Trust, Data, Development, and Democracy

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Official Statistics in the Big Data Era

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Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango
Bogotá
October 28th, 2013

1. Big Data for Official Statistics is not a technical-technological issue; it’s a political issue—about knowledge, power, and democracy

2. Engage with citizens, communities, donors—’revive’ and reinvent poverty measurement (for ex.) in the 21st century

3. reach out, collaborate, drawn lessons—innovate
Africa's Statistical Tragedy

Arab Region NSOs Call For Data Revolution

2012-17

>2017?

OPAL
bring the code to the data
“Big data [is] an ecosystem,” says @ManuLetouze of @datapopalliance, a global coalition that includes the @medialab.

Solving the data conundrum: How to leverage tech and 'big data' for impact
From combing phone subscription records to estimate population density and poverty levels, to analyzing tweets to predict a pending food crisis, emerging tec...

devex.com
The world’s most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data.
Ian Morris, chart of all human history
How machine learning can amplify or remove gender stereotypes
AUGUST 6, 2016
by adamskalal
tags: gender bias, word embeddings

TLDR: It’s easier to remove gender biases from machine learning algorithms than from people.

Saving children, one algorithm at a time
By Kathleen Hickey | Jul 26, 2016

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) is the latest government entity to take advantage of predictive analytics from non-profit Eckerd Kids to prevent child welfare tragedies.

The New York Times
Make Algorithms Accountable
By JULIA ANGWIN
AUGUST 7, 2016
Saving Big Data from Itself

A three-step plan for using data right in an age of government overreach

By Alex "Sandy" Pentland

For the first few decades of its existence, the National Security Agency was a quiet department with one primary job: keeping an eye on the Soviet Union. Its ene-

emy was well-defined and sound (its principal tools were phone taps, spy planes, and hidden submarines).

After the attack of September 11, all of that changed. The NSA's chief enemy becomes a diffuse network of indi-

vidual terrorists. Anyone in the world could be a target.

To Rescue Democracy, Go Outside

Real spaces, not digital ones, will fix our politics.

By Alex Pentland

Illustration by James Yang

October 13, 2018
We really need better dates...
better data?

Oh yeah, right, better data.
Measurement ↔ Development?

Level of Development

Quality of Measurement

Then...?

If....

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL WORKING GROUP ON BTG DATA
Measurement <-> Development?

Level of Development

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKS 2014

Top 5 Countries
1. Norway
2. Australia
3. Switzerland
4. Netherlands
5. United States

Bottom 5 Countries
1. Sierra Leone
2. Chad
3. Central African Republic
4. DR Congo
5. Niger

Quality of Measurement
Towards a data-enabled model of democratic governance running against tyrants and autocrats, and for the people.”...?
Who should we trust to manage our data?

By Alex Pentland
Oct 23 2015

It is time for legislators and judiciary to stop relying on traditional bureaucracies to enforce data rules and rights, and use this new technology to ensure that data stewardship meets the high standard of always following the rules and rights specified by our laws. The essential factor that led toward democratisation was broad ownership of the resource, which made it difficult to exert autocratic control. The same seems true for data: to avoid autocratic control, citizens must have effective, direct control of data about themselves.
Open algorithms: A new paradigm for using private data for social good

By Thomas Roca, Emmanuel Letouzé | 18 July 2016
Beyond Data Literacy: Reinventing Community Engagement and Empowerment in the Age of Data

October 2015

Building Literacy for the Data Generation

December 18, 2015

A unique opportunity exists to develop data literacy education for children born into a world shaped by big data.

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL WORKING GROUP ON BIG DATA
Testing building blocks of ‘Big Data literacy’

Applying Big Data methods and tools to yield insights for specific development problems

Understanding key Big Data ideas in order to translate development problems into specific data objectives

Engaging key stakeholders and communities through ethical practices and effective story-telling

Operationalizing Big Data as inclusive projects, partnerships and policies
Next: Research program with IDB

- In partnership with the city governments of Bogotá, Cartagena, Cali, Medellin, and Santa Marta
- Key (tentative) research questions identified at Media Lab workshop in March 2016:
  - How will the implementation of the peace agreement affect people’s trust in the police?
  - How does trust between and within groups and towards institutions affect
  - How / why are police records biased?
Announcement of DNP-Data-Pop Alliance agreement to support Colombia’s National Big Data Strategy at Andicom, Cartagena, September 2016
Thank you

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#UNBIGDATA2017