**From the readings up to and including this week, find one example of a data graph that attempts to tell an interesting story of a useful/interesting topic. How well does it succeed? How could it be improved?**

A graph of the same person

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The above graph depicts the political divergence of men and women aged 18-29 in countries across the world. As we discussed in class, I think one of the aspects of this graph that is effective is that it tells a story and allows for interpretation of information without needing to refer to any additional text. The X axis represents the % liberal minus % conservative, the Y axis represents the year, and the differently coloured lines represent the gender. Quantifying political divergence by subtracting the % conservative minus the % liberal is an interesting and unique analytical approach. Moreover, the reader is able to appreciate the divergence visually by looking at the increase in the area between the two lines (i.e., the red space) over time. However, one aspect of this graph that could be improved is the analytical strategy used to depict the political ideologies according to different genders. For instance, what numbers have been subtracted to derive the negative and positive values on the X axis? Were individuals surveyed to ask about their political ideology? Or is it based on their voting decisions? Based on the figure caption, there are differences in data collection methods, which limits the comparability of different countries’ data in one graph. In addition, although the graph contains information from countries around the world, the diversity of countries is limited in its scope. The US, Germany, and the UK consist primarily of White people, whereas only South Korea consists of ethnically diverse people. To elicit a more comprehensive depiction of political ideologies around the world, it would have been important to sample individuals from other diverse countries. Lastly, the graph above would have been further enhanced if another line was included depicting the % liberal minus % conservative across gender, as this would allow the reader to ascertain the overall political stance within a given country.