

Brief Bio and (PR)²: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by *Chris Alen Sula*



Chris Alen Sula is a doctoral candidate in philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center and an Adjunct Lecturer at Lehman College, CUNY. His dissertation research focuses individuals' interactions with each other and the world, including topics in metaethics, intentionality, and cognitive science, as well as empirical work in evolutionary biology and formal models of social behavior and decision making. He is also a web developer, photographer, and quantitative artist. His current project with David Morrow combines data visualization tools with a database of dissertation information, faculty appointments, and publication metadata. The result is a free, open-access tool that gives important context to philosophical ideas, enriching research for students and scholars.

Publication:

“Naturalized Metaphilosophy” with David Morrow, forthcoming in *Synthese* (Special Issue on Representing Philosophy)

Projects:

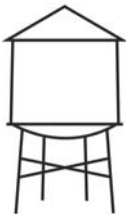
Phylo (phylo.info)

DailyViz (dailyviz.info)

Website:

chrisalensula.org

Image I identify with:



General Questions

1) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?

My interest in the workshop is threefold. First, I'd like to get a sense of what tools others use to generate visualizations. I'm particularly interested in dynamic and interactive renderings of information, but I'm curious about static displays and the processing and

creative potentials that inform the choice between static and dynamic representations. Second, I'm eager to hear about the processes other researchers engage in creating information: How is representation format decided? What and how many draft stages are attempted? When does one become confident that one way of representing the data is more successful than alternatives? What evaluation and assessment measures are used to gauge the effectiveness of visualization in general and particular visualizations? Finally, since my major research is not focused on the history and philosophy of science or mapping/geography, I'm excited about interacting with others doing work similar to my visualization projects.

2) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?

I'd like to achieve more explicit understanding of why and when visualizations are useful in approaching data. I'd also like to see a range of ways in which visualization can be accomplished, both in terms of tools/formats and design choices.

3) ***If you are a philosopher of an historian of science:*** In what ways might people that study and map science benefit from your work?

If you are a scientometrician/science map maker: In what ways might philosophers or historians of science benefit from your work?

I am neither a philosopher or historian of science, nor a scientometrician/science map maker, but my main interest in coming is how these two groups might benefit each other and, more generally, how visualization might inform comprehension (especially of large data sets) yet how, at the same time, data and theoretical interests might constrain the possibilities for representation.