

Digital Humanities and the Philosophy of Science

What is the nature of science and how has it changed over the past two centuries?

What drives scientific change, and what accounts for when and why scientists give up cherished views to adopt new ones?

How does science (fairly) reliably produce truths about the world?

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How does science (fairly) reliably produce truths about the world?

Traditional approaches from:

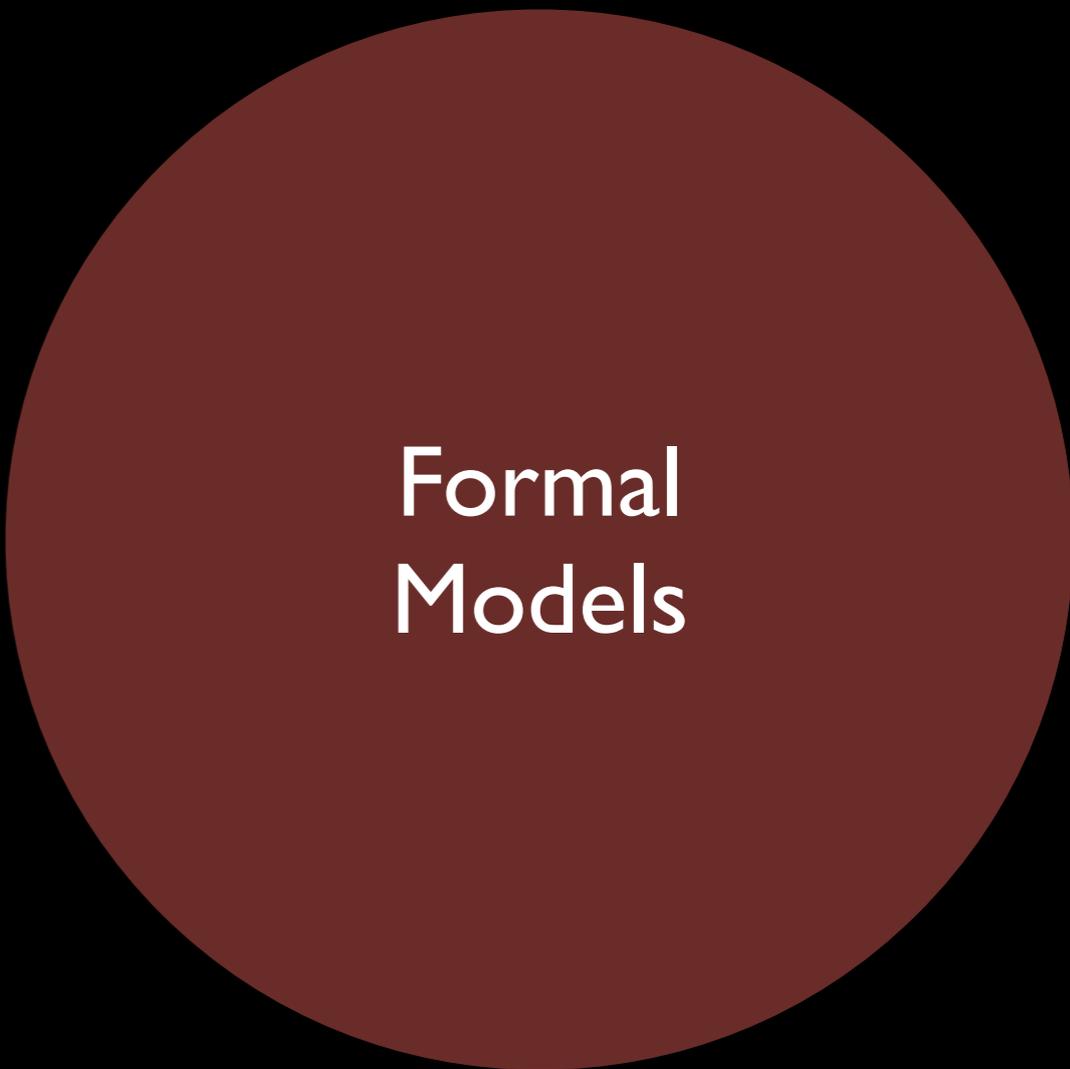
- ★ Philosophy of science
- ★ The social sciences
- ★ History



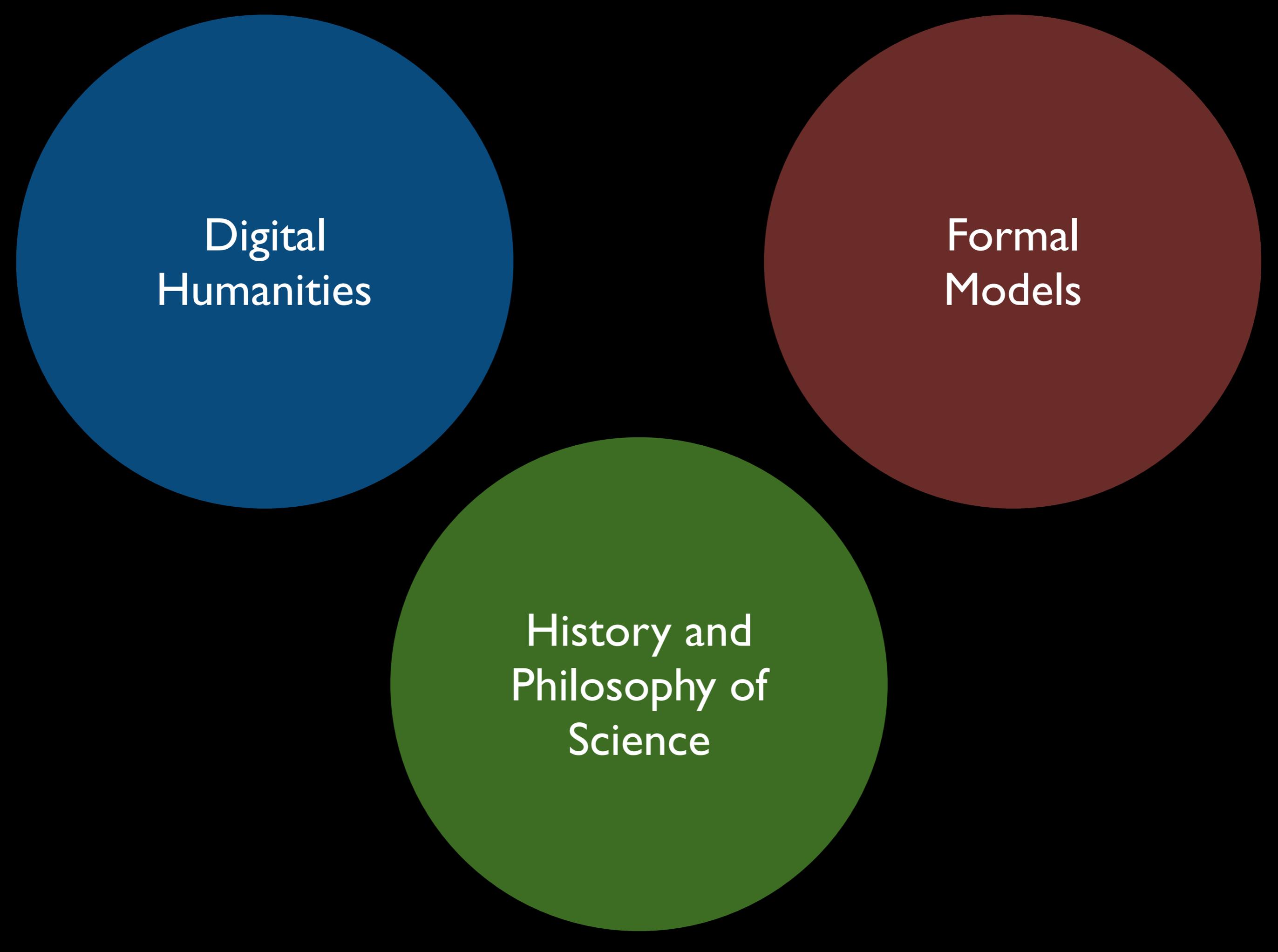
Digital
Humanities



Digital
Humanities



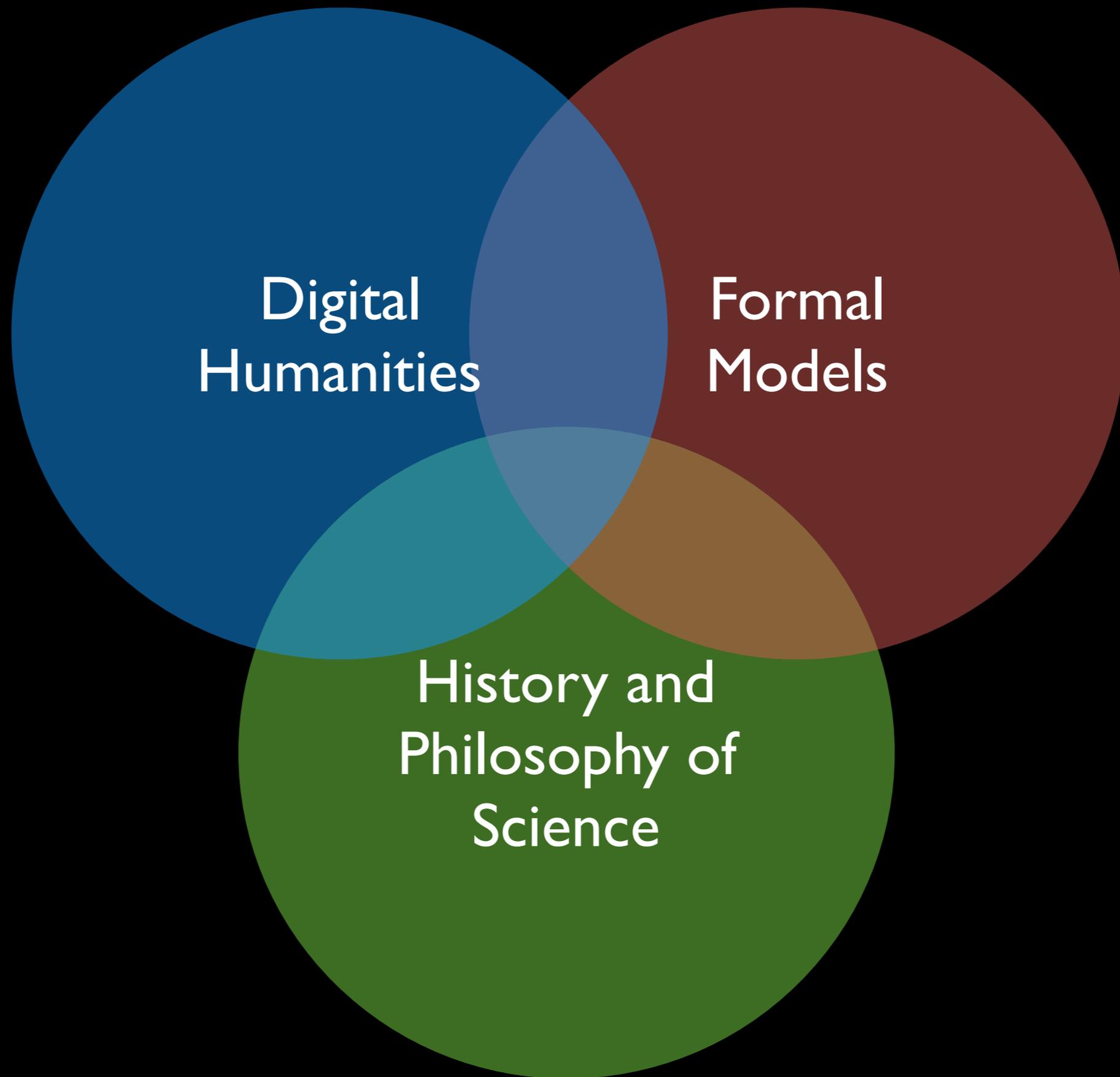
Formal
Models

A diagram consisting of three large, overlapping circles on a black background. The top-left circle is blue and contains the text 'Digital Humanities'. The top-right circle is red and contains the text 'Formal Models'. The bottom-center circle is green and contains the text 'History and Philosophy of Science'.

Digital
Humanities

Formal
Models

History and
Philosophy of
Science



Digital
Humanities

Formal
Models

History and
Philosophy of
Science

evoText and Philosophy of Science

Charles Pence

Louisiana State University

www.charlespence.net

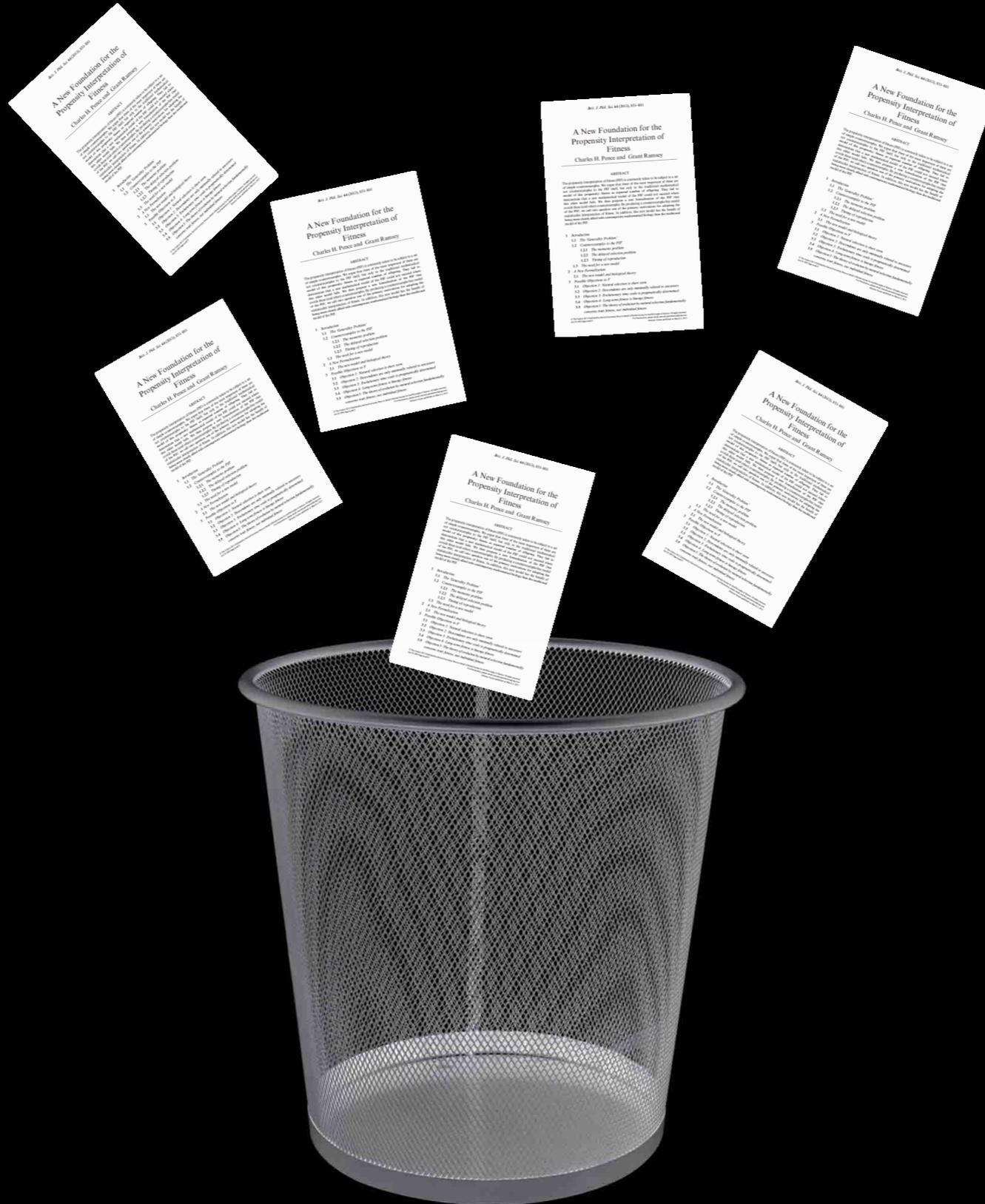
Grant Ramsey

KU Leuven

www.theramseylab.org

1. What is evoText?
2. How to use evoText
3. Preliminary results of evoText

I. What is evoText?



What question do you want to answer?

e.g.: How has the frequency of a term changed over time?



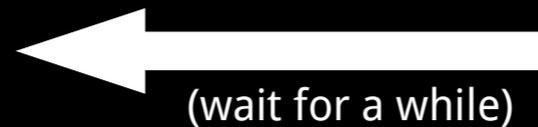
What data do you want to use?

e.g.: Articles in *Nature* from the 1990s



Provide a few more parameters

e.g.: Look for the term "evolution"



Get your results!

2. How to use evoText

evoText

New Analysis

Fetch Results

Advanced Tools ▾

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Start a new analysis

Start running a new analysis by deciding what kind of question you want to ask about the literature. Click on the question you want to explore to continue.

What's the frequency of word use within a given set of articles?
What are the "most important" or "most frequent" words used in a given set?

What broader network of words is often found with one focal word of interest?

When were a given set of articles published?

What proper names (locations, people, organizations) are mentioned in a given set of articles?

Given two sets of articles, what words mark out an article as belonging to set A rather than to set B, or vice versa?

How has the frequency of a term changed over time?
When was a word used within a particular dataset?

What pairs of words often appear directly together?
What technical terms or phrases appear in the literature?

Can I export a set of articles to my favorite format or reference manager?

What pairs of words often appear in the same sentence, paragraph, section, or article?

Plot the use of a term by date

This analysis job takes a single dataset and plots the occurrences of a term within it by date.

This job results in a graph of the occurrences of the given term within your dataset, plotted by date, as well as those occurrences downloadable as a CSV file. This allows us to answer a wide variety of questions:

How has the frequency of use of a term changed over time? *(Input: a dataset of interest, plotting for the use of a given term)*

When was a term first introduced into the literature? *(Input: a dataset of interest, looking for the place when the term is first introduced)*

How has a term moved through the literature? *(Input: comparing these graphs for the same term across different journals and time periods)*

[Back](#)[Start](#)

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Collect data

You now need to determine which datasets this analysis job will run on.

In order to run, this analysis job requires that you provide 1 dataset. Datasets are created by performing searches, then saving a set of search results.

1 dataset still needs to be added

Datasets for this job:

Dataset Name

No datasets specified

[Create another dataset](#)[Link an already created dataset](#)

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Sort ▾

Save Results

449846 articles in database

No filters active

« 1 2 3 4 ... 44984 44985 »

The Circadian Neuropeptide PDF Signals Preferentially through a Specific Adenylate Cyclase Isoform AC3 in M Pacemakers of *Drosophila*

More ▾

Laura B. Duvall, Paul H. Taghert | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001337

Brian: The Typographical Error that Brought Early Career Neuroscientists and Artists Together

More ▾

Megan J. Dowie, Erin Forsyth, Leah Forsyth | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001340

The Origin of Glucocorticoid Hormone Oscillations

More ▾

Jamie J. Walker, Francesca Spiga, Eleanor Waite, Zidong Zhao, Yvonne Kershaw, John R. Terry, Stafford L. Lightman | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001341

The DEAD-Box Protein Dhh1 Promotes Decapping by Slowing Ribosome Movement

More ▾

Thomas Sweet, Carrie Kovalak, Jeff Coller | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001342

The Limits to Sustainability Science: Ecological Constraints or Endless Innovation?

More ▾

Georgina M. Mace | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001343

The Shifting Boundaries of Sustainability Science: Are We Doomed Yet?

More ▾

John H. Matthews, Frederick Boltz | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001344

The Macroecology of Sustainability

More ▾

Joseph R. Burger, Craig D. Allen, James H. Brown, William R. Burnside, Ana D. Davidson, Trevor S. Fristoe, Marcus J. Hamilton, Norman Mercado-Silva, Jeffrey C. Nekola, Jordan G. Okie, Wenyun Zuo | *PLoS Biology*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (2012), pp. e1001345

Filter search

Authors

Jr. 1841

R. L. 405

W. F. DENNING 252

G. A. J. C. 177

E. RAY LANKESTER 169

Journal

Nature 363783

Ecology 13754

American Naturalist 11731

Journal of Mammalogy 9222

Evolution 7927

Publication Date

1960–1969 58869

2000–2009 51397

1980–1989 46518

1970–1979 45582

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Sort ▾

Save Results

32473 articles found

Remove All ✕

Journal: Nature ✕

Year: 1990–1999 ✕

« 1 2 3 4 ... 3247 3248 »

You looking at me?

| *Nature*, Vol. 397, No. 6717 (1999), pp. 313-313

More ▾

News in Brief

| *Nature*, Vol. 399, No. 6738 (1999), pp. 724-725

More ▾

Discovery of the acoustic Faraday effect in superfluid ³He-B

Y. Lee, T. M. Haard, W. P. Halperin, J. A. Sauls | *Nature*, Vol. 400, No. 6743 (1999), pp. 431-433

More ▾

Angiogenesis inhibited by drinking tea

Yihai Cao, Renhai Cao | *Nature*, Vol. 398, No. 6726 (1999), pp. 381-381

More ▾

Cracking anaerobic bacteria

| *Nature*, Vol. 401, No. 6750 (1999), pp. 217-218

More ▾

Measurement of gravitational acceleration by dropping atoms

Achim Peters, Keng Yeow Chung, Steven Chu | *Nature*, Vol. 400, No. 6747 (1999), pp. 849-852

More ▾

Science in culture

| *Nature*, Vol. 401, No. 6755 (1999), pp. 744-744

More ▾

Arima ascendant

More ▾

Filter search

Authors

Alison Abbott 58

David Swinbanks 54

Colin Macilwain 44

Declan Butler 41

David Dickson 35

Advanced search

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Search for articles...

32473 articles found

Remove All

Create a new dataset



Give these search results a name, and they will be preserved as a new dataset.

* Name

[Create Dataset](#)

You looking at me?

| *Nature*, Vol. 397, No. 6717 (1999), pp. 313-313

[More](#)

News in Brief

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[More](#)

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Angiogenesis inhibited by drinking tea

[More](#)

Filter search

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Declan Butler 41

David Dickson 35

[Advanced search](#)

Collect data

All data has now been collected. Click the button to start the analysis!

[Set Job Options](#)

Datasets for this job:

Dataset Name

Nature '90s

[Remove](#)

Job options

This job has some more options that you can configure before you get started.

Term frequency date analysis options

* Focal word

[Home](#) / [Fetch Results](#)

Fetch analysis results

From here, you can retrieve the data produced by your analyses. Make sure to save it soon, because it is only preserved for 14 days.

Pending analysis tasks

Analysis Task	Dataset	Task Progress
Plot word occurrences by date	Nature '90s	14%: Querying term frequency counts...

Are these tasks taking too long to finish? We can try to [terminate all pending jobs](#), though that might not work. If it fails, [e-mail the site administrators](#).

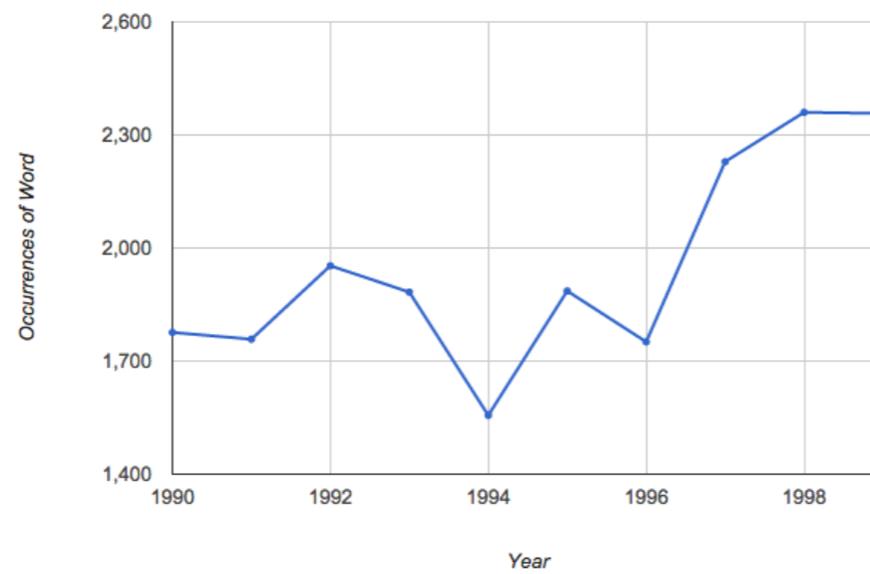
Completed analysis tasks

You have no analysis tasks already completed.

Dataset: Nature '90s

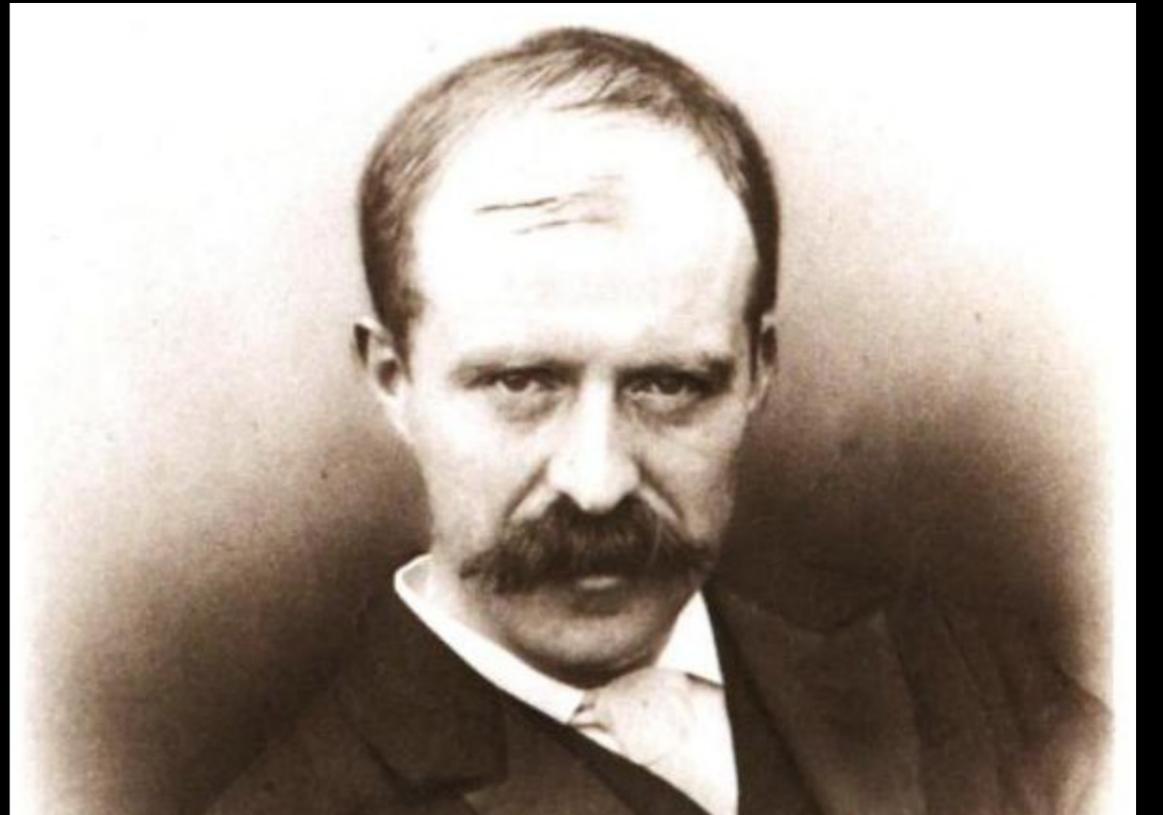
Download in CSV format

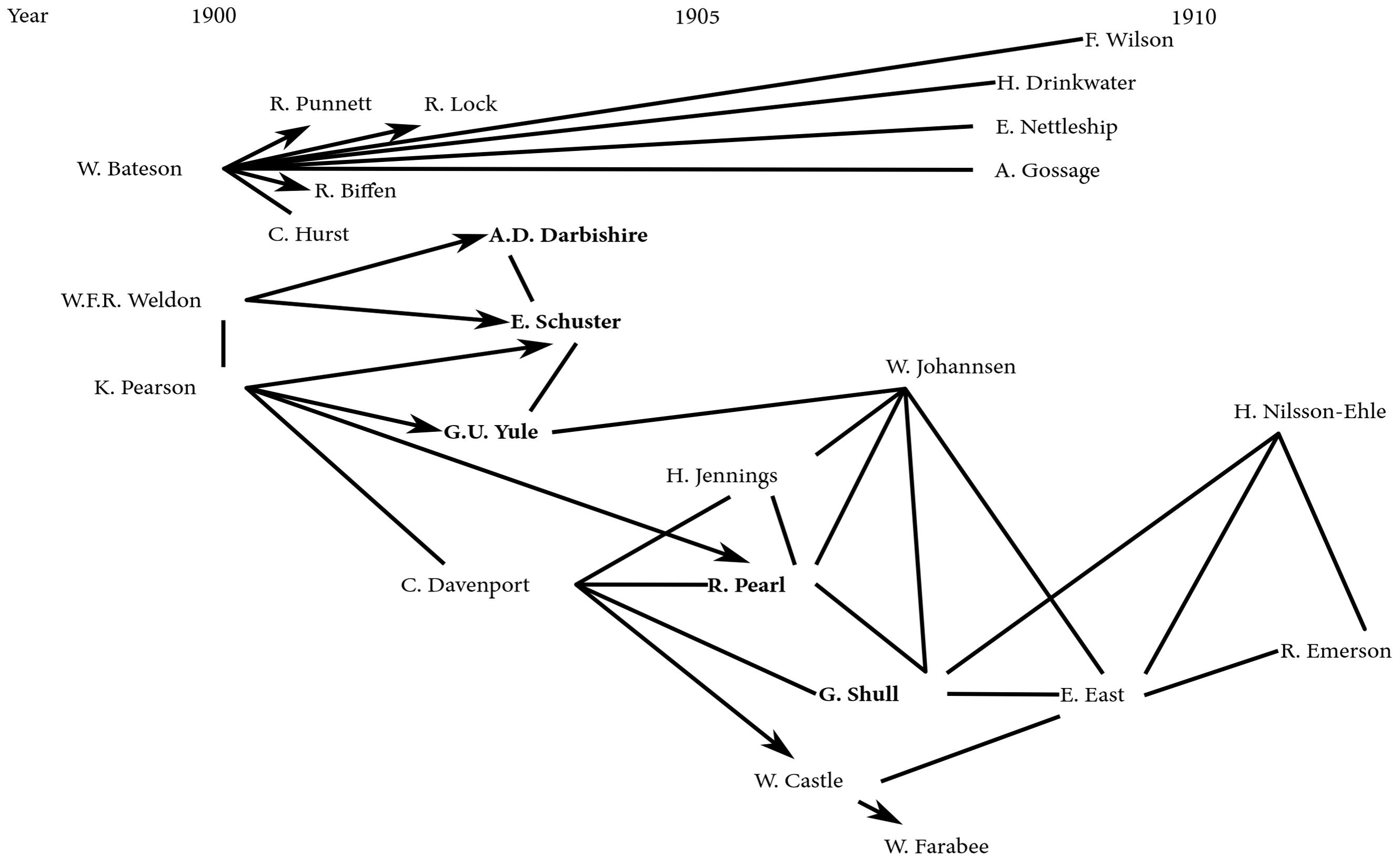
Occurrences of evolution, plotted by year



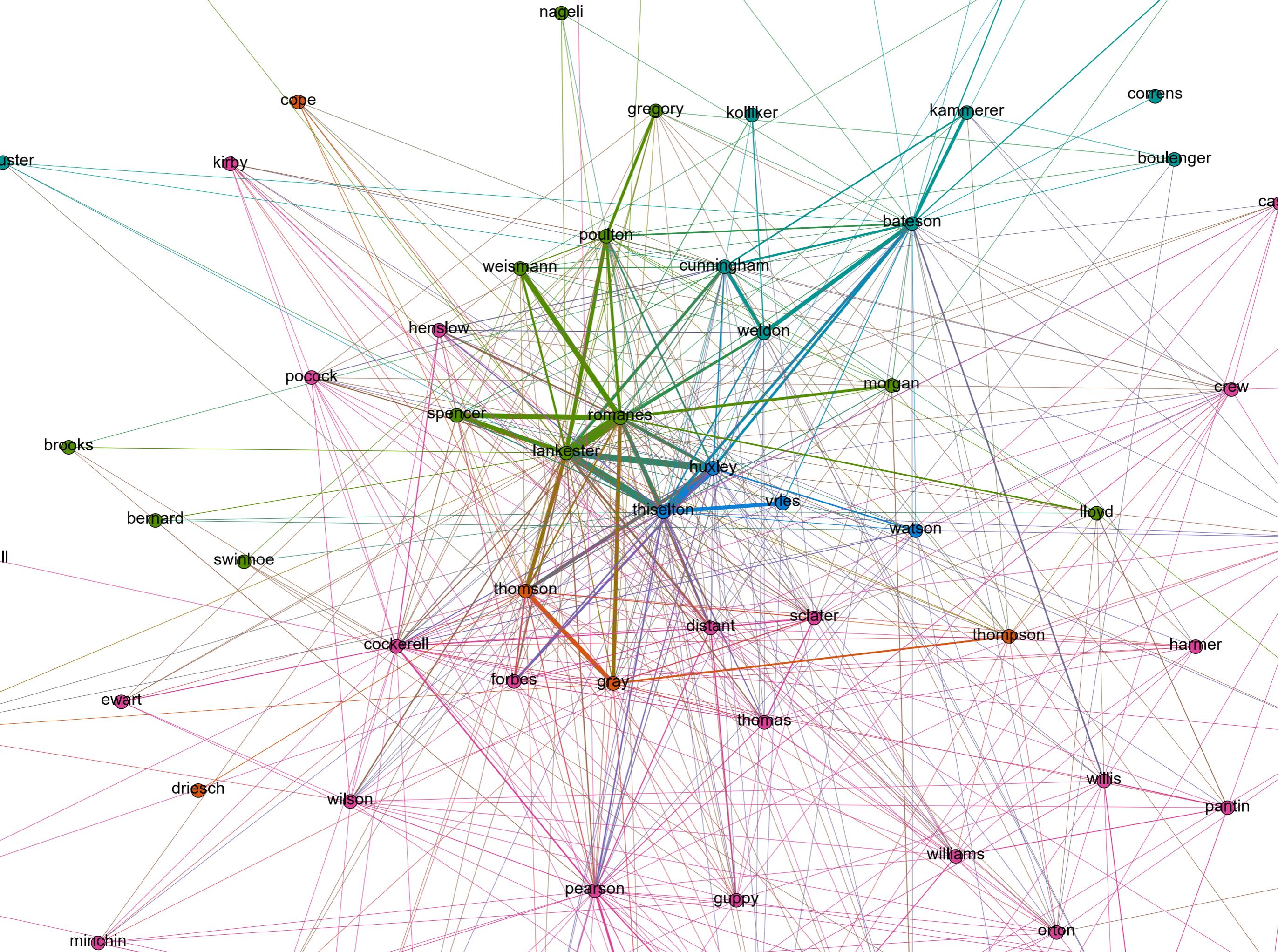
Year ▲	Occurrences of Word
1990	1776
1991	1758
1992	1953
1993	1883
1994	1556
1995	1886
1996	1751
1997	2229
1998	2360
1999	2357

3. Preliminary results from evoText





- A network of ~100 biologists
- Publishing in *Nature* from 1869–1940
- Total of ~2,000 articles (or letters)





-1894



1895-99



1900-04



1905-09



1910-





-1894



1895-99



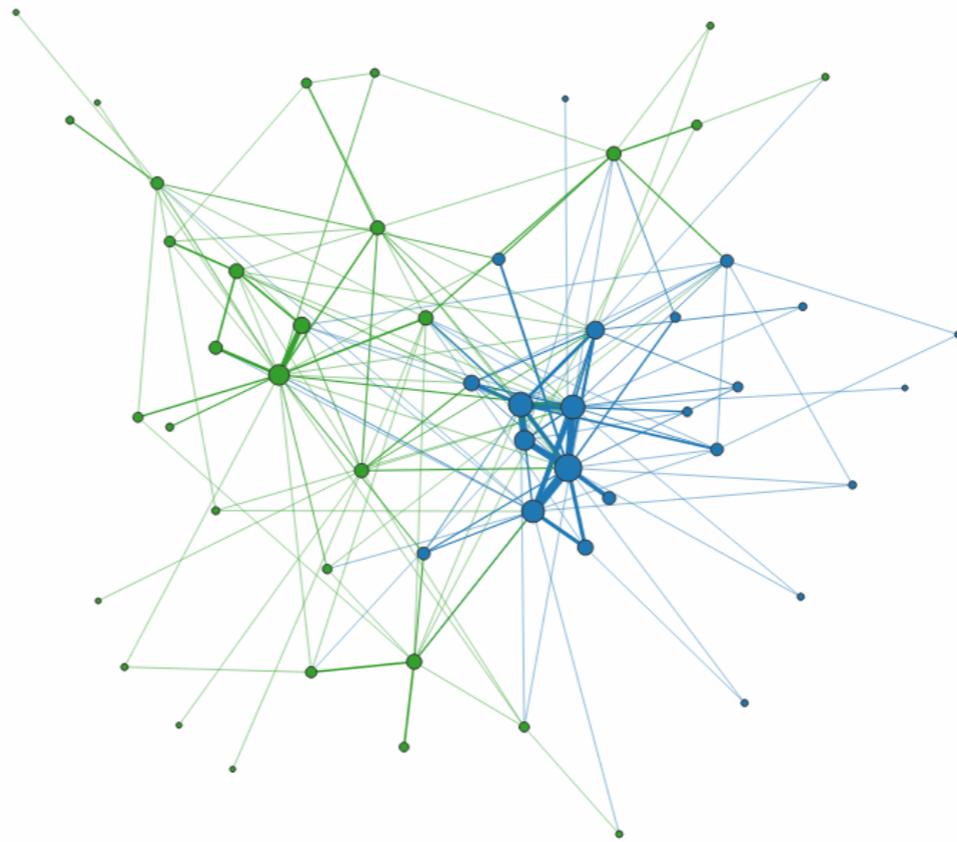
1900-04



1905-09



1910-





-1894



1895-99



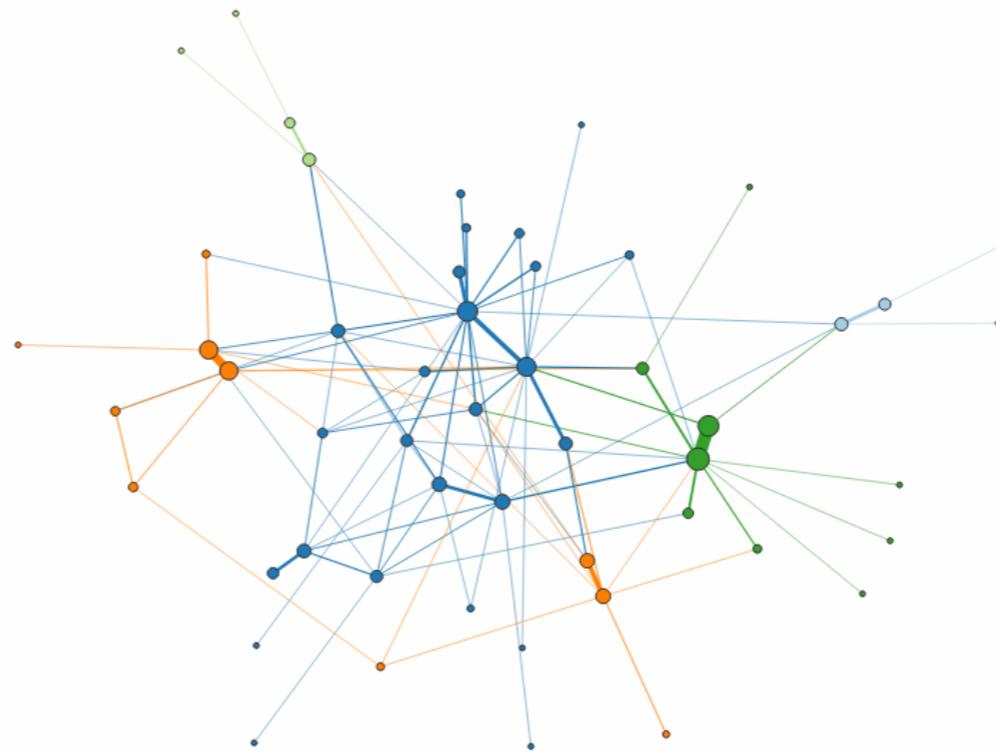
1900-04



1905-09



1910-



- Network of discourse **does** reflect community structure!
- Paradigm “debaters” or “warriors” pull themselves out of the broader discussion
- Networks of discourse give us a way to draw connections **across** paradigms at times of crisis

Thank You

