



Feeling *UISTful*

An Interactive Portrait of Scholarly Authorship, Readership, and the In-Between

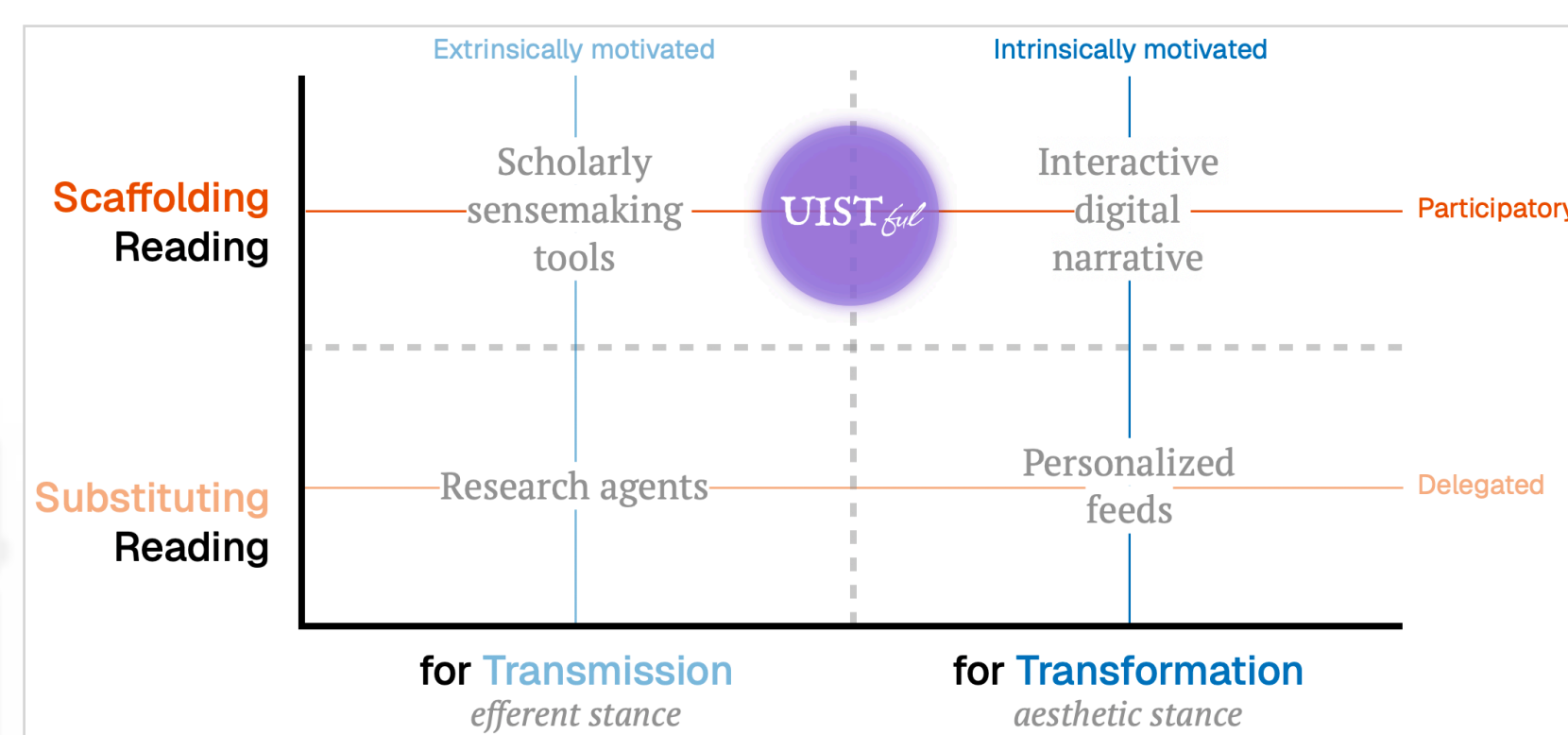
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Why haven't we seen a photograph of the whole Web yet?

From Reading for Transmission to Transformation

Scholarly reading systems increasingly help researchers extract and synthesize information at scale, treating reading primarily as information transmission. Yet reading is also a *deeply creative process* through which readers construct interpretations and develop their own ways of seeing the literature.

We propose **creative reading**: augmenting scholarly reading to support both the creation of readings and the transformation of readers.



Adapted from "Creative Reading: Scaffolding Reading for Transformation" (Liu et al., HT'26)

Creative reading traces preserve the paths and interpretations readers construct as they read, making otherwise ephemeral reading experiences available for reflection and exchange.

The Scholarly Flâneur

Inspired by Baudelaire's *flâneur*, the keen observer who wanders through the city, we imagine scholarly reading as wandering through a landscape of interconnected texts, where the **reader-author dialectic** mirrors the **participant-observer dialectic** of the flâneur, who observes a world of which they are also a part.

UISTful

UISTful invites conference attendees to explore a semantic globe of UIST papers and authors, arming the scholarly flâneur with a camera that captures their reading paths as **creative reading traces** for later, even *wistful*, viewing.

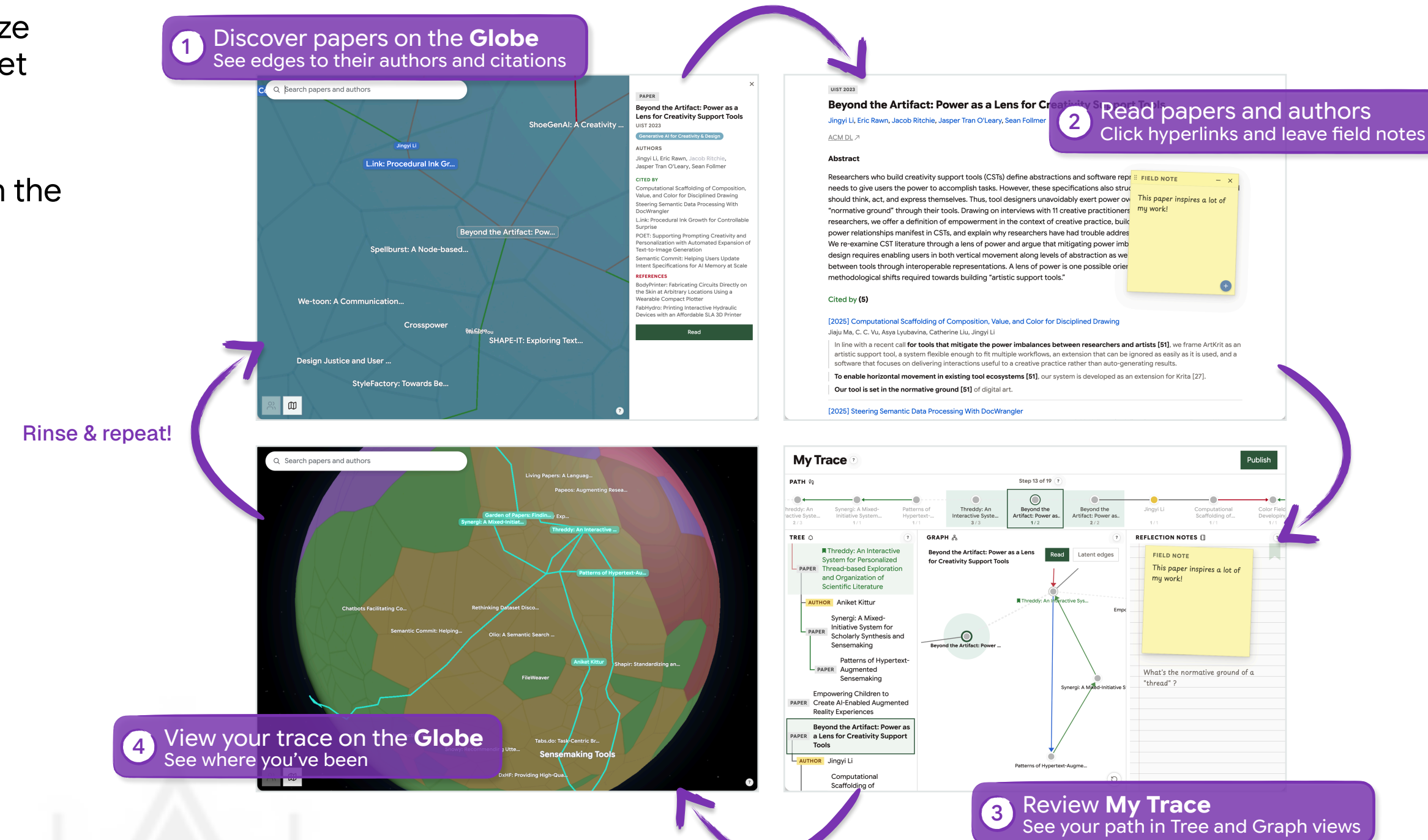
Readers can revisit, annotate, and share their traces, collectively composing an **interactive portrait of their scholarly community**, whose subjects are also its portraitists.



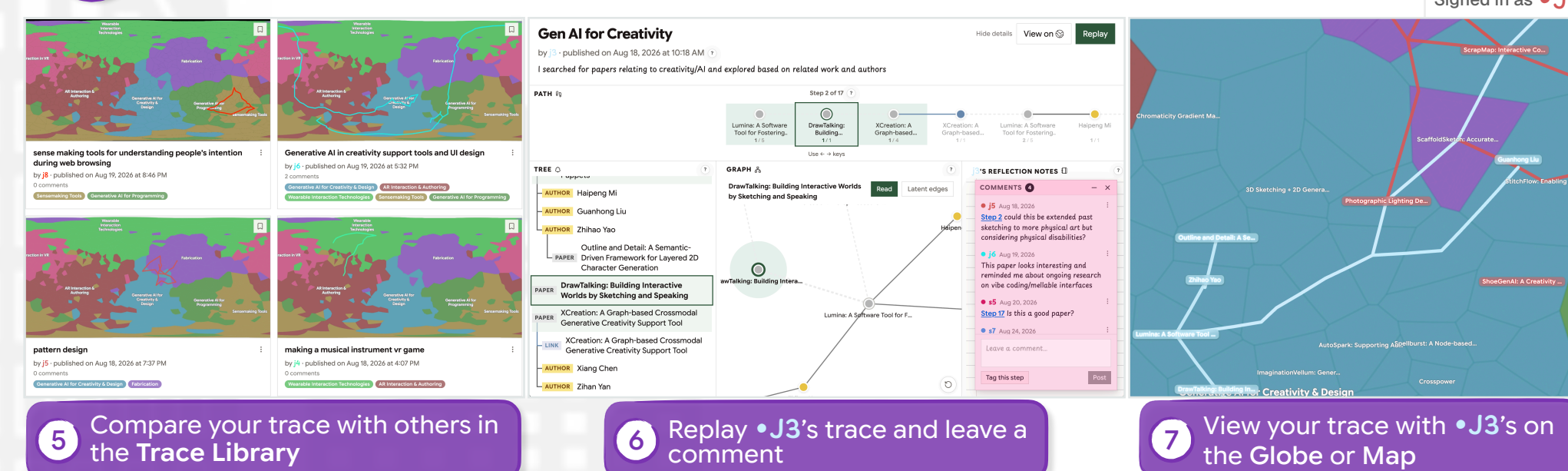
Building the UISTful Globe

1. Corpus
771 UIST papers (2020-25)
2. Embed
Titles + abstracts
3. Project
Spherical UMAP
4. Cluster
7 Voronoi continents
5. Explore
Papers, authors, traces

(A) Create your reading (read)

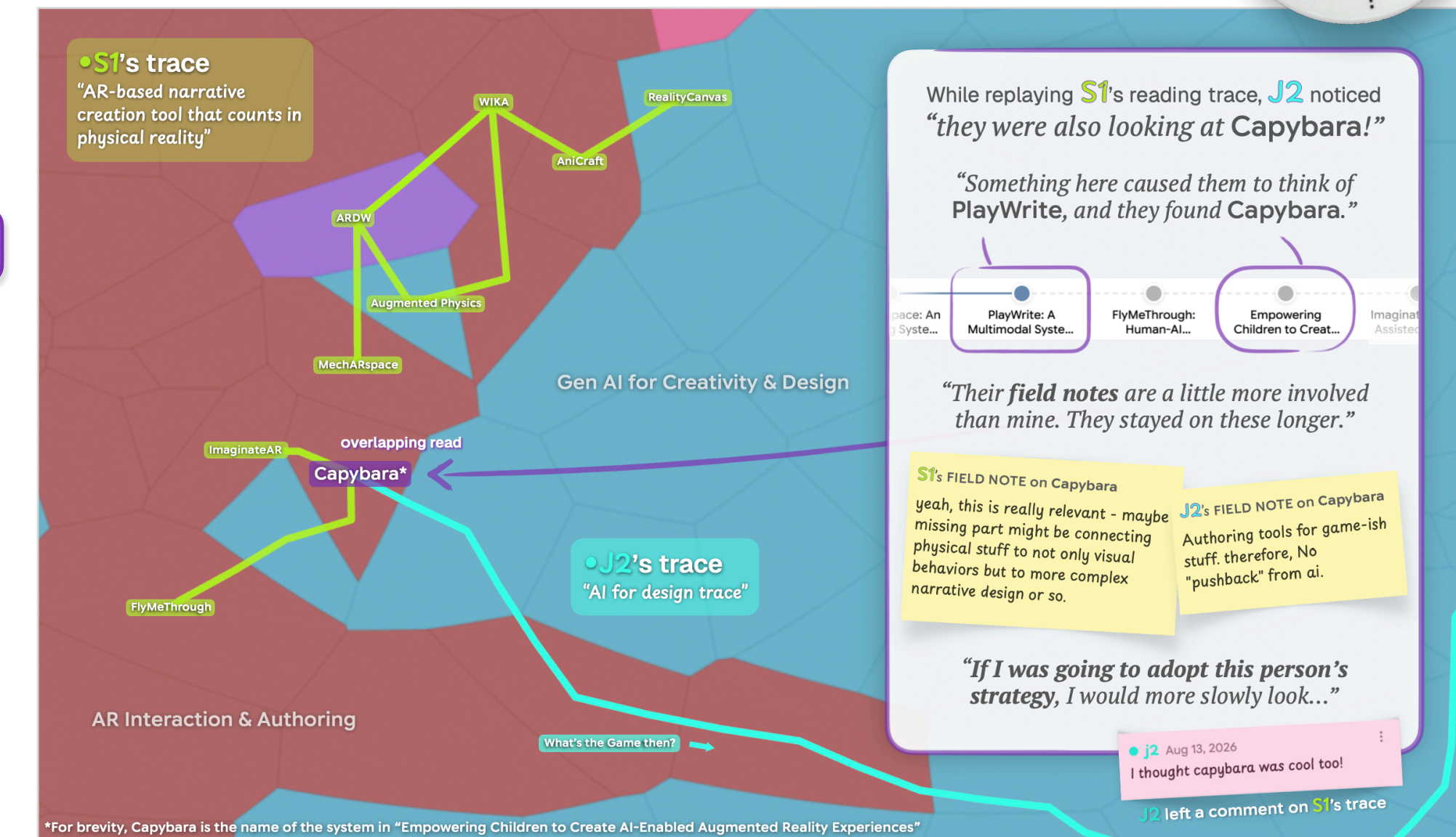
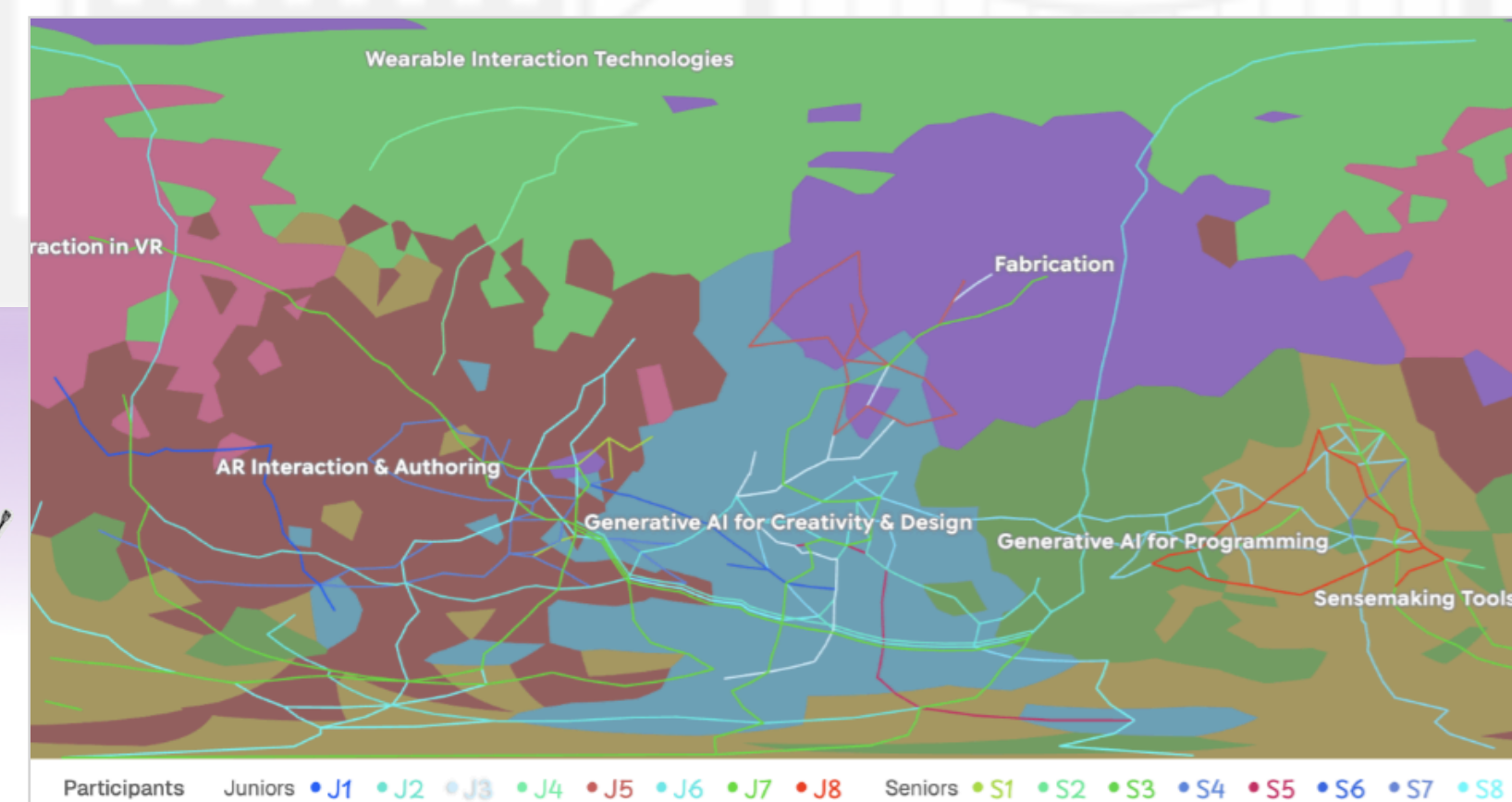


(B) Publish your reading



Different Readers, Different Readings

We studied UISTful with 16 HCI researchers (8 junior, 8 senior) to investigate scholarly flânerie through open-ended reading of a shared research landscape and how preserving creative reading traces might support reflection and exchange.



From Sense-making to Sensibility-making

Participants approached the **same scholarly landscape** through **different personal reference frames**, with prior knowledge and often unarticulated interests shaping what they noticed and pursued, as made visible through their creative reading traces.

"I'm not able to articulate my interests very well to other people, but... can kind of tell it myself, ... there is a thing that's there [without yet having the] sentence or short paragraph [to express it]."

8/8 senior researchers, compared with 4/8 juniors, **challenged the map**. Seniors also searched more and more diversely (**median query entropy 2.20 vs. 0.59 bits**). More findings in the full paper (QR below).

Our absorption of the scholarly record proceeds through the **senses** (Bush, 1945). By making visible a plurality of creative readings, UISTful offers glimpses of readers' **sensibilities** and how reading may, over time, **transform the reader**.



"The photographer is an armed version of the solitary walker reconnoitering, stalking, cruising the urban inferno, the voyeuristic stroller who discovers the city as a landscape of voluptuous extremes. Adept of the joys of watching, connoisseur of empathy, the flâneur finds the world 'picturesque.'"

— Susan Sontag, *On Photography*

That's you!

Acknowledgments

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Full paper
Wistful
preprint



Demo paper
UISTful