

Oded Rechavi @ @OdedRechavi - Apr 30

Correlation Vs. Causation



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Every disease has two causes, the first is pathophysiological and the second is political. Black communities today are impoverished, segregated and defunded by design - a public health and economic crisis created by government and state policies that chose winners and losers. Black people are being turned away from hospitals, our young and elderly alike are perishing from being denied a COVID-19 test. These are stark revelations of the ongoing conditions that have denied our humanity and made it too costly, too impossible to survive.

D4BL



Data and Health Inequities

- 1. Foundations of Data and Measurement
- 2. Embodiment of Inequalities
- 3. Data and Discrimination
- 4. Data, Discrimination, and COVID-19
- 5. Solutions and Radical Change

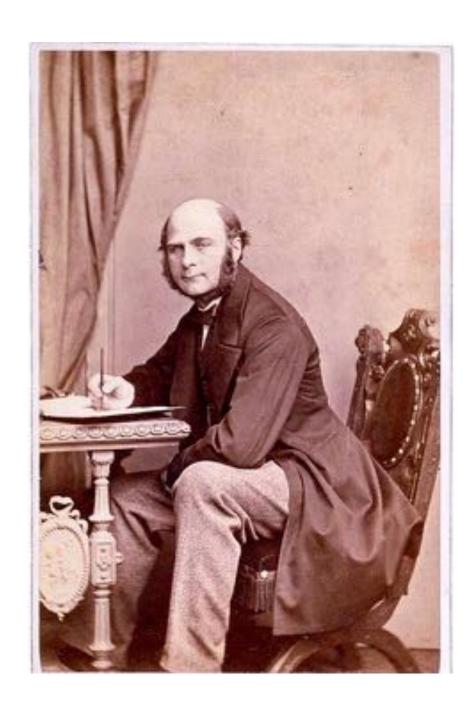
Inequities in Health and Health Research

Data and Health Inequalities

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"Statistics present us with a series of techniques that transform raw data into a form that is easier to understand and to communicate or, to put it differently, that make it easy for the data to tell their story."

Jan de Leeuw and Richard Berk (2004) Introduction to the Series Advanced Quantitative Techniques in the Social Sciences



Foundations of Statistics

Major statistical concepts (regression, correlation, etc.) invented by Francis Galton (b. 1822; d. 1911)

• English Victorian statistician, progressive, polymath, sociologist, psychologist, anthropologist, tropical explorer, geographer, inventor, meteorologist, proto-geneticist, and psychometrician.

Foundations of Statistics

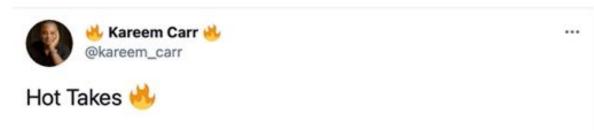
- The first to apply statistical methods to the study of human differences and inheritance of intelligence
- Introduced the use surveys and questionnaires for collecting data on human communities
- Was a pioneer in eugenics, coining the term itself and the phrase "nature versus nurture"
- Founded psychometrics (the science of measuring mental faculties) and differential psychology



Foundations of Statistics

Much of early statistics was developed to under eugenics and a war against "inferior races" as a logical part of evolution

 For instance, Karl Pearson alleged that Jewish immigrants "will develop into a parasitic race. [...] Taken on the average, and regarding both sexes, this alien Jewish population is somewhat inferior physically and mentally to the native population"



- Just because some folks use statistics to do racist things doesn't make statistics itself racist
- We don't need to celebrate dead racists just because they were good at math
- Using statistics invented by a racist isn't a celebration of the racist

11:22 AM · May 8, 2021 · TweetDeck

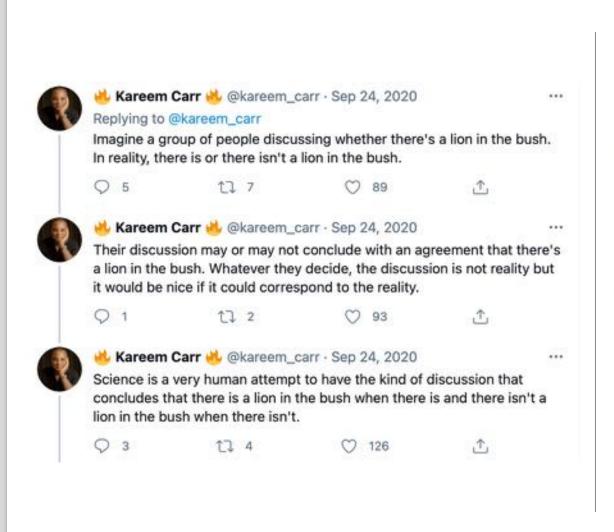
60 Retweets 11 Quote Tweets 713 Likes





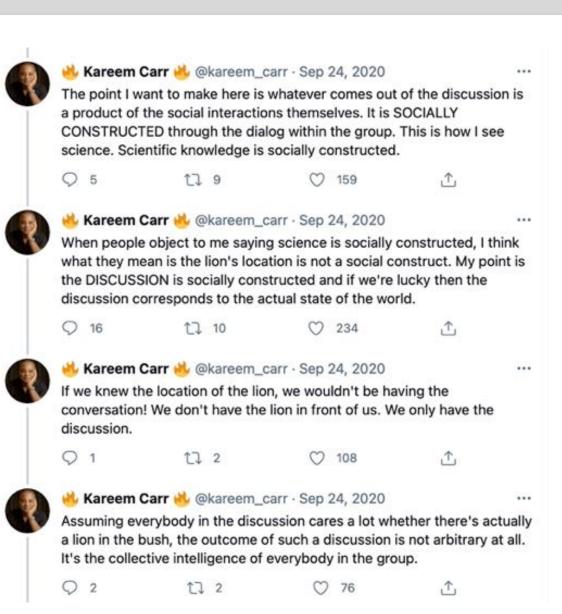
NO SERIOUSLY. Science is SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED!

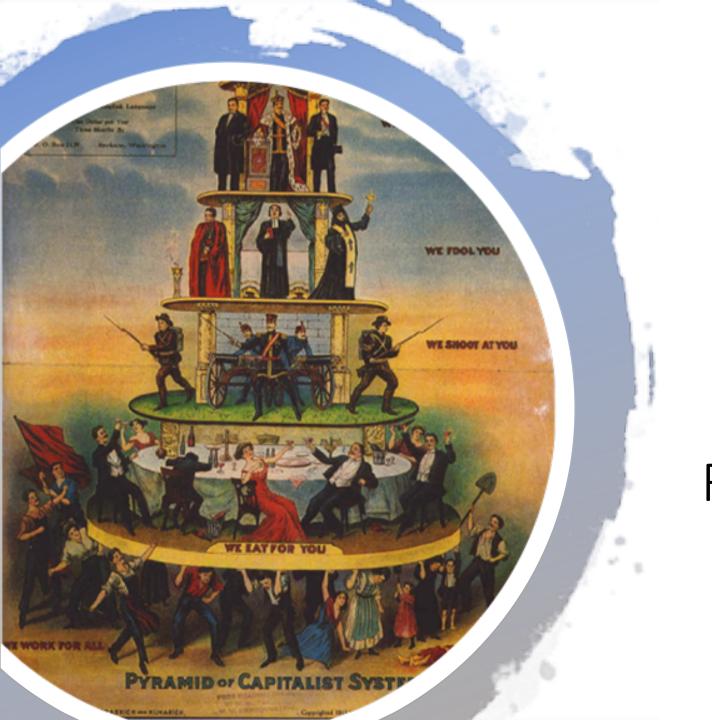
10:07 AM · Sep 24, 2020 · Twitter Web App





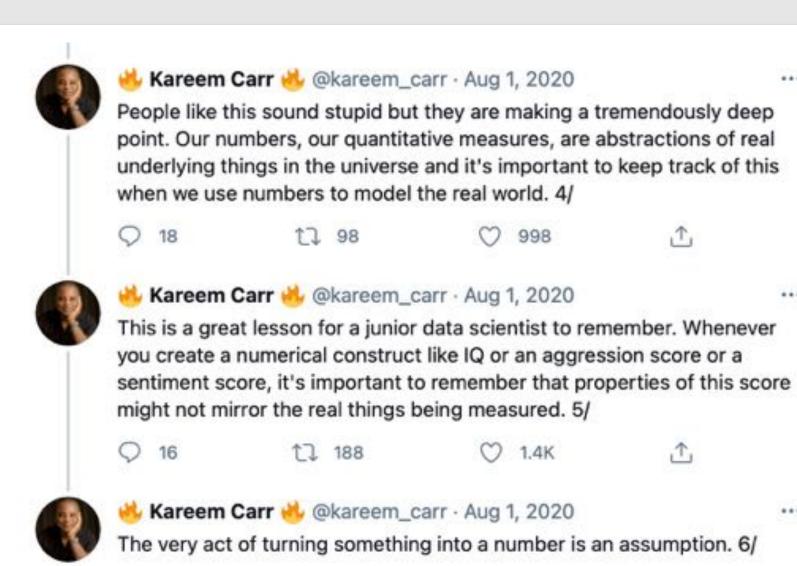






Foundations



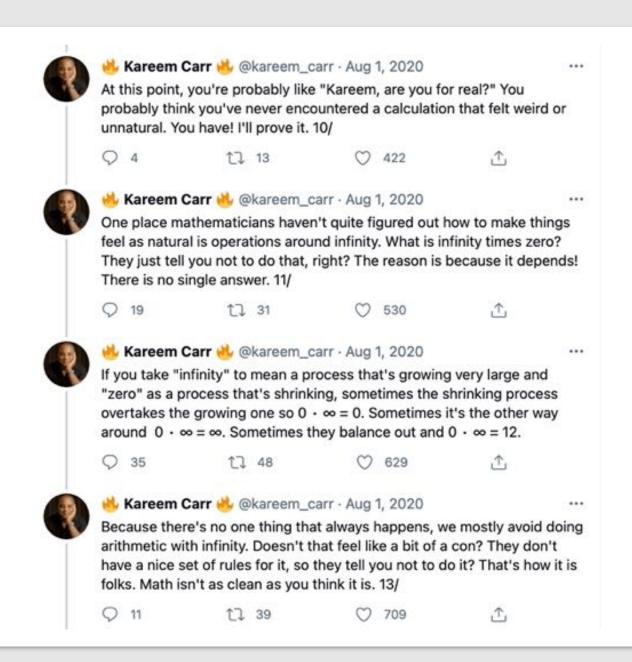


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Data and Health Inequalities

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This thread walks you through a concrete example of how an algorithm can learn racism. It uses some math but only the minimum amount of math possible and has lots of pictures. It is *very* accessible. If that sounds like your thing read on.

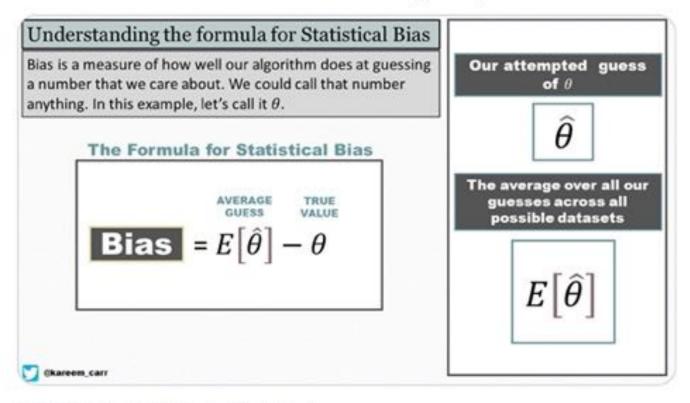
9:25 PM - Apr 4, 2021 - Twitter Web App

1,924 Retweets 183 Quote Tweets 5,598 Likes



Replying to @kareem_carr

Let's start by learning about statistical bias. Statistical bias is a measure of how well a guessing algorithm is at guessing. It's very straightforward. The bias is the average difference between what an algorithm guesses a value is and what that value actually is. 2/11



9:25 PM · Apr 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App

The example I'm going to talk about is an algorithm that learns how to measure feelings based on text. We call this measurement a "sentiment score". 3/11

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C 317



Kareem Carr 🔥 @kareem_carr · Apr 4

A sentiment score of zero is neutral. A positive score means positive feelings and a negative score means negative feelings. The more positive the sentiment score, the more positive the feelings. The more negative the sentiment score, the more negative the feelings. 4/11

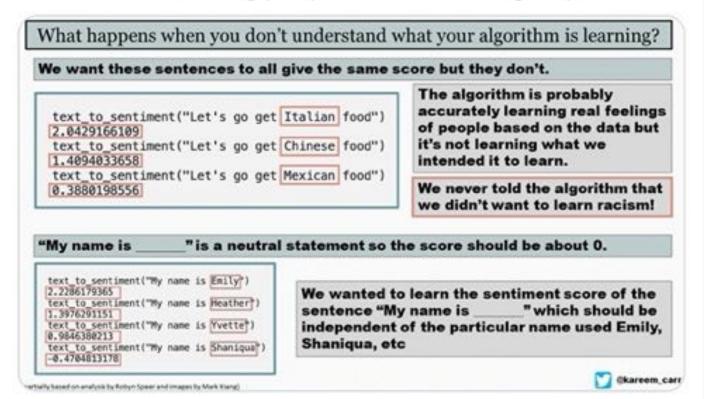
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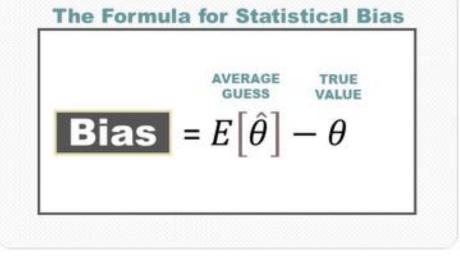
Replying to @kareem_carr

In this example, an amazing thing happens. Our algorithm learns racism! It learns that in general people have negative feelings about certain minorities. Many people will claim the algorithm is malfunctioning but it's not. It's seems to be learning people's actual feelings. 5/11





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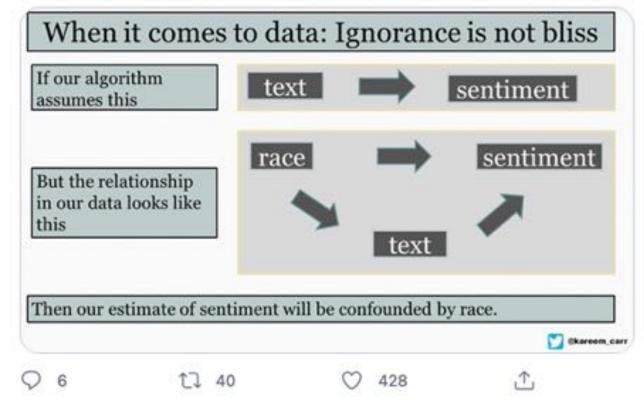


♡ 303



🔥 Kareem Carr 👶 @kareem_carr - Apr 4

What's happening is when we learned feelings from the data, we implicitly defined the "true value" as people's actual feelings. If we don't care about racism then we should have defined it as people's actual feelings excluding racism. 7/11





🔥 Kareem Carr 🔥 @kareem_carr · Apr 4

This issue is called confounding. Confounding happens whenever we compare two things and neglect a third variable that could be driving the difference. 8/11



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484

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Kareem Carr 🔥 @kareem_carr · Apr 4

This is why it's extremely important to understand the relationships in the data and why "learning from the data" or being "data-driven" isn't enough when your data doesn't come from real experiments that were designed to generate the right kind of information. 11/11

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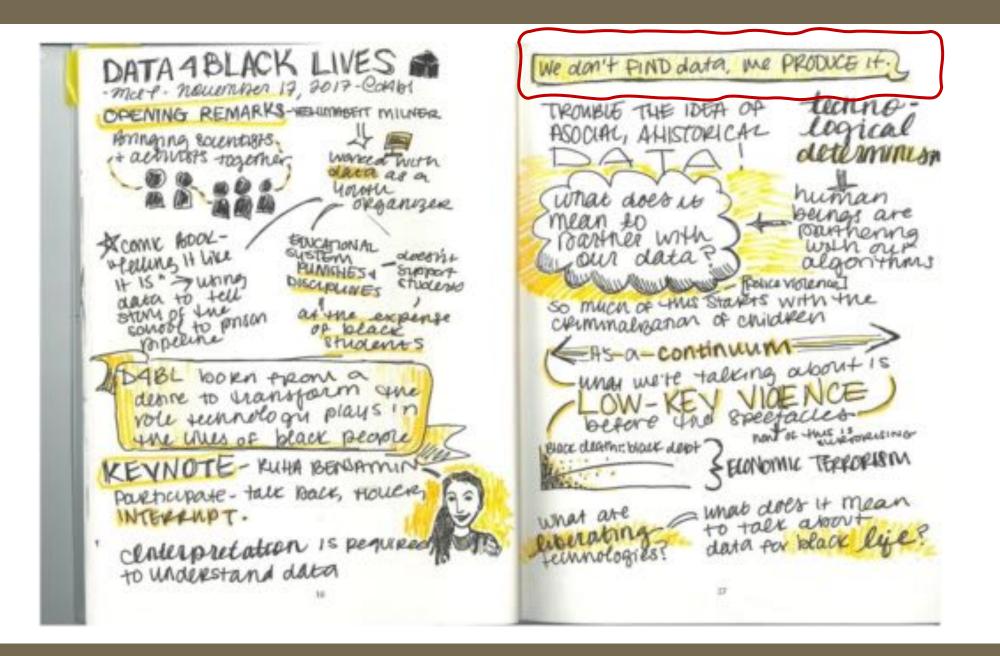
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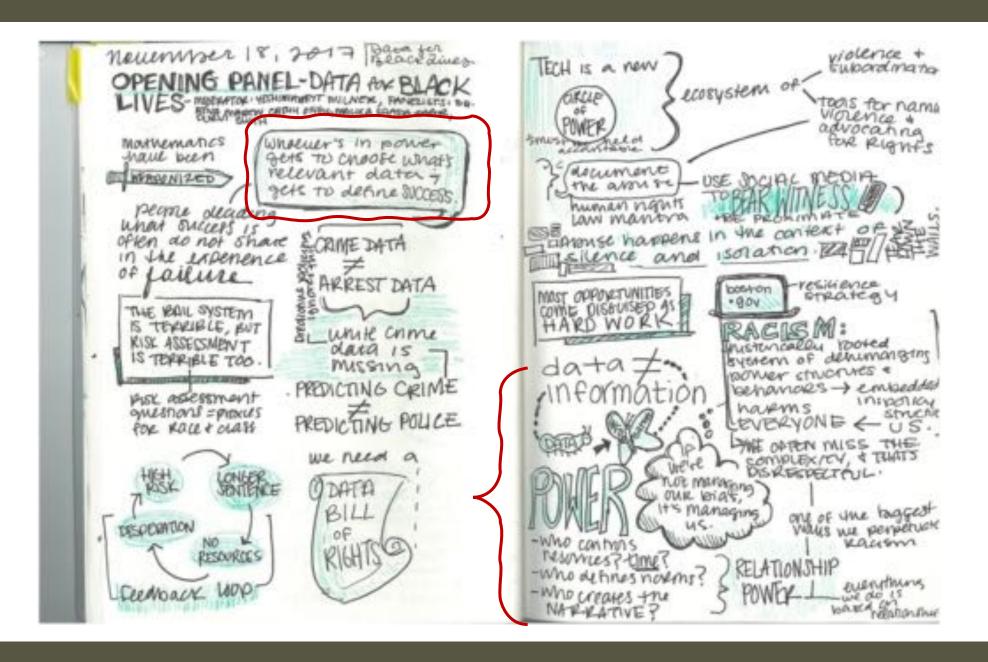


Data and Health Inequalities

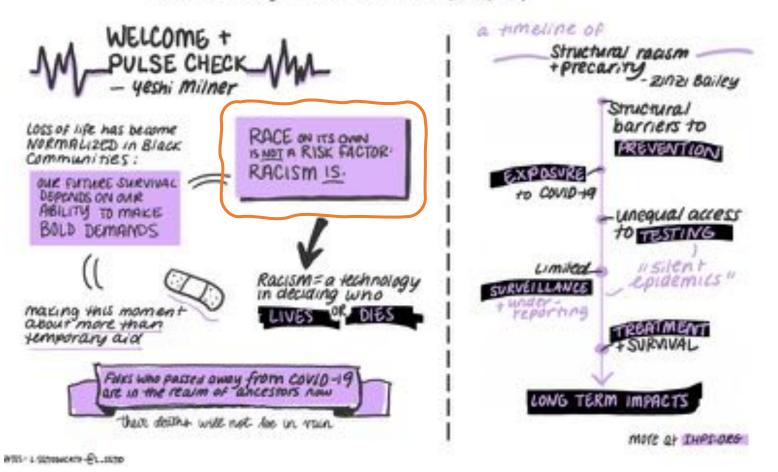
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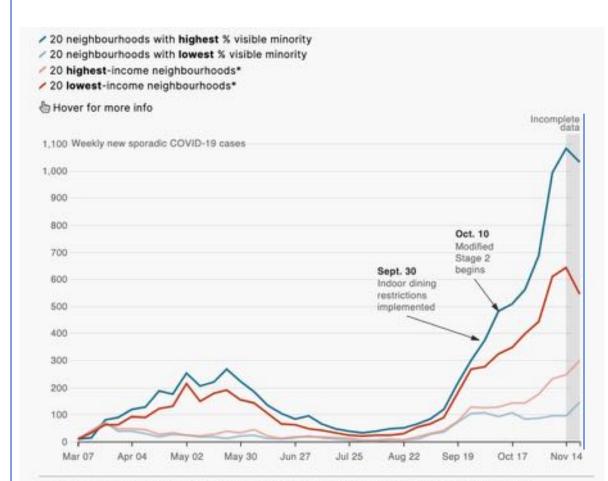


DATA FOR BLACK LIVES MOVEMENT ROUNDTABLE: COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO COVID-19



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*The 20 neighbourhoods with the highest and lowest percentage of residents in low-income households, using census LIM-AT measure.

SOURCE: TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH OPEN DATA PORTAL COVID-19 DATASET

STAR GRAPHIC



Jennifer Yang ② @jyangstar · Dec 4, 2020

This graphic shows that in the 1st wave, Toronto's poorest & most racialized areas contracted COVID-19 at much higher rates than the city's whitest & most affluent.

It also shows: the same thing is happening again

thestar.com/news/gta/2020/...

Early signs suggest race matters when it comes to COVID-19. So why isn't Canada collecting racebased data?











Canada has 'no plans' to collect race-based data amid COVID-19 despite signs of disparities in U.S.

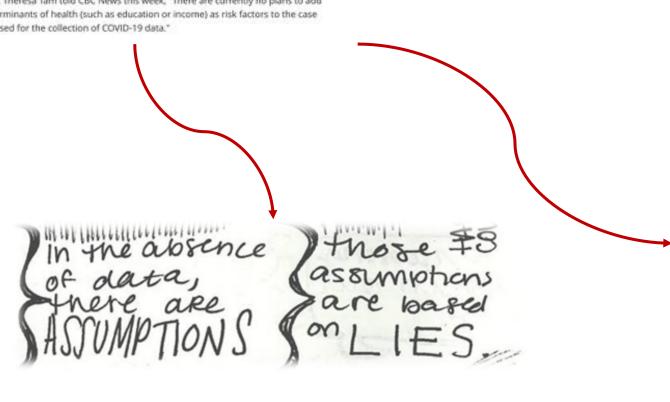
Shanifa Nasser · CBC News · Posted: Apr 17, 2020 6:26 PM ET | Last Updated: April 18



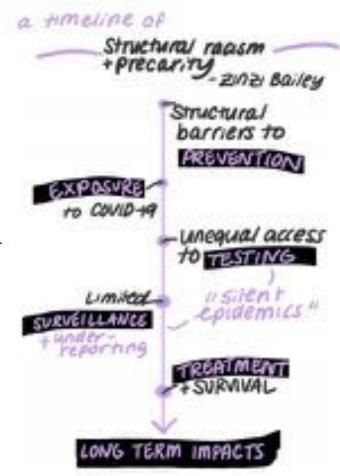
In Chicago, black residents are 30 per cent of the population, but make up more than 70 per cent of COVID-19related deaths. Canada doesn't track racial data, something many advocates would like to see change. (CBC/Radio-Canada) 66 Regardless of race, ethnic or other backgrounds. They're all equally important to us."

- Dr. David Williams

But as to whether Canada intends to collect that sort of data, a spokesperson for chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam told CBC News this week, "There are currently no plans to add more social determinants of health (such as education or income) as risk factors to the case reporting form used for the collection of COVID-19 data."

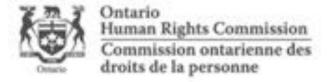


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YOUR RIGHTS CODE GROUNDS SOCIAL AREAS EDUCATION & OUTREACH OUR WORK

Home = Racism and racial discrimination: Data collection (fact sheet)

Racism and racial discrimination: Data collection (fact sheet)

+ show tags

The Ontario Human Rights Code (the "Code") permits the collection and analysis of data based on race and other grounds, provided that the data is collected for purposes consistent with the Code, such as to monitor discrimination, identify and remove systemic barriers, address historical disadvantage and promote substantive equality.

In the context of racial discrimination, data collection and analysis can be a necessary or even an essential tool for assessing whether rights under the Code are being or may be infringed and for taking corrective action. Therefore, it is the Commission's position that there are situations that call for the collection and analysis of data about race and related grounds. Data collection and analysis should be undertaken where an organization has or ought to have reason to believe that discrimination, systemic barriers or the perpetuation of historical disadvantage may potentially exist. This must be assessed on an objective and subjective basis. The organization's actual knowledge of a problem will be considered as will whether, from the point of view of a reasonable third party, the organization should have been aware of the problem.

Some situations which may warrant data collection and analysis might include:

- · Persistent allegations or complaints of discrimination or systemic barriers;
- · A widespread public perception of discrimination or systemic barriers;
- Data or research studies demonstrating discrimination or systemic barriers;
- . Observed inequality in the distribution or treatment of racialized persons within an organization; or
- . Evidence from other organizations or jurisdictions that a similar policy, program or practive has had a disproportionate effect on racialized persons.
- Data collection should be conducted in good faith with the goal of producing good-quality, accurate and meaningful data, rather than achieving a particular outcome. Accepted data collection techniques and proper research and design methodologies should be used.

It will often be appropriate for an organization to seek out the expertise of someone who is familiar with good data collection and analysis techniques. In other situations, it may be possible to rely on existing resources such as employment equity tools. Staff collecting the data should be given appropriate training. The Commission recognizes that how data collection is done depends on the context, including the issue that needs to me monitored, and the nature and size of the organization.

An organization that chooses not to collect data in situations where data collection is warranted may not be able to make a credible defence that it did not discriminate.

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The solution to racism in data analysis isn't less statistics. It's more and better statistics. We need more of the kind of statistics that is precise in its assumptions and transparent about its goals.



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There's a controversy brewing between philosophy twitter and epidemiology twitter about how to do good science. The question boils down to this:

Is it a good idea for scientists to show bias in how they ask scientific questions?

It's an fun debate so lets dig in...

3:19 PM · Dec 22, 2020 · Twitter Web App

42 Retweets 12 Quote Tweets 272 Likes





Kareem Carr 📥 @kareem_carr - Dec 22, 2020

Replying to @kareem_carr

What I think @EpiEllie means is you should construct experiments and collect data in ways that make it possible to falsify your hypothesis. Otherwise, you can become trapped in prison of your own beliefs.



♠ Dr Ellie Murray ♠ @EpiEllie - Dec 21, 2020

The past 12 months, I've heard a disturbingly large number of people, even respected senior scientists, ask the question: "how do I design a study to prove this fact I already believe is true?"

Um, you shouldn't?!

Ask instead: "how do I design a study to learn *if* it's true?"

Show this thread

17 7



Kareem Carr 👶 @kareem_carr - Dec 22, 2020

I think @KevinZollman has a different concern. There might be situations where all your data so far says A is true but in fact B is true. He thinks the only way out of this situation is to allow people to test irrational ideas just in case they are right.

Revin J.S. Zollman @KevinZollman - Dec 22, 2020

While this statement will strike many as obviously true, it's worth interrogating.

Here's the question: does science do best when it's practitioners take a neutral position regarding the truth of a proposition?

A thread with some reasons to think "no." twitter.com/EpiEllie/statu...

Show this thread

17 2







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Annu. Rev. Public Health 2020. 41:37-62

First published as a Review in Advance on November 25, 2019

Annual Review of Public Health

Measures of Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism, and Gender Binarism for Health Equity Research: From Structural Injustice to Embodied Harm—An Ecosocial Analysis

Nancy Krieger

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA; email: nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu

Keywords

gender identity, health equity, heterosexism, racism, sexism, structural injustice

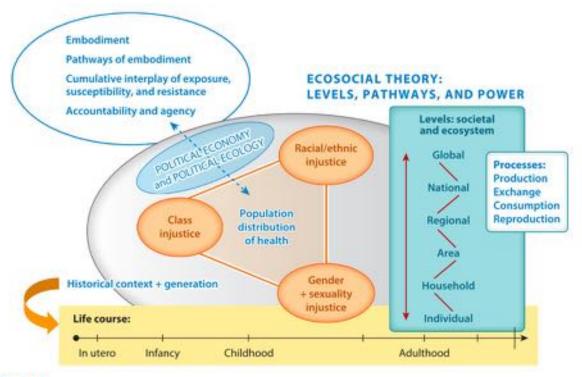


Figure 1

This figure schematically presents how the ecosocial theory of disease distribution conceptualizes the relationship between population distributions of health, levels, pathways, and power to clarify how health inequities constitute biological expressions of injustice. The ecosocial theory of disease distribution posits four conjoined core constructs (white oval with blue outline) (91–98): (i) embodiment; (ii) pathways of embodiment; (iii) cumulative interplay of exposure, susceptibility, and resistance; and (iv) accountability and agency. These constructs are fundamental to causal explication of population distributions of health. All of these constructs operate (v) across the life course, contextualized in relation to historical generation (i.e., birth cohort) (yellow rectangle) and (vi) across levels (turquoise rectangle), as mediated by (vii) the society's political economy and political ecology (light blue oval). For further explication of these concepts, please see the sidebar titled Core Constructs of Ecosocial Theory as well as the sidebar titled Pathways of Embodiment.



LISA Clinton, Michelle Wilson, Courtn's Andrews. Nichedo Ezeoxoli

FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE NEED!

- A SEAT at the table
- * Support in leadership
- trauma-informed attention

COMMUNITY right now.

is so important

act from a place of -not scarcity

PEOPLE POWER must come from COMPASSION + HUMANITY at the Intersections.

Practice COMPASSION

transactions

>not Just



building

+ trust

meet people LISTEN where they with are at



MUTUAL AND IS BEAUTIFUL

MUNUAL and networks Redistribute are a form of Wealth public health infrastructure

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ongoing funding

AMPLIFY ongoing

don'+ reinvent the wheel

relationships

IF YOU HAVE ! DOWER get out of

+ calls to action

NOTES - L'SETTROMENTO-PL-SETTO

Focus on the people directly impacted + upliff their voices

Push for accurate reporting + recording weaponize data

challenge the power dynamics of funding

this is just the laginning.

Thank You

Dr. Paul Peters
paul.peters@carleton.ca
@unitepangaea

