Connecting InfoVis with Humanity

Michael Ogawa
Nature & Information
Islam is a monotheistic religion founded in the 7th century based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. According to Islam, the religion was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad when Allah sent him an angel to dictate a series of revelations to him, which Muhammad memorized. Muhammad was succeeded by his followers later on. Muhammad's teachings were revealed in the Quran, which is considered the chief and final prophet.

Adherents of Islam are called Muslims (sometime spelled “Moslems”). In some older English texts they are referred to as “Muhammadans” or “Mohammedans.” However this term is not accurate and the correct term is “Muslims.” The term implies that they worship Muhammad, which they do not.

The meaning of the word Islam in Arabic is “submission (to Allah).” It also has etymological relationships to the Arabic words, such as “peace.” The word Muslim is derived from Islam, meaning “one who surrendered” or “submitted” (to Allah).

Teachings of Islam:

Belief: Muslims believe in one God, the God of Adam, Noah, Moses, and Jesus, who are all regarded as prophets or “Messengers” before Muhammad. Muslims believe that Muhammad came to give the final message of God, the correct path and true knowledge of the afterlife to pagan polytheists and to the Christians and Jews — non-Muslims who had deviated from the correct path.

For Muslims, the Quran answers questions about daily needs, both spiritual and material. It discusses God and God’s names and attributes; believers and their virtues; and the lives of true believers (Ahl al-Sunnah, Shi’a, Jews, and all the other prophets), and even scientific subjects. Some Muslims (the majority of world’s Muslims) do not follow the laws of the Quran exclusively; they also follow the understanding of the Quran expressed in the teachings of the prophet known as the Hadith.

Muslims are taught that God sent down 4 books and 100 pages. Besides the Quran, the others are the Law of Moses (the Torah), the Psalms of David (the Zabur), and the Gospel of Jesus (the Injil). The Quran describes Christians as “the people of the book” (ahl al-kitaab).

The teachings of Islam concern many of the same personalities as those of Judaism and Christianity. However, Muslims frequently refer to them using dialect terms, which often make it appear that they are talking about different people e.g. Allah for God, Allah for Satan, Israfil for Rameez, etc. A belief in a day of judgment and an afterlife is pivotal to Islam.

The Six Elements of Belief:

- God
- Angels
- Books (sent by God)
- Messengers (sent by God)
- Day of Judgment
- Both good and bad (or more precisely, what people call good and bad) come from God.

There is no authority that can decide whether a person is accepted or condemned, or argued for the community of believers. It is essential to believe with one’s heart and resolve with one’s tongue the above, or of the even shorter version contained in a hadith. As so one can split open another’s heart to see what’s inside. It is enough to say that you are a Muslim to be treated as a Muslim by the Muslims.
Art & Information
Can beauty be described in one number?
You’ve spent a quarter learning about infovis techniques.

Name the ones found in the real world.
How do people experience infovis everyday?
The NCAA Tournament bracket for 2005.
Why don’t more people use infovis?
Whose fault is it?
Researchers & their Audience

Steve Haroz  cognitive scientists
Chris Muelder  security researchers
Michael Ogawa  software engineers
Zeqian Shen  network researchers
Yue Wang  scientists
Ending Thoughts

Design for humanity.
Ending Thoughts

Design for humanity.

Be bold. Shake things up.