

THE CATEGORICAL DECADE

The Categorical Decade is a chronological graph mapping individual lives and experiences. I created a website that housed a submission form that requested users to submit 1-3 of their most influential events of the past decade. I provided the link to anyone who was interested in partaking in this project. The data was collected anonymously and because of the large volume of submissions, a random selection of 50 individuals was used.

The graph to the right presents two different layers. The first layer is the chronological mapping of each individual and their 1-3 events. Users who provided more than 1 event are connected by a dashed line. The second layer is an interpretation of the individual events. Each event is placed in at least one category that provides context to that specific event.

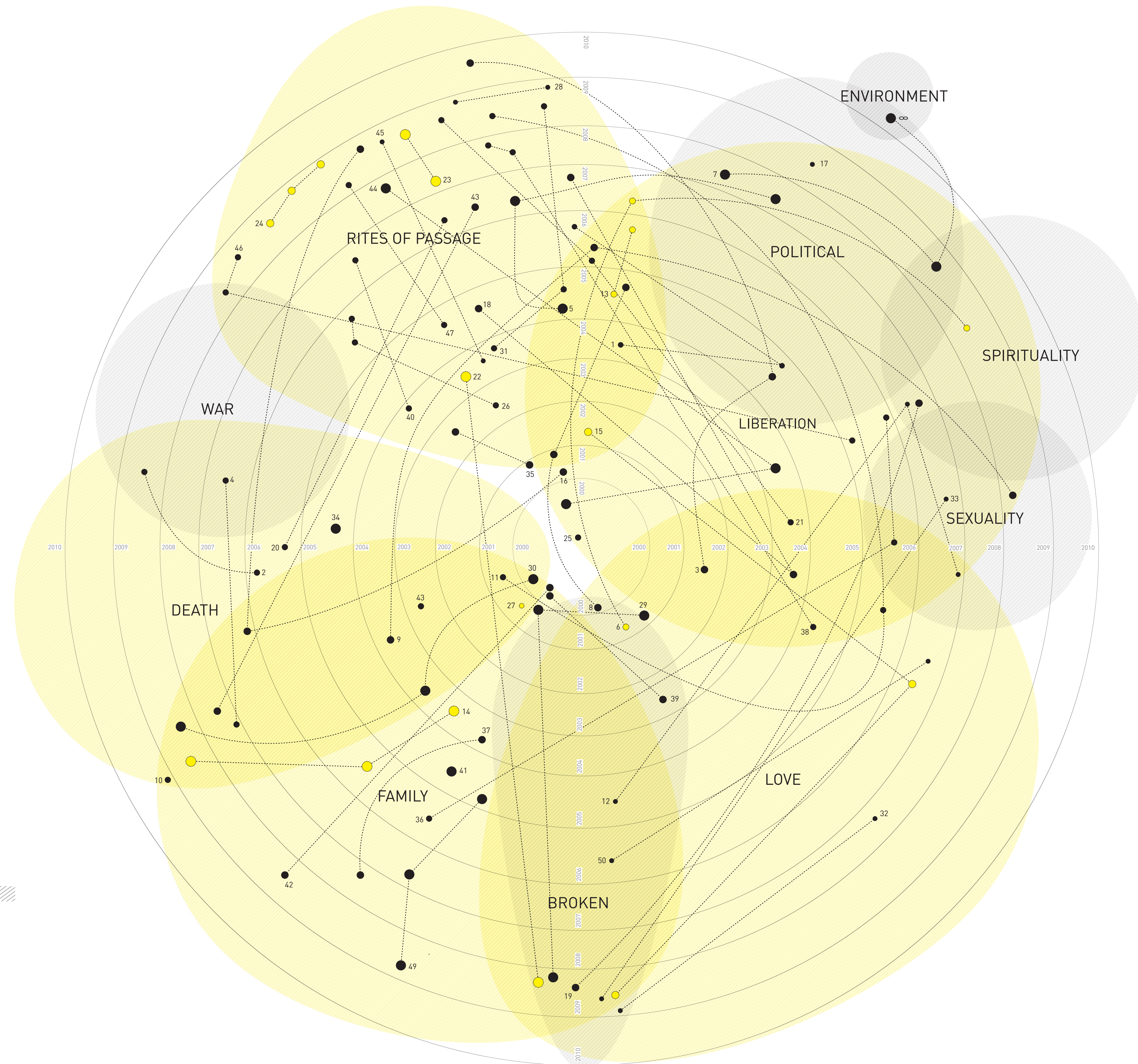
LEGEND

AGE

The various sized dots denote that demographics illustrated above.

TIME

Submitters' events are mapped chronologically, connected by a dashed line. Each dot represents a point in the chronology. Individuals in the western hemisphere of Earth have a black dot, while the eastern hemisphere has a yellow dot.



TIMELINE ENTRIES

- The beginning of a long distance lesbian relationship with a Greek national. Granted residency visa for Australia. Graduated with a BFA.
- My friend since 1st grade was killed by a drunk driver. My friend was killed in action devastating my hometown.
- Fell in love with my soulmate. Gay marriage was approved in the legislature in Massachusetts, the first state to allow same-sex marriage. Realized that all I need in life to be happy is love.
- My childhood friend died in Iraq at the age of 24 while unloading weapons off a US Army truck. My special needs cousin died tragically in a fire while home alone at the age of 24, 3 days before my birthday.
- Major career change. I was hired as a photographer/instructional assistant for a state college. Settled an obvious but extremely gut wrenching medical malpractice lawsuit. Cheered as our nation grew the day we elected the first black president of our great nation.
- Dealt with heartbreak for the first time. Graduated University and made my parents proud. Received into the Catholic Church.
- Married my wife. Now we are two wives! Hillary Clinton is the first credible female presidential candidate. Global Warming is undeniable.
- I got a divorce, which I had said I would never do, and in the process lost my faith in God. I moved to LA on a whim, knowing no one there and stayed for 3 years. I finished writing a semi-biographical, semi-fiction novel which was probably awful but also totally cathartic and freeing.
- My paternal grandfather passed away. Finally came out to someone in my family. Moved out of state for the first time to pursue a different career path. First time being completely on my own.
- I lost my baby girl.
- My father died. I was 12. I lost my virginity to the love of my life. I haven't seen her in 3 years. I got my own apartment.
- I was raped by my father. I lost faith in God. I entered into my first long-term relationship.
- I got drunk for the first time, telling my life's secrets. I gave into peer pressure, snorting cocaine for the first time.
- My daughter got married. I became a grandmother. My mother passed away.
- Looked at the horizon from Macchu Picchu. I fell in love. I filed for divorce.
- I bought my first car. I had a miscarriage. Bought my house.
- Voted for the first time.
- My breast popped out during a college presentation. I walked on the Waikiki beach with my boyfriend. I broke my right arm. I was forced to learn to write with my left hand for 5 months.
- I was raped by my husband's best friend as he held me down. After a year in fitness bootcamp, I ran the mile in under seven minutes.
- I got into a car crash, killing an elderly woman. I got into the college first on my list.
- I burped during my first kiss. He laughed. I knew it was perfect. I graduate from high school. I graduated from trade school as a welder.
- I visited America for the first time. I was disappointed. I got a divorce.
- I won the lottery. Easiest \$200 I ever made. I totalled my car. I just finished spending my \$200.
- I built my first chair. I got enough courage to confront my neighbor about some issues. I rode my bike to the top of a mountain.
- I survived y2k.
- I took my first art class. I graduated college. I moved into an apartment on my own.
- My son died after a short battle with cancer.
- I broke my leg in a car accident. I got into my first choice college.
- I married my ex-husband. I had my first child. I divorced my husband.

- My mother died. My uncle died. My brother died.
- I battled an addiction to morphine. I entered into rehab. I have been clean for four years.
- I stupidly fell in love with a boy. We broke up and he threatened to burn down my house.
- I had a brief, yet exhilarating relationship with a same sex partner. My parents split up.
- I had to clean up a person's remains who committed suicide on the railroad I service.
- I bought my first bag of marijuana, an impossible solution. I graduated college with honors.
- Rescued a dog from the Animal Shelter. My parents found out I was gay. I lost my breath looking out the horizon atop a mountain.
- My daughter was born. I became a godfather.
- I got a ticket while making love to my first boyfriend. I won a design competition for the first time. I felt confident for the first time.
- Met my best friend. Got my heart broken for the first time.
- One of my Myspace friends was arrested for peeping in my window. My dad told me he was proud of me.
- My first grandchild was born.
- I was adopted. I met my biological mother.
- An article I wrote was published. My grandmother died.
- I began writing my autobiography. I stopped shortly thereafter. Nothing to say. I read all 75 of the books I set out to read within a year. I took a drawing class. I did terrible but it was worth it.
- I saw my favorite band live. I graduated high school.
- I realized I didn't have to believe what my parents believed. My boyfriend came back from Iraq intact. I rode my first roller coaster.
- I got fired from my first job. I got into my first fist fight.
- The passing of my mother.
- My daughter got married. My first grandson was born. My first granddaughter was born.
- I fell in love for the first time under a willow tree when the air was warm. My parents divorced. I still haven't fully recovered.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

