BIG PICTURE HISTORY
Understanding Cultural Patterns Over Time, from Multiple Perspectives

PROBLEM & MOTIVATION
We need a better tool to understand big cultural trends. This will help us understand our current state and the direction of our momentum moving forward.

We show the ebb & flow of important keywords as they appear in different contexts (novels, film, music, etc.) in Wikipedia. The goal is to encourage comparative analysis and critical thinking.

EXTRACTING KEYWORDS
Relevant keywords are chosen and counted based on how the Wikipedia articles’ internal links from each year’s set of articles link to other articles — the totals for each link become the counts of keywords that we visualize.

FUTURE WORK
Expanding & Improving the Dataset. Compare Wikipedia with other datasets (gov. stats, Google Ngrams, etc.)
Testing. Does the visualization actually help users make comparative insights about our society?