



University  
of Glasgow



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

MAPPING METAPHOR  
WITH THE *Historical Thesaurus*

# Mapping Metaphor with the *Historical Thesaurus*

Wendy Anderson, Ellen Bramwell, Rachael Hamilton



## *Metaphor in literature*

All the world's a stage  
And all the men and women merely players.  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.  
Then the whining schoolboy with his satchel [...]

Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act 2, Scene 7

# Metaphor

Juliet is the sun.      *Romeo and Juliet*, Act 2, Scene 1

Compare:

What **light** through yonder window breaks?  
Arise, **fair sun**, and kill the envious moon.  
A grave – O no, a **lantern**, slaughtered youth  
And never from this pallet of **dim night** / Depart again.



## *Theory of Conceptual Metaphor*

- Metaphor is a feature of **everyday language**
- Metaphor is a matter of **thought** as well as language
- Metaphor is **systematic**

The classic work on conceptual metaphor is:

G. Lakoff and M. Johnson (1980) *Metaphors We Live By*

- I'll *take my chances*
- The *odds are against me*
- I've got *an ace up my sleeve*
- He's *holding all the aces*
- It's a *toss-up*
- If you *play your cards right*, you can do it
- Where is he *when the chips are down*?
- He's *bluffing*
- Let's *up the ante*
- That's the *luck of the draw*



# LIFE IS A GAMBLING GAME

- I'll *take my chances*
- The *odds are against me*
- I've got *an ace up my sleeve*
- He's *holding all the aces*
- It's a *toss-up*
- If you *play your cards right*, you can do it
- Where is he *when the chips are down*?
- He's *bluffing*
- Let's *up the ante*
- That's the *luck of the draw*

# LIFE IS A GAMBLING GAME

## Systematic links

A game/card player	➡	A living person
Playing a card	➡	Making a choice in life
High card/ace	➡	Advantages / opportunities
Winning a game	➡	Succeeding in life
Dealing cards	➡	The hand of fate



TARGET

SOURCE

*LIFE IS A GAMBLING GAME*

- I'll *take my chances*
- The *odds are against me*
- I've got *an ace up my sleeve*
- He's *holding all the aces*
- It's a *toss-up*
- If you *play your cards right*, you can do it
- Where is he *when the chips are down*?
- He's *bluffing*
- Let's *up the ante*
- That's the *luck of the draw*



*All the World's a Stage...*

Systematic links

Stage	→	The world
Actors	→	People
Entrances / exits	→	Birth / death
Acts	→	Ages / stages in life

# Mapping Metaphor with the *Historical Thesaurus*

Funded by the AHRC  
Jan 2012-Dec 2014



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

**Principal Investigator:** Wendy Anderson

**Research Assistant:** Ellen Bramwell

**PhD student:** Rachael Hamilton

**Technician:** Flora Edmonds

**Digital Humanities Research Officer:** Brian Aitken

**Co-Investigators:** Marc Alexander, Carole Hough, Christian Kay

**Project assistants:** Fraser Dallachy, Johanna Green, Daria Izdebska, Cerwyss O'Hare, Judith Paterson, Beth Ralston, Heather Valentine

Several **student volunteers**



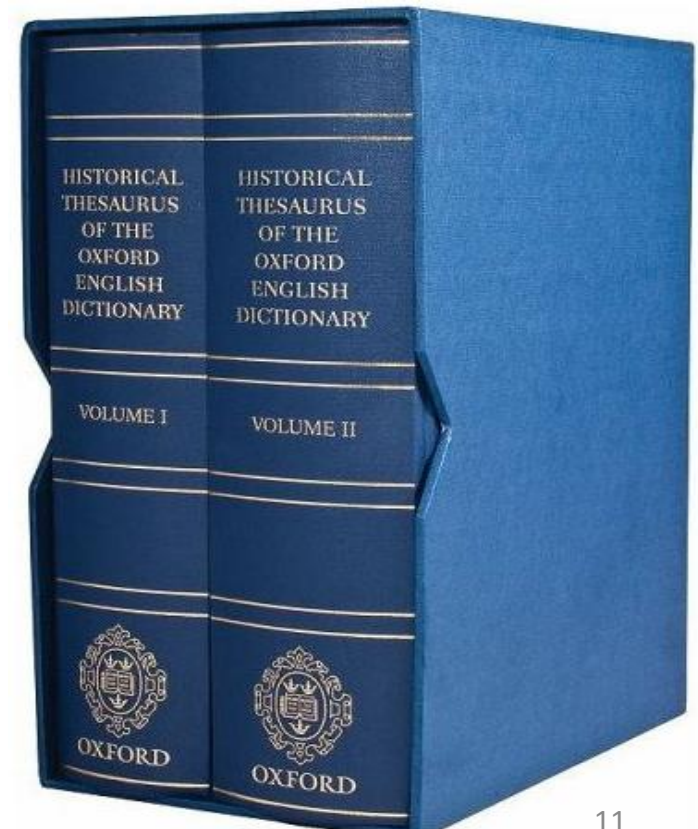
# *Historical Thesaurus of English*

Initiated by Professor Michael Samuels

Published as:

Christian Kay, Jane Roberts, Michael Samuels and Irené Wotherspoon (eds). 2009.

*Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford: OUP



# *Historical Thesaurus of English*

## Level 1

**The External World**; The Mental World; **The Social World**

## Level 2

26 major categories (e.g. **Matter**, Aesthetics, **Leisure**)

## Level 3

354 categories (e.g. **Liquid**, Beauty, **Sport**)

## Levels 4 - 12

797,000 lexical items

236,000 categories and subcategories in all



# Methods

## The External World

A01 World, the  
A02 Region of the earth  
A03 Geodetic references  
A04 Land

:           :

## The Mental World

I08 Love  
I09 Hatred/enmity  
I10 Indifference

:           :

## The Social World

Z07 Performance arts  
Z08 Sport  
Z09 Sport, types of  
Z10 Dance

# *Metaphor and language change*

## The development of *branch*

A portion or limb of a tree or other plant	a1300
Genealogical tree	a1400
A division of a subject ( <i>branch of study</i> )	1509
The human arm ( <i>rare</i> )	1594
A local office of business ( <i>branch of bank</i> )	1817

All dates from online *Oxford English Dictionary*



# Metaphor 'maps'

One goal of the project is to produce an online resource showing connections within the data

This 'metaphor map' will be created later in the project, but will cover every category and every connection identified by the coders

Here are some connections in **Light** and **Darkness**...

# Light and Darkness

Some clear symmetries have emerged from grouping the data, e.g.

Intelligence is Light Ignorance is Dark	Virtue is Light Moral evil is Dark
Positive emotion is Light Negative emotion is Dark	Cleanliness/purity is Light Lack of cleanliness/purity is Dark



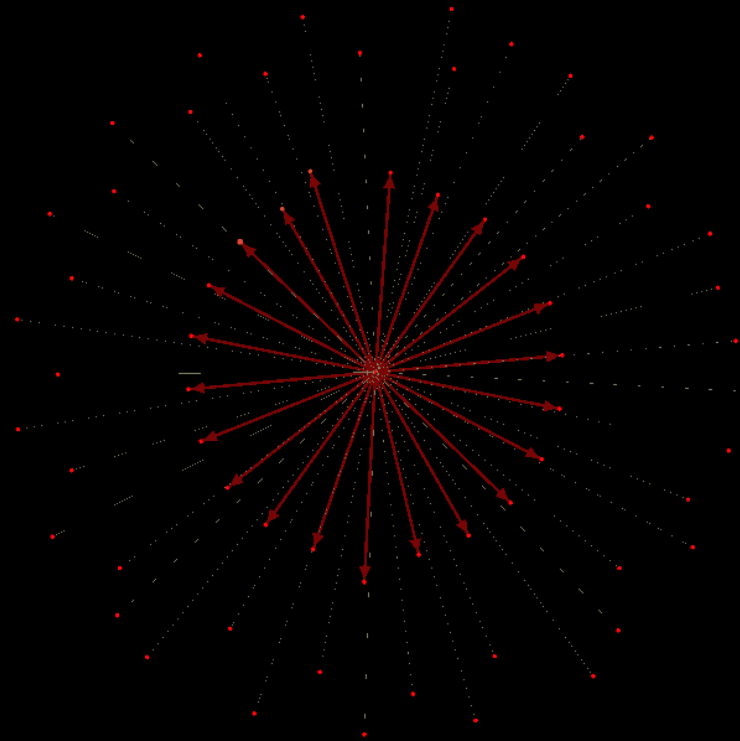
# Light and Darkness

Intelligence is Light

Ignorance is Dark

MAPPING METAPHOR  
WITH THE *Historical Thesaurus*

Light



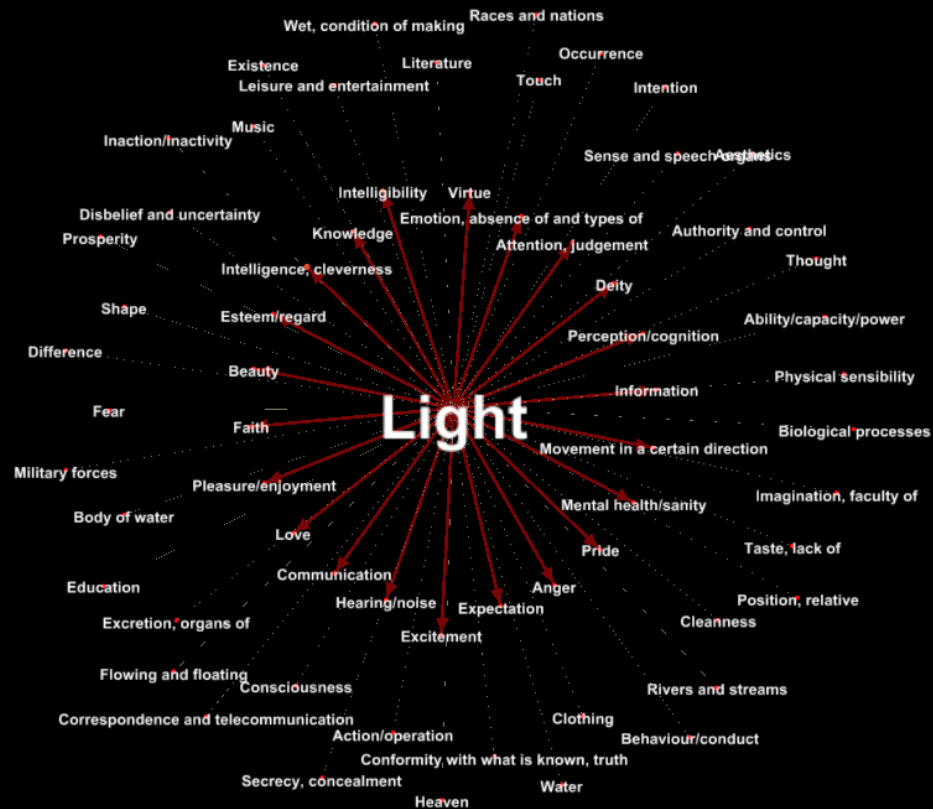
Made using Gephi: [www.gephi.org](http://www.gephi.org)



# MAPPING METAPHOR

WITH THE *Historical Thesaurus*

## Light







# Intelligence is Light

## Strong connections:

H07 Perception/cognition

H10 Intelligence,  
cleverness

H18 Intelligibility

H20 Knowledge

W01 Communication

W05 Information

## Weaker connections:

H03 Consciousness

H06 Thought

H08 Imagination, faculty of

H22 Conformity with what  
is known, truth

U01 Education

Z01 Leisure/entertainment

# Intelligence is Light

*reflection, vivid, enlightened, light, luminary, shine, lustre, glaring, clear, gleam*

**1688** BUNYAN *Jerus. Sinner Saved* (1886) 17 The text is as clear as the sun; for it saith, 'Begin at Jerusalem'.

**1690** LOCKE *Hum. Und. ii. i. §4* By Reflection then, · · I would be understood to mean, that notice which the Mind takes of its own Operations, and the manner of them.

**1732** BERKELEY *Alciph. i. §9* The select spirits of this enlightened age.

**1854** H. ROGERS *Ess. II. i. 2* Like the other great luminaries of philosophy and science, Locke has shone on with tolerably uniform lustre.



# Intelligence is Light

**BUT** – *too much* light obscures intelligence

C01 Physical sensibility

E22 Prosperity

H23 Secrecy, concealment

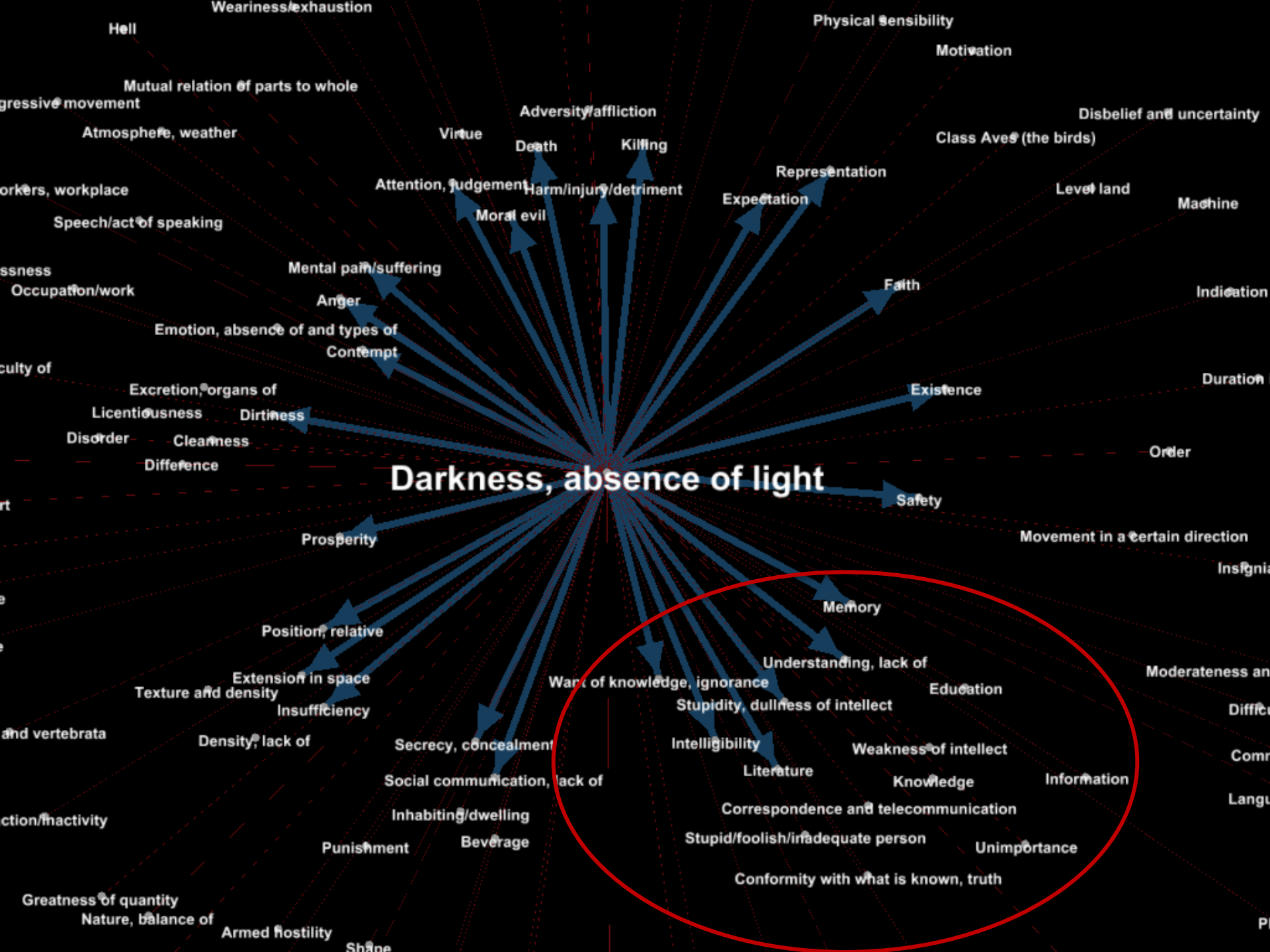
H25 Disbelief and uncertainty

**1643** J. MILTON *Soveraigne Salve Pref.*, Rhetorick may dazle simple men.

All quotations from Oxford English Dictionary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. [www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com)







# Ignorance is Darkness

## Strong connections:

H13 Understanding, lack of  
H14 Stupidity, dullness of intellect  
H18 Intelligibility  
H19 Memory  
H21 Want of knowledge, ignorance  
Z06 Literature

## Weaker connections:

H16 Weakness of intellect  
H17 Stupid/foolish/inadequate person  
H20 Knowledge  
H22 Conformity with what is known,  
truth  
H29 Unimportance  
U01 Education  
W05 Information  
W14 Correspondence and  
telecommunication



# Ignorance is Darkness

*darkness, dark, shade, unilluminated, darksome, murk, dim, dull, dullness, dullish, opaque, clouded, obscure, black-out, bedim*

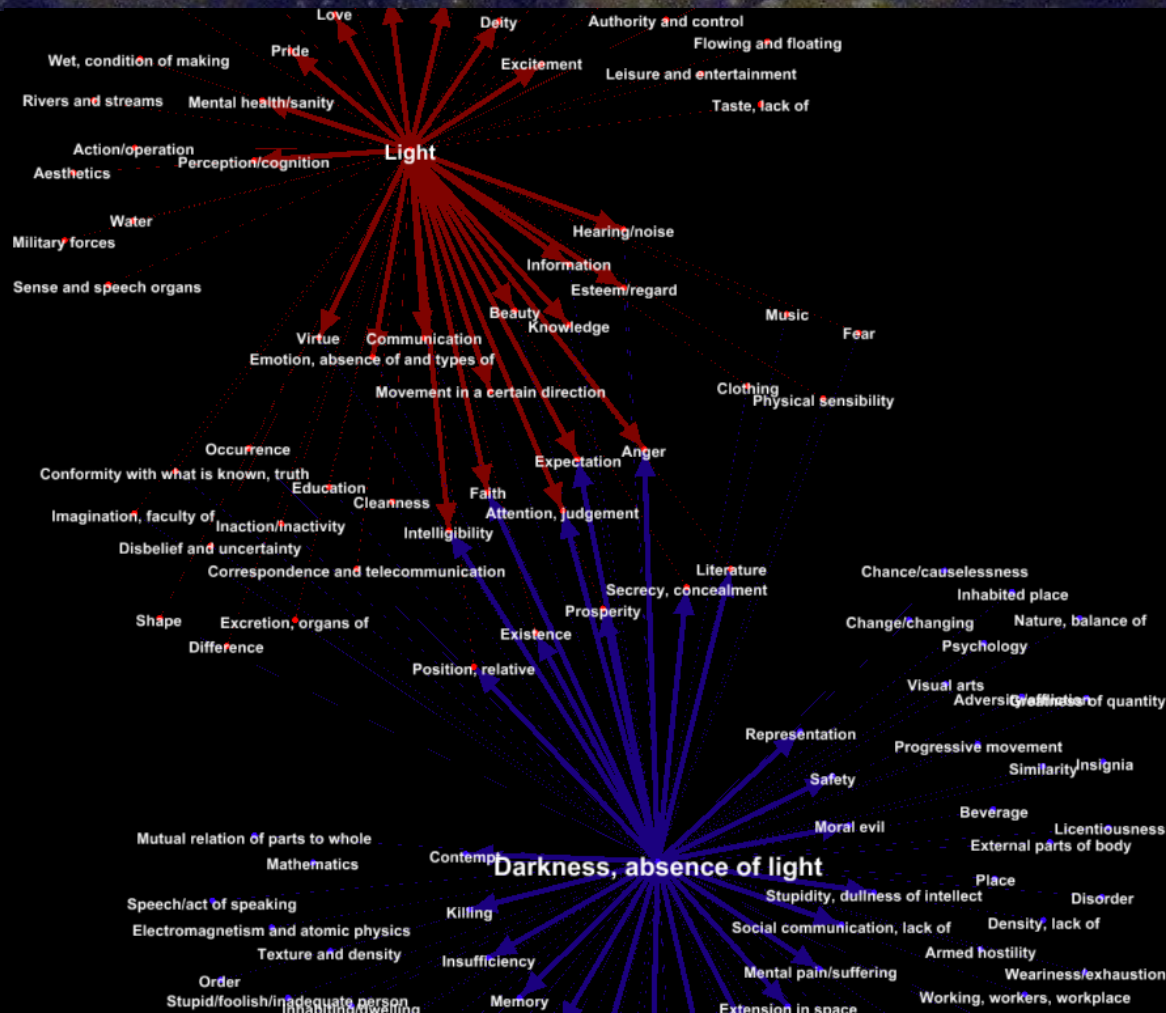
**1531** TINDALE *Exp. 1 John 15* All that lyue in ignoraunce are called darknesse.

**1596** BACON *Max. & Uses Com. Law Ded.*, The more ignorant and obscure time undertooke to correct the more learned and flourishing.

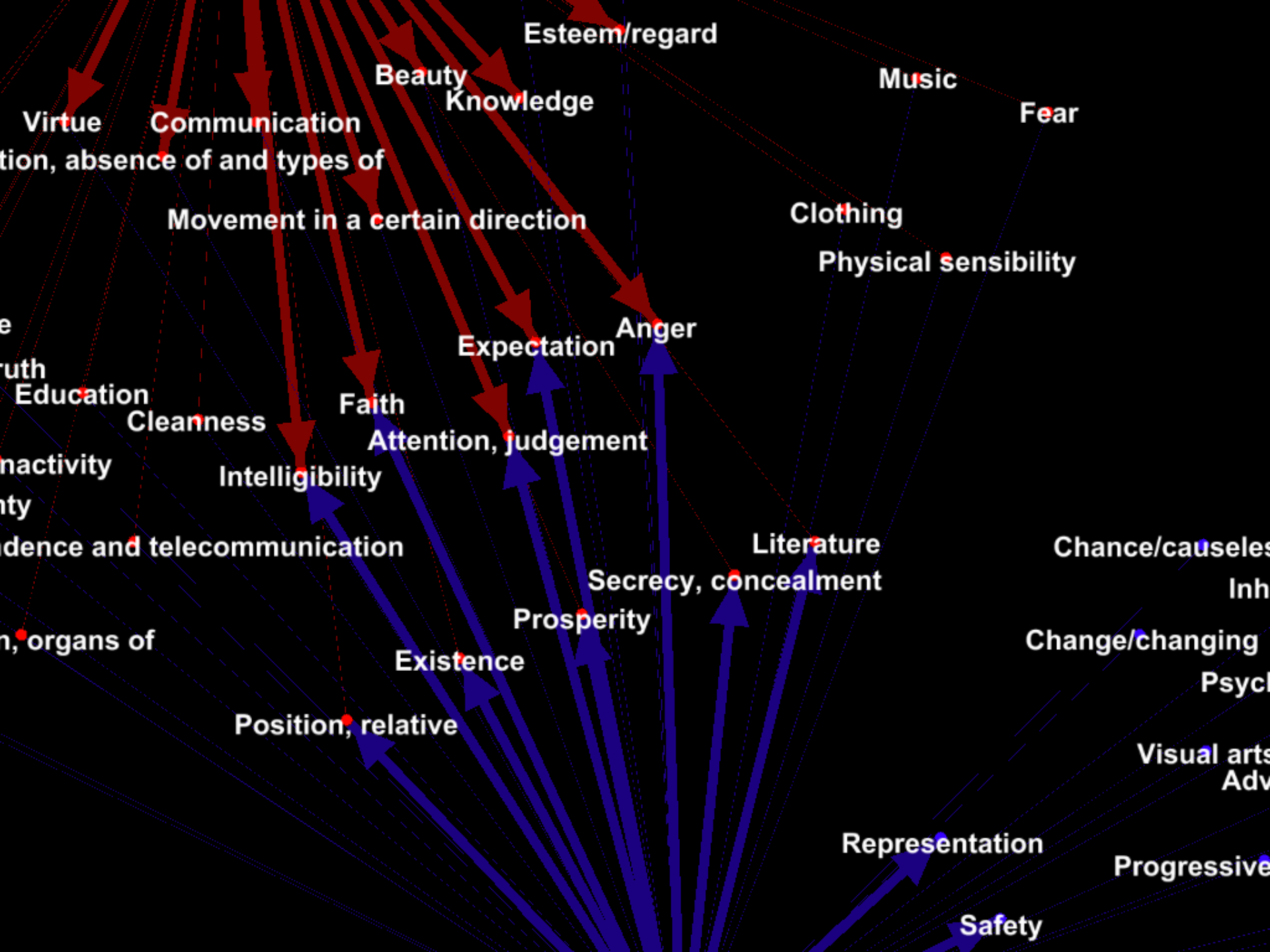
**a1729** J. ROGERS *Serm. (J.)*, The understanding is dim, and cannot by its natural light discover spiritual truth.

**1858** H. BUSHNELL *Serm. New Life 100* The unilluminated and superficial speculations of our times.

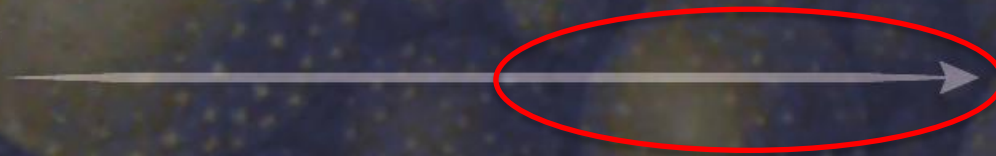
# Light and Darkness







LIGHT



BEAUTY

intransitive verb, OE-

**shine** < scinan  
*shine*

adjective, OE-1633 + 1748- poet.

**sheen** < sciene  
*bright*

adjective, c1450-

**radiant**  
*emitting rays*

noun, 1549 Scots + 1596-

**lustre**  
*brightness*

intransitive verb, OE-

**shine** < scinan  
*be splendid/radiant*

adjective, c1205-1460

**sheen** < sciene  
*beautiful*

adjective, 1509-

**radiant**  
*radiant*

noun, 1602-

**lustre**  
*radiance/brilliance*



# DARKNESS → MORAL EVIL

adjective, OE–

**dark** < deorc

*dark/without light*

adjective, 1393–

**black**

*dark/dusky/dim*

adjective, 1589–

**shady**

*lying in shade/abounding in shade*

adjective, c1586–

**pitchy**

*intensely dark*

adjective, OE–

**dark** < deorc

*evil/dark*

adjective, 1581–

**black**

*extremely wicked*

adjective, 1862–

**shady**

*shady/fishy*

adjective, 1612+1810

**pitchy**

*evil/dark*

# BIRDS

# LOVE

noun, 1595–

## love-bird

*genus Agapornis/love-bird*

noun, OE–

## duck < duce

*subfamily Merginae/duck*

transitive verb, 1398–a1529

## kiss

*touch with bill as caress*

transitive verb, 1382–

## peck

*peck*

noun, 1911–

## love-bird

*one who loves/a lover*

noun, 1590–

## duck

*terms of endearment*

noun, OE–

## kiss < COSS

*kiss*

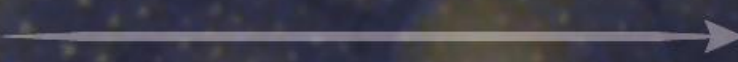
transitive verb, 1969–

## peck

*kiss perfunctorily*



# HEARING



# COLOUR

adjective, c1386–

## shrill

*shrill (of sound)*

noun, 1654–

## symphony

*assemblage/body of sound*

noun, 1866–

## colour

*quality of sound*

adjective, 1602–

## screaming

*scream/shriek*

adjective, 1973

## shrill

*garish*

noun, 1874–

## symphony

*harmony*

noun, c1290–

## colour

*a colour*

adjective, 1883–

## screaming

*scream/shriek*

# BIOLOGY IMAGINATION

transitive verb, a1300–

**conceive**

*conceive*

transitive verb, 1483–

**father**

*beget*

noun, 1490–

**fertility**

*quality/capacity of procreation*

noun, a1529–

**pregnancy**

*pregnancy/gestation*

transitive verb, c1340–

**conceive**

*imagine/visualize*

noun, 1550-1833

**pregnancy**

*productivity of inventive/creative faculty*

transitive verb, 1548–

**father**

*contrive/devise/invent*

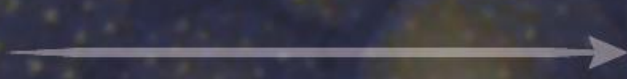
noun, 1666–

**fertility**

*productivity of inventive/creative faculty*



PRIMATES



IMITATION

noun, 1530–

**monkey**

*monkey*

noun, OE–

**ape** < apa

*monkey*

noun, 1699–

**ape**

*family Pongidae/ape*

transitive verb, 1859–

**monkey**

*ape/mock/mimic*

adverb, 1923–

**monkeyishly**

*with silly/apish imitation*

transitive verb, 1632–

**ape**

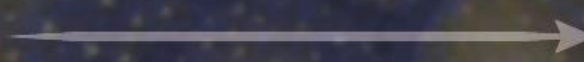
*ape/mock/mimic*

adjective, 1579–

**apish**

*apish/mocking/mimicking*

# REPTILES



# BEHAVIOUR

adjective, 1849–

**reptilian**

*of/pertaining to reptiles*

noun, 1526–

**viper**

*venomous snake*

noun, a1300–

**slough**

*skin/scale*

adjective, c1420–

**serpentine**

*of/pertaining to snake*

adjective, 1859 + 1888

**reptilian**

*ill-willing*

adjective, 1591–

**viper**

*spiteful, malicious*

noun, 1583–

**slough**

*a habit/usual feature cast off*

noun, c1510

**serpentine**

*instance of spite/malice*



[www.glasgow.ac.uk/metaphor](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/metaphor)

<http://blogs.arts.gla.ac.uk/metaphor/>

Twitter: @MappingMetaphor