

Critical Thinking about Big Data

CBD2204

<https://flowingdata.com/2021/03/26/the-data-journalism-handbook/>

what is *critical* thinking?

- has a long history in philosophy, but is characterized by a *questioning* of conventional or perceived wisdom; recognizes that we must not rely on knowledge simply because it flows from *authority*
 - uses logical reasoning (deduction, induction)
- as it relates to *critical theory* (a branch of philosophy / social studies):
 - **examines society to reveal hidden power structures**
 - e.g., consider the work done by Edward Snowden, to reveal the hidden partnerships between government and corporations
 - **has reflexive aspects**
 - i.e., considers how our own beliefs and values affect our impressions of what is observed (for example, the data we choose to include/exclude, the questions we ask)

Data Journalism

whether or not we are actually journalists, a data journalist approach is a useful methodology for any Data Scientist

- journalism is (ideally) unbiased
- journalists are curious, investigative

“a curatorial craft, assembling and working with diverse materials, communities and infrastructures to generate different ways of knowing, narrating and seeing the world at different scales and temporalities.”

Assignment: Is Climate Change Bogus?

in *R*, please use:

```
install.packages("climate")
```

```
install.packages("maps")
```

- check out:

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/climate/vignettes/getstarted.html>

to get started!