

PROFFORMANCE+ webinar 7/11/2023

Department of Philosophy in Niš, Serbia

Dendrilion - Branching network of philosophical questions

Category 4: Impact and mission with and for society



How to get more high-schoolers into philosophy?



*Philosophy has so much to offer
to everyone, but how do we bypass its
high-entrance barrier?*

How to demonstrate different ways philosophy
can be taught to our students?

How to tackle frequently incorrect public opinions?



One possible recipe for success:

- a handful of philosophy teachers
- a handful of philosophy students
- 1 IT engineer with *Unity* skills
- 1 month of planning
- 2 months of programming and testing
- endless practice of a Socratic dialogue
- participation at science fairs, different cultural events

... And so



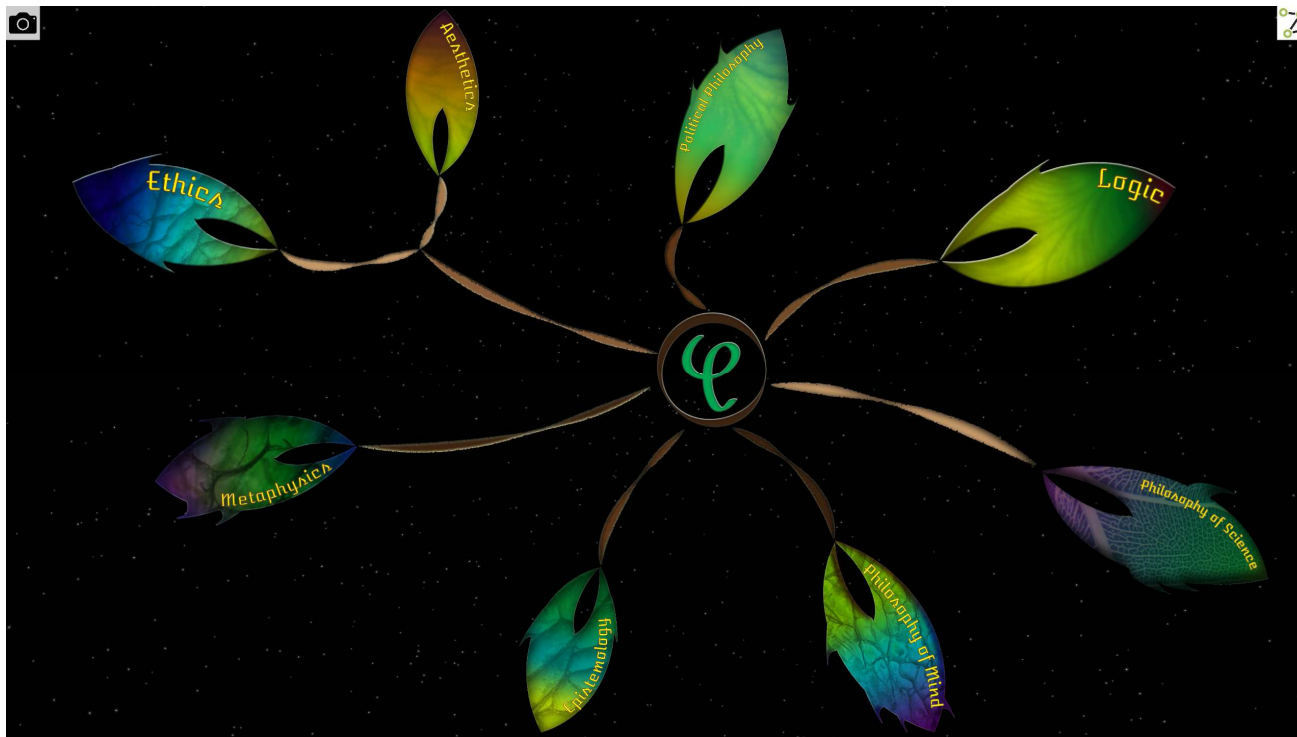
was born!

Δendrilion

What is *Dendrilion*?

- An app in a form of a tree-like floating through space UI where each branch stands for a 1 philosophy discipline.

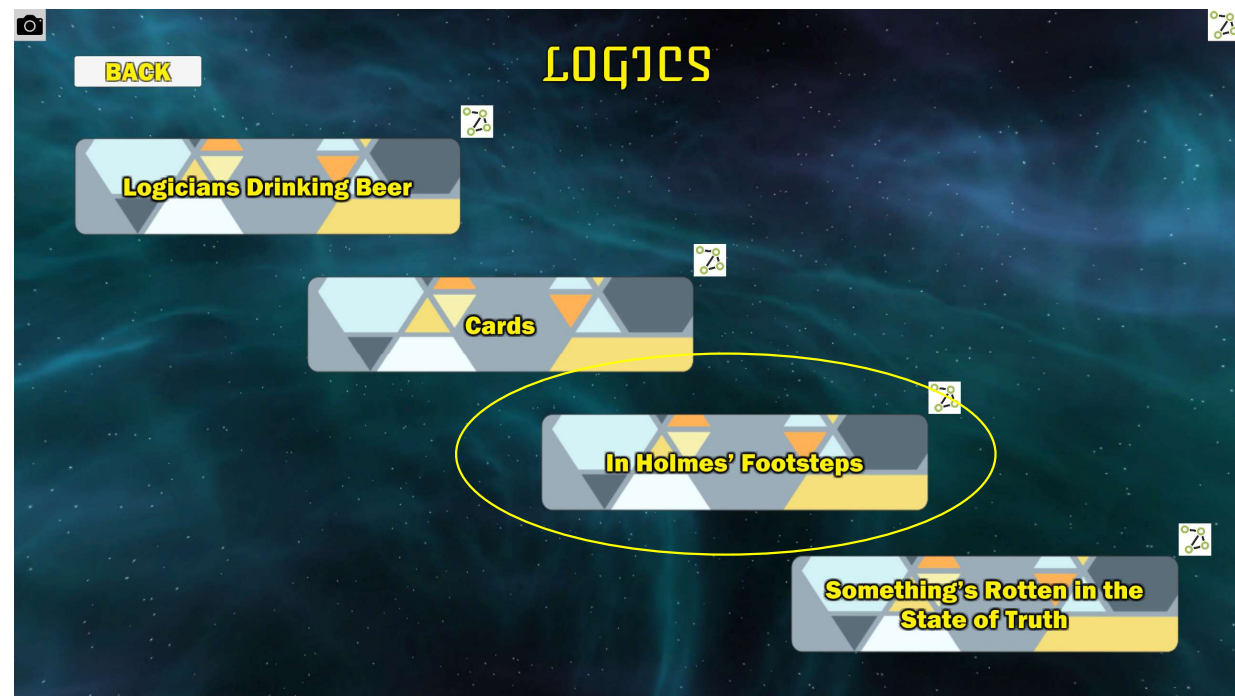
(We offer: Ethics, Political philosophy, Esthetics, Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind)

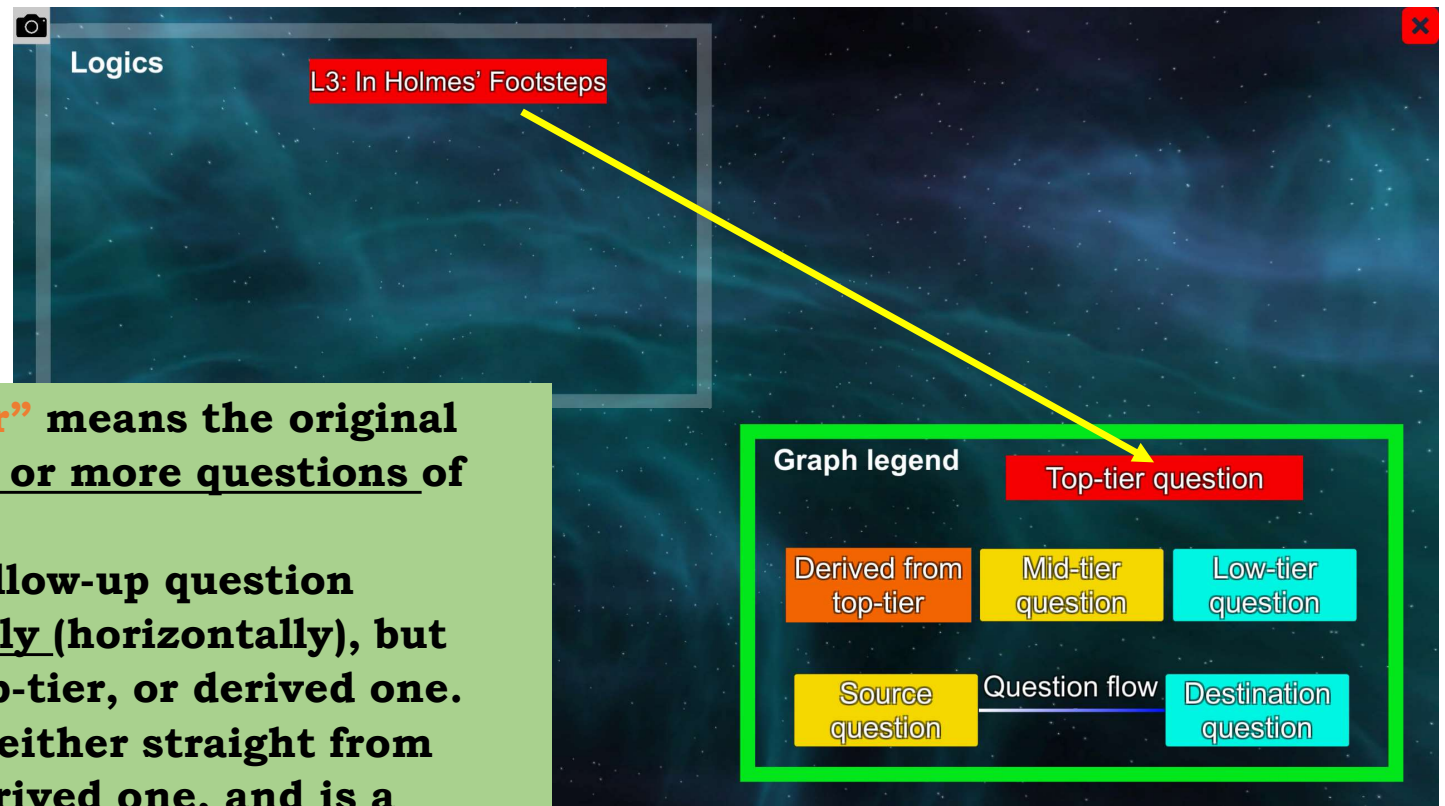


- We wanted to achieve offering some of the most prominent philosophical Qs, but more easily recognised through more common examples.

+

- To demonstrate how Qs from different fields frequently intertwine.





- **“Derived from top-tier”** means the original question splits to two or more questions of identical value
- **“Mid-tier”** means a follow-up question connected thematically (horizontally), but not directly to the top-tier, or derived one.
- **“Low-tier”** can follow either straight from top-, mid-tier, or a derived one, and is a consequence following directly from the previous question.

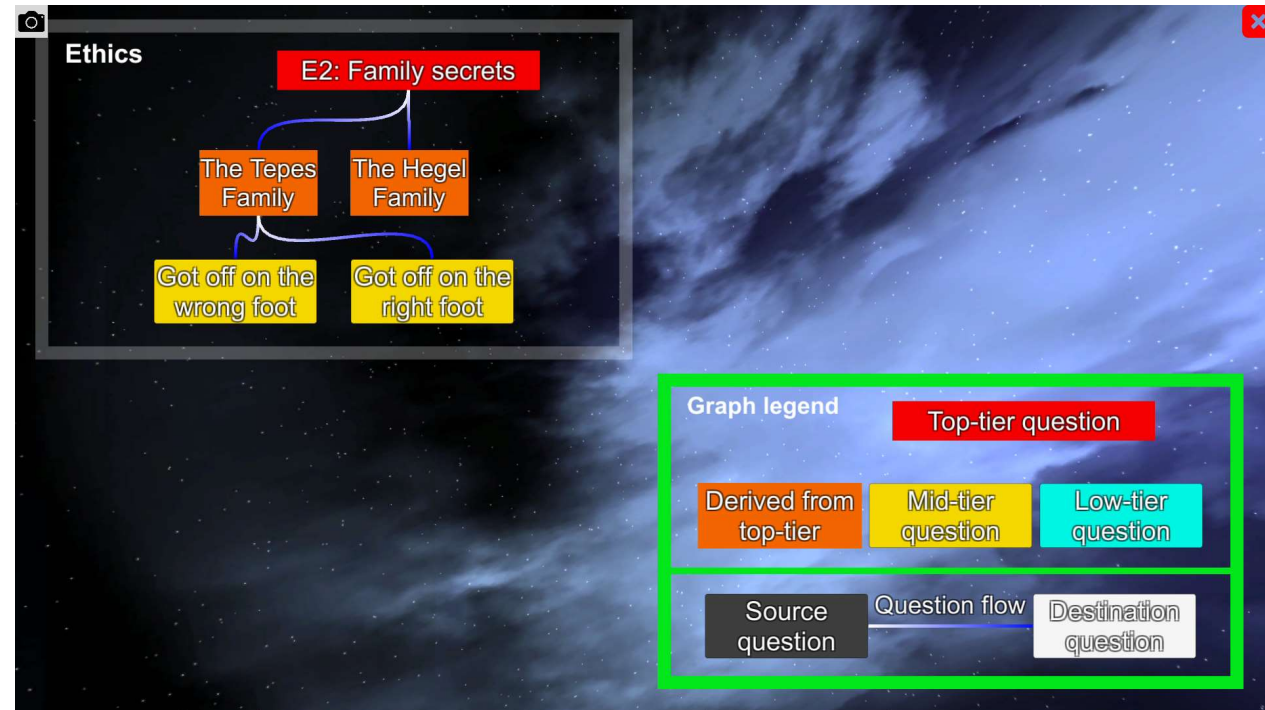
Family secrets:

1) The Tepes Family

Mr. and Mrs. Tepes have a child who suffers from:

Got off on the wrong foot: *The optic nerve failure. If the designed brother is born, the sight of the Junior can be saved. Would the utilitarian argument stand in this case?*

Got off on the right foot: *Fanconi's anemia, a rare disorder which requires a first cousin's stem cells of identical genetic structure. The parents plan do design a new child who would be the savior of Dracula Junior. Is their plan morally problematic?*



2) The Hegel family

Mr. and Mrs. Hegel lost a son in a car accident. To bear the loss more easily, they decide to have a child who will be the previous' clone. Should they tell the new child it is a clone?

Neo's choice:

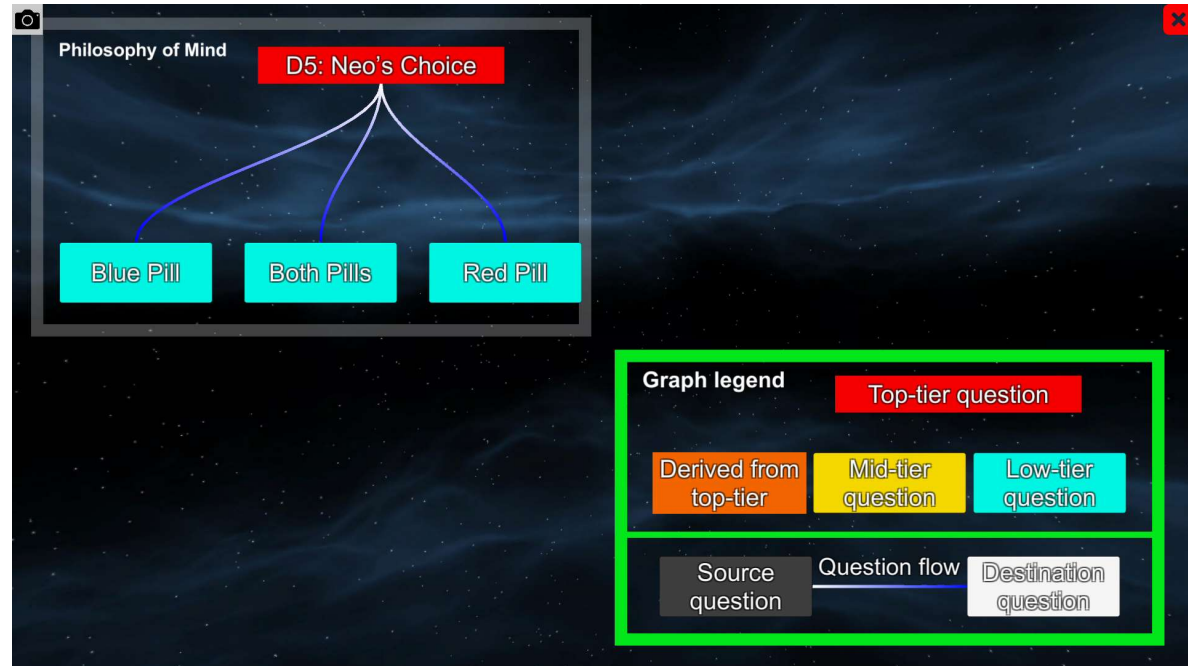
Imagine someone offers you a pill which would give you a completely realistic experiences you've always wanted: the ideal partner you enjoy the most beautiful beach with, the best dishes you've always wanted to try, etc... Those experiences are impossible to differ from the real ones – to you they would appear identical.

Blue pill

Would you rather take a pill or have those experiences as real?

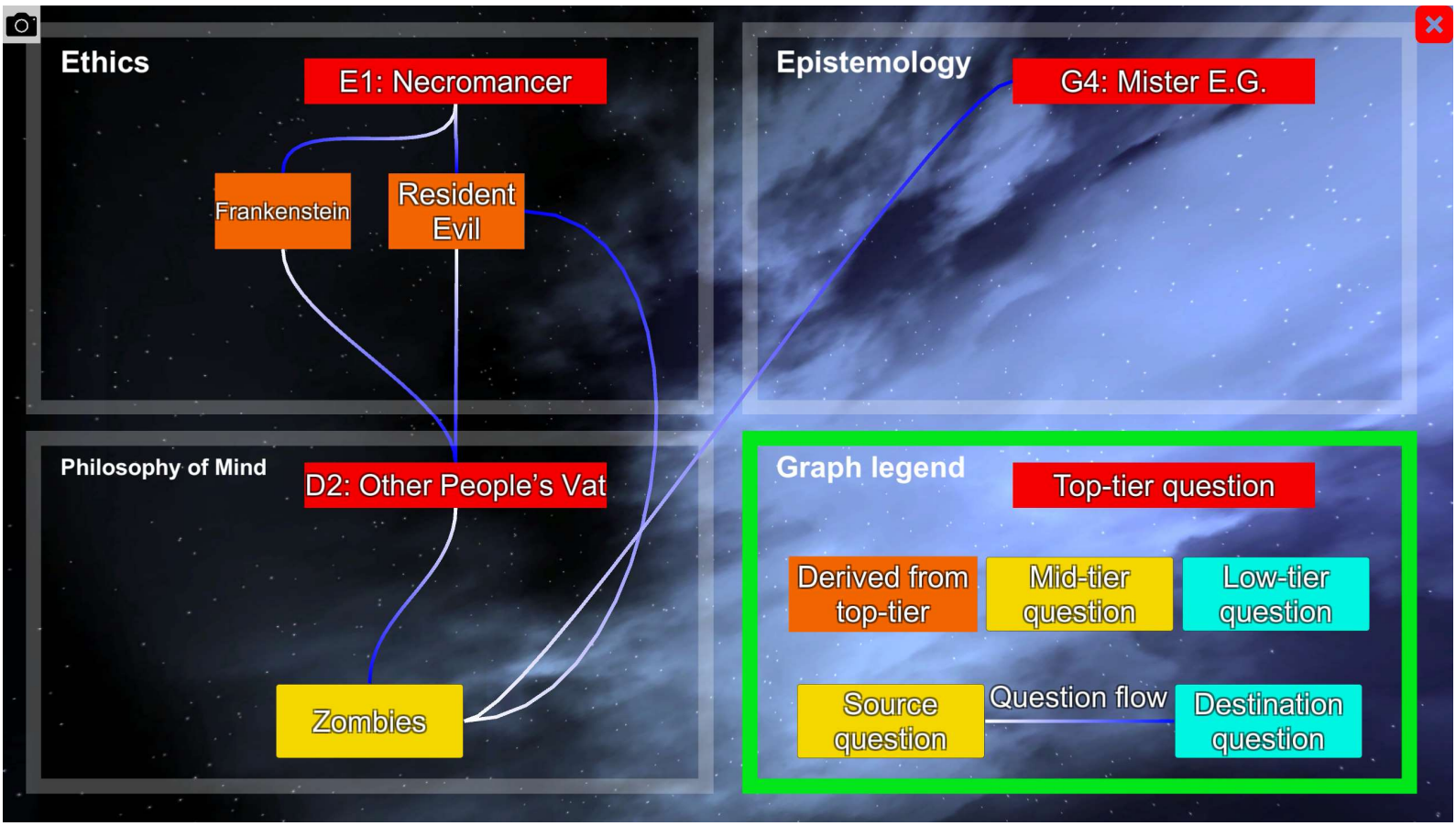
Red pill

Now imagine someone tells you that some of your most precious memories are fake, derived precisely by the blue pill. Then they offer you to take the red pill which will annule those experiences. Would you accept it?



Both pills

Would you perhaps accept taking the red pill if you're given a chance to have the same experiences again, only for real this time?



Lessons learnt



- It does what it's intended to do: attracts audience
- Highly adaptable for most of the fields/disciplines
- If you are a good convo leader, it gives you much flexibility in conversation starting and leading
= high engagement
- Having many questions that offer lower tiers or intertwinement with other disciplines is great for showing the versatility you offer and for a conversation flow



- Some disciplines are more popular than others (Logic, Ethics, Political philosophy), so try to occasionally steer the choices in some other directions
- Some people need much more introduction to the question, so be mindful of simplicity of your guidance
- Steer your resources to the target audience more

Thank you!



See you in a break-out room.