Top 10 Twitter Languages in London
Summer 2012

To zoom in and explore the map
go to metro.co.uk/Twittermap

30K–

20K–

10K–

0 –

SPANISH

FRENCH

TURKISH

ARABIC

PORTUGUESE

GERMAN

ITALIAN

MALAY

RUSSIAN

English users: 3.3m

Data: Ed Manley (@edthink)
Map: James Cheshire (@spatialanalysis)
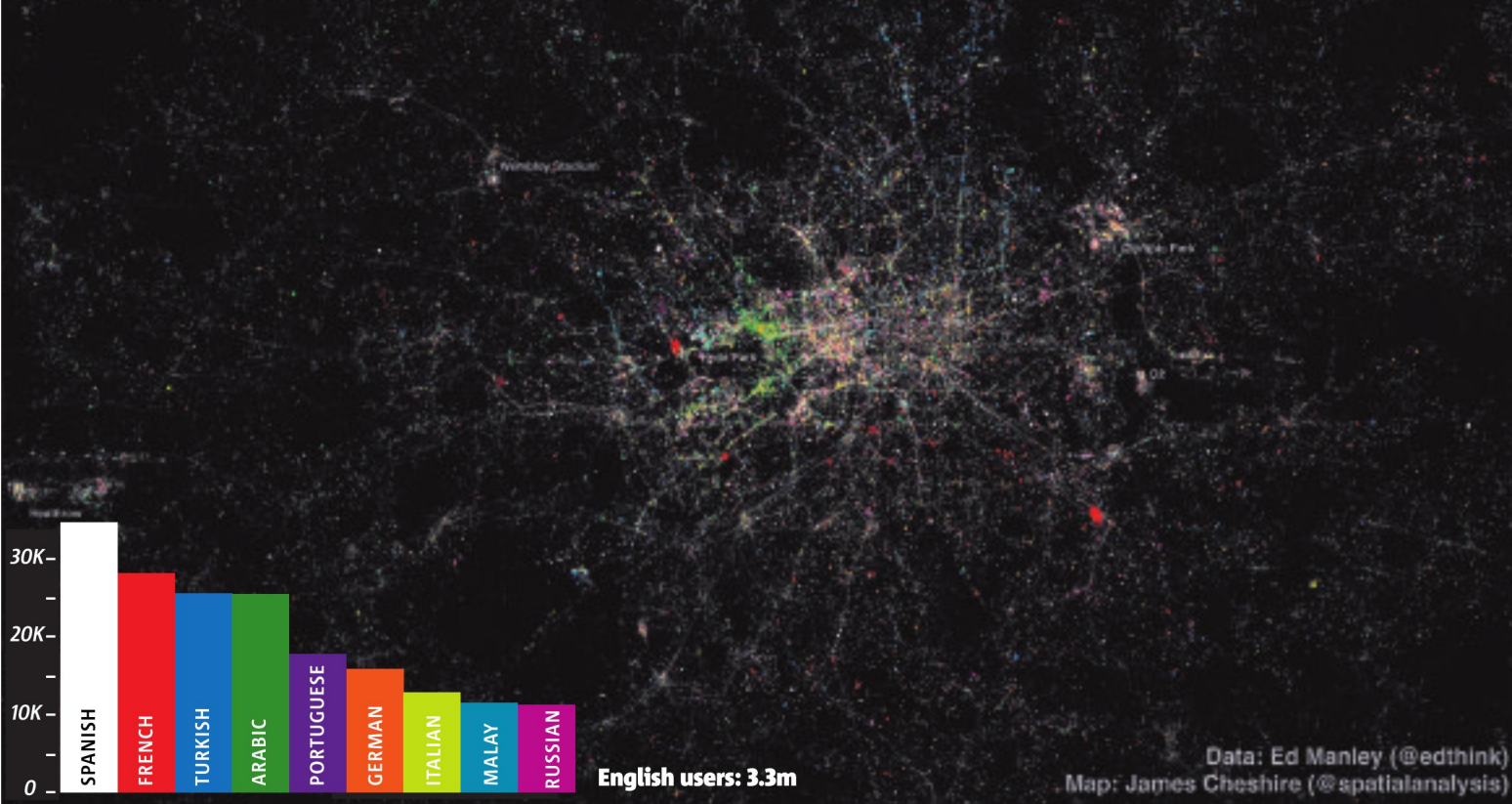
Twitter of Babel

IT'S A networking city hailed as a global village.

And now London's diversity has been mapped, courtesy of Twitter.

A colour-coded chart pinpoints the location and language of 3.3million tweets sent in the capital.

The digital map was the work of University College London PhD student Ed Manley and James Cheshire, a lecturer at UCL's Centre of Advanced Spatial Analysis.

They captured tweets sent using GPS-enabled devices and put them

by **SAM SMITH**

through Google's Chromium Compact Language Detector, which identified the language used.

Unsurprisingly, English accounted for 92.5 per cent of those sent but the project detected a total of 66 languages between March and August.

These included Basque, Haitian Creole and Swahili, and also revealed Tagalog – spoken in the Philippines – was the seventh most

tweeted language. The study also outlined pockets of tweets, such as Arabic concentrated in the west of the capital and Turkish in the north.

Mr Manley said the project revealed a few matches but 'a lot of the time it didn't actually match in the same volume as we expected'.

He added: 'A lot of the tweets you can see are along train commuter lines, roads or from people at events.

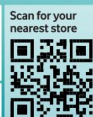'They're mostly going to be people who live in London.'