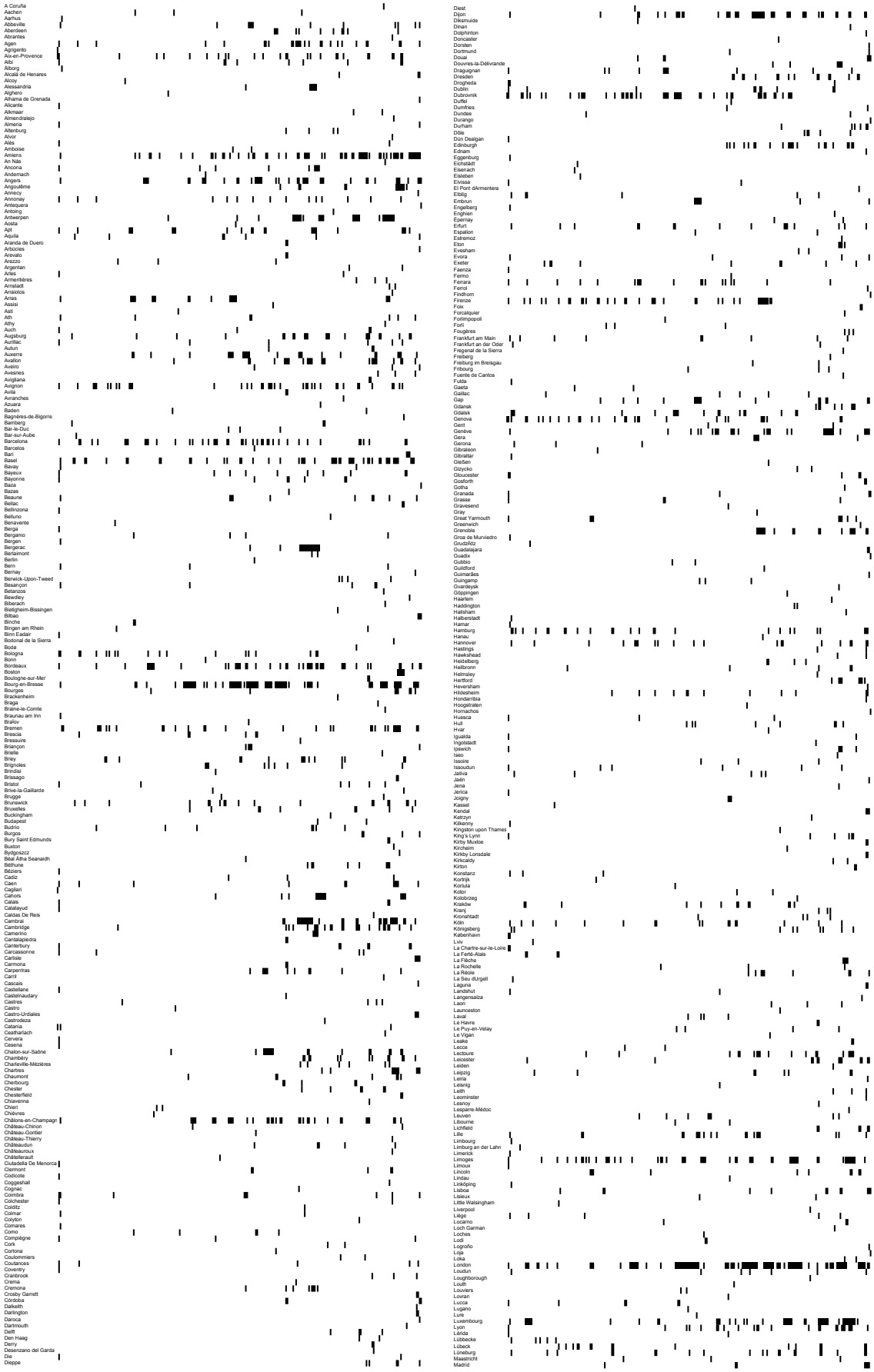
The Score of Death

PLAGUE EPIDEMICS IN EUROPE 1347–1600



Art generates an emotional response – it is subjective and unpredictable. Yet art is good for science to communicate. It [1] attracts the public, [2] helps him explore problems, [3] triggers insights and [4] improves his memory. Art for science is also socially important: it [4] contributes to the development of scientific fields and [5] might boost funding. More than that: [6] elegant science makes the scientist happy.

835 settlements where plague occurred are represented on the x-axis of the diagram, with 254 years increasing from left to right on the y-axis. Data is based on Jean-Noël Biraben, La peste dans l'histoire, Ph.D. thesis, Paris, 1974 ; digitizing and georeferencing by Anne Tournieroux ; visualization, design and text by Vlad Atanasiu ; maps by ESRI ArcGIS, statistics, cartography and animation in MathWorks Matlab, graph layout in Microsoft Excel, movie production in Adobe Premiere, images in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, sound and movie format conversion in eRightSoft Super, word processing in Microsoft Notepad and Word, all elements printed in pdf and assembled in Adobe Acrobat, printed on Nepalese paper sold in Paris, France. Done today 13 May 2008 at TechGate, Vienna, Austria.