

# Meeting Your Data

HES 505 Fall 2025: Session 4

Matt Williamson

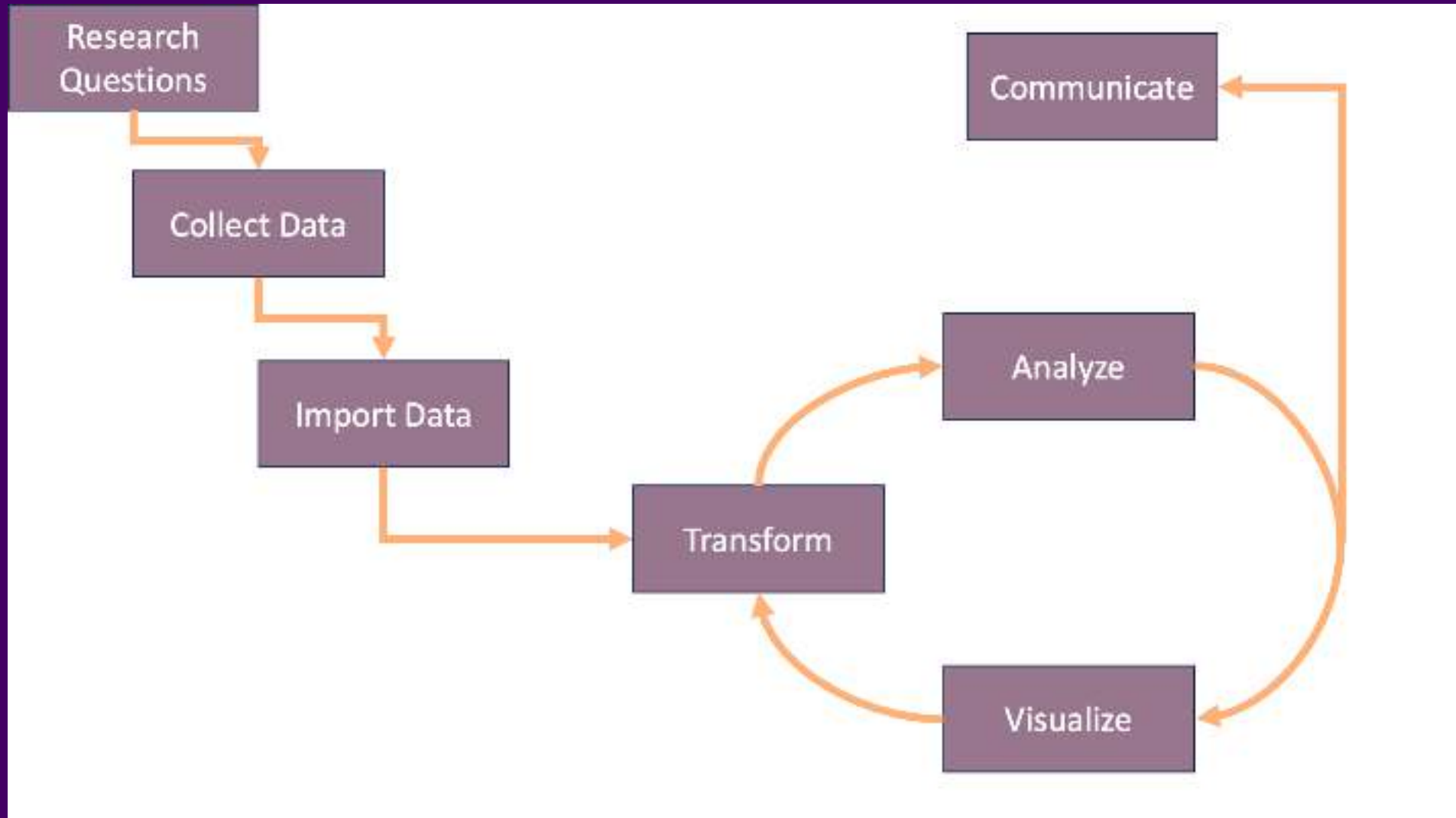
# Checking in

- Have you used the videos and lessons?
- How can I make them more useful?
- Anything I can clarify from last class?

# Today's Plan

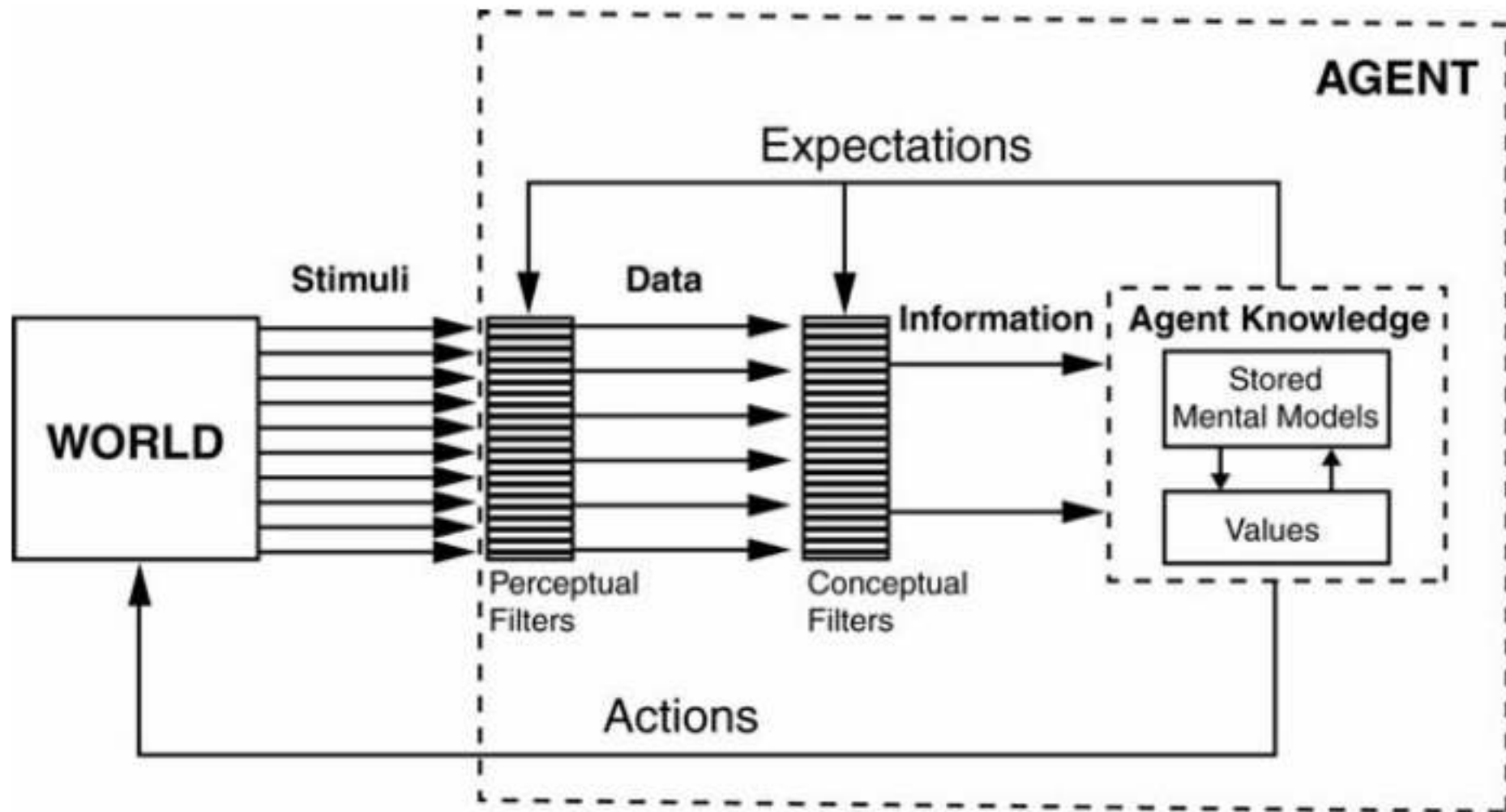
- Data, information, and knowledge
- The elements of data quality
- Concerns with the growth in available data
- Towards data justice

# Revisiting Workflows



Get Data???





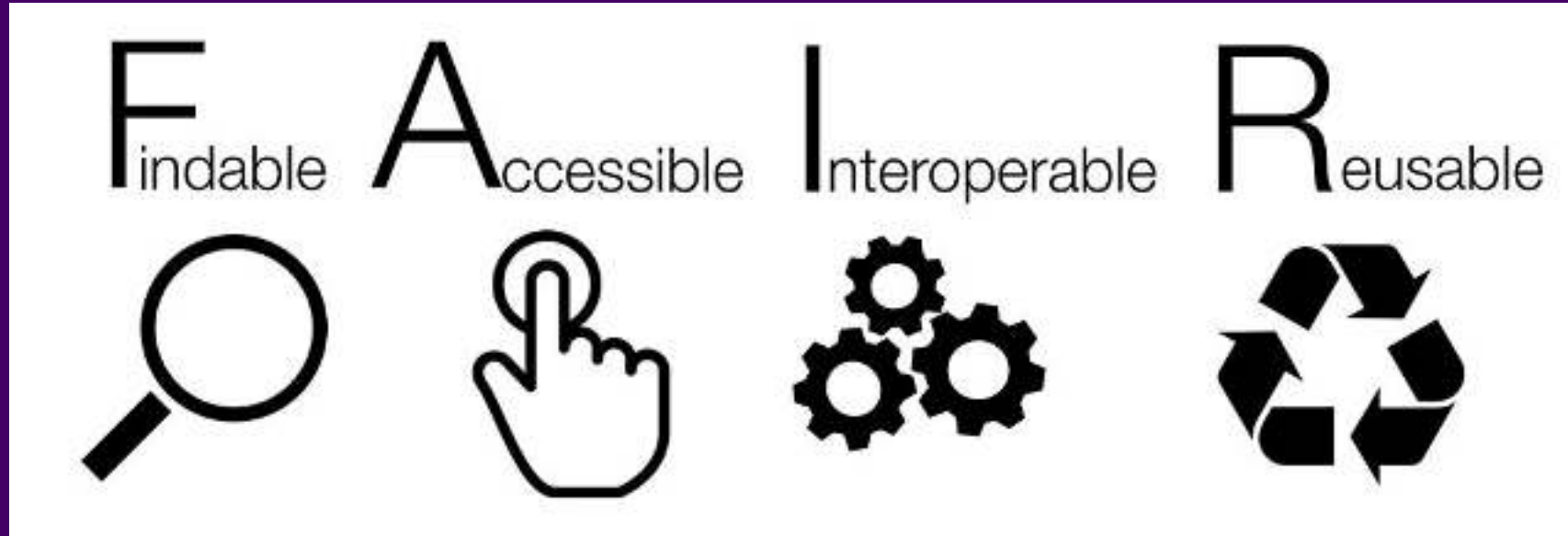
**Fig. 1.** The agent-in-the-world

Boisot and Canals, 2004

Observations become data through the filters we put on them

- Our questions guide which observations we consider data
- But what about found data?

# FAIR Data and Found Data



Alvanço 2021

FAIR data improves our ability to leverage existing data, but we haven't really reached this ideal.

# Most spatial data is “found” data

- Military advancement
- Enumeration of populations
- Delineations of authority



# Making the invisible visible...

- Globalization of data resources
- Data “traces” and policing
- Bias in data  $\Rightarrow$  Bias in policy

# Data Justice

**Data Justice** promotes ethical and equitable practices in the collection, analysis, and use of data to serve the dignity, rights, and well-being of individuals and communities, especially those who have been historically marginalized

# Data Justice in Practice

# From FAIR to CARE



Global Indigenous Data Alliance

- FAIR is about access and documentation
- CARE is about sovereignty, governance, and justice

# Questions to ask yourself?

- Where did this data come from and why was it collected?
- How might the intention and biases of the collector affect the data?
- Who might benefit or suffer from this analysis and what do I owe them?
- Are there ways I can address this in my analysis or interpretation?

... but you have data!!



# ...but you have data!!

1. Documenting your data
2. Exploring your data
3. Doing both with Quarto

