**Assignment 1 – Personal essay and quiz**

**Due date: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 by class uploaded to Canvas**

**Directions.  Please do your assignment in R Markdown.**

**Part I: Personal statement**

I am interested in who you are – about your past, present and future.  Please write a short personal essay telling me about yourself.  Consider this essay your way of helping me understand who you are, where you’ve been and where you’re going.  The essay should be reasonably short (no more than a few pages), typed double spaced in Microsoft Word, Google docs, LaTeX or a comparable publishing application.  And most of all, it should be enjoyable to read.

I want the essay to be organized by “past”, “present” and “future”.  The past section should include where you grew up.   What is one of your favorite memories as a young child?  What would you like me to know about your past?  Second, the present section should discuss who you are now.  What do you like to do in your spare time?  What’s a typical day like for you?  And how did you become interested in economics?  What are you hoping to get out of this class on causal inference?  And finally, tell me about your future.  I’d like for you to tell me about your hopes about the future.  And to make it fun, write out a one-year, five-year and ten-year plan of your future.  That is, what do you hope is going on in your life in one year, in five years and in ten years?

**Part II: Quiz.**

Read chapters 1 and 2 of Alexander (2021), *Telling Stories with Data.*

1. According to Register, 2020, data decisions affect (pick one)?
   1. Real people.
   2. No one.
   3. Those in the training set.
   4. Those in the test set.
2. In your own words, answer the following questions.
   1. How is data science similar to and different from causal inference?
   2. Briefly a predominantly data science research project and a predominantly causal inference research project.
3. According to Keyes, 2019, what is perhaps a more accurate definition of data science (pick one)?
   1. ‘The inhumane reduction of humanity down to what can be counted.’;
   2. ‘The quantitative analysis of large amounts of data for the purpose of decision-making.’;
   3. ‘Data science is an inter-disciplinary field that uses scientific methods, processes, algorithms and systems to extract knowledge and insights from many structural and unstructured data.