measuring marginalisation

ze freeman

Making Research Look How The World Looks workshop
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measurement as the production of social reality
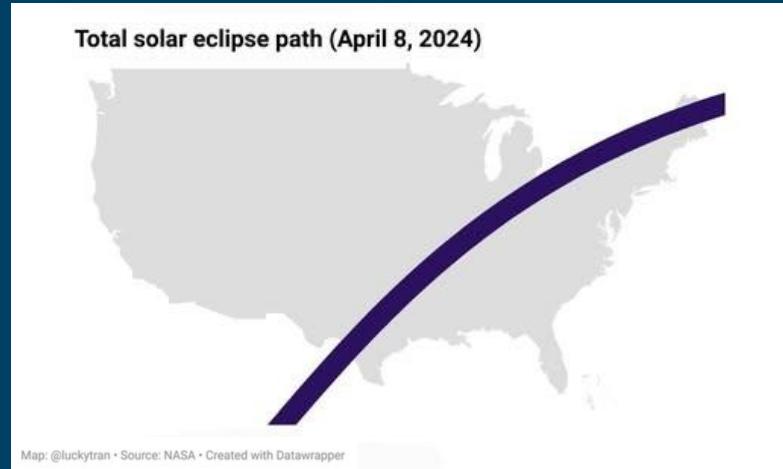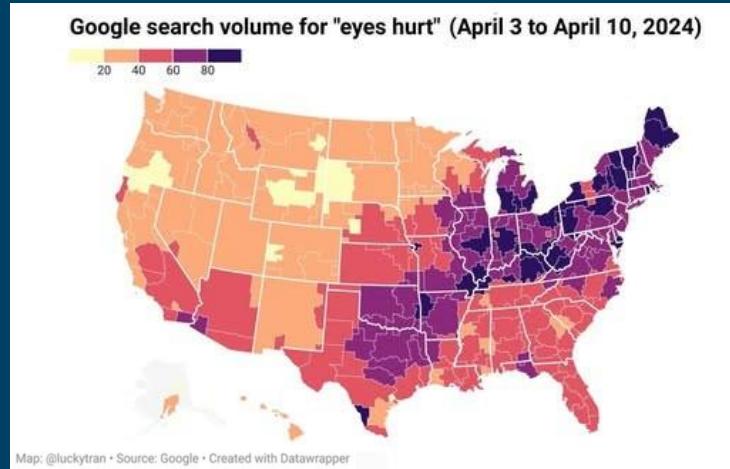
measurement of material experience

Google search volume for "eyes hurt" (April 3 to April 10, 2024)

20 40 60 80

Map: @luckytran · Source: Google · Created with Datawrapper

Total solar eclipse path (April 8, 2024)

Map: @luckytran · Source: NASA · Created with Datawrapper

https://www.threads.com/@luckytran/post/C5lk–slOkke?hl=en–gb

scale choice

- quantitative
  - binary
  - Likert scale
- qualitative
  - "gender identity:"
- mixed
  - male/female/non–binary/other (open question box)

inconsistencies in scale choice

Woman or female

Man or male

[I/They] use a different term

Prefer not to say

Non-binary

✓ Select

Male
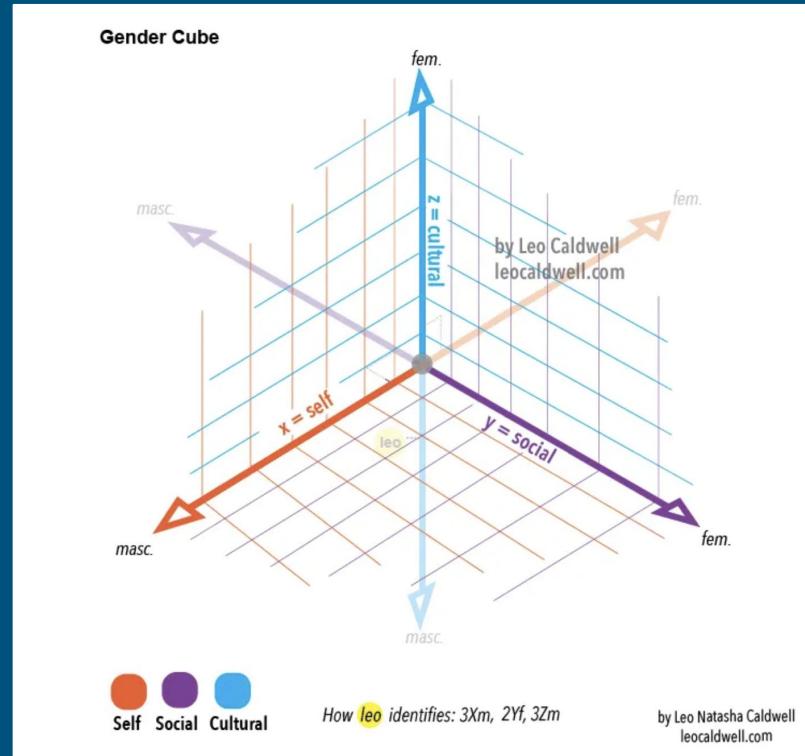
Female

Undisclosed

Unspecified

100% of question completers will pick somewhere in the cube.

however, you cannot feel satisfied that you have measured all, or even most, variance.

gender as administrative error

No *

◯ Mr   ◯ Lady

what is your actual research question?

matching measurement to research question, not research question to measurement.

- confirmatory
  - *questions specifically investigating the impact of immigration status, disability, LGBTQ+ identity, etc.*
- exploratory
  - *relating variables to one another, theory–free*

missingness

how do you feel about these options to 'resolve' missing data:

- accessing patient notes
- assuming gender based on name
- re-asking participants (e.g. calling, emailing)
- making disclosure compulsory for participation

refining measurement

discuss how we can account for shifting definitions and social realities (e.g. disability being an impairment of specific behaviour, gender as a way of being acted upon not only personal identity.)

- do you need to know extra dimensions? why not use existing norms of measurement and then give a free-text option?
- how confident are you that you know? is a new approach caveated?

proportionate and justified

consider informing participants by default about the planned openness of data, potential analyses, and options for disclosure.

consider only using existing, standardised measures rather than making your own 'toothbrush'[1].

[1]https://www.nature.com/articles/s44271-023-00026-9

re–positioning of power

let's discuss ways we've chosen, used, and reported on sensitive data in the past, and what we might do differently in the future.

- is it safe?
- is it optional?
- is it contextualised?

thanks!

@zefreeman.bsky.social