Ethics in statistical practice and communication:

Five recommendations

Open data and open methods

- arbitrary decisions in data analysis – “researcher degrees of freedom”
- a replicable “paper trail”

Be clear about the information that goes into statistical methods

- Ethical to use prior, otherwise information is being “left on the table”
- Controversial - People may have strong and very conflicting views on the prior information for some prickly issues of public policy

Create a culture of respect for data

- For a study to be ethical it should be informative, which implies serious attention to measurement, design, and data collection

Publication of criticisms

- enabling others’ criticisms of your work, via open data, clarity in assumptions

Respect the limitations of statistics

- explicit or implicit searches for statistical significance with flexible hypotheses that are rich in researcher degrees of freedom
- data do not provide strong evidence for the authors’ claims

Gelman, A. (2018). Ethics in statistical practice and communication: Five recommendations. *Significance, 15*(5), 40-43.