

wrapping up

Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn

`adam.okulicz.kozaryn@gmail.com`

this version: Wednesday 2nd December, 2020 15:34

outline

conclusion (p.240-254 Wheelan, 2013)

outline

conclusion (p.240-254 Wheelan, 2013)

data, data everywhere

- eg goog timeline <https://support.google.com/maps/answer/6258979>
- again see: www.economist.com/node/15557443
- Wheelan (2013) discusses uses of data, eg:
- Target predicts better pregnancy of your daughter
 - she buys unscented lotions, vitamins, etc (Wheelan, 2013, p252-3)

so what?

- use data! (do stats)
- or read about using it (lit rev)
- AND ALWAYS think about it! (critique research)
- this is *important* for final project in this class
- and use stat software (Python, etc): a job skill!

remember stats is positive, not normative

- it says what it is
- not what it should be
- for the latter we need something like philosophy or religion
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positive_statement
- dog fighting used to be socially acceptable, but not anymore
- same thing may happen to football (p242-244)
- similarly, research can help evaluate damage from say cigars v cigarettes
- but cannot tell us what to do about it

be skeptical

- eg correlation \neq causation
 - MMR vaccine, autism (p245,246)
- also: measurement
 - many ways to measure the same thing
 - no measure is perfect
 - all measures oversimplify
- eg: teacher ratings, school ratings (p246-249)

do experiments!

- again, experiment is the gold standard
 - (superb internal validity, but usually poor external)
- eg: force Indian teachers to show up by recording them
 - randomly assign cameras (p250)

the end!

- let's keep in touch
- keep me posted about your research endeavours!
- email me, stop by
- let's have a coffee

MOHR, L. B. (1995): Impact Analysis for Program Evaluation, Sage, Beverly Hills CA, second edition ed.

SHADISH, W. R., T. D. COOK, AND D. T. CAMPBELL (2002): Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for generalized causal inference, Wadsworth Cengage learning.

WHEELAN, C. (2013): Naked statistics: stripping the dread from the data, WW Norton & Company.