



Why it is important to CARE about your data

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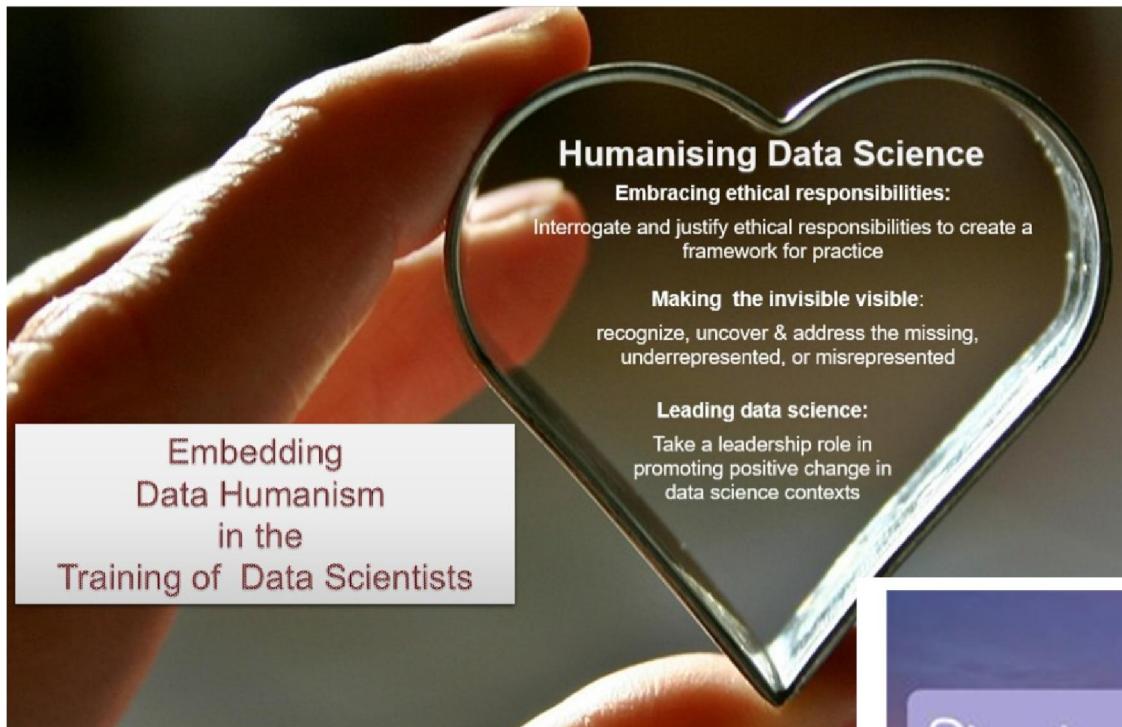
Landsat Image of Philadelphia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

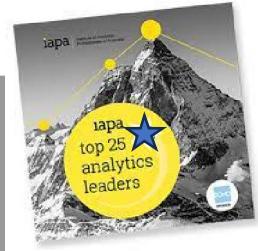
I acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional owners and custodians on whose lands we walk, work and live. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging descendent of the traditional custodians of the places we now call Philadelphia and Sydney. I extend that respect to any First Nations people listening.



Landsat Image of Sydney



Building consensus through gaining and maintaining a community's trust and implementing good practice to advance socially-just data policies is embedded in my work



Playing with Pauses

Supporting creative information ecologies

[What are we about?](#)
[Artful engagements](#)
[Background material](#)
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CONNECTING STONES CONSULTING

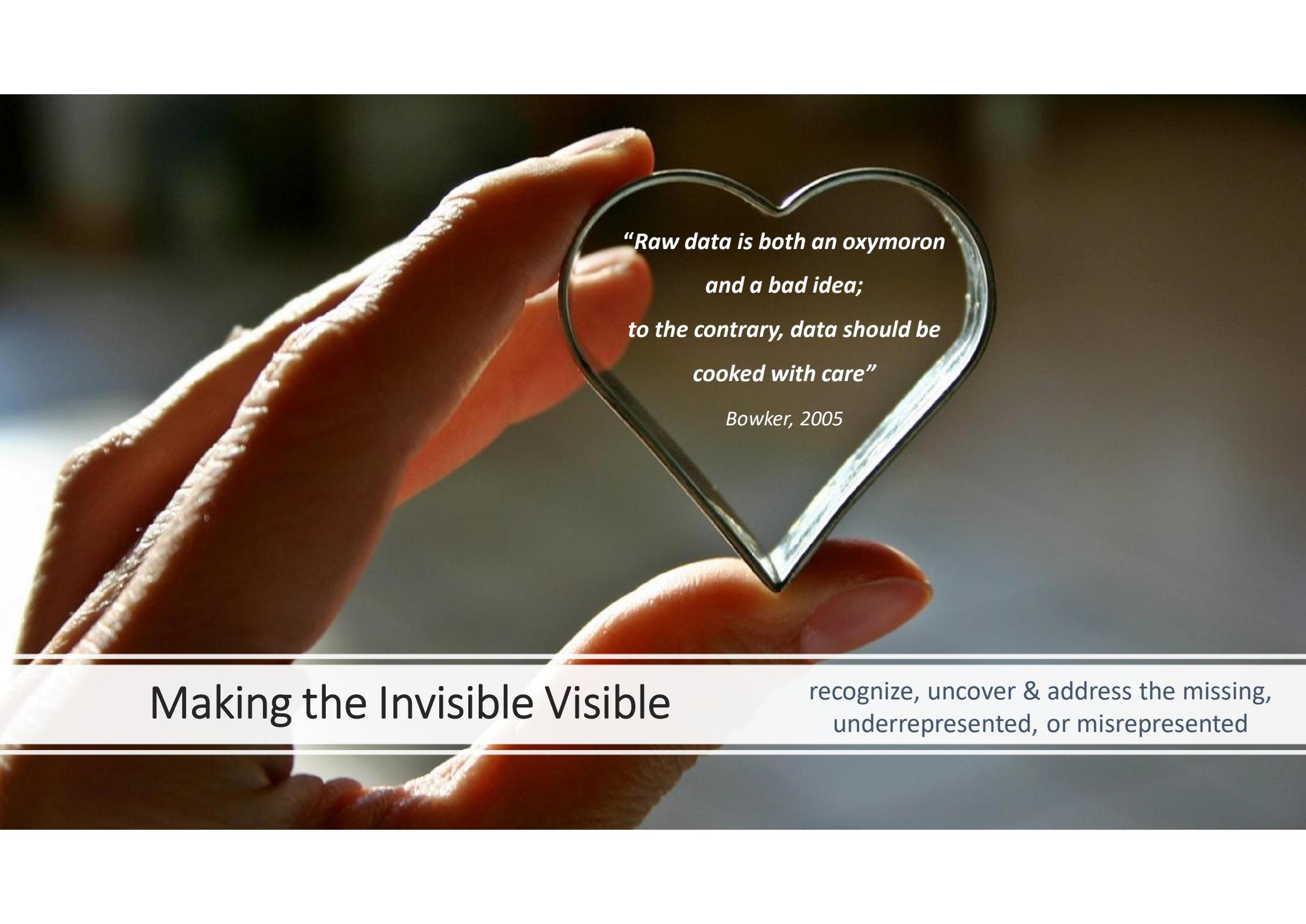
What happens when we go backstage to understand the invisible “shadow” work needed for human-centred data science?

How can we lift the lid on the "black boxes" of data science to better understand processes of knowledge generation & discovery hidden within?

How can we avoid data determinism and make space for data humanism?

How do we make it possible to design WITH communities and not simply for them?



A close-up photograph showing a person's hands. One hand is held open, palm up, while the other hand uses a heart-shaped magnifying glass to examine the fingers of the open hand. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

*"Raw data is both an oxymoron
and a bad idea;
to the contrary, data should be
cooked with care"*

Bowker, 2005

Making the Invisible Visible

recognize, uncover & address the missing,
underrepresented, or misrepresented



Organising information and data is a political act

"There is always class in our classes [because] **the act of classing itself presupposes power**...authorized to decide the membership of the categories specified. **A system of classes (of whatever kind) always implies evaluation**, and hence its inevitable if guilty accompanist, subordination."

Richard Terdiman, 1989

"it is politically and ethically crucial to recognize the vital role of infrastructure in the "built moral environment." **Seemingly purely technical issues like how to name things and how to store data in fact constitutes much of human interaction, and much of what we come to know as natural....** [A] key for the future is to produce flexible classifications, whose users are aware of their political and organizational dimensions, and which explicitly retain traces of their construction."

Geof Bowker & Leigh Star, 1999





SORTING THINGS OUT

CLASSIFICATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

GEOFFREY C. BOWKER AND SUSAN LEIGH STAR

<https://www.ics.uci.edu/~gbowker/classification/>

Working Infrastructures & Living Classifications

"...classifications are a key part of the standardization processes that are themselves the cornerstones of working infrastructures. For these reasons, we have argued in this book that it is politically and ethically crucial to recognize the vital role of infrastructure in the "built moral environment." **Seemingly purely technical issues like how to name things and how to store data in fact constitutes much of human interaction, and much of what we come to know as natural.** We have argued that a key for the future is to produce flexible classifications, whose users are aware of their political and organizational dimensions, and which explicitly retain traces of their construction. In the best of all possible worlds, at any given moment the past could be reordered to better reflect multiple constituencies now and then. Only thus we will be able to fully learn the lessons of the past. In this same optimal world, we could tune our classifications to reflect new institutional arrangements or personal trajectories - reconfigure the world on the fly.

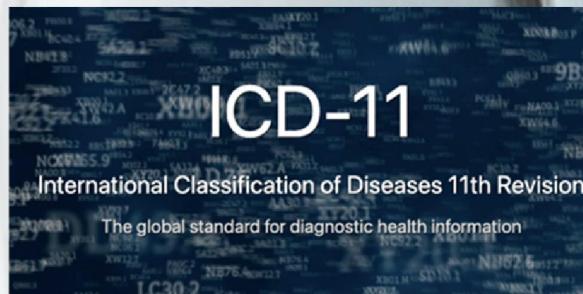
The only good classification is a living classification."



Let's explore a 'living' classification together

data points in a graph are tiny portholes onto a rich human world, and encapsulates some of the concerns that educators have about the misuse of blunt, blind analytics — proxy indicators that do not do justice to the complexity of real people, and the rich forms that learning take.

Buckingham Shum, 2015





Questions to seed reflection in relation to your own practice

Consider the ‘politics’ and ‘power’ of the vocabularies and ontologies you work with to reflect on the following:

What theory or ‘world view’ is privileged by the labels and structure of the classification?

Who/What is visible at the expense of making something (or someone else) invisible?

What is the consequence of such in/visibility?

Who/what is not represented, misrepresented, or underrepresented?

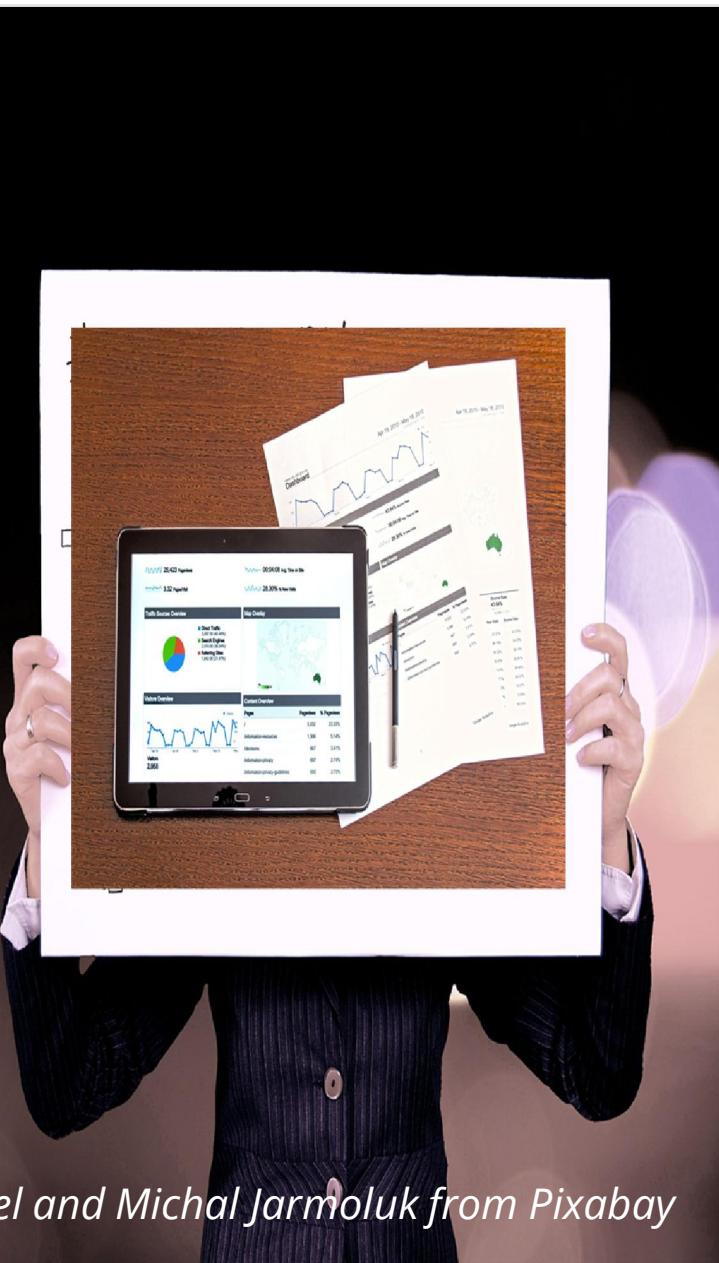




Behind every data point is a human being

Data has an origin before it appears in any spreadsheet

What happens in processes of generating data that might potentially -- though unintentionally -- contribute to inequity and bias?



Images used by Pexels and Michal Jarmoluk from Pixabay



WorldFAIR



Making the Invisible Visible

We must ask difficult questions of Big Data's models of intelligibility before they crystalize into new orthodoxies.

danah boyd & Kate Crawford (2012)
'Critical Questions for Big Data',
Information, Communication & Society,
15:5, 662-679

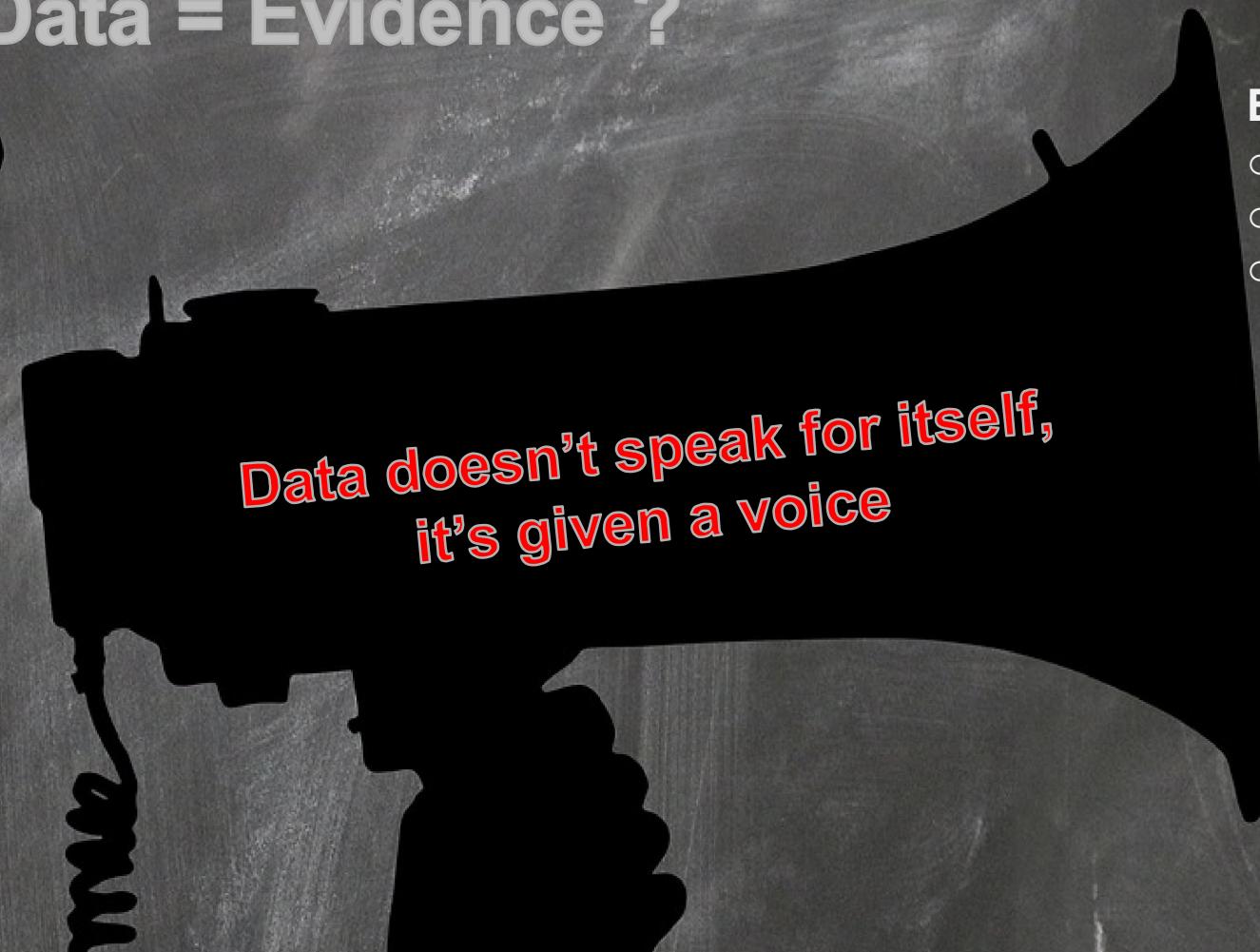


Data is given a voice by the people and the algorithms that play increasingly critical roles in the transformation of data into insight

Data = Evidence ?

AI actions:

- Classification
- Recognition
- Prediction



Data doesn't speak for itself,
it's given a voice

Beware:

- Unconscious Bias
- Data Asymmetries
- Data Blindness



Not everything that should count is countable

“It would be nice if all of the data which sociologists require could be enumerated because then we could run them through IBM machines and draw charts as the economists do. However, **not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.**”

(William Bruce Cameron, 1963)

Humanising our work with data

"First,...big data, at least as the term is commonly used, is actually *granular, social data*.

Second, in order to responsibly articulate and address issues relating to bias, fairness, and inclusion, we need to stop thinking of big data sets as being homogeneous, and instead shift our focus to the many diverse data sets nested within these larger collections."

Hanna Wallach, 2014

['Big Data, Machine Learning, and the Social Sciences In Medium](#)





Image Source: <https://www.gida-global.org/care>

#BeFAIRandCARE

Building a FAIRer Society

Operationalising
FAIR & CARE principles



Moving forward and Learning Together

How might application of Be FAIR and CARE principles relate to your data practices?

What can you learn from the challenges and successes within your local contexts?

Who are the most vulnerable citizens in your charge?

What are the most invisible concerns in your sphere of influence?

How can you remain alert to the missing, misrepresented, and underrepresented in your data gathering and harmonization processes?

