

# tips, tricks, ethics

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# outline

tips and tricks

ethics

research design again: important from now on



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## have a big screen

- again, i cannot overemphasize, that
- a big screen is key for gis work
- it's \$100
- 
- and get a mouse (folium later)

## google for maps

- depressing, but whatever you are mapping, someone has already done it
- google and see images, say: 'nj counties contamination sites' <https://www.google.com/search?q=nj+counties+contamination+sites&tbm=isch>
- or “Philadelphia healthy stores map” (sometimes need word 'map' otherwise get pics of healthy food)
  - <https://www.google.com/search?q=philadelphia+healthy+stores+map&tbm=isch>
- get ideas, inspiration, make your map better

## google for shapefiles

- eg “what you are looking for, shapefile”
- eg “new jersey public schools, shapefile”
- tips:
  - may need to look for a higher level; eg NJ schools instead of Depford Twshp schools
  - if you cant find it, contact govt; eg city of Camden, state of NJ, etc—they’ll be happy you’re using their data
  - again, may find only traditional data and need to join

## join data

- the real value comes from joining data!
- again, a map about any single var was already made
  - but 2 or more vars from varied sources: rare
- so many datasets and variables out there!
  - use your creativity and imagination
  - and you'll easily come up with something that no one did



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## integrity/honesty

- be explicit about problems in your data
  - eg non-joins, missing data, miscodings
- be explicit about problems in your models:
  - eg don't hide maps bc they contradict your story
  - discuss it: how, why; ask audience to comment/criticize
- instead of forcing data to tell your story,  
listen carefully; let data tell you her story!

# ethics

- everybody wants to sell something
- we academics or thinkers or students, too!
- we try to sell some idea or point of view
- nobody 100% objective
- always try to present alternative/opposite points of view
- present the whole picture
- force yourself to be objective, because humans aren't
- see fascinating <https://righteousmind.com/>

## ethics: bad examples

- cherry picking of vars or samples or timeframes, etc
- eg using only vars/operationalizations that fit your story
- eg using year in which you find what you wanted to find
- classification: playing with bins to fit your story

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# quality

- GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out
- 'Cos it's in the computer, don't mean it's right
  - double, triple check
  - ask yourself if it makes sense...
  - (Camden richer than Cherry Hill?)

## construct validity

- are you measuring what you say you are measuring?
- say you want measure ability, or IQ, but you only have data about education
- <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/constval.php>
- seven sins map

[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_R3SXJVojagU/SwLzZJL1E2I/AAAAAAAAAIE/7GbMzcZPDDk/s1600/sevendeadlysins.bmp](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_R3SXJVojagU/SwLzZJL1E2I/AAAAAAAAAIE/7GbMzcZPDDk/s1600/sevendeadlysins.bmp)

# triangulate

- use several datasources and or several variables to measure the same thing (triangulation)
- triangulation=use different measures for the same concept
- eg education:
  - years of schooling
  - highest degree obtained
  - avg SAT score
  - avg ranking of schools in the area
  - etc etc



## external validity

- are your data representative ?
- how big is the sample ?
- eg I was geocoding WVS at province level only to find out it was unrepresentative

## its geo, but time matters too

- we are exploring geo
- but there is also time
- useful to show time changes in your maps, eg:
  - $POP_{10} - POP_{00}$ —a difference, which county gained most pop
  - $(POP_{10} - POP_{00}) / POP_{00}$ —% change
- other time issue is that things fluctuate over time, say due to business cycle
  - if you want to show a more reliable estimate take an average
  - say avg. 5-yr unemployment rate

## go places

- when you make maps and find things, go and visit that place—i drove through MI from TX to NJ