



## Technical Communication Quarterly >

Volume 27, 2018 - [Issue 4](#)

4,214 | 4

Views

| 1

CrossRef citations to date

| Altmetric

Articles

# Visualizing Certainty: What the Cultural History of the Gantt Chart Teaches Technical and Professional Communicators about Management

Vincent D. Robles

Pages 300-321 | Published online: 15 Nov 2018

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/10572252.2018.1520025>

Check for updates



Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

## ABSTRACT

Using a cultural-historical genre analysis of the Gantt chart, the author describes how, when a project's progress and scope are being considered, this popular project management visualization evokes managerial values of certainty and simplicity. These values, instantiated in early 20th-century scientific management philosophy, are made visually manifest in Henry L. Gantt's popular chart. These charts require technical and professional communicators to gauge the rhetorical implications of using them when providing their expertise in communicating project management.

KEYWORDS:

# Additional information

## Notes on contributors

### Vincent D. Robles

Vincent D. Robles is an assistant professor of technical communication at the University of North Texas. His research interests are technical support, technical editing, discourse and content analysis, and technical and professional communication pedagogy.

## Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by  
4

## Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

## Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

## Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

## Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

## Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources  
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954  
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG