

Yuri Engelhardt

Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam, Department of Media Studies, Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Yuri Engelhardt is Assistant Professor in Media Studies and Information Visualization at the University of Amsterdam, and lecturer in Information Graphics at the Utrecht Graduate School of Visual Art and Design, in the Netherlands. Yuri is interested in principles underlying the visual communication of information, from ancient pictorial inscriptions to interactive data visualizations. He combines his expertise concerning diagrams, graphics, information visualization and visual language theory with his desire to do something useful concerning social and environmental issues.

Yuri's Ph.D. thesis was titled 'The Language of Graphics'. He is founder and moderator (1995-1999) of 'InfoDesign', the first electronic forum on information design. He is contributor and committee member for the international 'Diagrams' conferences, and member of the Editorial Board of the Information Design Journal (1999-present). As an expert in information visualization he has given academic presentations and workshops in the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, the USA, and Brazil. Yuri holds an MA degree in medicine, and a Ph.D. in computer science.

<http://www.yuriweb.com/>

**Engaging Citizens with Animated Statistics:
From Neurath to Gapminder**

Co-presentation with Raul Niño Zambrano

Abstract:

In the first half of the last century, philosopher and sociologist Otto Neurath developed a pictorial language (Isotype) that uses simplified pictures and composition rules to convey social and economic statistical data to a general public.

Current trends in data visualization share the spirit of Neurath's work, with regard to ideas about data accessibility, the empowerment that this access may produce and the assumed benefits of using visuals (Niño Zambrano and Engelhardt, 2008).

Neurath's team did not only produce static images, but also created animated graphics for various documentary films. In our presentation we will analyze a number of these film fragments and compare them with recent examples of animated statistical graphics, such as those produced by the Gapminder foundation. We will propose a distinction between different types of animations, and we will contrast Neurath's ideas with recent insights from cognitive science, concerning the benefits and disadvantages of static versus animated graphics.