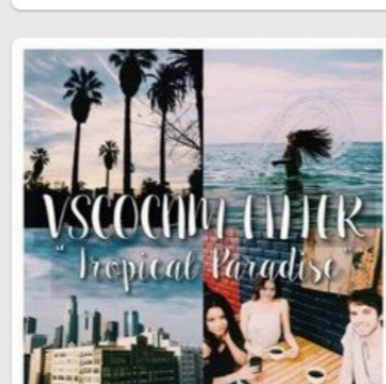
T1 Exposure +2 Contrast +3 Highlight Save +4
Pinned from Uploaded by user



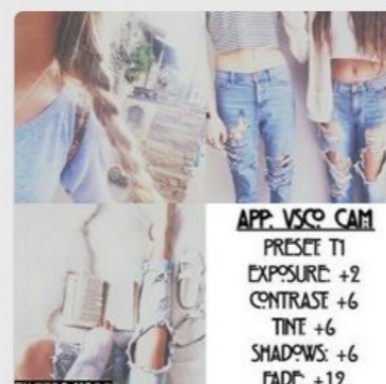
M5 Exposure -4 Contrast +3 Saturation -3
Pinned from Uploaded by user



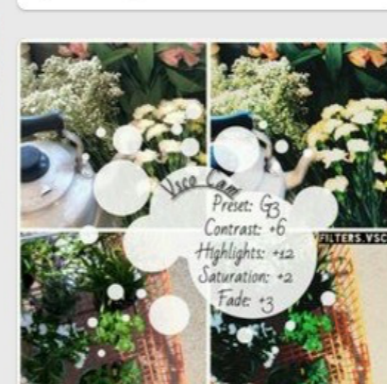
F2 Exposure -2 Contrast +4 Saturation -3
Pinned from Uploaded by user



C1 Exposure -2 Temperature +1 Fade +2 Saturation -1
Pinned from Uploaded by user



T1 Exposure +2 Contrast +6 Tint +6 Shadow Save +6 Fade +12
Pinned from Uploaded by user



G3 Contrast +6 Highlight Save +12 Saturation +2 Fade +3
Pinned from Uploaded by user



Temperature -6 Saturation -7 Tint +6 Highlight Save +12
Pinned from Uploaded by user



M5 Exposure -4 Contrast +3 Saturation -3
Pinned from Uploaded by user



T1 +12 SHARPEN +4 SATURATION +2 TEMPERATURE +2 FADE +2



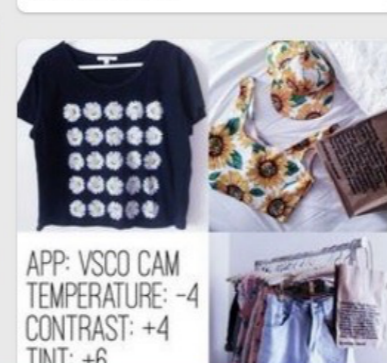
VSCO



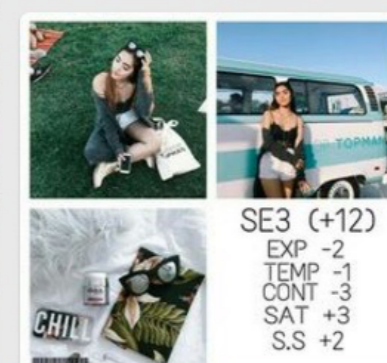
H1B Exposure +2 Contrast +2 Highlights +4 Tint +3



VSCOcam Filter "Wonderland Adventures"



APP: VSCO CAM TEMPERATURE: -4 CONTRAST: +4 TINT: +6



SE3 (+12) EXP -2 TEMP -1 CONT -3 SAT +3 S.S +2



F2 +12 CONTRAST +2 SHARPEN +5 HIGHLIGHTS +6 SKINTONE -4

Scholar

About 32,600 results (0.06 sec)

Articles

Case law

My library

Any time

Since 2015

Since 2014

Since 2011

Custom range...

Sort by relevance

Sort by date

 include patents include citations Create alert

High level describable attributes for **predicting aesthetics** and interestingness

S Dhar, [V Ordonez](#), [TL Berg](#) - Computer Vision and Pattern ..., 2011 - ieeexplore.ieee.org

... Some of these pictures are extremely beautiful and **aesthetically** pleasing, but the vast majority are uninteresting ... Next we demonstrate that these high level attribute predictors are useful for estimating **aesthetic** quality (DPChallenge ... Results on **aesthetics** for DPChallenge are in Sec ...

Cited by 137 Related articles All 25 versions Cite Save

Studying **aesthetics** in photographic images using a **computational** approach

[R Datta](#), [D Joshi](#), [J Li](#), [JZ Wang](#) - Computer Vision—ECCV 2006, 2006 - Springer

... paper that there exist certain visual properties which make photographs, in general, more **aesthetically** beautiful ... for choosing classes with a gap is that pictures with close lying **aesthetic** scores, eg ... the features values to see if it is possible to directly **predict** the **aesthetics** scores in ...

Cited by 454 Related articles All 7 versions Cite Save

[PDF] **Prediction-driven computational** auditory scene analysis

[DPW Ellis](#) - 1996 - sound.media.mit.edu

... Would that it were not so; elegance is surely the ultimate **aesthetic** good in science as in art, but my chosen goal dictates otherwise. ... **prediction** error ... Figure 1.2: Overview of the goal, a **computational** auditory scene analysis system (described in detail in chapters 3 and 4). ...

Cited by 406 Related articles All 16 versions Cite Save More

Asymptotic behaviors of support vector machines with Gaussian kernel

[SS Keerthi](#), [CJ Lin](#) - Neural computation, 2003 - MIT Press

... Soft **Computing**. Online publication date: 24-Jul-2014. ... (2014) **Prediction** of shear wave velocity using empirical correlations and artificial intelligence methods. NRIAG Journal of Astronomy and Geophysics 370-81. ... **Computers** & Operations Research 43328-334. ...

Cited by 1194 Related articles All 19 versions Cite Save

Predicting users' first impressions of website **aesthetics** with a quantification of perceived visual complexity and colorfulness

[K Reinecke](#), [T Yeh](#), [L Miratrix](#), [R Mardiko](#)... - ... Factors in **Computing**..., 2013 - dl.acm.org

6 Seconds of Sound and Vision: Creativity in Micro-Videos

Miriam Redi¹ Neil O'Hare¹ Rossano Schifanella^{3,*} Michele Trevisiol^{2,1} Alejandro Jaimes¹

¹Yahoo Labs, Barcelona, Spain {redi, nohare, ajaimes}@yahoo-inc.com

²Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain {trevisiol}@acm.org

³Università degli Studi di Torino, Torino, Italy {schifane}@di.unito.it

Abstract

The notion of creativity, as opposed to related concepts such as beauty or interestingness, has not been studied from the perspective of automatic analysis of multimedia content. Meanwhile, short online videos shared on social media platforms, or micro-videos, have arisen as a new medium for creative expression. In this paper we study creative micro-videos in an effort to understand the features that make a video creative, and to address the problem of automatic detection of creative content. Defining creative videos as those that are novel and have aesthetic value, we conduct a crowdsourcing experiment to create a dataset of over 3,800 micro-videos labelled as creative and non-creative. We propose a set of computational features that we map to the components of our definition of creativity, and conduct an analysis to determine which of these features correlate most with creative video. Finally, we evaluate a supervised approach to automatically detect creative video, with promising results, showing that it is necessary to model both aesthetic value and novelty to achieve optimal classification accuracy.

the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Not all micro-videos uploaded on social media platforms are creative in nature (1.9% of randomly sampled videos were annotated as creative in our study), and quality can vary widely. This motivates the need for automatic approaches to detect and rank the best, and in particular the most *creative*, micro-video content on social media platforms. Such applications can increase the visibility of video authors, and replace or augment current features of social-media platforms such as “Editors Picks”, which showcases the best content on Vine.

Micro-videos provide a unique opportunity to address the study of audio-visual creativity using computer vision and audio analysis techniques. The very short nature of these videos means that we can analyze them at a micro-level. Unlike short video sequences within longer videos, the information required to understand a micro-video is contained within the video itself. This allows us to study audio-visual creativity at a fine-grained level, helping us to understand what, exactly, constitutes creativity in micro-videos.

In this paper we study the audio-visual features of *cre-*

Group	Feature	Dim	Description
AESTHETIC VALUE			
<i>Sensory Features</i>			
Scene Content	<i>Saliency Moments</i> [26]	462	Frame content is represented by summarizing the shape of the salient region
Filmmaking Technique	<i>General Video Properties</i>	2	<i>Number of Shots, Number of Frames</i>
	<i>Stop Motion</i>	1	Number of non-equal adjacent frames
	<i>Loop</i>	1	Distance between last and first frame
	<i>Movement</i>	1	Avg. distance between spectral residual [9] saliency maps of adjacent frames
Composition and Photographic Technique	<i>Camera Shake</i>	1	Avg. amount of camera shake [1] per frame
	<i>Rule of Thirds</i> [5]	3	HSV average value of the inner quadrant of the frame ($H(RoT), S(RoT), V(RoT)$)
	<i>Low Depth of Field</i> [5]	9	LDOF indicators computed using wavelet coefficients
	<i>Contrast</i> [6]	1	Ratio between the sum of max and min luminance values and their difference
	<i>Symmetry</i> [27]	1	Difference between edge histograms of left and right halves of the image
	<i>Uniqueness</i> [27]	1	Distance between the frame spectrum and the average image spectrum
	<i>Image Order</i> [28]	2	Order values obtained through Kologomorov <i>Complexity</i> and Shannon's Entropy
<i>Emotional Affect Features</i>			
Visual Affect	<i>Color Names</i> [17]	9	Amount of color clusters such as red, blue, green, ...
	<i>Graylevel Contrast Matrix Properties</i> [17]	10	<i>Entropy, Dissimilarity, Energy, Homogeneity</i> and <i>Contrast</i> of the GLCM matrix
	<i>HSV statistics</i> [17]	3	<i>Average Hue, Saturation and Brightness</i> in the frame
	<i>Pleasure, Arousal, Dominance</i> [30]	3	Affective dimensions computed by mapping HSV values
Audio Affect	<i>Loudness</i> [15]	2	Overall <i>Energy</i> of signal and avg <i>Short-Time Energy</i> in a 2-seconds window
	<i>Mode</i> [15]	1	Sums of key strength differences between major keys and their relative minor key;
	<i>Roughness</i> [15]	1	Avg of the dissonance values between all pairs of peak in the sound track spectrum
	<i>Rythmical Features</i> [15]	2	<i>Onset Rate</i> and <i>Zero-Crossing Rate</i>
NOVELTY			
Novelty	<i>Audio Novelty</i>	10	Distance between the audio features and the audio space
	<i>Visual Novelty</i>	40	Distance between the visual features and each visual feature space

Table 4. Audiovisual features for creativity modeling

Feature	Accuracy		
	D-60	D-80	D-100
Aesthetic Value			
<i>Sensory Features</i>			
Scene Content	0.67	0.69	0.74
Filmmaking Techniques	0.65	0.69	0.73
Composition & Photographic Technique	0.67	0.74	0.77
All Sensory Features	0.69	0.75	0.77
<i>Emotional Affect Features</i>			
Audio Affect	0.59	0.53	0.67
Visual Affect	0.65	0.66	0.66
All Emotional Affect Features	0.62	0.56	0.71
All Aesthetic Value Features	0.68	0.72	0.79
Novelty			
Audio	0.58	0.58	0.63
Visual	0.63	0.67	0.74
Audio + Visual Novelty	0.59	0.63	0.69
Novelty + Aesthetic Value	0.69	0.73	0.80

Table 5. Prediction results for value and novelty features

correlate with creat
to have warmer, br
ume sounds. Also,
emotions, and don
emotions. Loop a
designed for model
high correlation wit
associated with bea
tions with creative
between creativity
color, symmetry a
modeling beauty ar
creative *micro-vide*

Finally, we eval
cation of creative *n*
overall, with a high
The best results are

social networks as medium
and message

(using Instagram as the
example)

message 1 (“surface”): what people who use social networks say, do, capture

message 2 (“depth”): what they “really” say, do, and how they live

medium 1: digital vernacular photography as it exists on Instagram

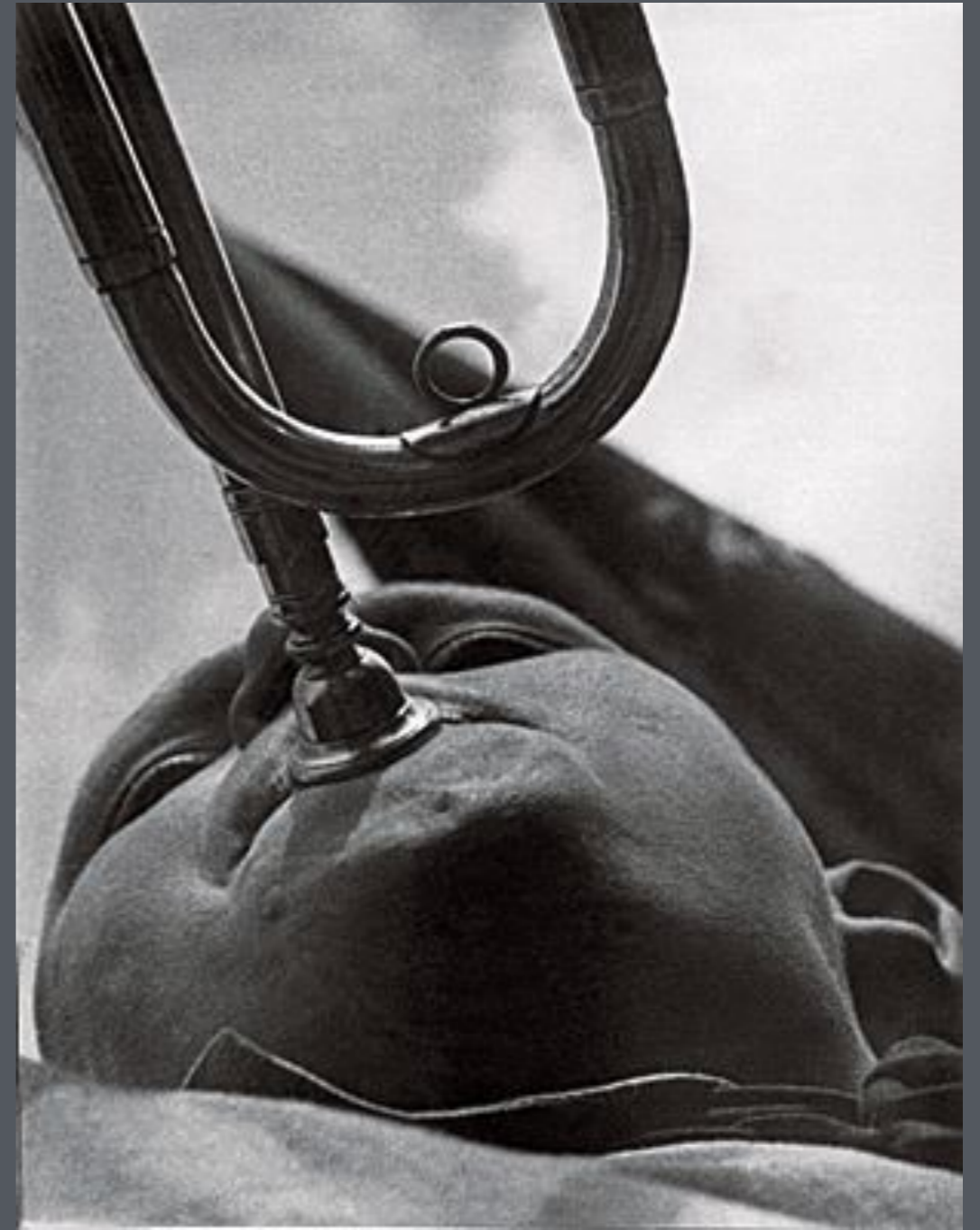
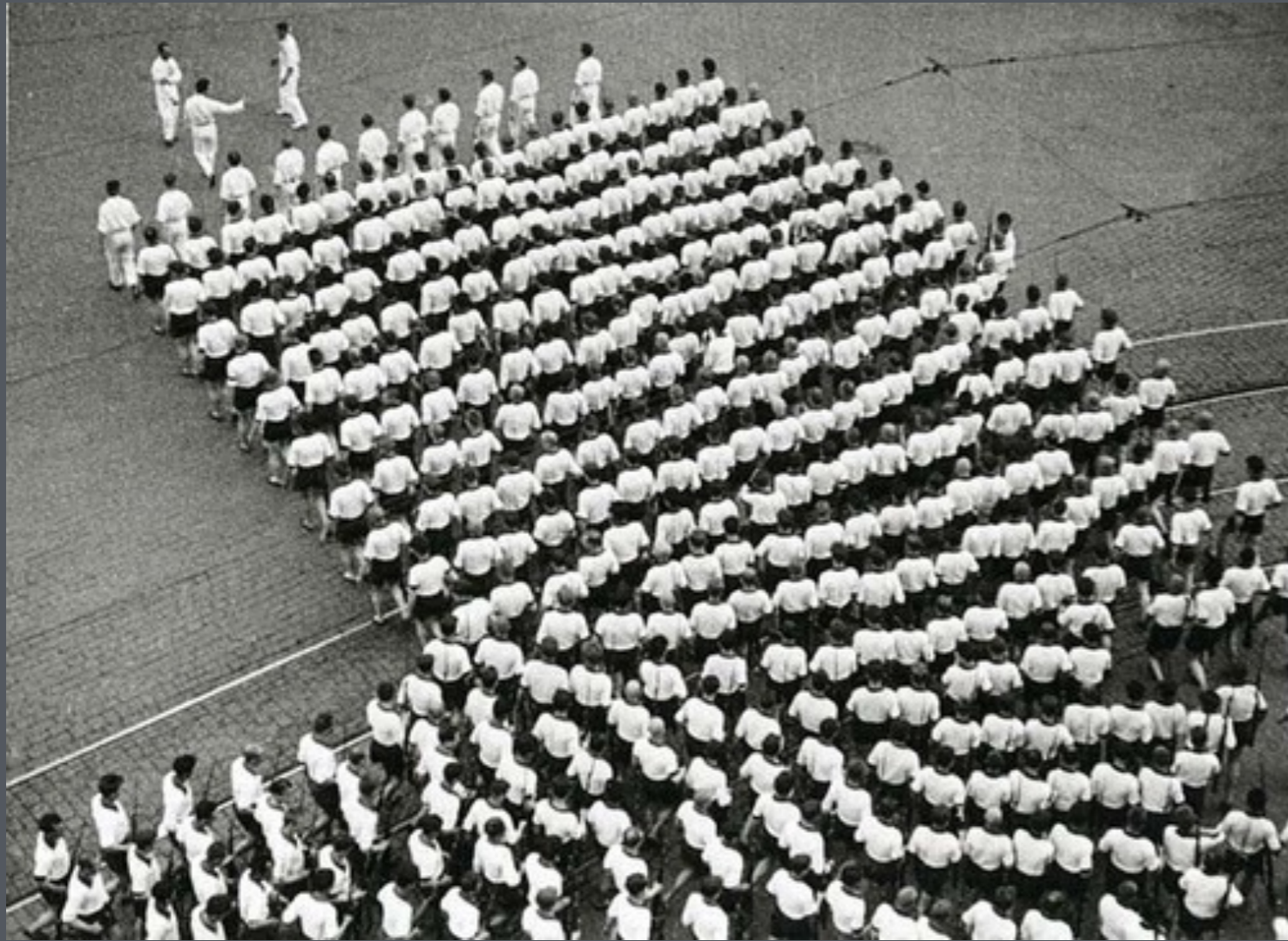
medium 2: Instagram as its own visual, narrative and networked media platform

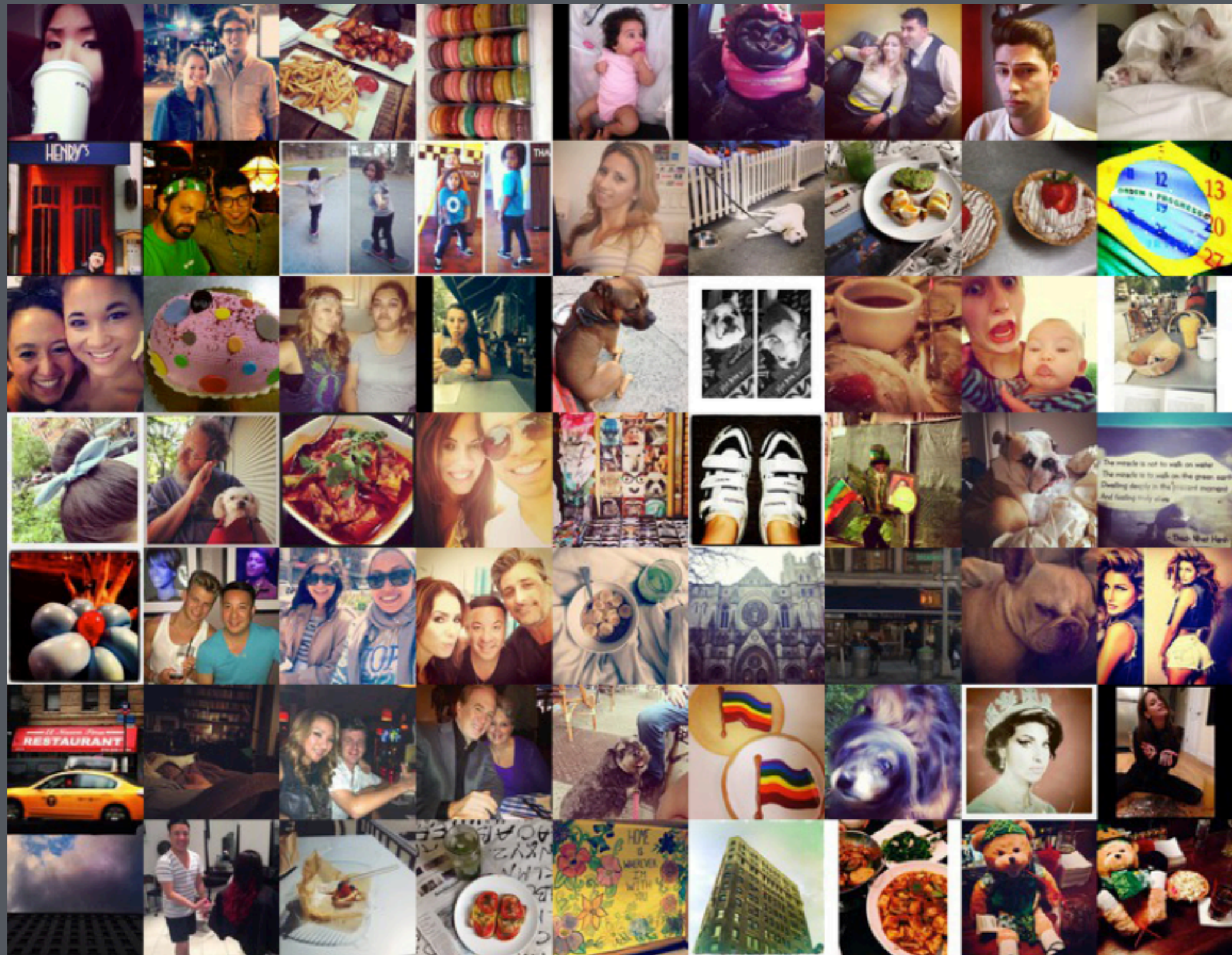


Журналист

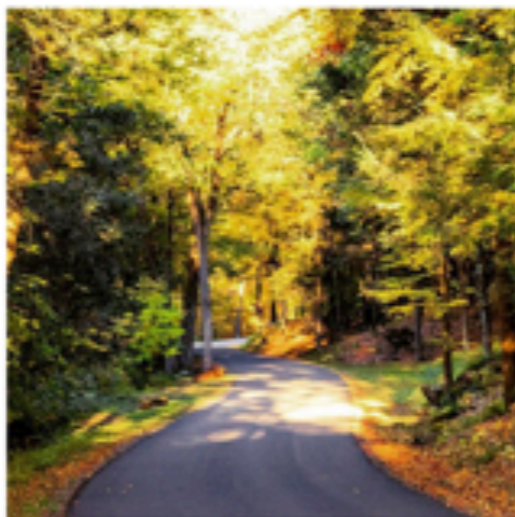
СТОИТ В ГОД 4 руб. 50 коп.,
6 м.—2 руб. 50 коп., 3 м.—2 руб.
Вместе с 4 книгами «Библио-
теки журналиста» в год —
10 руб., 6 м.—5 руб. 50 коп.,
ПЕРВОЗЫ АДРЕСОВАТЬ:
Москва, 6, Страстной бульв.,
д. 11 Акц. Изд. Об-ву «Огонек».
Подписывайтесь на почте.



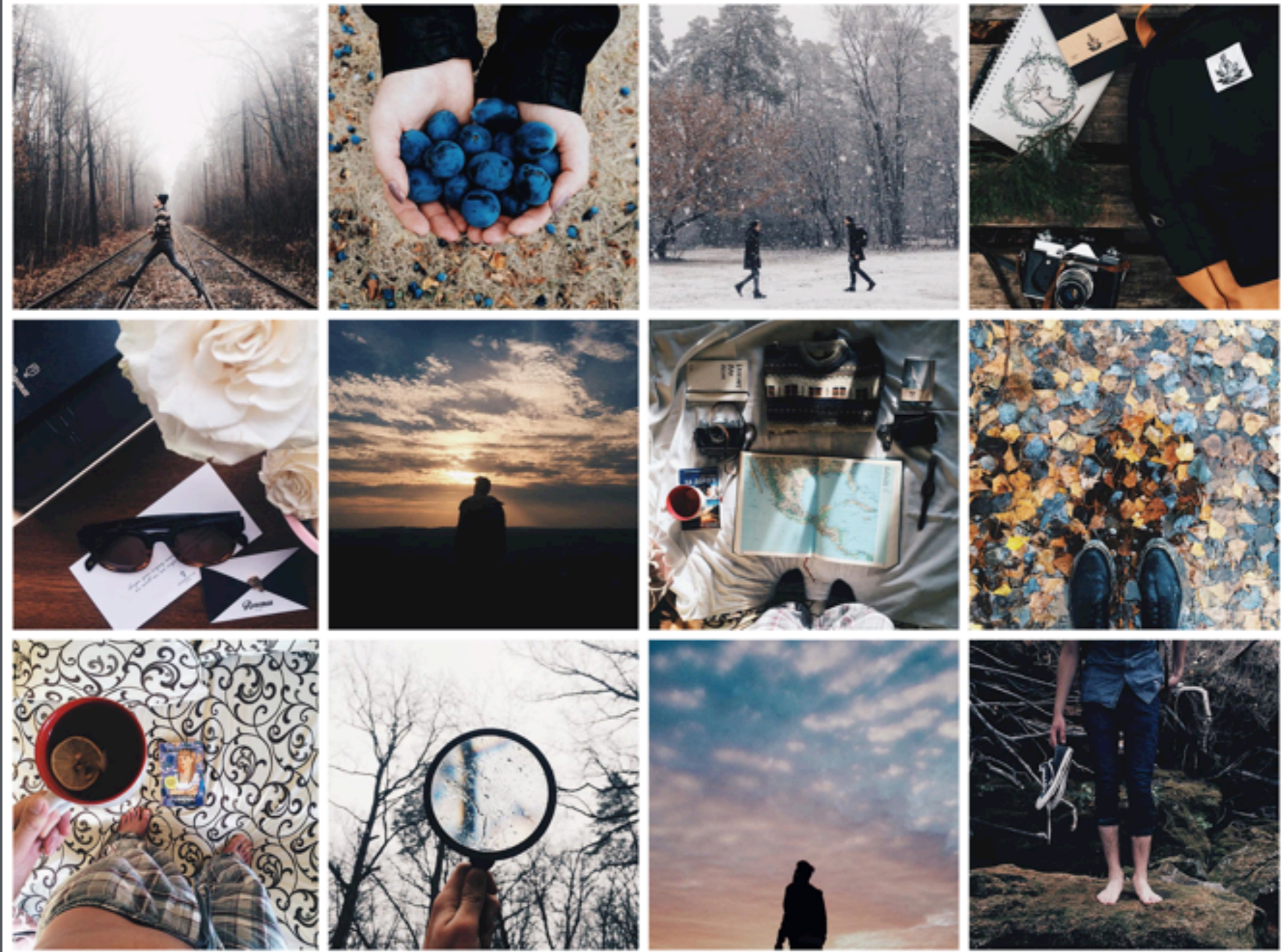














data analysis and visualization as “medium”

Features extracted from content, the available metadata, and data mining **techniques** determine what we can learn from social media

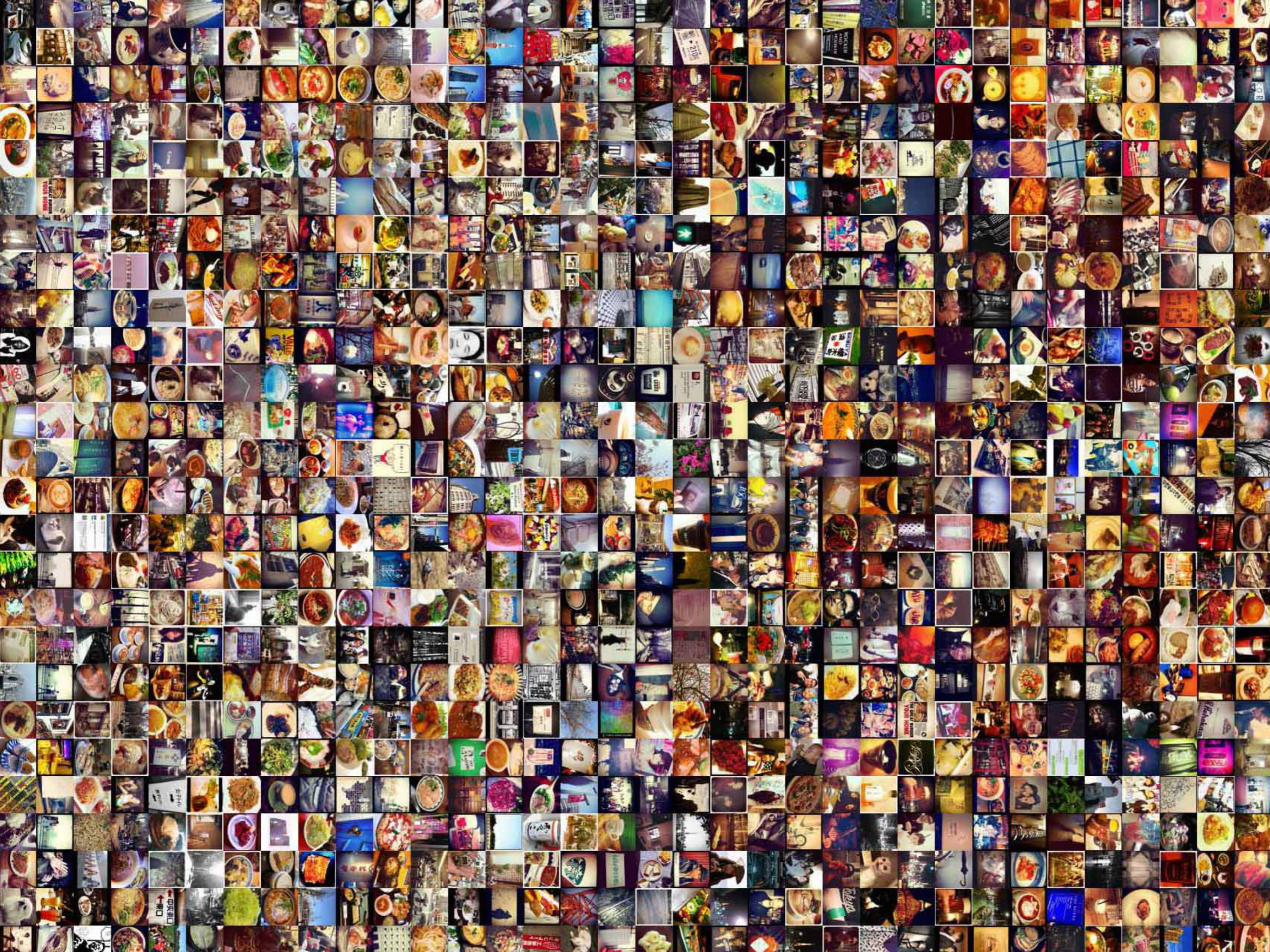
Visualization layouts and options further influences what patterns we can see, the meanings, and interpretations

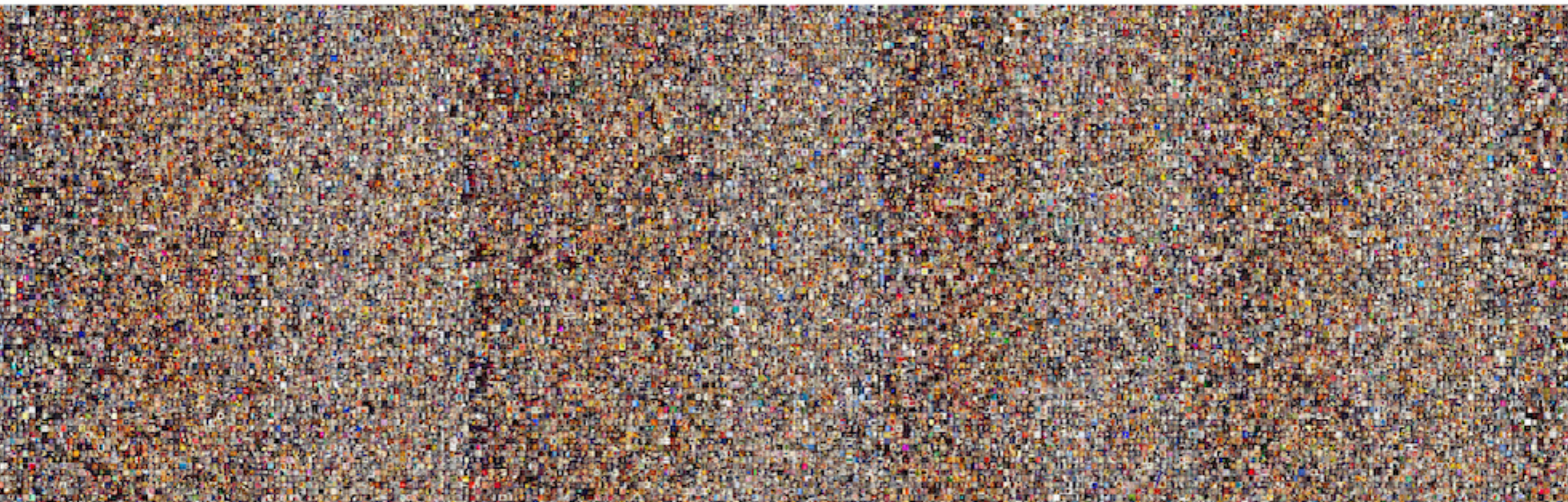
the general and the particular:

18th-20th centuries:

social statistics, social science and data visualization - aggregation, summarization, reduction; focusing on the regular (that can be modeled and predicted)

21st century: from summarization to individualization; from general to focusing on variability and individual







examples of cultural analysis using large visual data

all examples in the following slides are from

- projects created in our lab,
- collaborative projects with external collaborators
- student work from Manovich's classes

2009 - 2015

Visual evolution of news media

(front covers of a single
newspapers)

Treasury regu-
pic test.

G TO STATION

NO SEND SPE-
ITH SUPPLIES
Y STATION.

ific Cable Com-
mer to Midway
vessel will take
le people on the
the command-
n, will also send
and some Christ-
marine guard at
nd books will be
station, for the

direction of President Jared Smith, United States commissioner in charge of the Hawaiian Agricultural Experiment Station. It contains the addresses delivered at meetings held heretofore and is distributed with circulars announcing the next meeting, to take place next Saturday. President Smith says that the Institute sessions have been successful beyond the expectations of those who organized the movement, and that the publication of proceedings will do much to distribute information about Hawaii. His introduction contains the following:

"There is a general demand for information in regard to Hawaiian agriculture both among residents of this Territory who are not themselves professional small farmers, and in an equal degree among the people of the Mainland. The proceedings of these Farmers' Institute meetings, if distributed among the public libraries and to Farmers' Institute workers in the United States, will be of great educa-

advertised than by distributing literature of this character. Men who want to come here to make their homes will be glad to know that there is already in operation an organization which is actively interested in the advancement of the interests of the farmers of Hawaii.

"A recent visitor from the Mainland stated that he sought, and failed to find, information relating to Hawaii in the public library of the second largest city on the Pacific Coast. Besides some articles in encyclopedias and a few relating to the political history of Hawaii, there was absolutely nothing available in this library to help a man who wanted to come here to settle, to learn something of the prevailing agricultural conditions. These are all good reasons why the proceedings of this body should be published and widely distributed. An edition of 3,000 copies should be distributed in this Territory and throughout the balance of the United States."



mittee
tigation
session

Spec
SA
coas

THE

A BE
THI
YEA

Visual evolution of news
media - longer period

(4535 Time magazine
covers, 1923-2009)



4535 Time covers
1923-2009.

Organized by date,
left to right, top to
bottom.

Every pattern we
observe is continuous,
with changes taking
places over years or
decades.



4535 time covers
1923-2009.

closeup: 1920s



4535 Time covers
1923-2009

4535 Time covers 1923-2009 (left to right). Each cover is represented by a single vertical line.

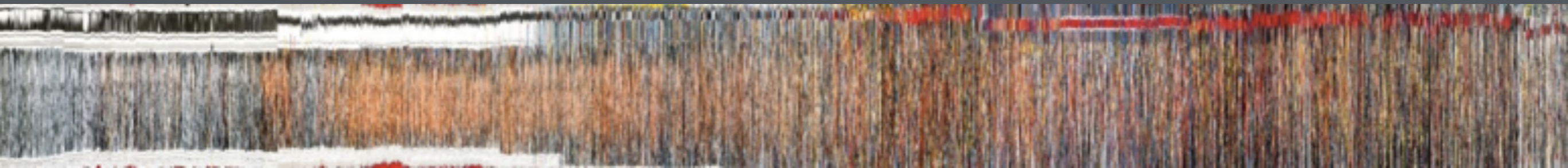
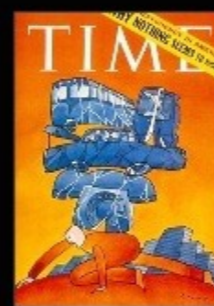
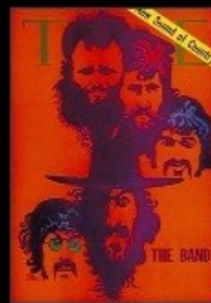
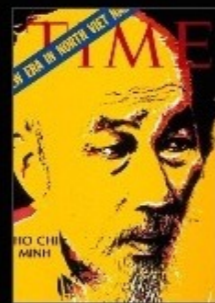
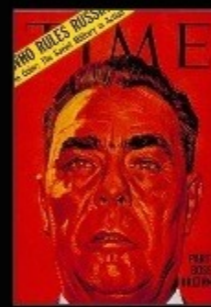


Image plots of 4535 Time covers, 1923-2009. X-axis = date; Y-axis = saturation mean.





History of a cultural
medium (photography)
as represented by a single
institution (MoMA)

OBJECT:PHOTO

The Thomas Walther Collection

The Thomas Walther Collection—341 photographs by 148 artists—represents the innovative vision of the 1920s and '30s, a transformative period of modern photography and the foundation of our photo-based world.

Examine these photographs, map the places they were made, compare their materials and techniques, connect the men and women who made them, and explore the lives of these artists through the first half of the twentieth century.

[EXPLORE](#)

Book ■ Notes to the User ■ Share

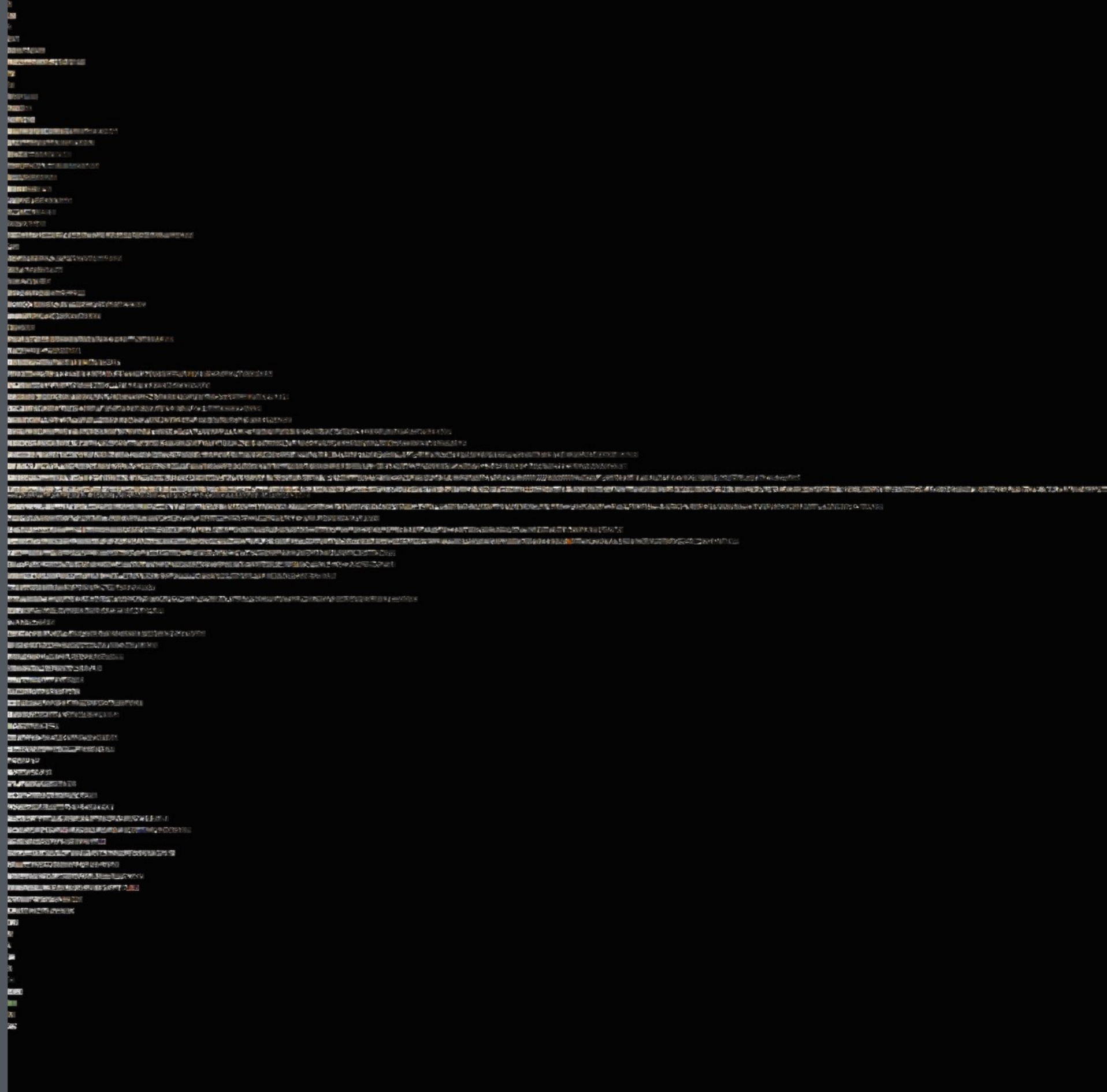
MoMA

↓ Show All

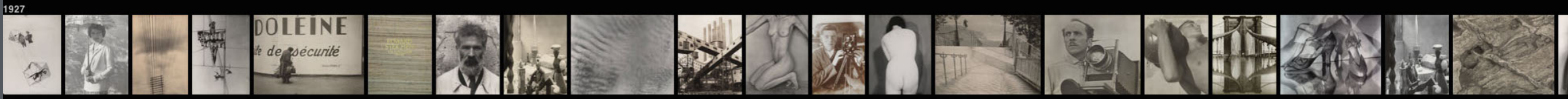
In 2013 we were invited by MoMA to analyze their whole photo collection and contribute to the OBJECT : PHOTO exhibition website

Seeing the museum collection: 20,000 photographs from MoMA, 1844-1989.

Organized by year (top to bottom). Each bar shows photographs from a particular year.

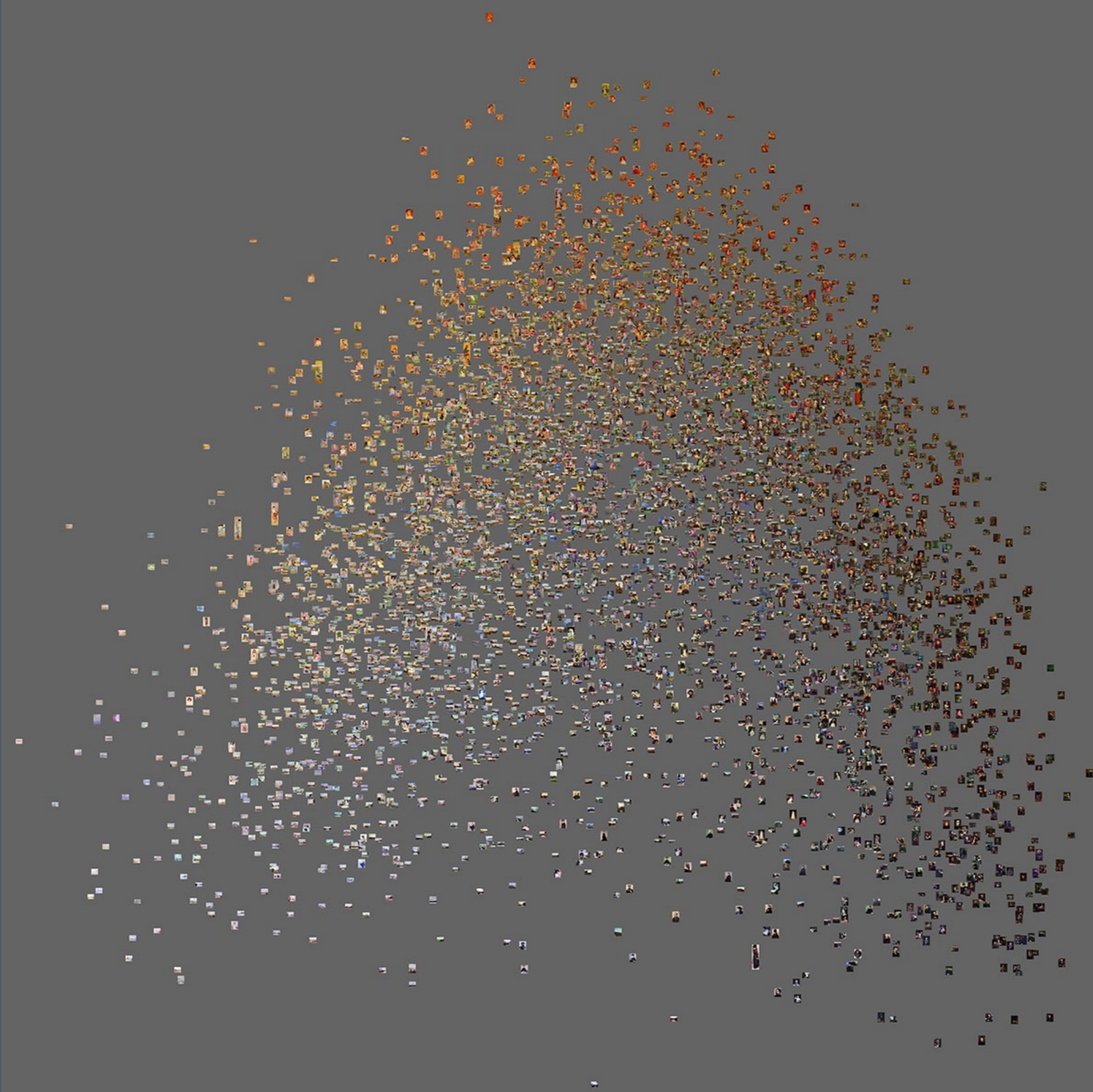


closeup, 1925-1929



Mapping an artistic
movement

(French Impressionists)



Visualization of 5000 paintings
of French Impressionist
artists

x and y - first two dimensions
of PCA using 200 features

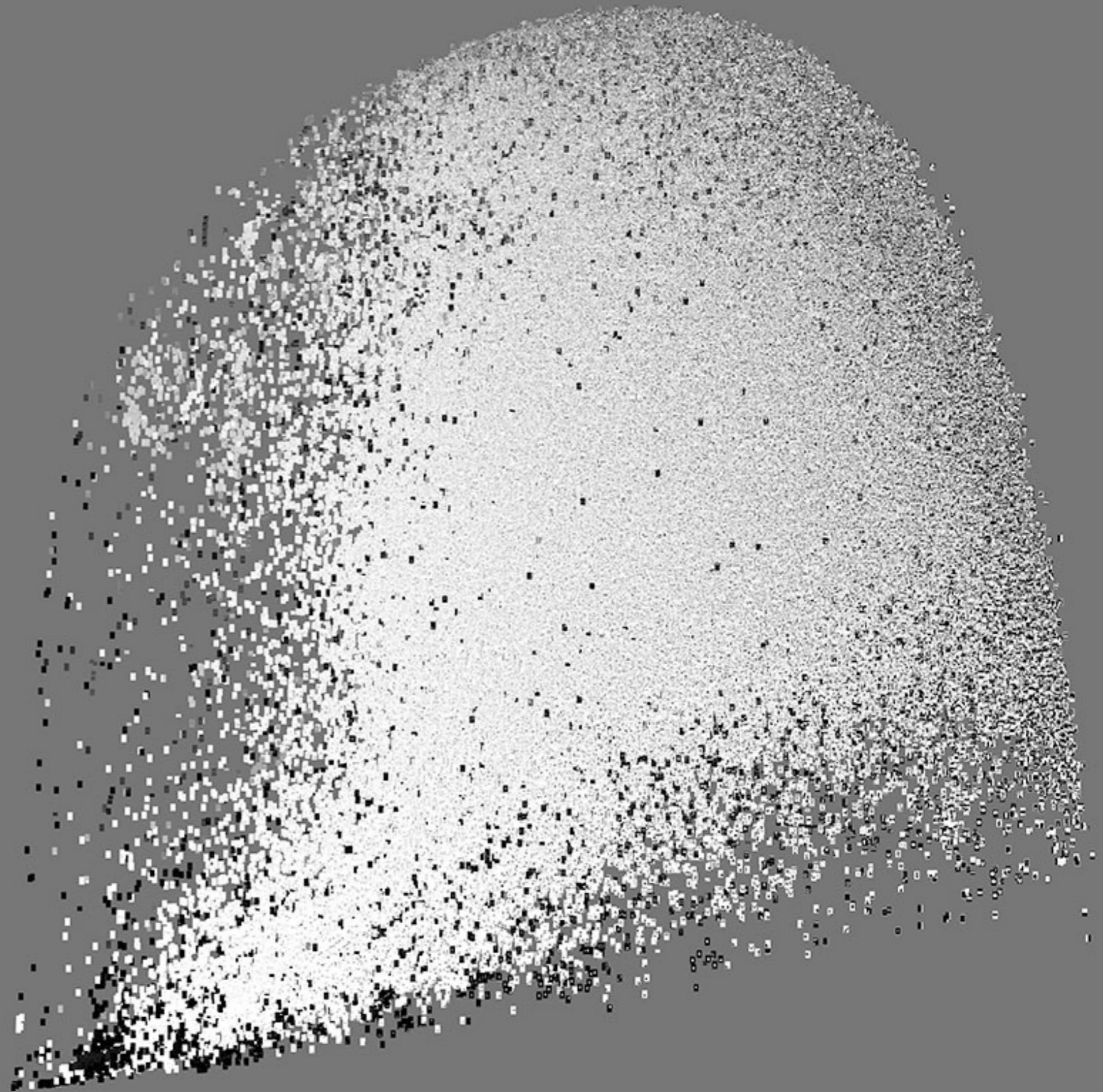
The familiar paintings of French
impressionists (see closeup on
next slide) turn to be only %20-
%30 of their whole creative
output



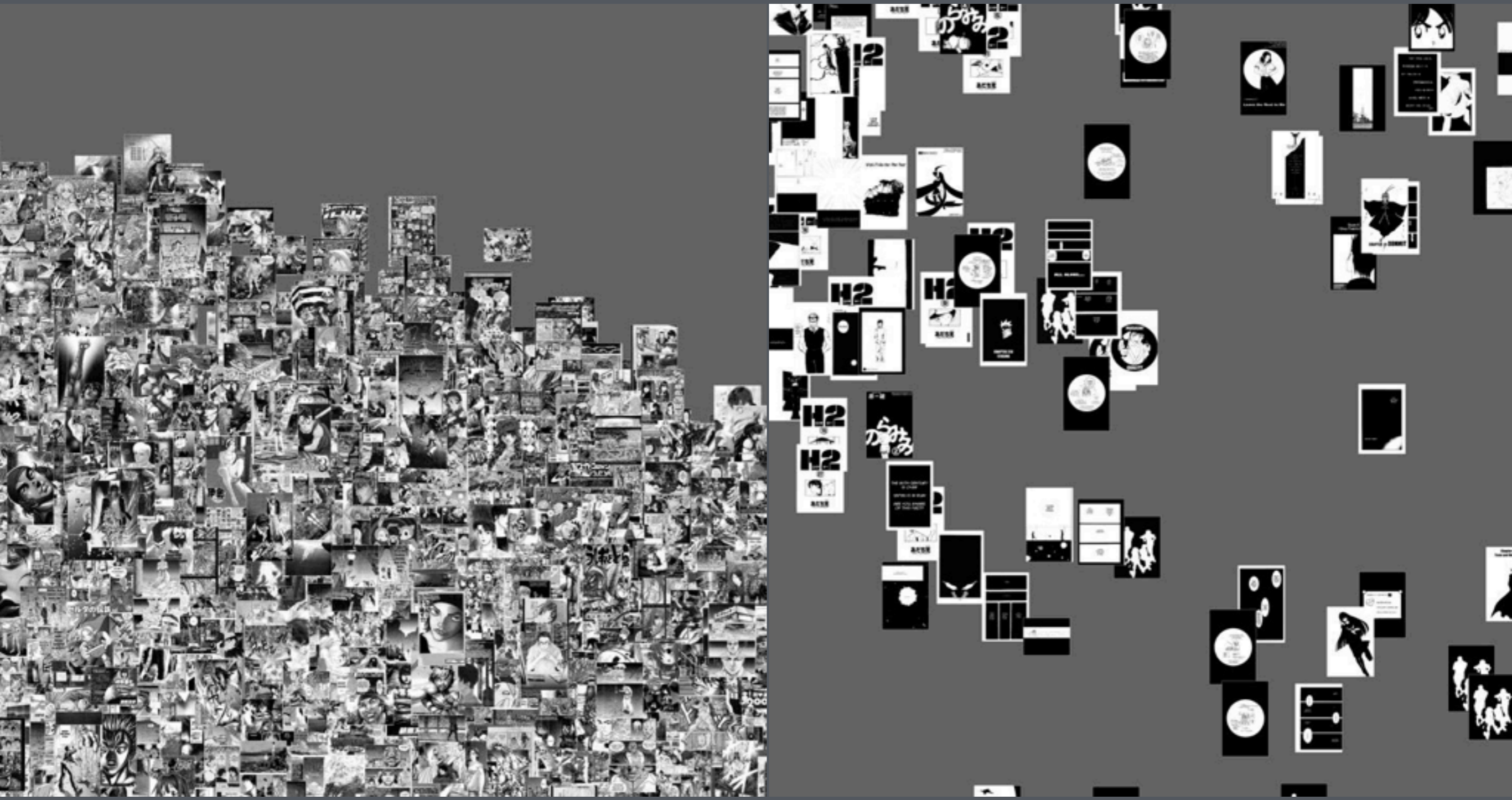
Mapping a cultural field
using a large sample

(883 manga publications
containing 1,074,790
pages)

1 million manga pages
x - standard deviation
y - entropy



Closeups of the bottom left corner and top corner (previous slide). Entropy feature sorts all pages according to low detail/no texture/flat - high detail/texture/3D dimension. Visualization reveals continuous variation on this dimension. This example suggests that our standard concept of "style" may not be appropriate when looking at particular characteristics of big cultural samples (because "style" assumes presence of distinct characteristics, not continuous variation across a whole dimension).



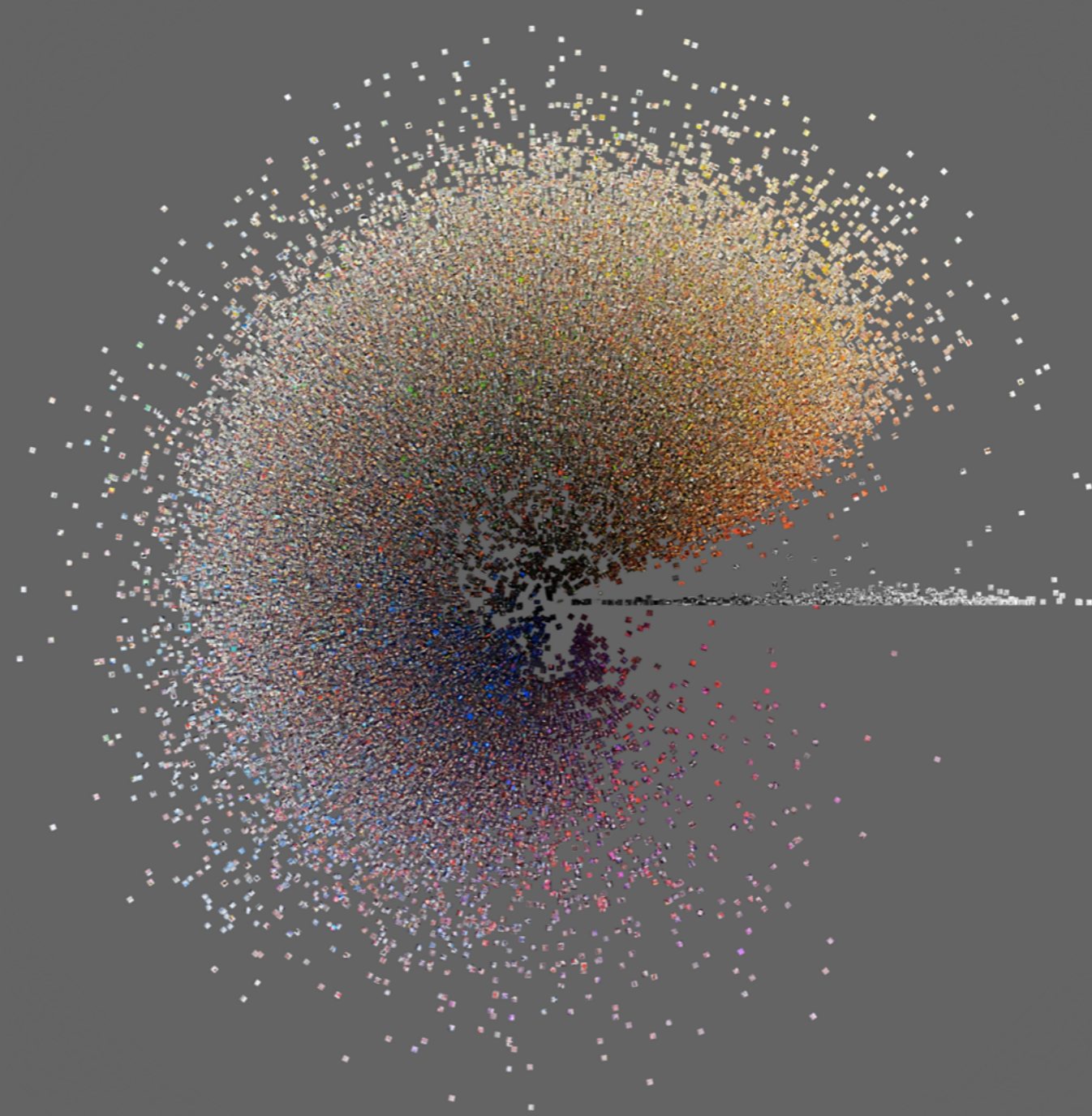
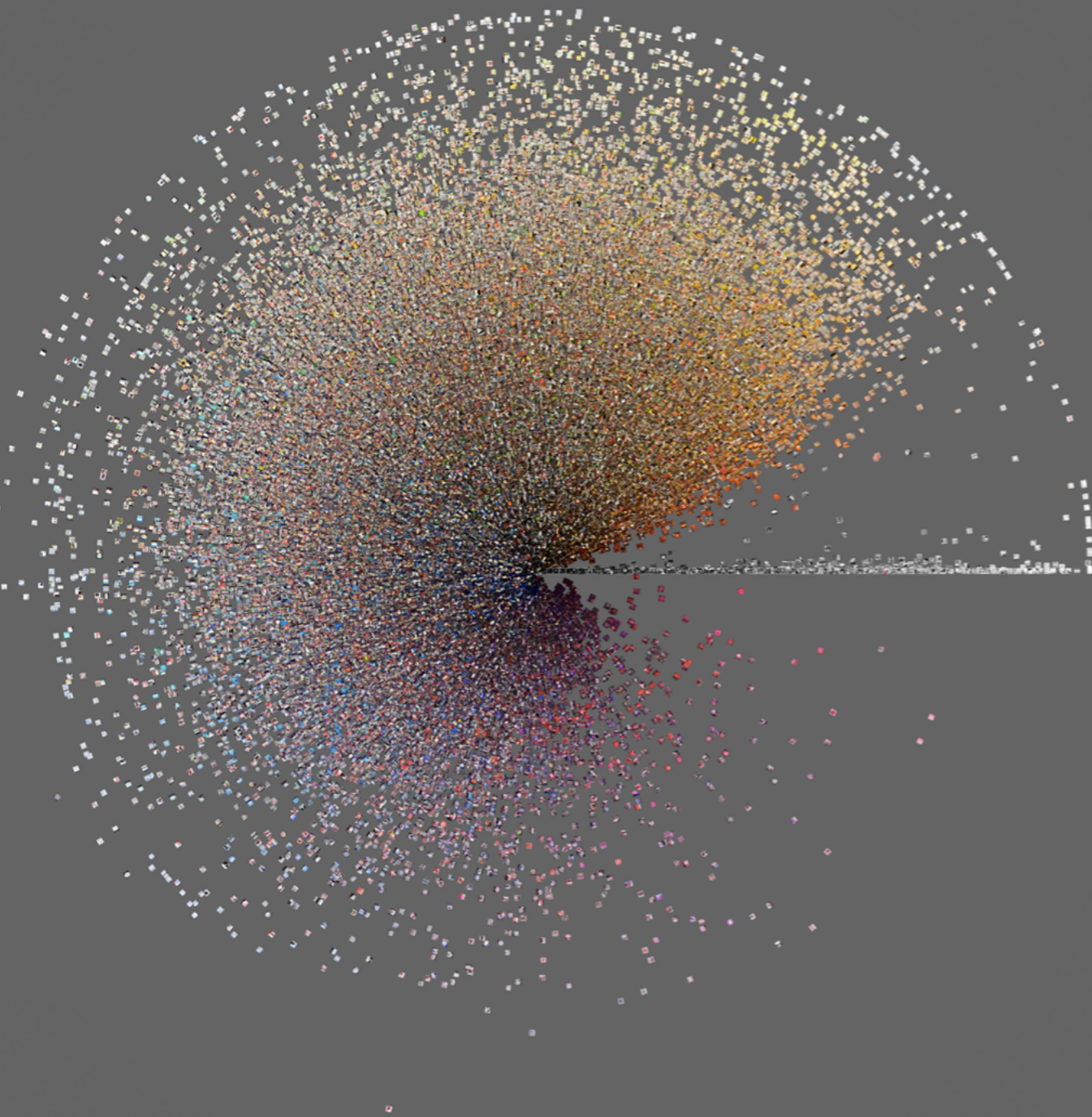
1 million manga pages plotted as points
x - standard deviation
y - entropy

Some plot areas are densely filled in, while others are almost empty. Why manga visual language developed in this way? Visualization of a large number of samples allows us to map a cultural fields to see what is typical and what is rare, and what kind of clusters (if they exist) are present in this field.

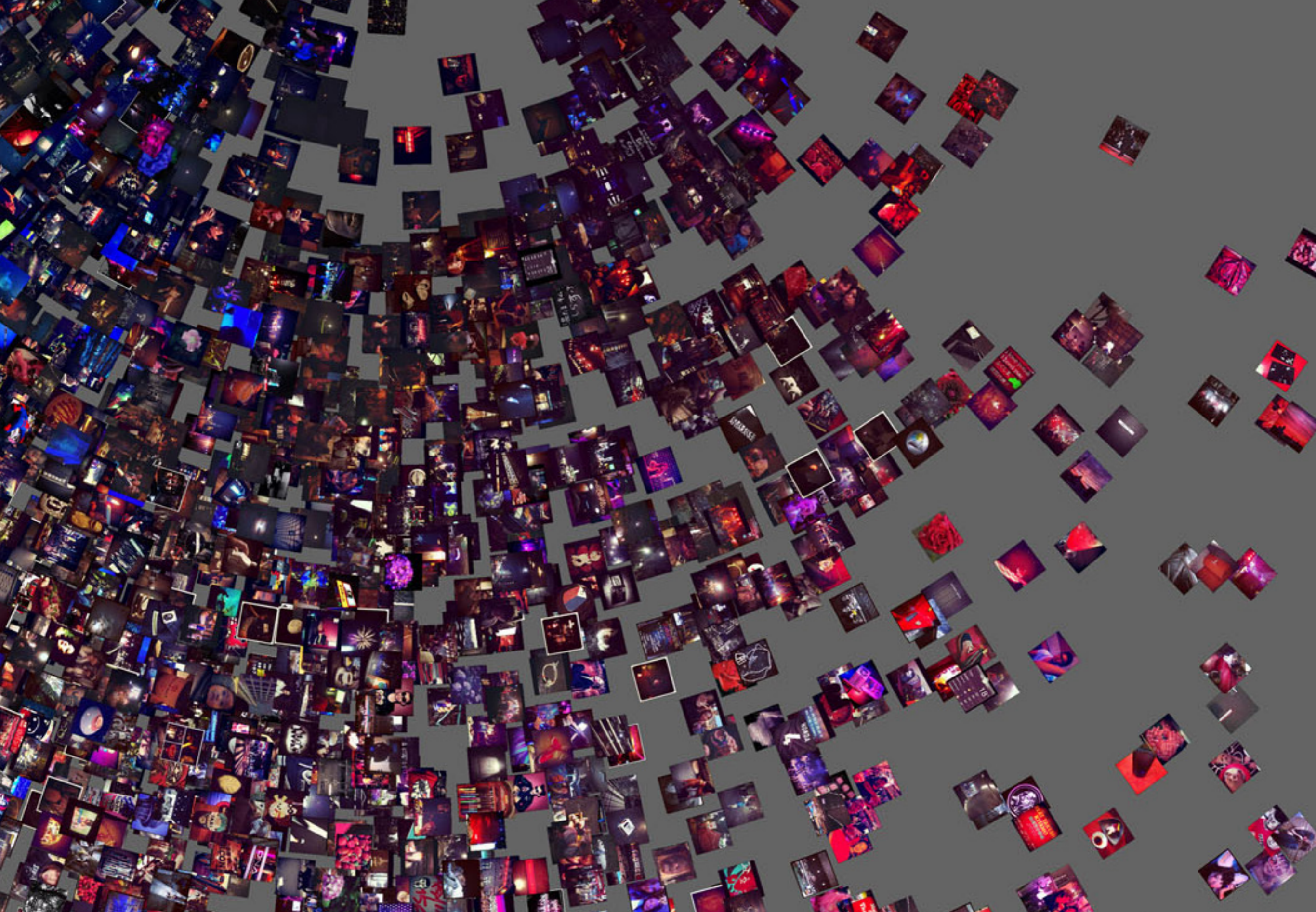
Visual signatures of cities:
sampling and aggregating
images from a
social media platform
(Instagram)

SAN FRANCISCO (50,000 PHOTOS)

TOKYO (50,000 PHOTOS)

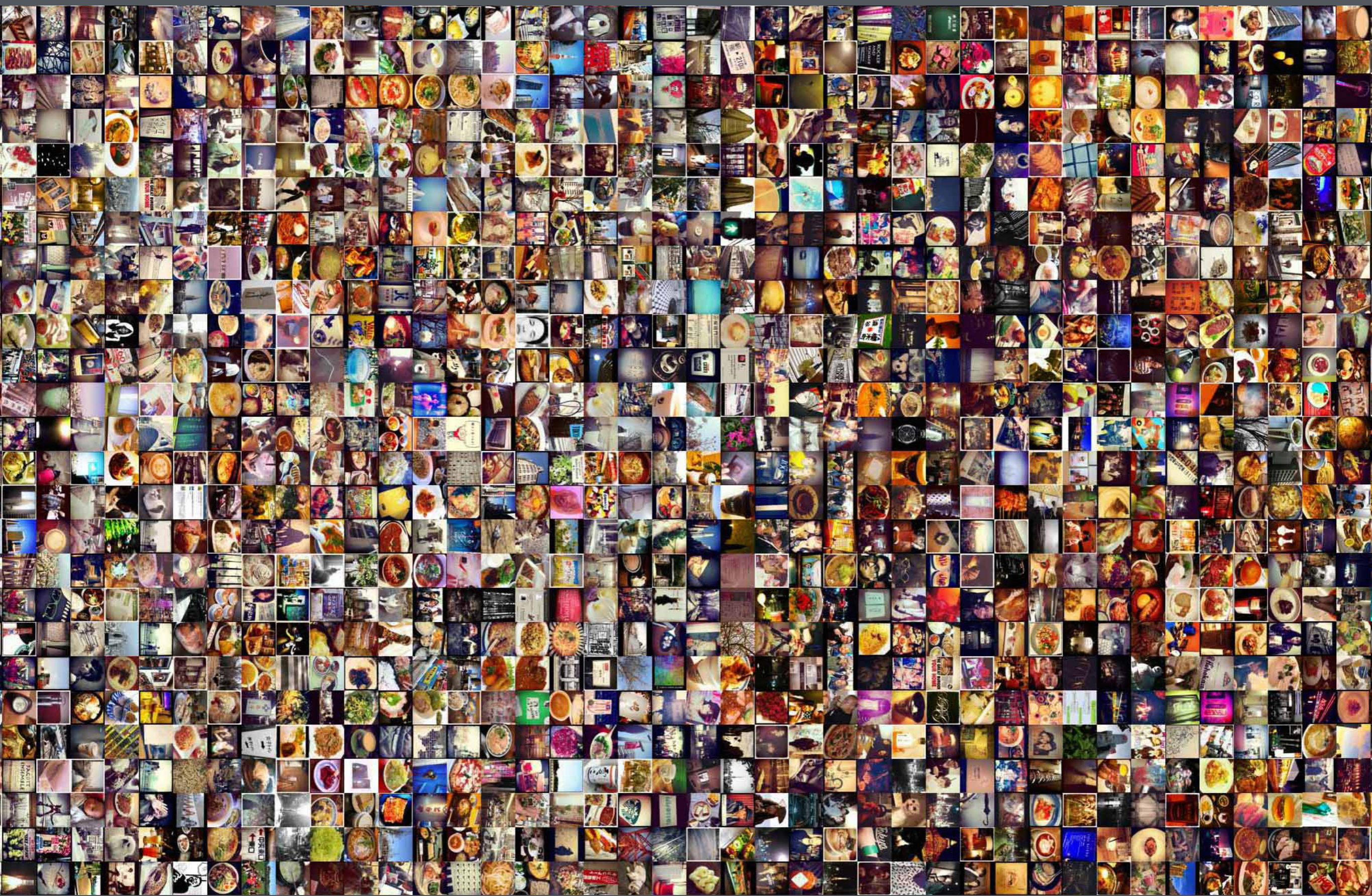


Comparing San Francisco and Tokyo using 50K image samples.
Photos are organized by average brightness (distance to plot center) and average hue (angle).

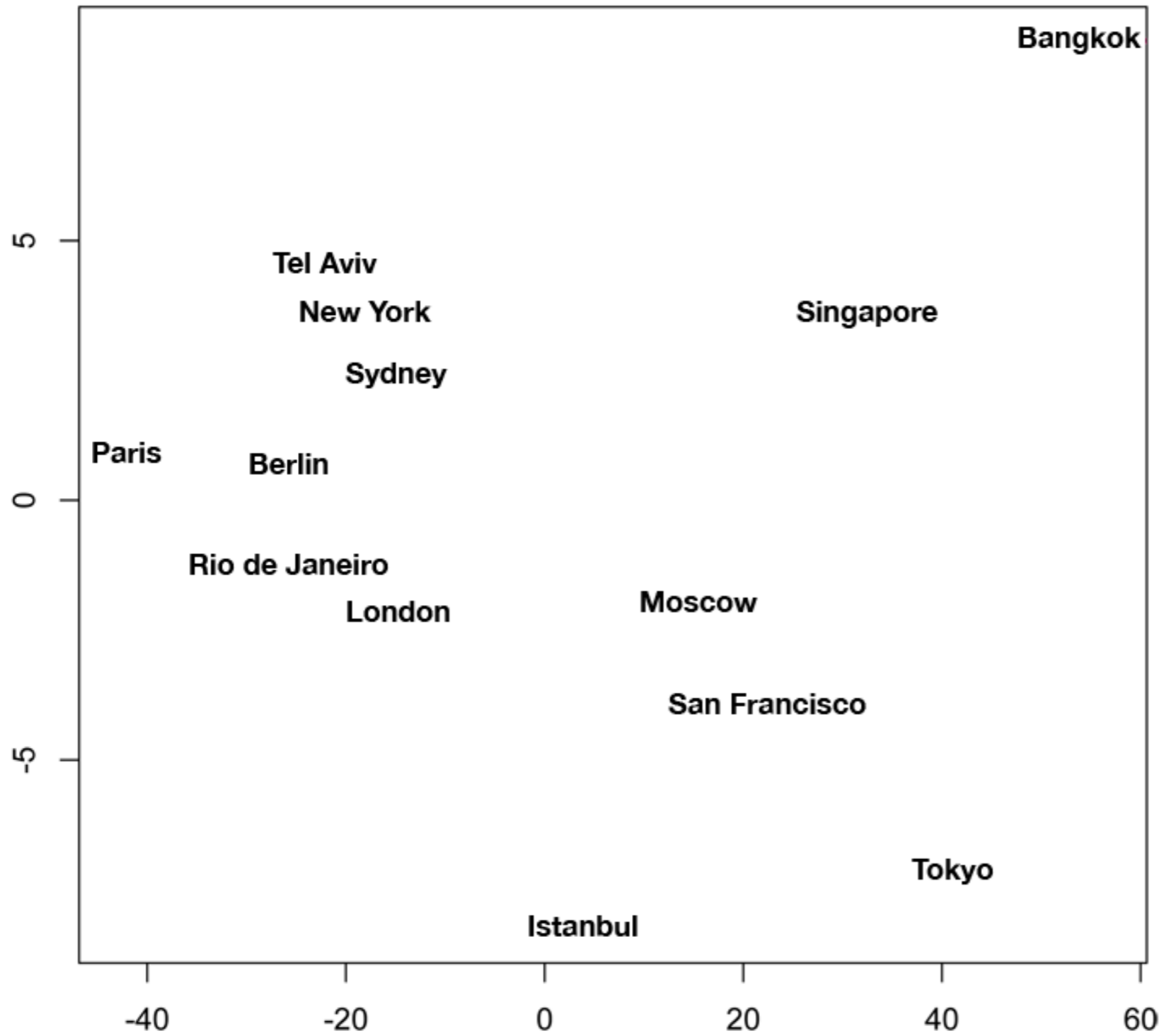




Comparing NYC and Tokyo using 50K image samples shared over few days (organized by upload date/time.)

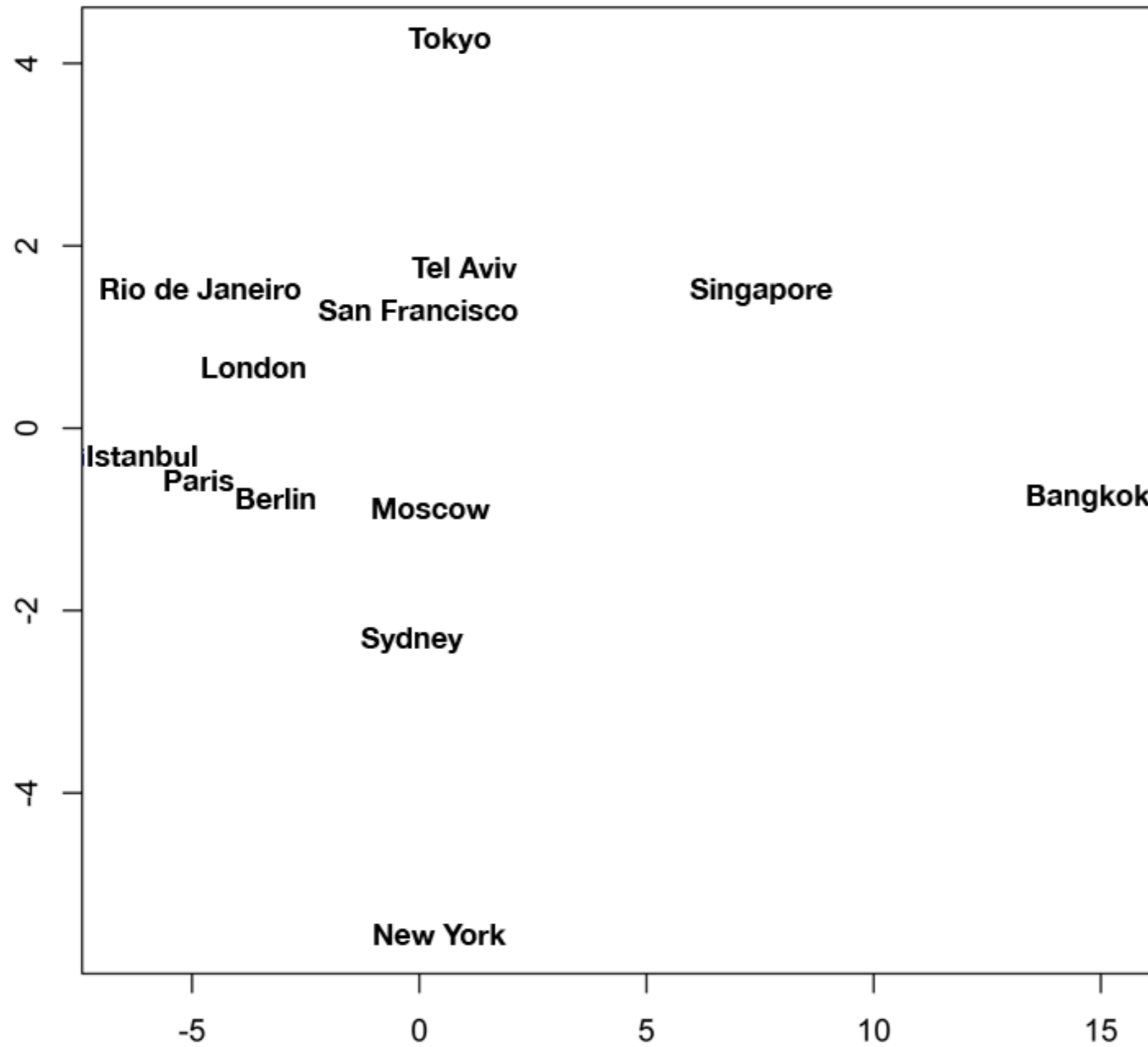


MDS (extended features all)



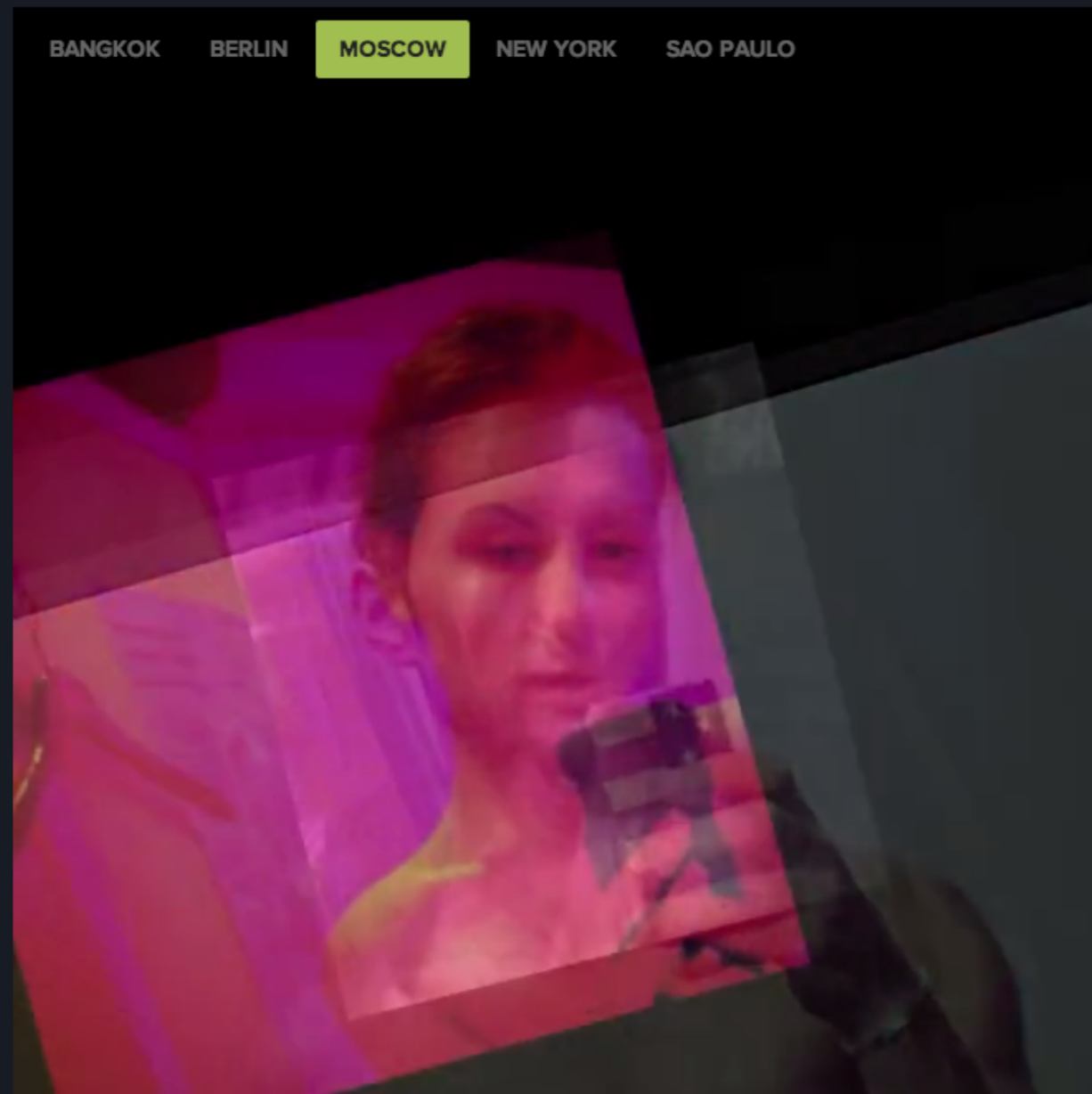
Example of data aggregation - reducing 2.3M photos to 13 data points (one point per city)

MDS (extended features colors)



Another plot of cities differences (using only color features)

How people represent themselves? How they construct themselves in social media?



SELFIECITY

Investigating the style of **self-portraits** (*selfies*) in five cities across the world.

Selfiecity investigates *selfies* using a mix of theoretic, artistic and quantitative methods:

We present our **findings** about the demographics of people taking selfies, their poses and expressions.

Rich media visualizations (**imageplots**) assemble thousands of photos to reveal interesting patterns.

The interactive **selfexploratory** allows you to navigate the whole set of 3200 photos.

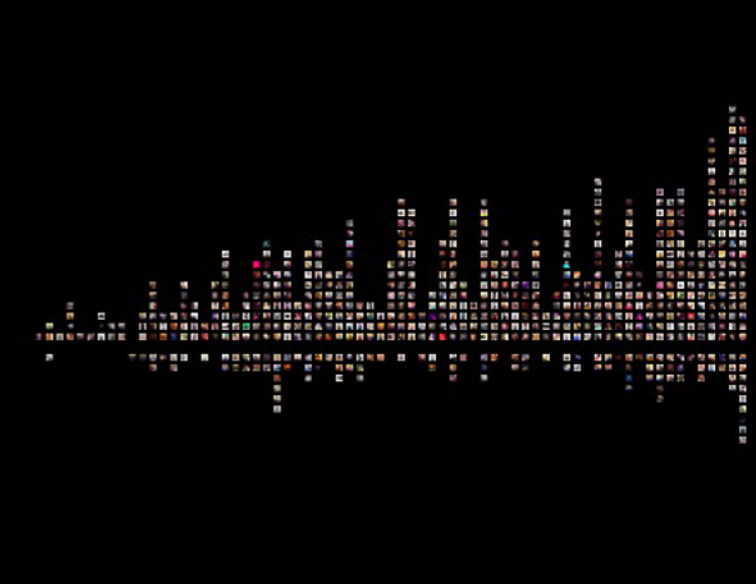
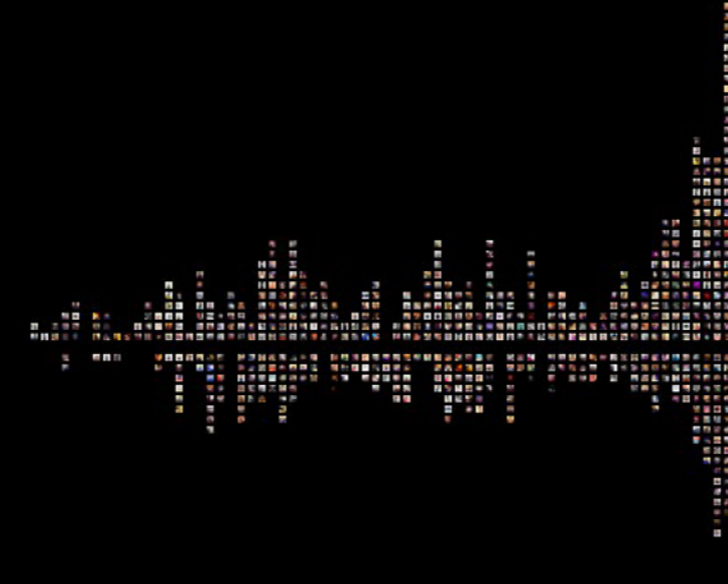
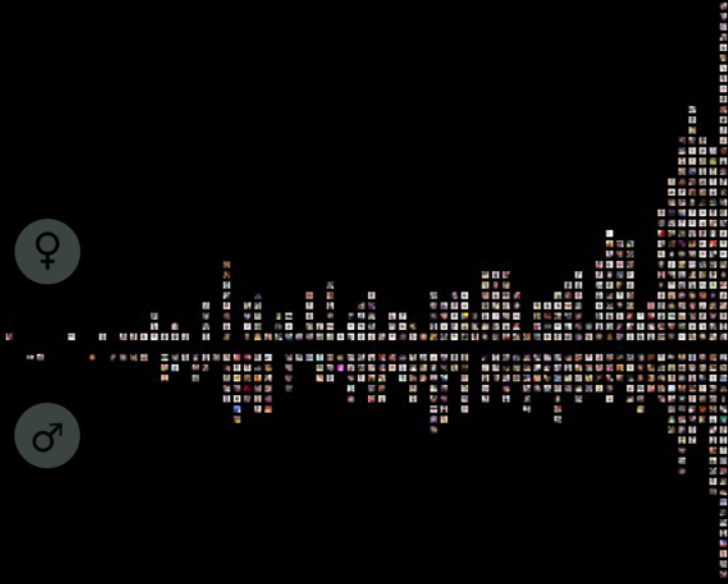
Finally, theoretical **essays** discuss selfies in the history of photography, the functions of images in social media, and methods and dataset.

Selfiecity project, 2014: analysis of 3200 Instagram single selfie photos from 5 global cities.
<http://selfiecity.net>

BANGKOK

BERLIN

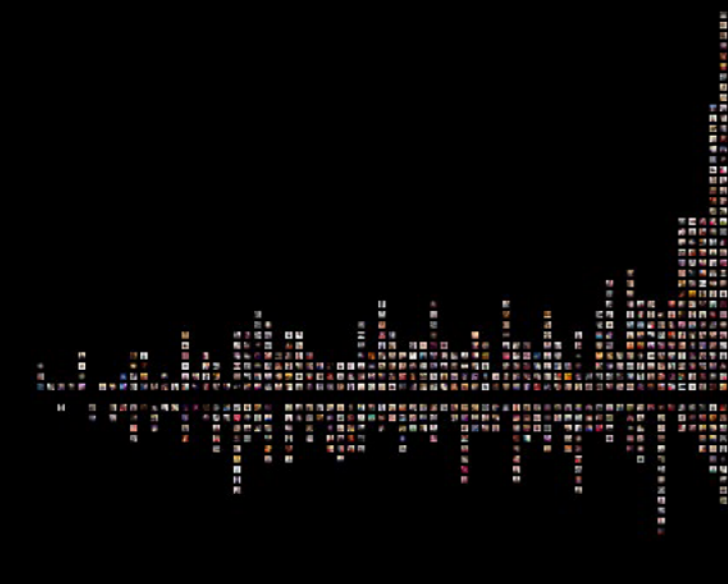
MOSCOW



MOOD  —————  —————> 

NEW YORK

SAO PAULO



CITY EMOTIONS

based on automatic face analysis of selfie images posted on instagram.

More information at:

HTTP://

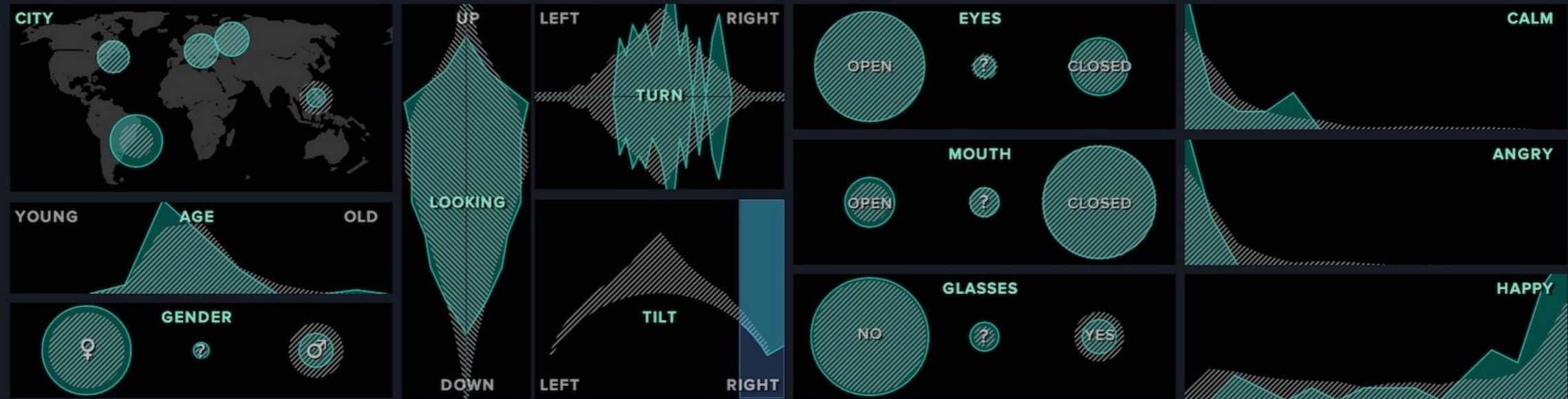
SELFIECITY.NET

DEMOGRAPHICS

POSE

FEATURES

MOOD



39 of 3200 selfies.

[Normal](#) [Crop](#) [Crop & rotate](#)



Screenshot from interactive app selfieexploratory:
<http://selfiecity.net/selfieexploratory/>

SELFIECITY

*Exploring the cultural meaning
of the selfie*



SelfieSaoPaolo project, 2014. Views of the animated projection.

Interfaces for people to
interact with urban social
media data + census and
government data;

Combining multiple types
+ resolution of data

ON BROADWAY

The interactive installation **ON BROADWAY** represents life in the 21st century city through a compilation of images and data collected along the 13 miles of Broadway that span Manhattan.

[↕ READ MORE](#)[▶ VIEW VIDEO](#)

The result is a new type of city view, created from the activities of hundreds of thousands of people.

[➤ OPEN THE APPLICATION *](#)

* Only recommended on fast machines with large display

A project by [Daniel Goddemeyer](#),
[Moritz Stefaner](#), [Dominikus Baur](#), and
[Lev Manovich](#).



Upper West Side

Morningside Heights

Harlem

Washington Heights



On Broadway is an interactive installation shown at New York Public Library, 12/2004-1/2016



ON BROADWAY

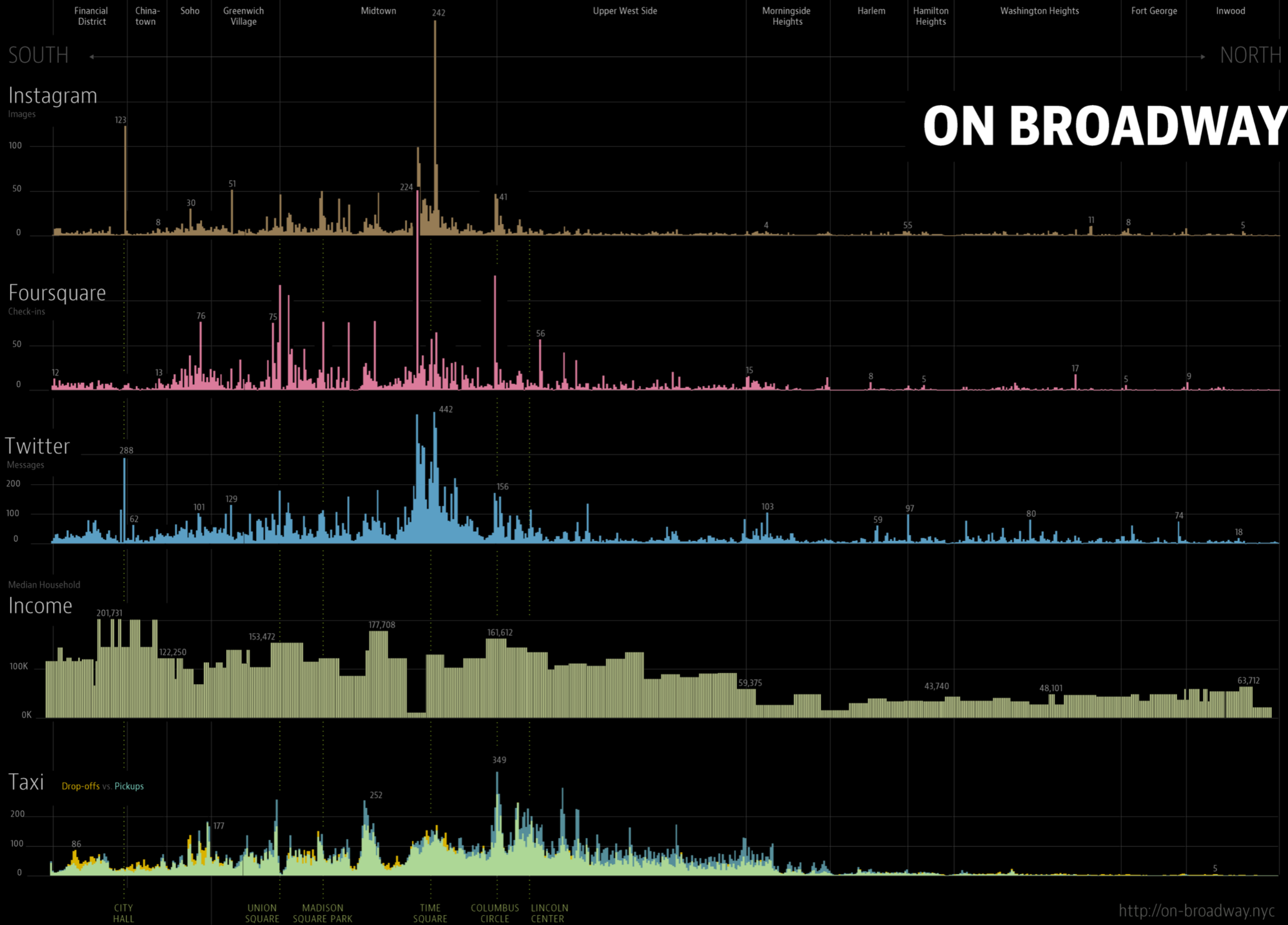
The interactive installation **ON BROADWAY** represents digital traces of life in the 21st century city through a compilation of images and other data collected along the 13 miles of Broadway that span Manhattan.

The resulting street view, created from the data of thousands of people.

During six months in 2014, Foursquare collected 660,000 check-ins, taxi pickups, and other data.

ON BROADWAY

Artists team in front of On Broadway installation



ON BROADWAY DATA LAYERS

Landmarks & anecdotes

Google Street View facades

Facade colors

Taxi statistics

Google Street View: sky view

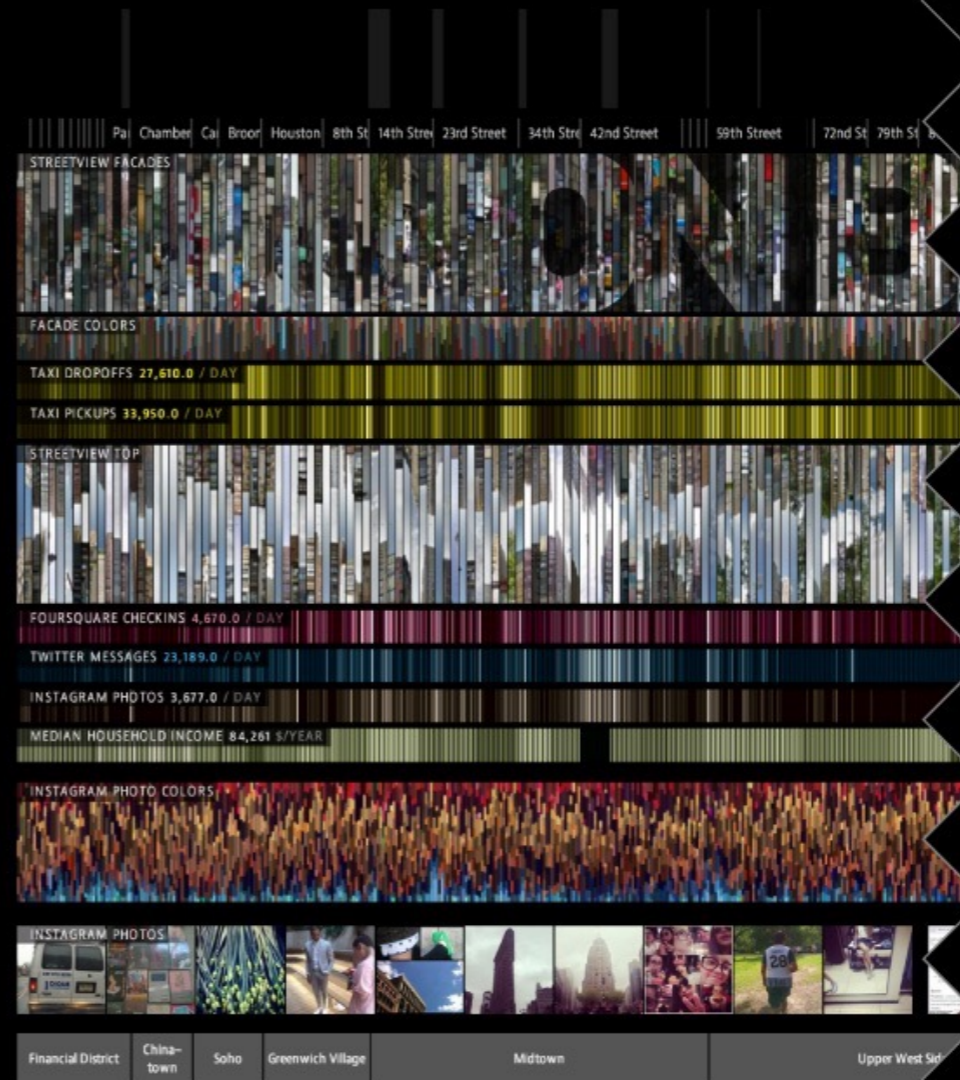
Social media statistics

Median income

Colors in Instagram photos

Instagram photos

Neighborhoods





Interface uses familiar multi-touch gestures to navigate Broadway street in Manhattan (21 km, 30M data points)

Video showing interaction with On Broadway interactive application on a 46-inch touch screen

How exceptional events
are represented in visual
social media? The
exceptional vs the
everyday

Social media sensors vs.
pop media coverage

The Exceptional & The Everyday: 144 Hours in Kiev

Visualizations

Intro

Data

Infra-ordinary

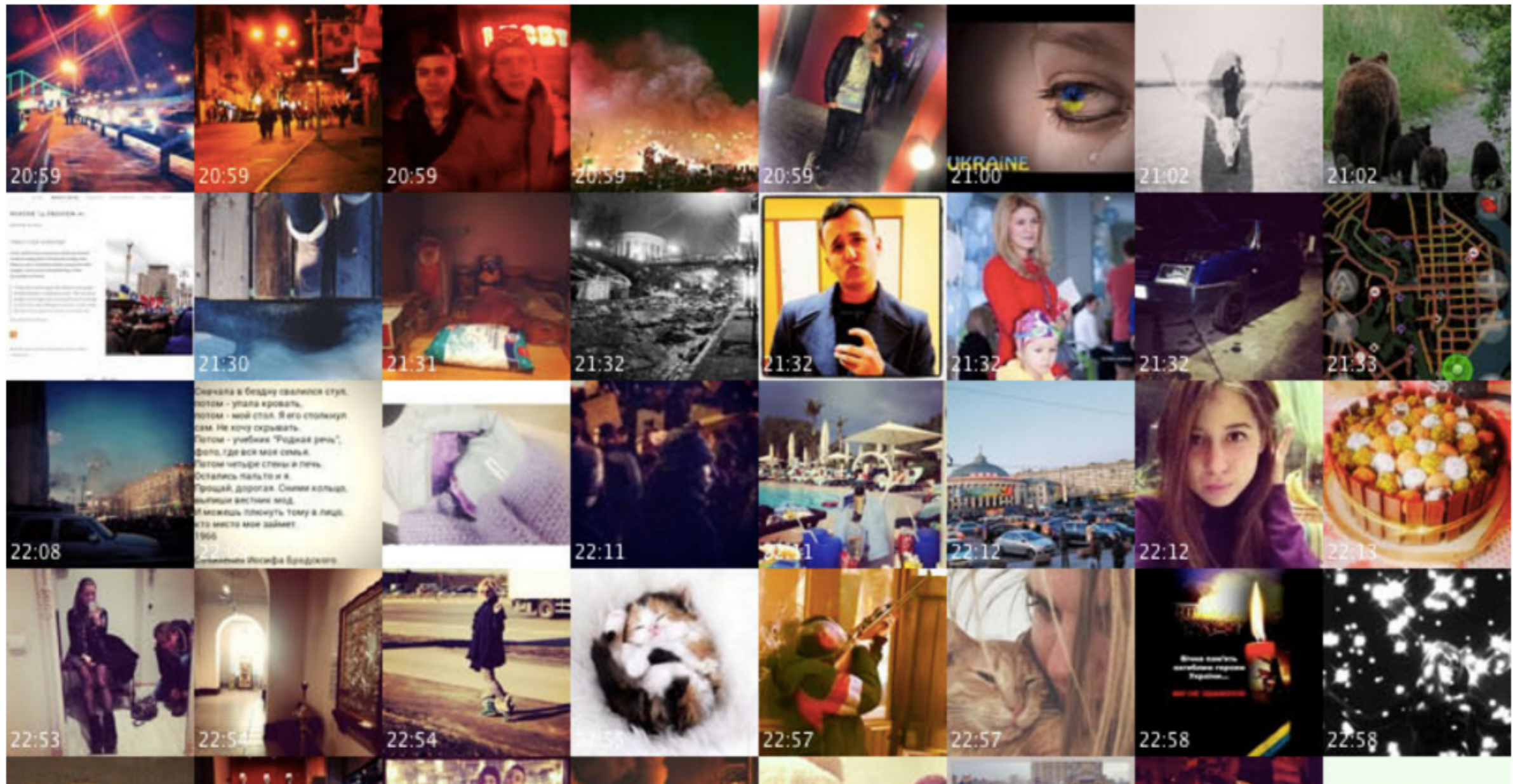
Iconography

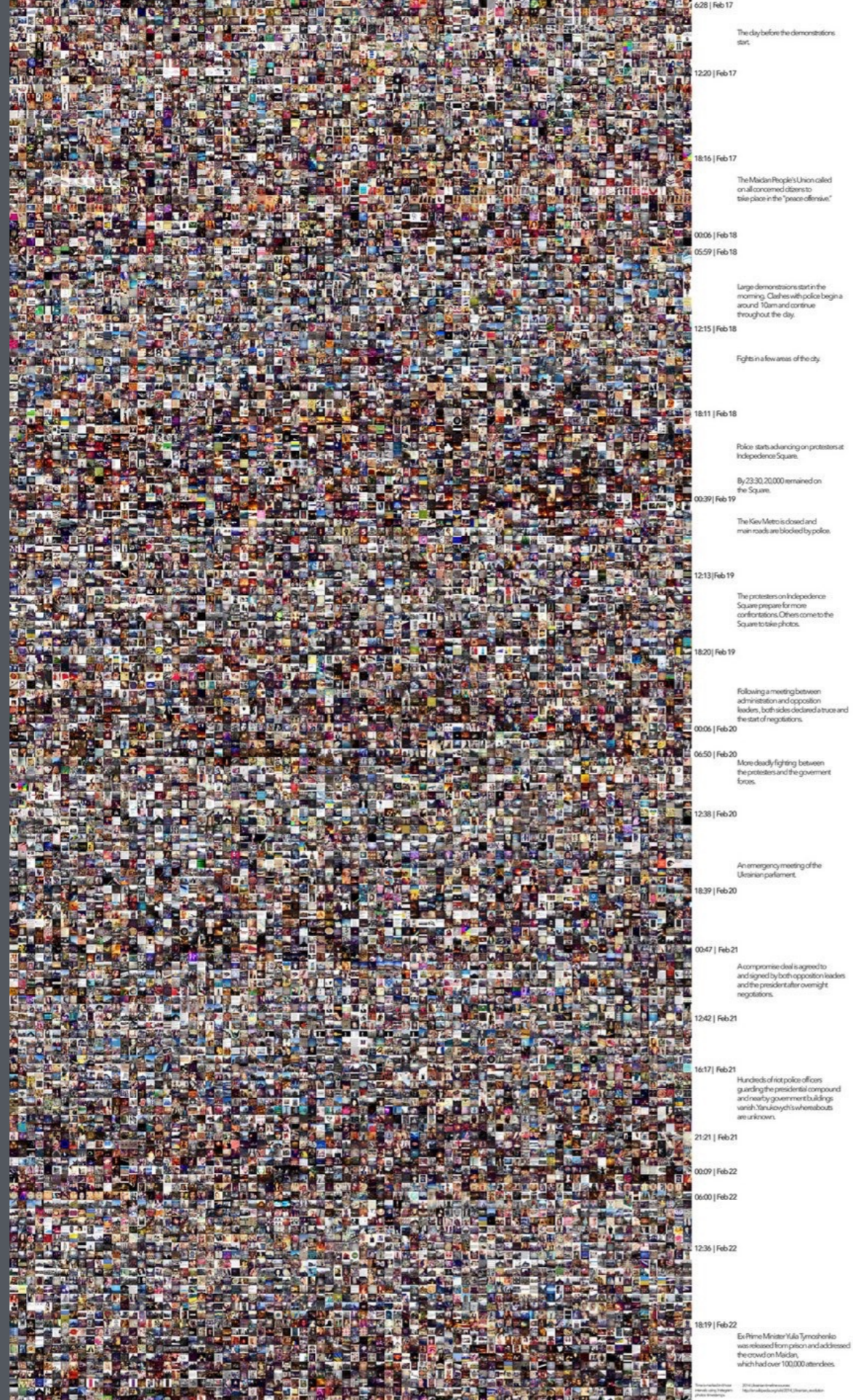
Matviyenko essay

Losh essay

Bibliography

Team





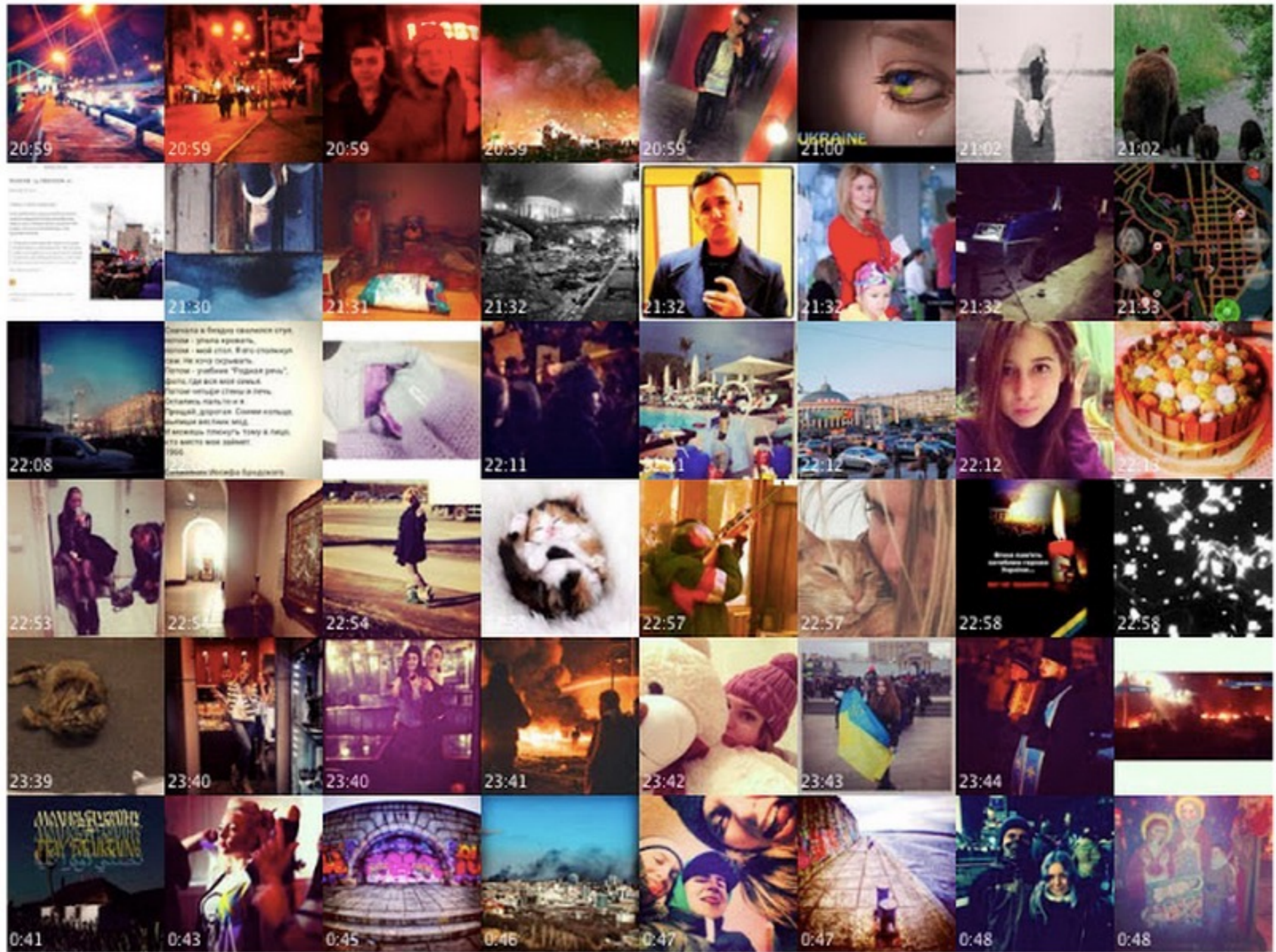
The Exceptional & The Everyday project, 2014

<http://www.the-everyday.net/>

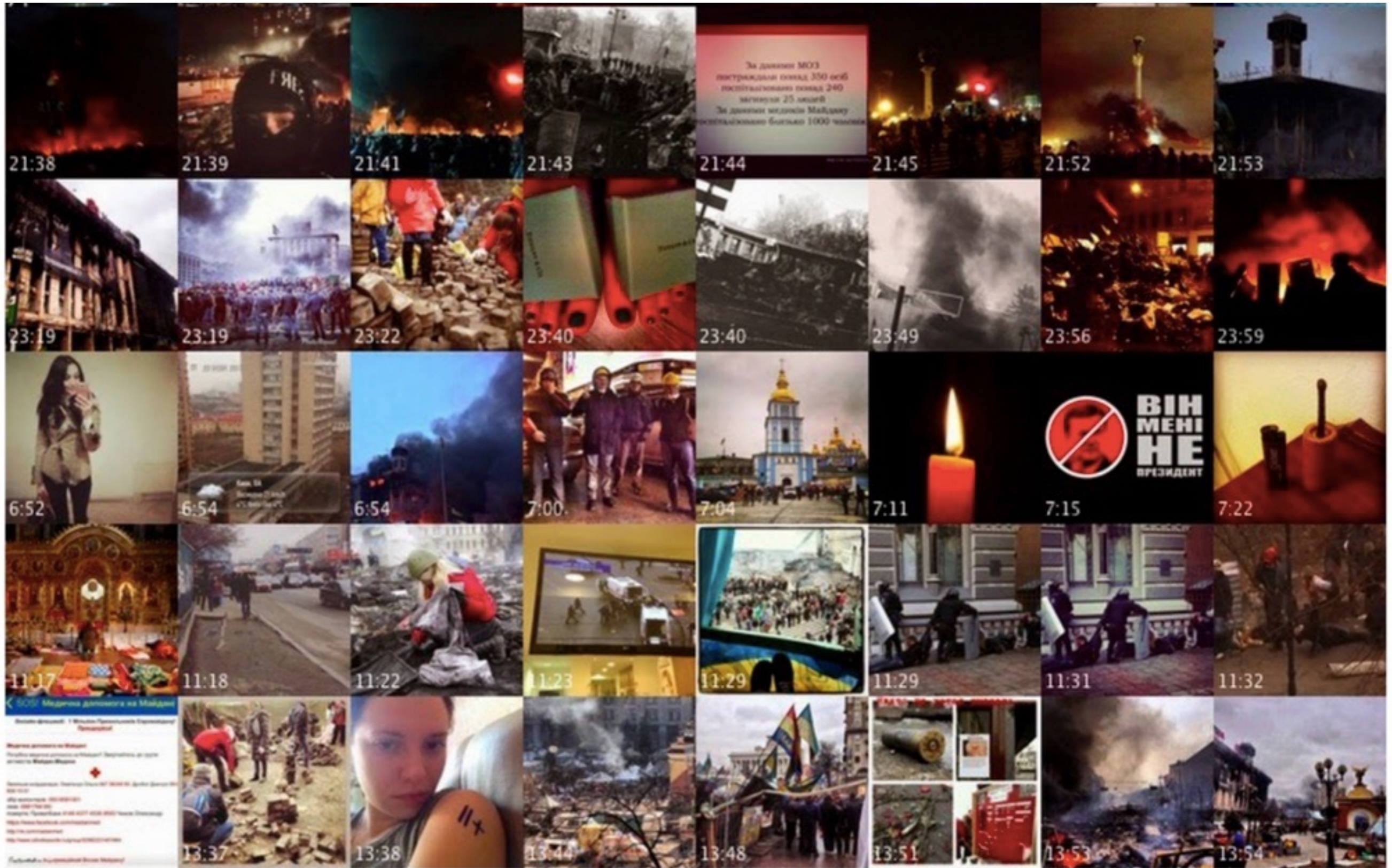
The visualization shows 13,208 Instagram images shared by 6,165 people in the center of Kiev during 2014 Ukrainian revolution (February 17 - February 22, 2014). The photos are organized chronologically (left to right, top to bottom). The right column shows summary of the events from Wikipedia page about the revolution.

A single condensed narrative history (Wikipedia text) vs. visual experiences of thousands of people (Instagram)? The second is potentially richer - but also more difficult to interpret.

Can we narrate history without aggregation and summarization? History as timelines of million of people?



From The Everyday Project



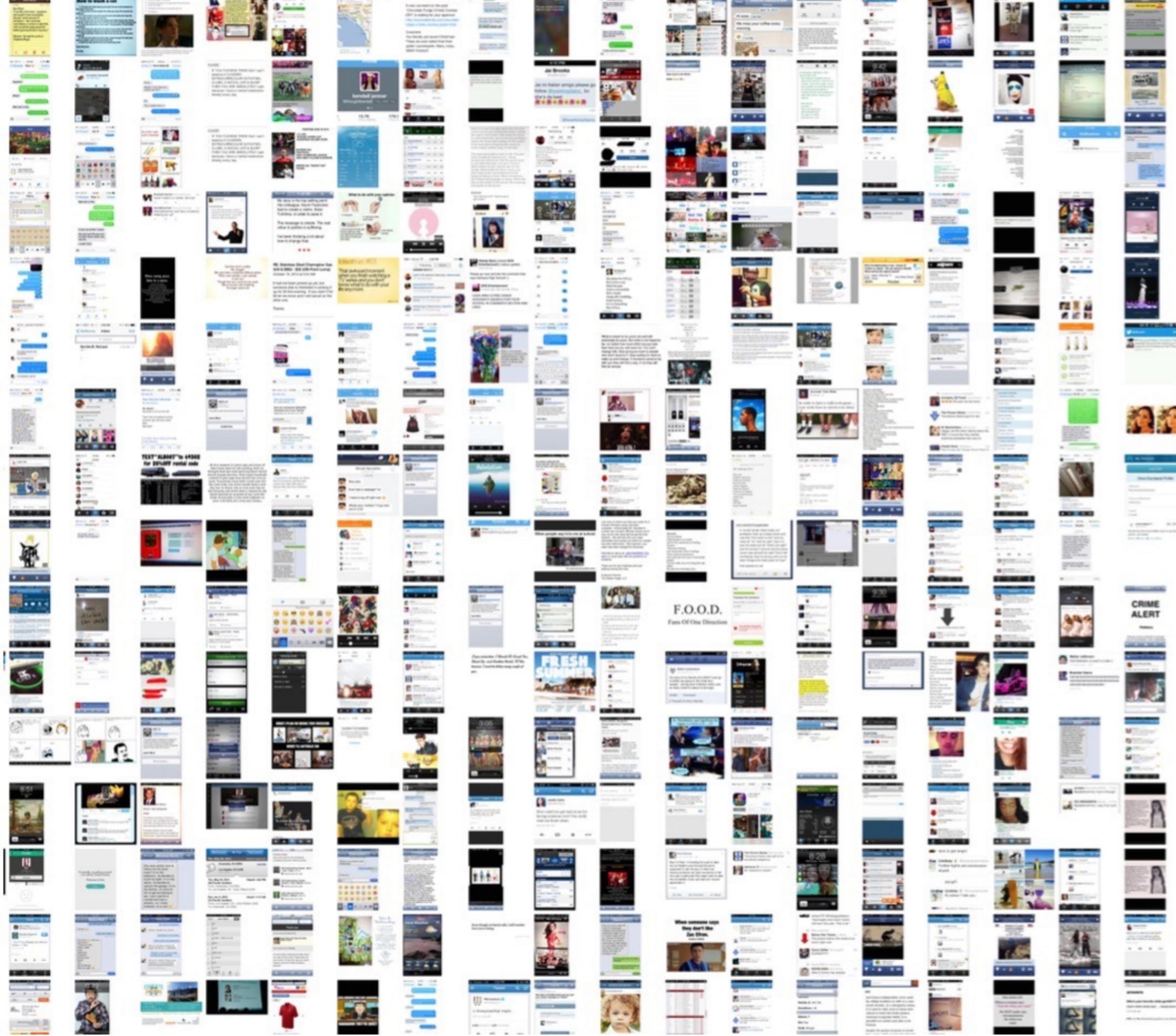
From The Everyday Project

2/17	2/18	2/19	2/20	2/21	2/22
<u>kiev</u>	<u>kiev</u>	<u>kiev</u>	<u>kiev</u>	<u>kiev</u>	<u>kiev</u>
<u>ukraine</u>	<u>ukraine</u>	<u>euromaidan</u>	<u>ukraine</u>	<u>euromaidan</u>	<u>euromaidan</u>
<u>love</u>	<u>киев</u>	<u>ukraine</u>	<u>euromaidan</u>	<u>ukraine</u>	<u>ukraine</u>
<u>follow</u>	<u>euromaidan</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>
<u>followme</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>
<u>instagood</u>	<u>євромайдан</u>	<u>kyiv</u>	<u>revolution</u>	<u>kyiv</u>	<u>киев</u>
<u>me</u>	<u>kyiv</u>	<u>киев</u>	<u>киев</u>	<u>revolution</u>	<u>revolution</u>
<u>киев</u>	<u>revolution</u>	<u>revolution</u>	<u>kyiv</u>	<u>киев</u>	<u>kyiv</u>
<u>like</u>	<u>love</u>	<u>майдан</u>	<u>майдан</u>	<u>Ukraine</u>	<u>followme</u>
<u>photooftheday</u>	<u>followme</u>	<u>Ukraine</u>	<u>love</u>	<u>love</u>	<u>instagood</u>

using visual social
media to predict socio-
economic indicators

Mehrdad Yazdani and Lev Manovich.
“Predicting Social Trends from Non-
photographic Images on Twitter.” *Big
Data and the Humanities* workshop,
IEEE 2015 Big Data conference.

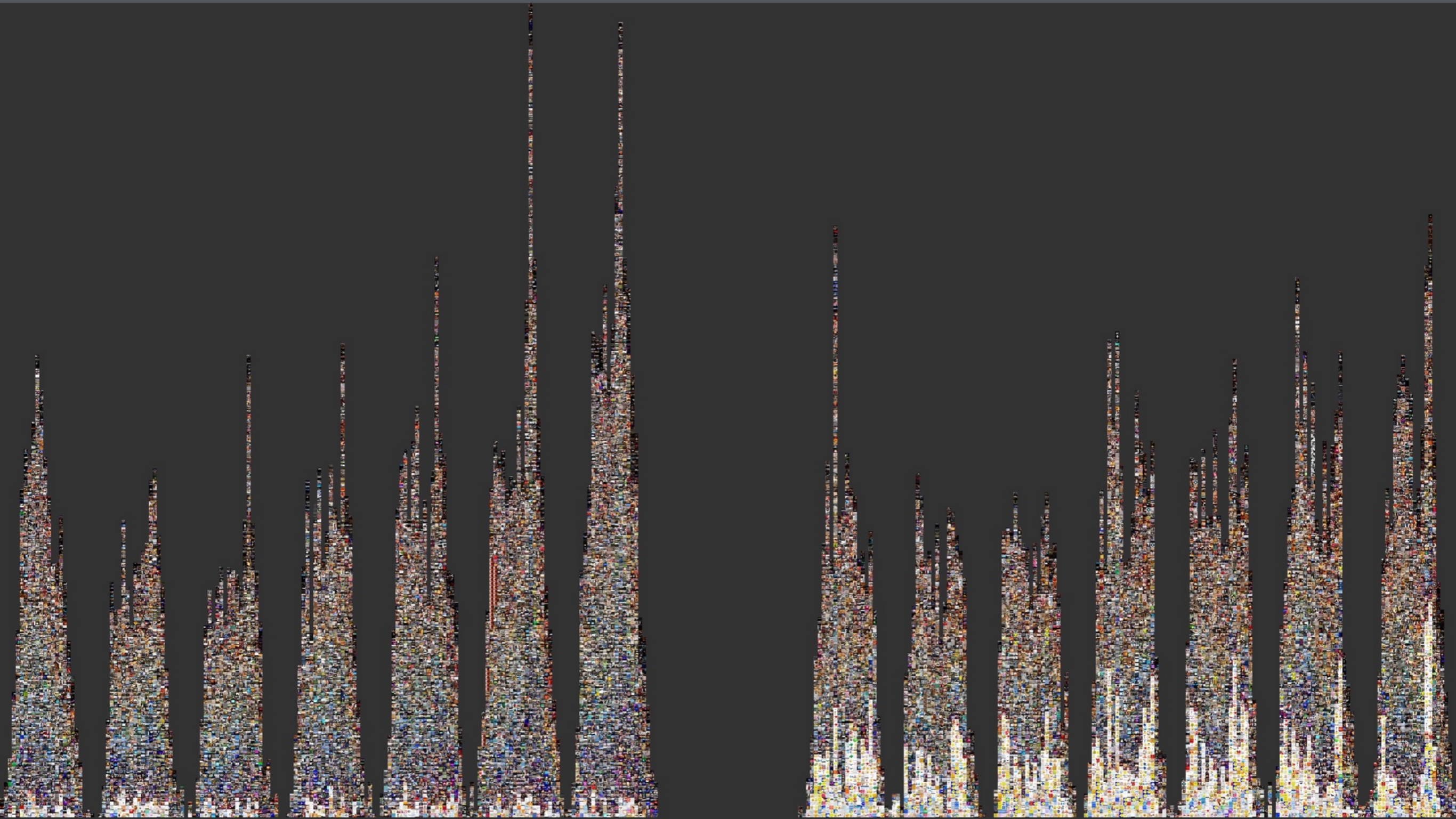
We classified 1 million twitter images
shared in 20 US cities in 2013 using
Google free Deep Learning Model
available to all researchers



F.O.O.D.
Fans Of Our Director

FRESH
SUMMER

CRIME
ALERT



IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Fig. 3. The proportion of images in each city classified as “web site, website, internet site, site.”

We have classified one million images from 20 U.S. cities using the GoogLeNet Convolutional Neural Network. The most frequent category is “web site, website, internet site, site.” We call these images “image-texts.” Figure 2 shows a sample of these images. Figure 3 shows the proportion of this category for all 20 cities among all other images. This proportion varies from about 5% to over 10%. As Figure 2 shows, image-texts are memes, screenshots, and other images that are not directly representative of the real world. However, note that many of them are screenshots of text message conversations on smart phones. So while they do not show real life social interactions or natural environments, they are records of new forms of sociality enabled by networks and mobile phones.

We can see from Figure 3 that the rates of image-texts are different for each city. Furthermore, as Figures 4 and 5 demonstrate, each city also has a unique diurnal pattern of such images. Therefore, both characteristics can be used as features. The first feature is the overall rate of image-texts per city. The second feature is the entropy of the diurnal distribution of the image-text rates for 24-hour cycle per city.

To see if these two features have some connection to the socio-economic indicators, we calculate Pearson correlations between the values of the features and the indicators. Tables II and III show the correlation values. The absolute values of correlations range from 0.47 to 0.64. The values are significant with $p < 0.01$, except for income which has $p < 0.05$. The correlation with “objective” measures (i.e., housing prices, education levels and incomes) are negative, whereas the correlation with “subjective” measure of “social well-being” as reported by Gallup are positive.

These negative correlations suggest that people in cities that are more affluent as measured by objective measures such as housing prices share text-images less frequently. In contrast, people in less affluent cities share text-images more often.

Indicator	Correlation	P-value
Median Housing Price	-0.5638	0.007735
Rate of Bachelor's Degree	-0.6413	0.001623
Average Income	-0.4772	0.01805
Social well-being	0.56100	0.001623

TABLE II. PEARSON CORRELATIONS BETWEEN THE PROPORTION OF IMAGES CLASSIFIED AS IMAGE-TEXTS AND FOUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES (FIGURE 2).

our lab: free tools, publications, projects, news:
www.softwarestudies.com

articles, books, projects:
www.manovich.net
academia.edu

contact:
www.facebook.com/lev.manovich
twitter.com/manovich
manovich.lev@gmail.com