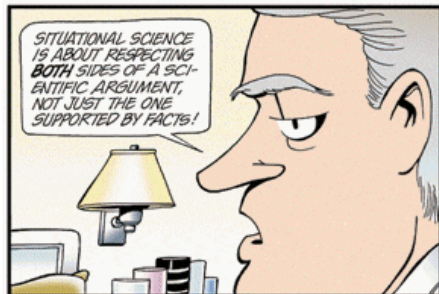
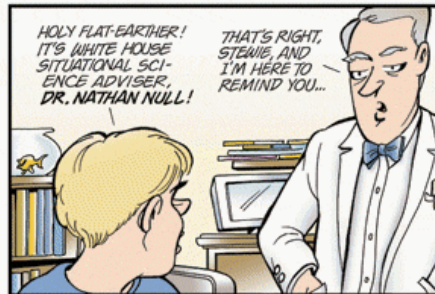
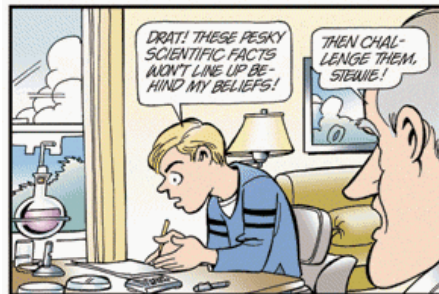
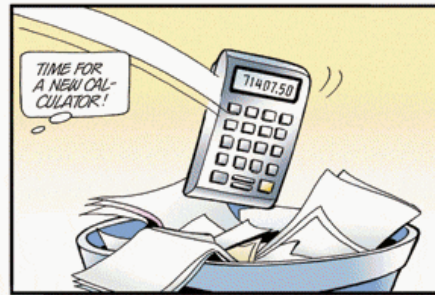


# **Mapping Controversies with Wikipedia**

DMI summer school 09 - session 2

Sabine Niederer



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www.dorland.com

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# Controversies

- “from a heated debate to a very cool dispute” (Latour, DMI Summer School 2008)
- when there is uncertainty about facts
- a controversy refers to a range of attitudes, including consensus and agreement.
- consensus is one extreme of a controversy when they often abandon the controversy or agree.
- examples: tobacco, GM food, climate change, biofuels, etc.

# Detecting a good controversy

- heterogeneity of the sources of information
- dispute in various publications
- different disciplines
- heterogeneous types of data
- range of actors
- range of vocabulary
- how many people are involved (how many scientists)
- is it live? past / present

(Mapping controversies week, DMI summer school 08)

“(...) controversies mapping entails no conceptual assumptions and requires no methodological protocols. There are no definitions to learn; no premises to honor; no hypothesis to demonstrate; no procedure to follow; no correlations to establish. Researchers are not even asked to explain what they study, but only to observe a controversy and describe what they see. Like zoo-born animals released in the wild, students entering cartographic projects report bewilderment and euphoria.”

Tommaso Venturini (2009). Diving in Magma. How to Explore Controversies with Actor-Network Theory, Draft version to appear in *Public Understanding of Science*, <http://www.ideaedi.it/2008/index.php?page=exploring-controversies>.

# HOW THE SKEPTICS GOT ORGANIZED

## Climate change skeptics and their related issues

---

Research by Sabine Niederer and the Digital Methods Initiative, University of Amsterdam

# Climate Change Skepticism

1. Context: Mapping Controversies
2. How the Climate Change Skeptics got Organized
3. Comparing Climate Science with Climate Change Skepticism (Science?)
4. Climate Change Experts, or Professional Skeptics?  
On the Skeptics' Related Issues.

# 1. MAPPING CONTROVERSIES

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Start of the Mapping Controversies Week @ DMI Summer School,  
Skype Conference Call with Bruno Latour.



## Climate Change Skeptics on the Web (S. Fred Singer)

Research Question\_To what extent are climate change 'skeptics' present in the climate change spaces on the Web?

Findings\_There is distance between the skeptics and the top of the search engine returns.

epa.gov (0) bbc.co.uk (0) defra.gov.uk (0) unep.org (0) bom.gov.au (0) ipcc.ch (0) pewclimate.org (0)  
davidsuzuki.org (0) panda.org (0) mfe.govt.nz (0) ec.gc.ca (0) exploratorium.edu (0) climatechange.com.au (0)  
greenpeace.org (1) climatechallenge.gov.uk (0) guardian.co.uk (0) iisd.org (0) g8.gov.uk (0) campaigncc.org (1)  
foe.co.uk (0) state.gov (0) scidev.net (0) eea.europa.eu (0) whoi.edu (0) cbc.ca (0) energy.gov (0)  
marshall.org (0) climateark.org (1) un.org (0) dar.csiro.au (0) theglobeandmail.com (0) acfonline.org.au (0)  
gcio.org (0) nature.com (0) grida.no (0) nature.org (0) ecokids.ca (0) royalsoc.ac.uk (0)  
climatechangecentral.com (0) iea.org (0) ecn.ac.uk (0) ecy.wa.gov (0) worldwildlife.org (0)  
realclimate.org (14) faqs.org (0) metoffice.gov.uk (0) open2.net (0) scienceagogo.com (0)  
eldis.org (0) ft.com (0) who.int (0) climatecrisis.net (0) ltscotland.org.uk (0) abc.net.au (0) climatechange.ca.gov (0)  
envirolink.org (0) mofa.go.jp (0)

# sourcewatch.org (64)

iucn.org (0) dfat.gov.au (0) ncdc.noaa.gov (0) climatescience.gov (11)  
climatechangecollege.org (0) ciel.org (0) ucar.edu (0)

Source\_google.com  
Query\_“Fred Singer”  
Method\_Search for query “Fred Singer” in top 100. Organized in order.  
Tools\_Google Scraper and Tag Cloud Generator  
Date\_30 July 2007

Product\_of the Digital Methods Initiative,  
dmi.mediaudies.nl. Analysis\_by Bram Nijhof,  
Richard Rogers and Laura van der Vlies.  
Design\_Anne Helmond.

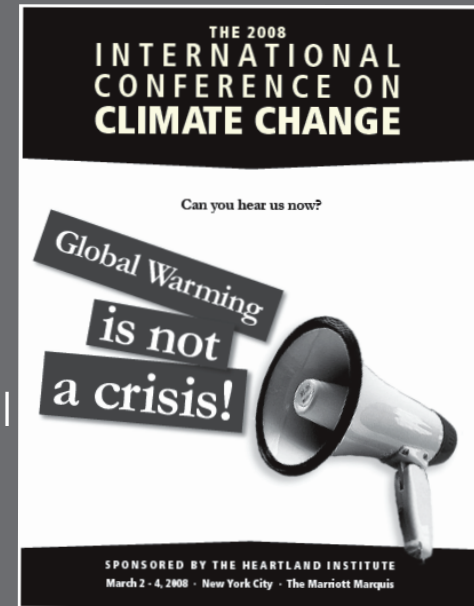


CC BY-NC-SA

## 2. The Skeptics got Organized

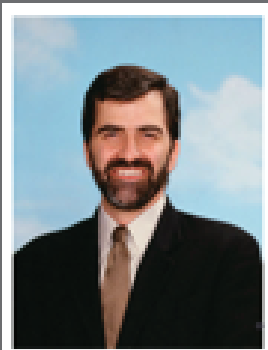
In March 2008, the Heartland conference organized the first international climate change skeptics conference.

The “2008 International Conference on Climate Change,” was a three-day event, with panels, keynote speakers, three parallel tracks, and proceedings.



## 2. The Skeptics got Organized

---



Joseph L. Bast:

"These scientists and economists [attending the conference, SN] have been published thousands of times in the world's leading scientific journals and have written hundreds of books.

If you call this the fringe, where's the center?"

---

Question: What is the place and status of climate change skepticism?

- > 1. **Do the climate change skeptics have a similar distribution of disciplines as the non-skeptics?**
2. Are skeptics indeed mainstream?
3. Are they climate change experts, or professional skeptics?

**Question:** Do the climate change skeptics have a similar distribution of disciplines as the non-skeptics?

1. Compile a list of important climate change skeptics.

The list of climate change skeptics is derived from three sources: [sourcewatch.com](http://sourcewatch.com), [motherjones.com](http://motherjones.com), [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).

Subsequently, the keynote speakers of the Heartland Conference were added, which lead to the following shortlist:

Sallie Baliunas, Joseph Bast, Paul Driessen, William Gray, Sherwood Idso, Vaclav Klaus, Richard Lindzen, Patrick Michaels, Steven Milloy, Frederick Seitz †, S. Fred Singer, Willie Soon, Roy Spencer, John Stossel, James M. Taylor.

**Question:** Do the climate change skeptics have a similar distribution of disciplines as the non-skeptics?

---

2. Query ISI web of science for the skeptics shortlist and download the articles' data and citations.
  3. Query ISI web of science for all articles about Climate Change and download the articles' data and citations.  
Result file: data of 15.877 articles about climate change, cited at least 3 times.
-

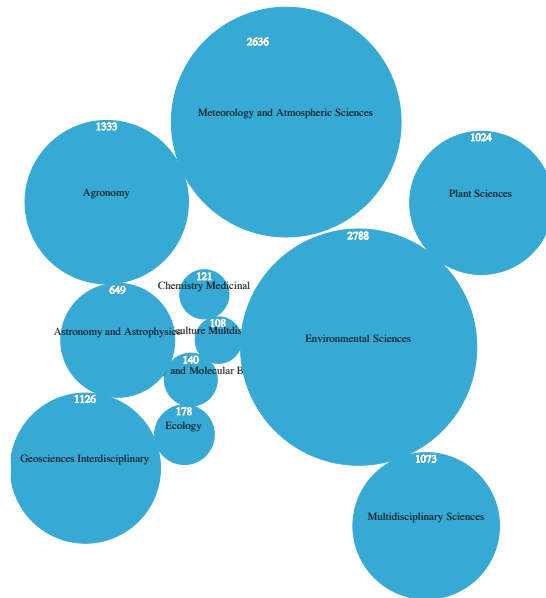
## Does Climate Change Skepticism resemble Climate Change Science?

**Question**\_Does the composition of climate science mirror that of skeptic climate science?

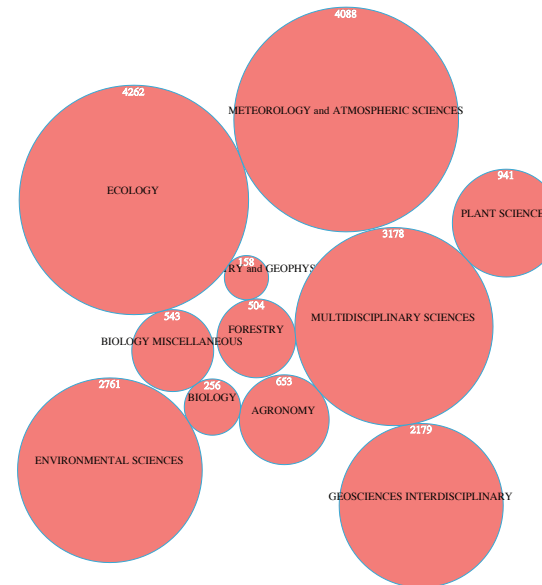
In other words, is skeptic climate science in its own field, in the sense of the particular distribution of disciplines?

**Method**\_Here we compare the disciplines of the journals in which significant climate change articles appear with those of the skeptics.

**Findings**\_The top 5 disciplines in the Climate Sciences are among the top 10 disciplines in the skeptics' sciences.



Articles per Discipline	Discipline (Skeptics List)
2788	Environmental Sciences
2636	Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences
1333	Agronomy
1126	Geosciences, Interdisciplinary
1073	Multidisciplinary Sciences
1024	Plant Sciences
649	Astronomy & Astrophysics
178	Ecology
140	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
121	Chemistry, Medicinal



Articles per Discipline	Discipline (Climate Sciences)
4262	Ecology
4088	Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences
3178	Multidisciplinary Sciences
2761	Environmental Sciences
2179	Geosciences, Interdisciplinary
941	Plant Sciences
653	Agronomy
543	Biology, Miscellaneous
504	Forestry
396	Engineering, Environmental

Climate Change Skeptics and Science Disciplines	
Digital Methods Initiative, 2008. <a href="http://dmi.mediasudies.nl">http://dmi.mediasudies.nl</a>	August <b>08</b>
Analysis by Sabine Niederer, Bram Nijhof, Andrei Mogutov and Richard Rogers.	
Visualization by Sabine Niederer	
© 2008	

## Question: What is the Place and Status of Climate Change Skepticism?

1. Do the climate change skeptics have a similar distribution of disciplines as the non-skeptics?
- > **2. Are skeptics indeed mainstream?**
3. Are they climate change experts, or professional skeptics?



## Question: Are the skeptics indeed mainstream?

---

Take the result files and use ReseauLu to compare:

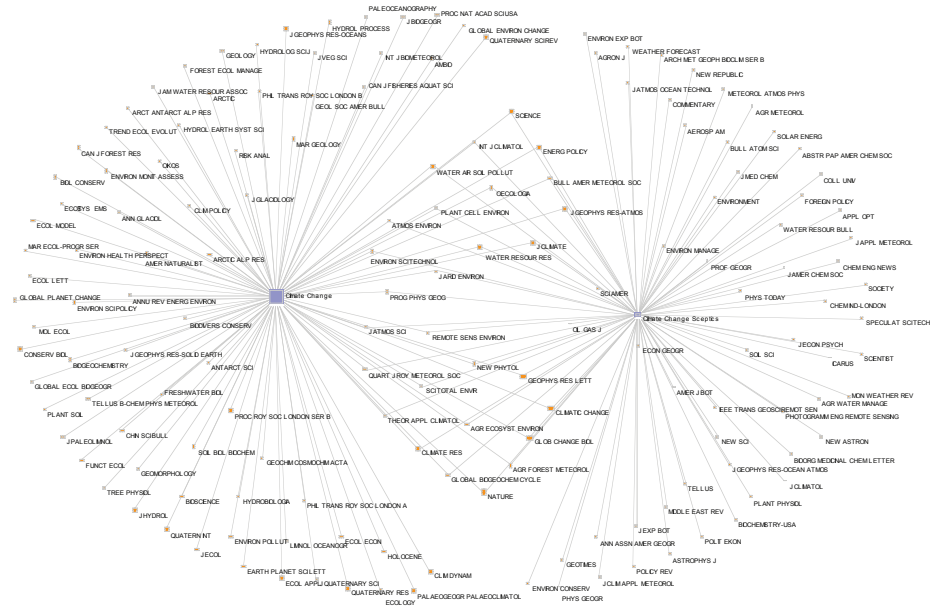
1. which journals do **not** publish the skeptics at all,
  2. which ones **only** publish the skeptics,
  3. and which journals publish **both** skeptics as well as non-skeptics
-

## How 'mainstream' or 'fringe' is Climate Change Skepticism in the field of Climate Change Science?

**Question** Do the climate change skeptics publish in the same journals as the climate change scientists?

**Method** Here we compare the journals in which significant climate change articles appear with those of the skeptics.

**Findings** The climate change skeptics and non-skeptics publish in the same top four climate change-related journals.



Nr. of Citations	Name Journal Climate Sciences
32558	Nature
26361	Science
13586	J Climate
10572	Geophys Res Lett
9424	J Geophys Res-atmos
8984	Climatic Change
8868	Ecolog
6497	Clim Dynam
6183	Quaternary Res
5733	Oecologia
5048	J Geophys Res
4807	Paleoceanography

Name Journal Skeptics	Nr. of Citations
Science	751
Nature	651
J Climate	556
Geophys Res Lett	409
J Atmos Sc	374
J Appl Meteorol	339
Mon Weather Rev	335
B Am Meteorol Soc	294
Agron J	287
Mon Wea Rev	267
J Geophys Res	241
Climatic Change	23

Climate Change Skeptics and Science Journals	
Digital Methods Initiative, 2008. <a href="http://dmi.medastudies.nl">http://dmi.medastudies.nl</a>	August <b>08</b>
Analysis by Sabine Niederer, Bram Nijhof, Andrei Mogsutov and Richard Rogers.	
Visualization by Sabine Niederer, using ReseauLu	
© 2008	

## Question: What is the place and status of climate change skepticism?

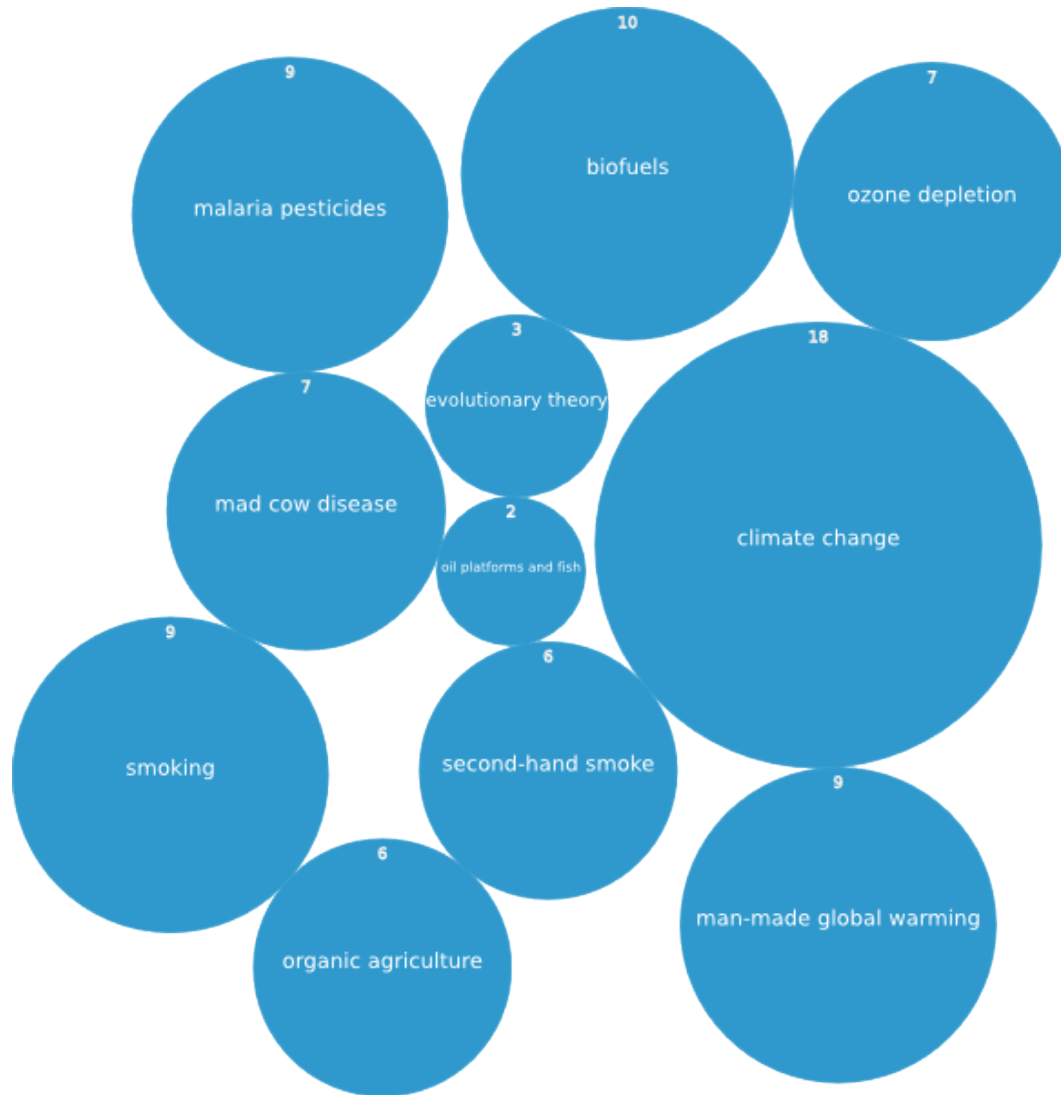
1. Do the climate change skeptics have a similar distribution of disciplines as the non-skeptics?
2. Are skeptics indeed mainstream?
- > 3. Are they climate change experts, or professional skeptics?**

## Question: Are the Skeptics Climate Change Experts, or are they Professional Skeptics?

1. Visit the homepages of each of the skeptics on the shortlist, and list the other issues they are skeptical about.
2. Check 'skeptical' publications for each of the skeptics in Google Scholar.
3. Go back to the lists on sourcewatch, wikipedia and motherjones and add issues.
4. Count related issues and create a Dorling map.

## Climate Change Skeptics and their Adjacent Issues

Are climate change skeptics only skeptical about climate change? Or do they have other issues they are skeptical about?



### Related Issues:

Biofuels  
 Man-made global warming  
 Dangers of smoking  
 Malaria pesticides  
 Dangers of Mad Cow Disease  
 Ozone depletion  
 Dangers of second-hand smoke  
 Organic agriculture  
 Evolutionary theory  
 Oil platforms and fish

#### Climate Change Skeptics and their Adjacent Issues

Digital Methods Initiative, 2008.  
<http://dmi.mediaudies.nl>

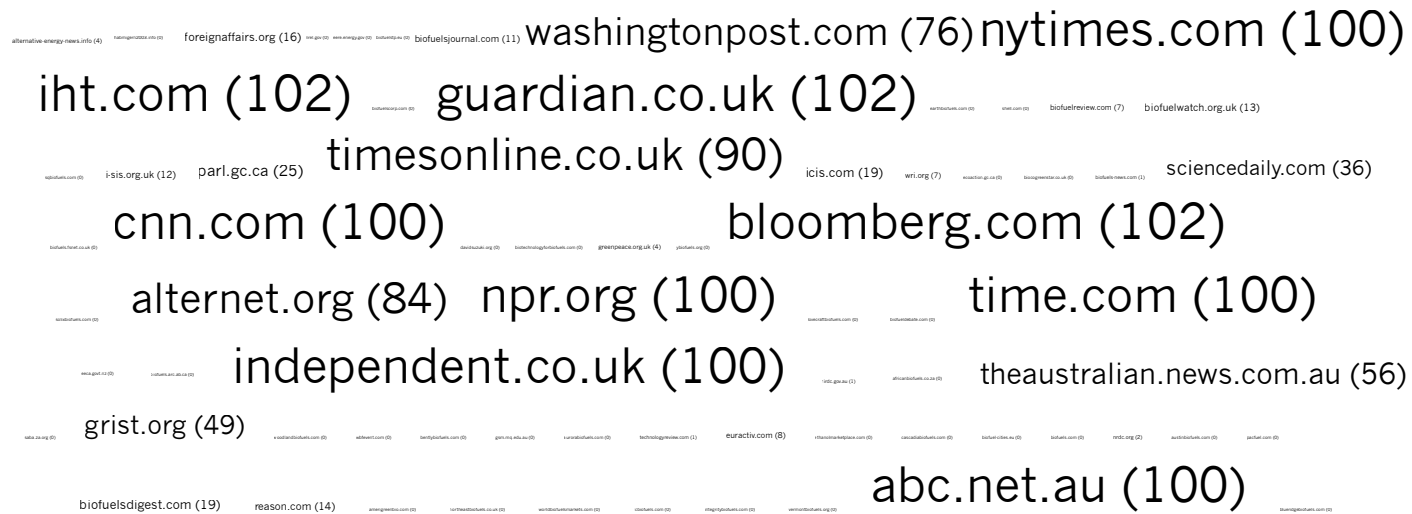
August

Analysis by Sabine Niederer, Bram Nijhof, Andrei Mogoutov and Richard Rogers.

Visualization by Sabine Niederer  
 © 2008

## Biofuels vs. Food Crisis?

Research Question\_Where is food crisis mentoned in the top 100  
Google results for the query biofuels?  
Findings\_In the top 100 Google results, mainly newspapers pay  
attention to the food crisis debate.



Source\_ <http://www.google.com>

Query\_ biofuels

Method\_ Scrape the top 100 Google results for the query biofuels in the Google Scraper for "food crisis".

Scale and cloud results.

Result\_ Ordered cloud of all related urls i

Date\_ 18 May 2008

Product\_of the Digital Methods Initiative,  
dmi.mediaudies.nl.

Analysis\_by Sabine Niederer. Design\_by  
Sabine Niederer and Anne Helmond.



ISSUE ANIMALS

CC\_BY:NC:SA



**Figure 3: One Query, Two Depictions of Biofuels.** For the query of biofuels in Google Images, on the left is result number one, on the right result number 75. The first results for this query provide green biofuels imagery, whilst result number 75 refers to the food shortage and raising food prices, with a picture of a woman and starving child. (Source: Google Images, 26 May 2008)

## Is Wikipedia a good place to study controversies?

- an encyclopedia is a neutral, de-politicized space;
- one of Wikipedia's core principles is NPoV (the other two: verifiability and no original research)
- Wikipedia makes use of technical tools and content agents to deal with vandalism and dubious content.



## Wikipedia is often studied:

- as a group effort: an example of collaborative knowledge production or wisdom of the crowds thanks to an open editing system;
- by questioning its 'encyclopedia-ness,' by comparing it to Encyclopedia Britannica.
- by researching bias/spin: by revealing who has been editing certain articles (by way of the Wikiscanner).
- Technicity of content: how dependent are the various user groups and the Wikipedia content on the (underlying) technology. Arguably, the technology helps shape the content, not only by a system of notifications and tools, but also by Wikipedia's non-human content agents, the bots.
- A next step in Wikipedia research could put Wikipedia to use as a space for societal controversy diagnostics.

## How to recognize controversy on Wikipedia?

- NPoV list
- history / talk pages
- stats pages
- most edited wikipedia articles
- articles on 'controversial' topics

# NPoV

The neutral point of view is a means of dealing with conflicting [verifiable](#) perspectives on a topic as evidenced by [reliable sources](#). The policy requires that where multiple or conflicting perspectives exist within a topic each should be presented fairly.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NPOV>)

**\***

- [Wikipedia:Template messages/Disputes](#)
- [Wikipedia:WikiProject Neutrality](#)

**2**

- [Talk:2009 flu pandemic](#)

**A**

- [User talk:Ashe the Cyborg](#)

**B**

- [Talk:Brad Barkley](#)

**C**

- [User:Cailil/acid](#)
- [Canadian Union of Public Employees](#)

**D**

- [Wikipedia:Dispute templates](#)

**F**

- [User:Fahadsadah/cleanup](#)
- [Talk:Freq Nasty](#)

**G**

- [Britney Gallivan](#)

**H**

- [Wikipedia:Help desk/Archive 44](#)
- [History of animal testing](#)

- [Hockwold cum Wilton](#)

**J**

- [J. Z. Knight](#)
- [James the Just](#)
- [Talk:John Pickstone](#)

**L**

- [Line of contact](#)
- [User:Liz Beres/KEIGWIN+COMPANY](#)

**M**

- [Talk:Erwin McManus](#)
- [Talk:Mongolia](#)
- [Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People](#)

**N**

- [Wikipedia:NPOV dispute](#)
- [Named pipe](#)
- [Wikipedia:Neutrality templates](#)

**P**

- [Template talk:POV](#)
- [Template:POV-intro](#)
- [Template:POV-section](#)

- [Template:POV-section/sandbox](#)
- [L. Brooks Patterson](#)
- [Talk:Pete Wilson](#)

**R**

- [User:Refsworldlee](#)

**S**

- [Talk:September 11 attacks](#)
- [Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy](#)
- [SmartWay Transport Partnership](#)
- [Wikipedia:Sockpuppet investigations/Ravichandar84/Report](#)

**T**

- [Talk:Tailings](#)
- [Wikipedia:Template messages/Cleanup](#)
- [Wikipedia:Templates for deletion/Log/2006 August 22](#)
- [Travunia](#)
- [User:Triwbe/Bookmarks](#)

**W**

- [Walter Winchell](#)

**Z**

- [Zachlunia](#)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:NPOV\\_disputes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:NPOV_disputes)

# page history

[\[arc\]](#) [\[bs\]](#) [\[cs\]](#) [\[de\]](#) [\[dsb\]](#) [\[en\]](#) [\[es\]](#) [\[fi\]](#) [\[fr\]](#) [\[gl\]](#) [\[grc\]](#) [\[gsw\]](#) [\[he\]](#) [\[hi\]](#) [\[hsb\]](#) [\[hu\]](#) [\[ia\]](#) [\[id\]](#) [\[it\]](#) [\[ja\]](#) [\[ksh\]](#) [\[lb\]](#) [\[nl\]](#) [\[no\]](#) [\[oc\]](#) [\[pl\]](#) [\[pt\]](#) [\[ru\]](#) [\[tr\]](#) [\[vi\]](#)

## WikiBlame

Language

Project

Page

Search for

Always skip x versions

Ignore first x versions

Versions to check

Start date (DD-MM-YYYY)

Order  latest first  oldest first

Search method  linear  interpolated (faster with more versions)

ignore minor changes (experimental)

---

Version history of [Biofuel](#) is being searched for **food** ...  
versions found

- [15:30, 3 July 2009](#) OOO
- [15:25, 3 July 2009](#) OOO
- [15:09, 3 July 2009](#) OOO
- [15:07, 3 July 2009](#)

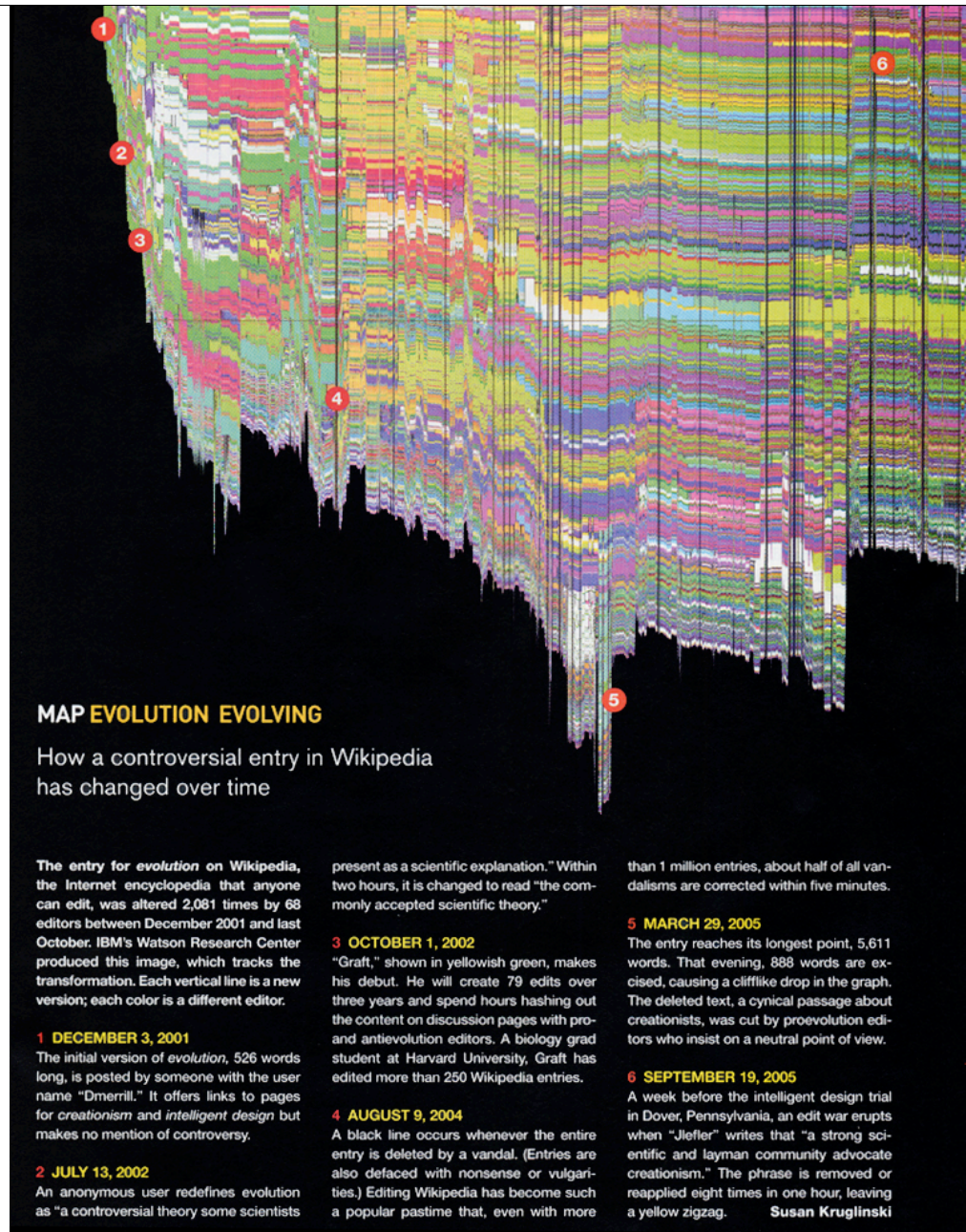
[Manual](#) - [Contact](#) - [Help translating at translatewiki.net](#) - by [Flominator](#)

<http://wikipedia.ramselehof.de/wikiblame.php?article=Biofuel>

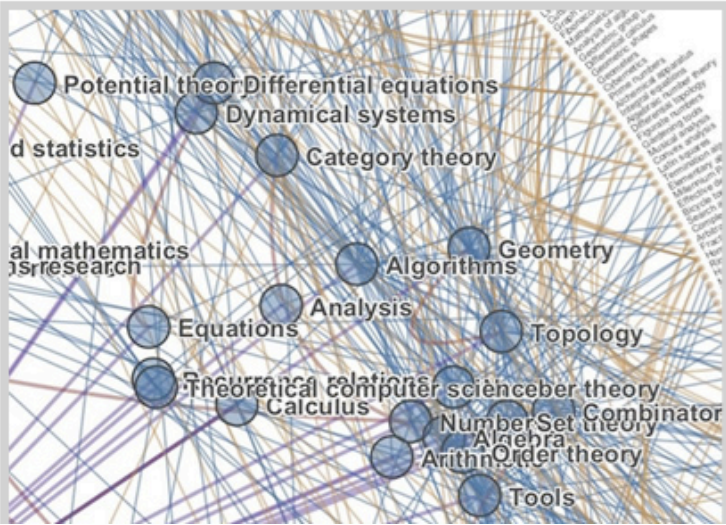
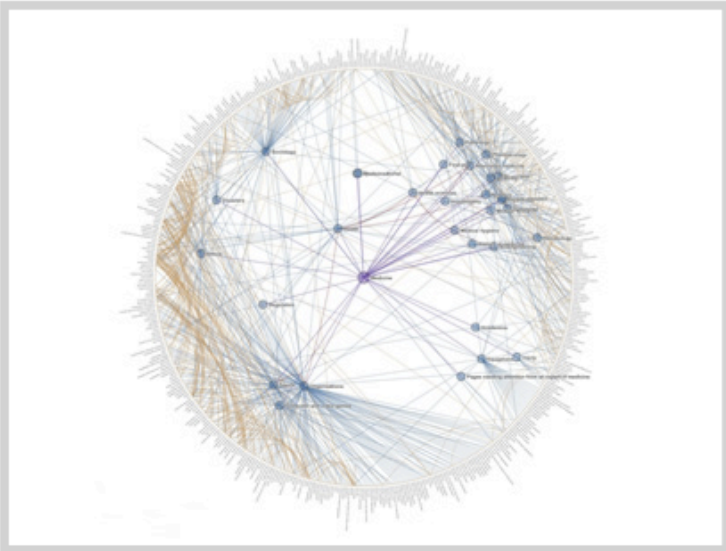
John Udell, Heavy Metal Umlaut

How articles evolve on Wikipedia

[http://jonudell.net/udell/gems/umlaut/  
umlaut.html](http://jonudell.net/udell/gems/umlaut/umlaut.html)



[http://www.research.ibm.com/visual/images/discover\\_mag.jpg](http://www.research.ibm.com/visual/images/discover_mag.jpg)



## ClusterBall: Visualizing Wikipedia

**Author(s):**  
Chris Harrison

**Institution:**  
(unknown)

**Year:**  
2007

**URL:**  
<http://www.chrisharrison.net/projects/clusterball/>

**Project Description:**  
Chris Harrison is a prolific researcher who has done some great data visualization projects. Among them is ClusterBall. This visualization shows the structure of three levels of Wikipedia category pages and their interconnections. Centered in the graph is the parent node, in this case, Medicine (first image). Pages that are linked from this parent node are rendered inside the ball. Finally, pages that are linked to the latter (secondary) nodes are rendered on the outer ring. Links between category pages are illustrated by edges, which are color coded to represent their depth from the parent node. Nodes are clustered such that edge lengths are minimized. This forces highly connected groups of pages to clump together, essentially forming topical groups. The center acts as an anchor while the ring provides a fixed perimeter. This allows the secondary, super-categories to "float" above clusters.

The clustering component of this visualization is vital. As Chris explains: "The mere presence of information isn't all that interesting; there is no context or relevance to be gleaned. However, the structure of information is revealing about where fields intersect and diverge, and ultimately about how humans organize information".

The first image shows Medicine as the parent node, while the second features a detail view into the Mathematics category page.

<p><b>Easy Mind Mapping Tool</b> Make Great Mind Maps in minutes See Examples. Free Trial!</p>	<p><b>Thinkmap Visualization</b> Software facilitates communication, learning, and discovery.</p>
--	---

Ads by Google

**Comments (0):**

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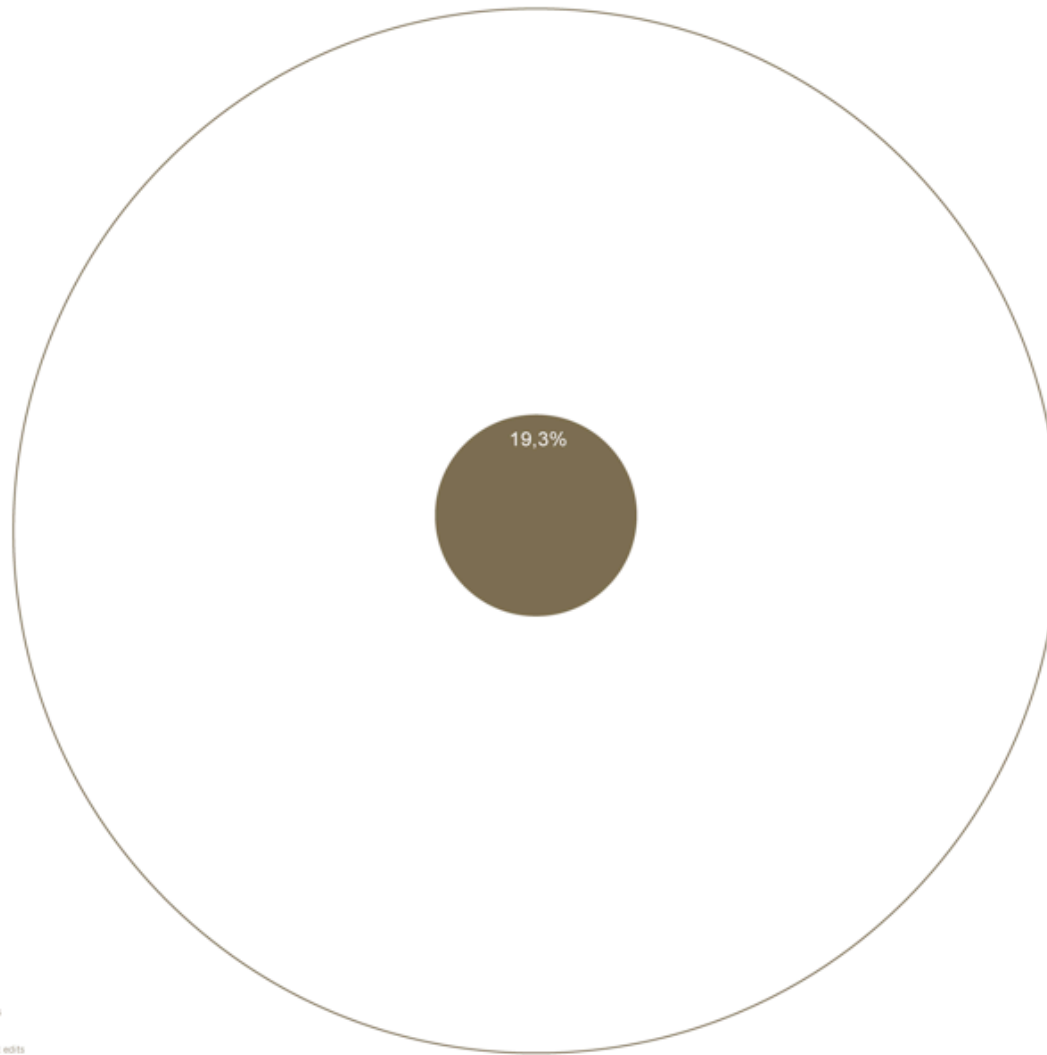
**Leave a Comment:**



# Who is editing?

- wikiwatcher: <http://wikiwatcher.virgil.gr/>
- Colbert Report on the Wikiscanner: <http://virgil.gr/>

## Wikipedia editing by bots and users: Overall percentage of Bot activity of all edit activity



○ All wikipedia edits  
● Percentage of bot edits

Wikipedia editing by bots and users: Overall percentage of Bot activity of all edit activity

Govom.org, 2008  
<http://govom.org/>

August **08**

Analysis by Zachary Devenaux, Sabine Niederer, Richard Rogers, Bram Nijhof and Michael Stevenson

Visualization: Rosa Menkman

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# Stats Pages

- Wikipedia stats: <http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/>
- Wikipedians by number of edits: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List of Wikipedians by number of edits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_Wikipedians_by_number_of_edits)
- Bot activity stats: <http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/BotActivityMatrix.htm>
- History of wikipedia (per year): [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History of Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Wikipedia)
- Ancient Pages (not edited for a long time): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special: AncientPages> (no longer updated)

**Wikirage** tracks the pages in **Wikipedia** which are receiving the most edits over various periods of time. Popular people in the news, the latest fads, and the hottest video games, Internet memes, zietgeist, and trends bubble to the surface.

### Top 30 Most Edited pages for last Day

Hour   6 Hours   **Day**   3 Days   Week   Month

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Rafael Nadal <a href="#">verify</a> <a href="#">May 10</a> <a href="#">↗</a> | 16. Albert Pujols <a href="#">↗</a>   |
| 2. The Championships, Wimbledon <a href="#">↗</a>                               | 17. 2009 flu pandemic <a href="#">↗</a>   |
| 3. Portal (video game) <a href="#">↗</a>  | 18. Peter T. King <a href="#">↗</a>   |
| 4. 2009 Wimbledon Championships <a href="#">↗</a>                               | 19. Miss Universe 2009 <a href="#">↗</a>  |
| 5. List of Grand Slam Men's Sin... <a href="#">↗</a>                            | 20. Tennis statistics <a href="#">verify</a> <a href="#">↗</a>                      |
| 6. FIFA 10 <a href="#">↗</a>  | 21. Martin Bashir <a href="#">↗</a>   |
| 7. List of Wimbledon Gentlemen'... <a href="#">↗</a>                            | 22. Evacuate the Dancefloor <a href="#">↗</a>                                       |
| 8. 2009 Wimbledon Championships - Me... <a href="#">↗</a>                       | 23. Survive This <a href="#">↗</a>  |
| 9. Longest tennis match records <a href="#">↗</a>                               | 24. Serena Williams <a href="#">verify</a> <a href="#">Dec 31</a> <a href="#">↗</a> |
| 10. 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup <a href="#">↗</a>                                    | 25. List of career achievements by Ro... <a href="#">↗</a>                          |
| 11. Hannah Montana (season 3) <a href="#">↗</a>                                 | 26. List of ATP number 1 ranked playe... <a href="#">↗</a>                          |
| 12. Pete Sampras <a href="#">verify</a> <a href="#">↗</a>                       | 27. I Am... Tour <a href="#">↗</a>  |
| 13. 2009 Major League Baseball All-St... <a href="#">↗</a>                      | 28. List of Wimbledon champions <a href="#">↗</a>                                   |
| 14. ATP World Tour records <a href="#">verify</a> <a href="#">↗</a>             | 29. Kelly Kelly <a href="#">↗</a>   |
| 15. Charm School with Ricki Lake <a href="#">verify</a> <a href="#">↗</a>       | 30. Organization of American States <a href="#">Apr 30</a> <a href="#">↗</a>        |

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### What is Wikirage?

Wikirage tracks the pages in **Wikipedia** which are receiving the most edits over various periods of time.

Popular people in the news, the latest fads, and the hottest video games, Internet memes, zietgeist, and trends bubble to the surface.

Created by **Craig Wood**. Follow me on **Twitter**.

Other wikirages | [日本語](#) | [Español](#) | [Deutsch](#)  
| [Français](#) |

### Popular Links

**Tennis Recruiting Pages**  
Explore Every Team's Credentials  
Hours of Research In Your Hands!  
[www.juniortennisconsulting.com](http://www.juniortennisconsulting.com)

**2010 Wimbledon Packages**  
Choose packages with hotel/tickets

## How to recognize controversy on Wikipedia?

- most edited
- composition of the crowd
- topical coverage (Lackaff & Havalais, 2008)
- number of editors & coordination (Kittur & Kraut, 2008)
- link analysis

Ideaedi.it – Exploring controversies

http://www.ideaedi.it/2008/index.php?page=exploring-controversies

web projects

Contact me

Controversy mapping

Exploring controversies

Representing controversies

Medialab-Bibliothèque

## EXPLORING CONTROVERSIES

### EXPLORING YOUR CONTROVERSY

#### CHOOSING YOUR CONTROVERSY

When starting a cartographic campaign, the first thing to do is **selecting the controversy** you want to study. As hotter controversies usually give better cartographies, one good strategy is checking out **the websites that aggregate news** and **seeing what issues stand out**:

[Click here to see/hide the tools](#)

Some news-aggregators rely on **community finding and filtering** in a web 2.0 style :

[Click here to see/hide the tools](#)

You may also want to have a look at websites that aggregate specifically **news on science and technology**:

[Click here to see/hide the tools](#)

Not only, these sites provide an overview of the 'news sphere', but they also offer direct access to articles in the magazines, journals, newspapers and so on. Such 'gateway' function makes these sites a good starting point for a cartographic campaign.

#### BROWSING YOUR CONTROVERSY

Once you have chosen a controversial topic, you should try to be acquainted with it in order to:

- **Make sure that your controversy is a good case study** (by checking if it is open and lively).
- **Identifying the specific issues you want to focus** (be as specific as possible).

<http://www.ideaedi.it/2008/index.php?page=exploring-controversies>

# Keeping things off Wikipedia

“For seven months, The New York Times managed to keep out of the news the fact that one of its reporters, David Rohde, had been kidnapped by the Taliban. But that was pretty straightforward compared with keeping it off Wikipedia.”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/29/technology/internet/29wiki.html?  
\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/29/technology/internet/29wiki.html?_r=2)