Your Opinion

In 2008 Chris Anderson wrote a provocative article in Wired magazine questioning whether science has moved into a new way of knowing about the world, where theory was no longer central to understanding and decisions, but data and algorithms alone could provide insights.

Read the article (https://www.wired.com/2008/06/pb-theory/).

Do you think we have come to the end of theory? If so, what does this mean for scientific research and discover in theory-heavy fields such as the social sciences? If not, what does theory provide which data and algorithms alone cannot?

Your thought?*

DISAGREE ▼

Explain / Describe (minimum = 90 words)*

I believe data-driven models are just a convenient way to automate the way we build models. It is useful but cannot replace human thinking and innovation, which often can be theory-driven. Often, a theory can be wrong but it is a useful tool to think about possible ways to look at the world that may not be a reality yet. For example, when Newton ... [overlapping text] ... Newton wouldn't be gathering data, conversely, without data, Newton cannot deduce the theory. Theory and data come hand in hand, and the increasing use of data in [...] gap of data, but won't automate away theory by any means.

Word count: 131

This field must be at least 90 words long.

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