W3C Workshop Brussels
Using Open Data: policy modeling, citizen empowerment
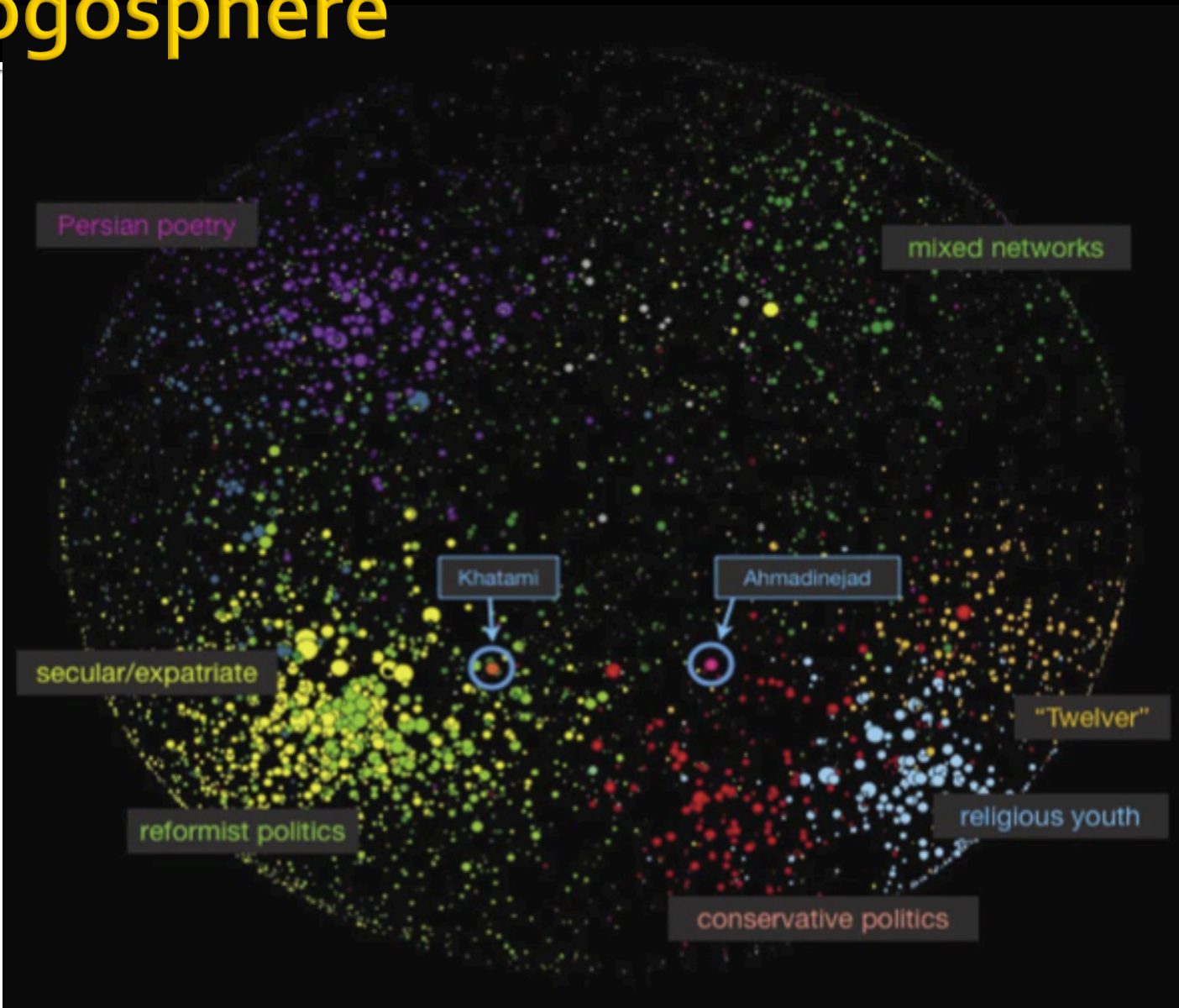
Rethinking Kelly and Etlings' Map of the Iranian Blogosphere

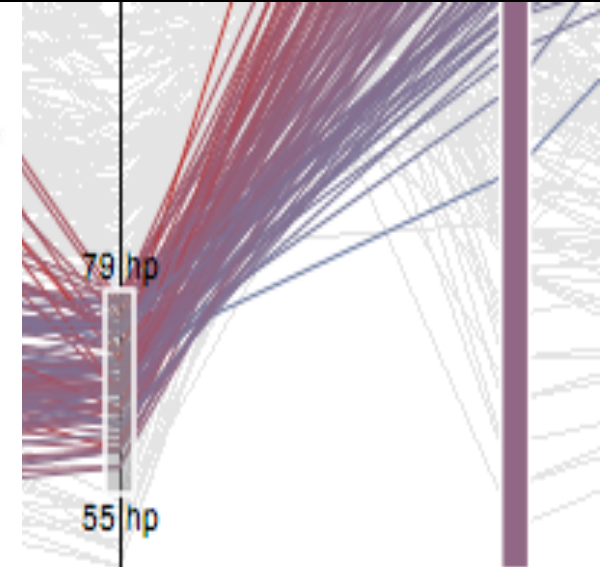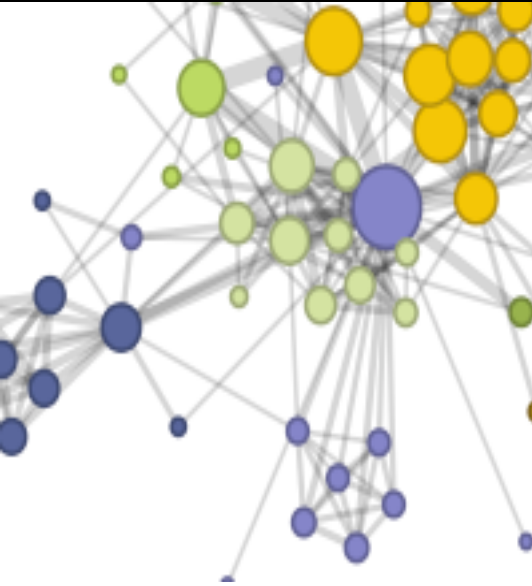Gwyneth Sutherlin
University of Bradford
20 June 2012

Guiding Questions

- What are the limitations of open data for IR policy?
- What is the macro framework which informs the approach to mining open data for social science?
- What is a valid framework when working with global communications data?
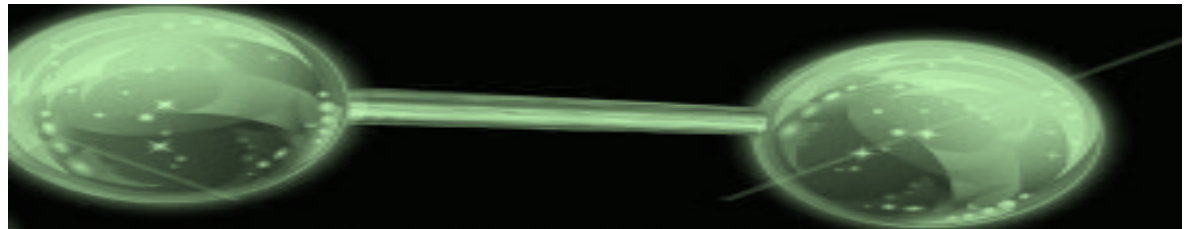- How can culture be incorporated as a variable?
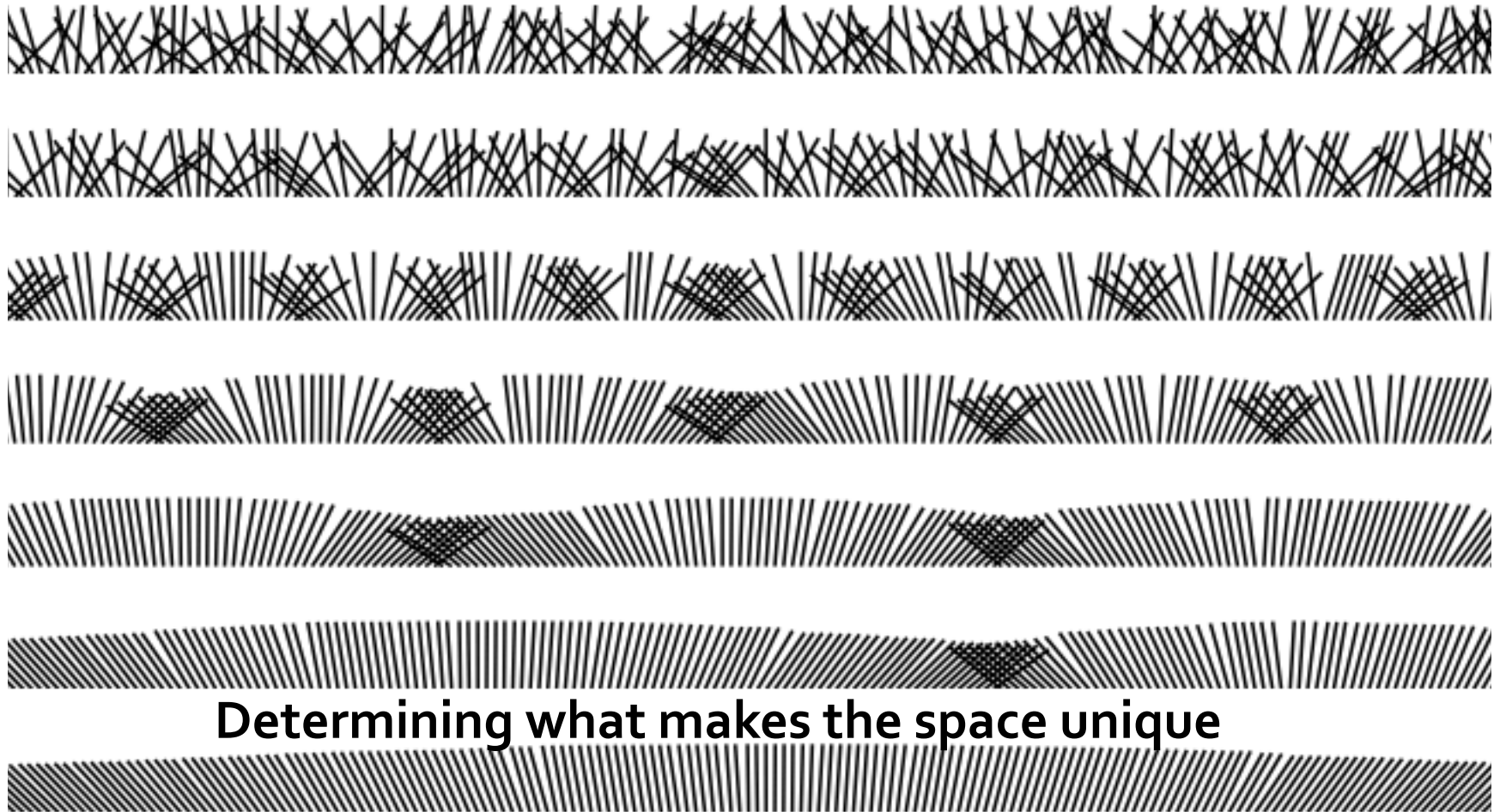
Physics Model of Iranian Blogosphere

Dichotomies, Poles, Nodes

What is lost or gained starting from here?

Layers

Determining what makes the space unique

New model

- Semantic filter first
  - rate of word change for key words

- Semantic filter for location
  - Diaspora connections become more apparent

- Strategies surrounding censorship

- Place blogs within ecosystem

Resources @gbsutherlin

- http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2008/Mapping_Irans_Online_Public
- Lada A. Adamic and Eytan Adar (2003) **Friends and neighbors on the Web**
- McPherson, Smith-Lovin, and Cook (2001) **Birds of Feather: Homophily in Social Networks**
- Matthijs van den Bos (2006) **Hyperlinked Dutch-Iranian Cyberspace**