

A wide-angle photograph of the Toronto skyline at sunset. The city's skyscrapers are silhouetted against a vibrant orange and yellow sky, with the sun low on the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark with gentle ripples, reflecting the warm colors of the sky. The CN Tower stands prominently in the center of the skyline.

CSC2552

# Topics in Computational Social Science: AI, Data, and Society

Lecture 1: Introduction to Computational Social Science

Prof. Ashton Anderson, Fall 2023



# Computational social science in 7 easy pieces

	Week	Date	Topic	Reviews Due	Textbook Readings
	1	9/7	Introduction to computational social science		<a href="#">Ch. 1</a>
	2	9/14	Introduction to computational social science cont'd		<a href="#">Ch. 1</a>
★	3	9/21	Observational studies 1	9/20 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 2</a>
★	4	9/28	Observational studies 2	9/27 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 2</a>
★	5	10/5	Experiments 1	10/4 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 4</a>
	6	10/12	Project proposals		
★	7	10/19	Experiments 2	10/18 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 4</a>
★	8	10/26	Asking questions	10/25 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 3</a>
★	9	11/2	Deep learning	11/1 9:00pm	
★	10	11/16	Ethics in computational social science	11/15 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 6</a>
	11	11/23	Project presentations (Part 1)		
	12	11/30	Project presentations (Part 2)		



Readymades

Custommades





# Ways of doing computational social science



Observational  
analyses

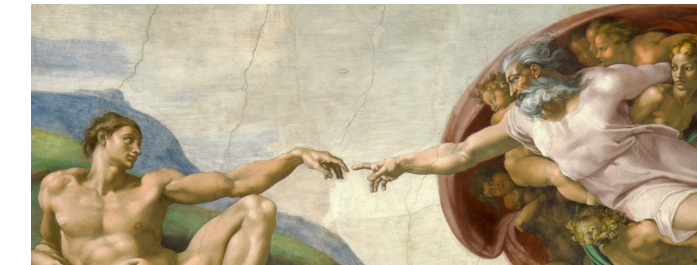
Human  
computation

Natural  
experiments

Surveys

Field  
experiments

Lab  
studies

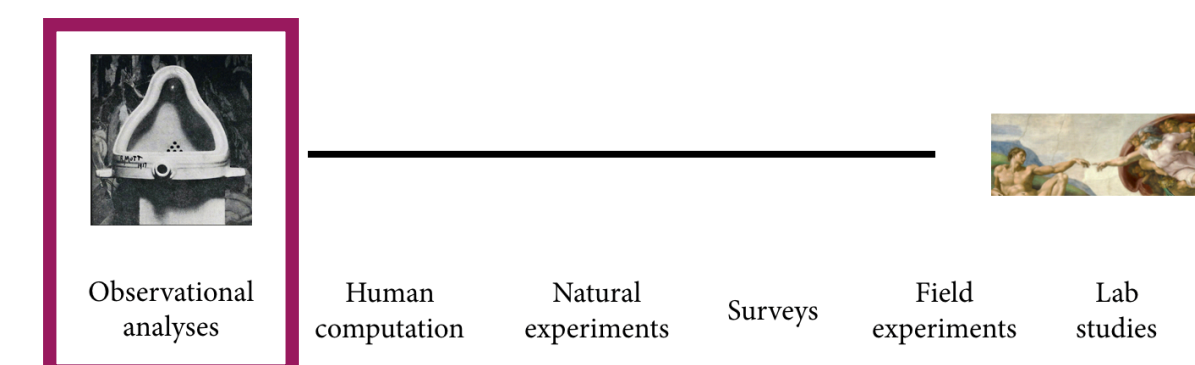




# Observational analyses of existing data

- Massive datasets of all kinds of human behaviour are now available for study
  - Wikipedia, GPS traces, health databases, Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, reviews, purchases, dating, invitations, exercise apps, etc., etc...
- Key part of the “socioscope”: huge traces of things that we couldn’t see before
- Lack of detail/fidelity in individual records is hopefully made up for by large numbers of records (**hope**: small noisy errors cancel out, big patterns are signal)

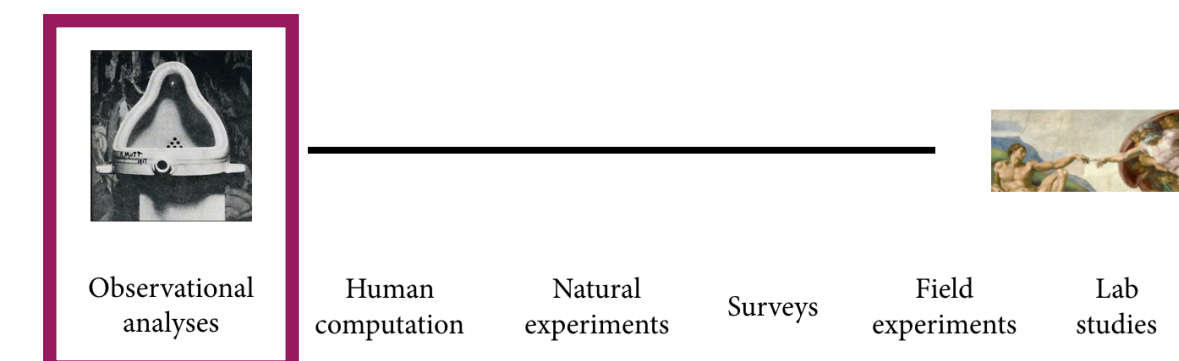
“Big data” / “Found data”





# Ten common characteristics of big data

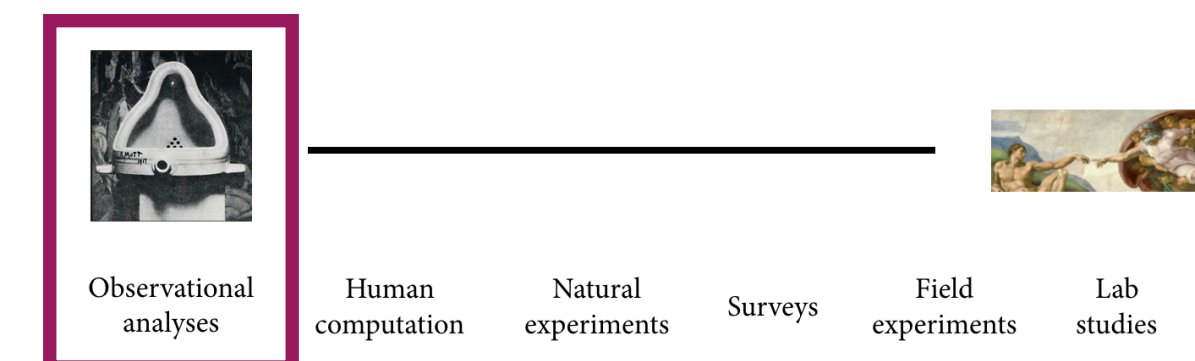
- **Big**: statistical power, rare events, fine resolution
- **Always-on**: unexpected events, real-time measurement
- **Nonreactive**: measurement probably won't change behaviour
- **Incomplete**: probably won't have the ideal information you want
- **Inaccessible**: difficult to access (gov't, companies)
- **Nonrepresentative**: bad out-of-sample generalization (good in-sample)
- **Drifting**: Population drift, usage drift, system drift
- **Algorithmically confounded**: want to study behaviour, not an algorithm
- **Dirty**: Junk, spam
- **Sensitive**: Private, hard to tell what's sensitive





# Observing Behaviour: Three research strategies

1. Counting things
2. Forecasting/nowcasting
3. Approximating experiments

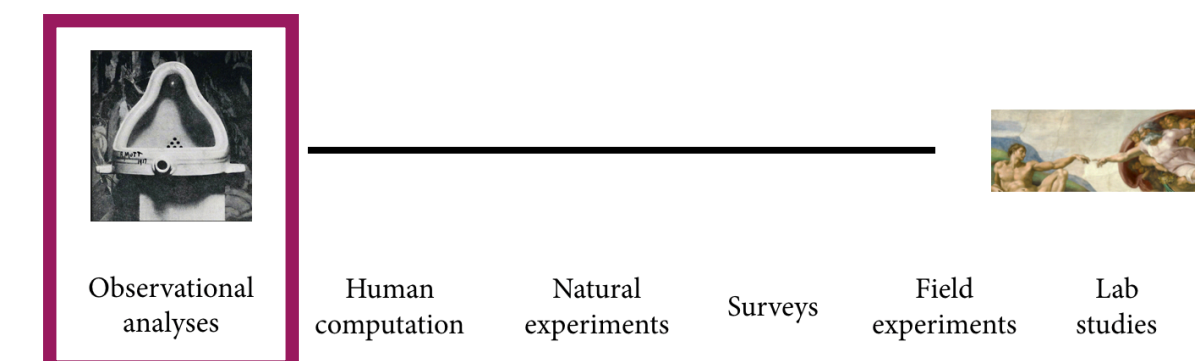
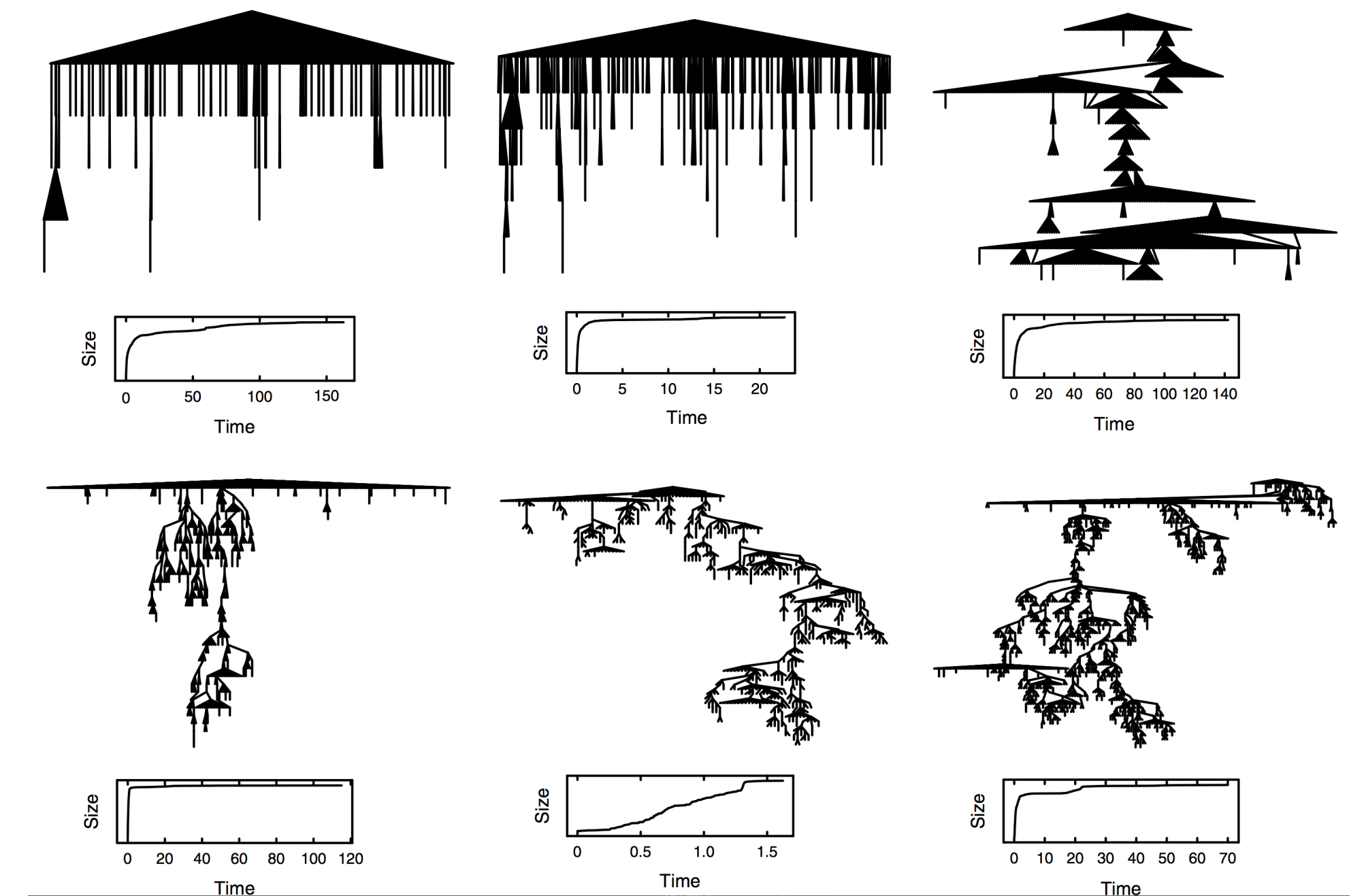




# Observing Behaviour: 1. Counting Things

**Example:** Measuring viral vs. broadcast diffusion on Twitter

With newfound datasets and computational resources, many valuable initial contributions are **measurements of quantities we couldn't measure before** → counting at scale





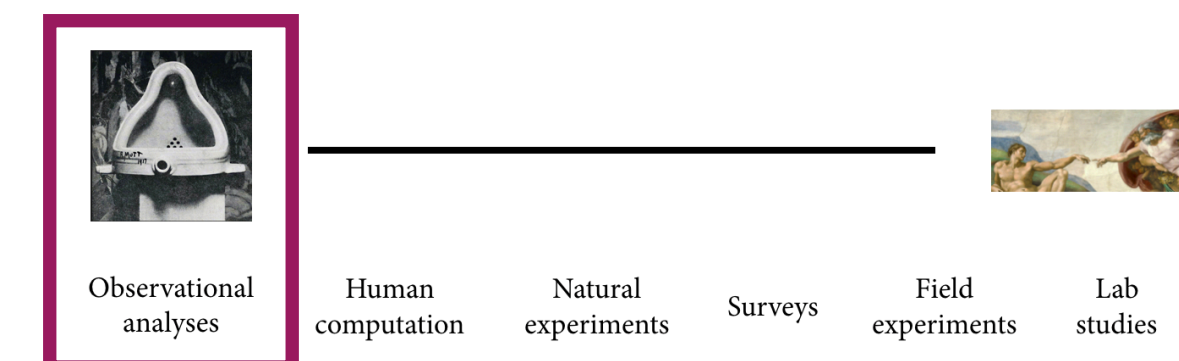
# Observing Behaviour: 2. Nowcasting

## Google Flu Trends

Idea: find 50 most correlated search query volume trends with flu data



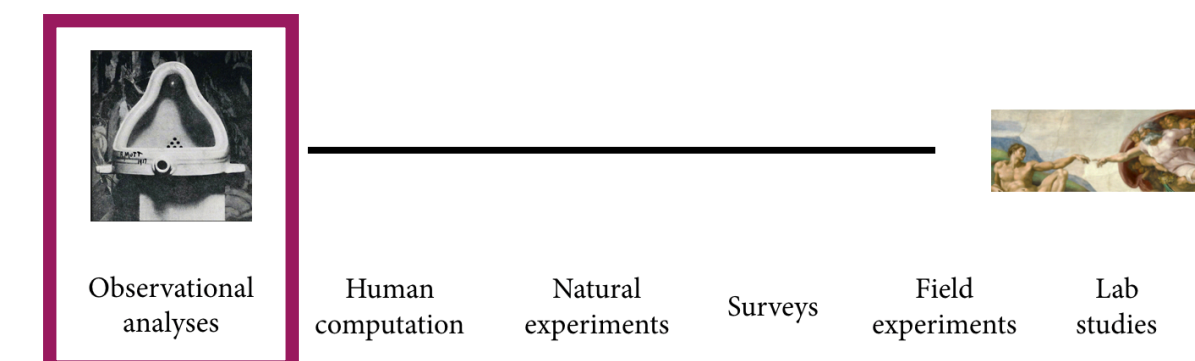
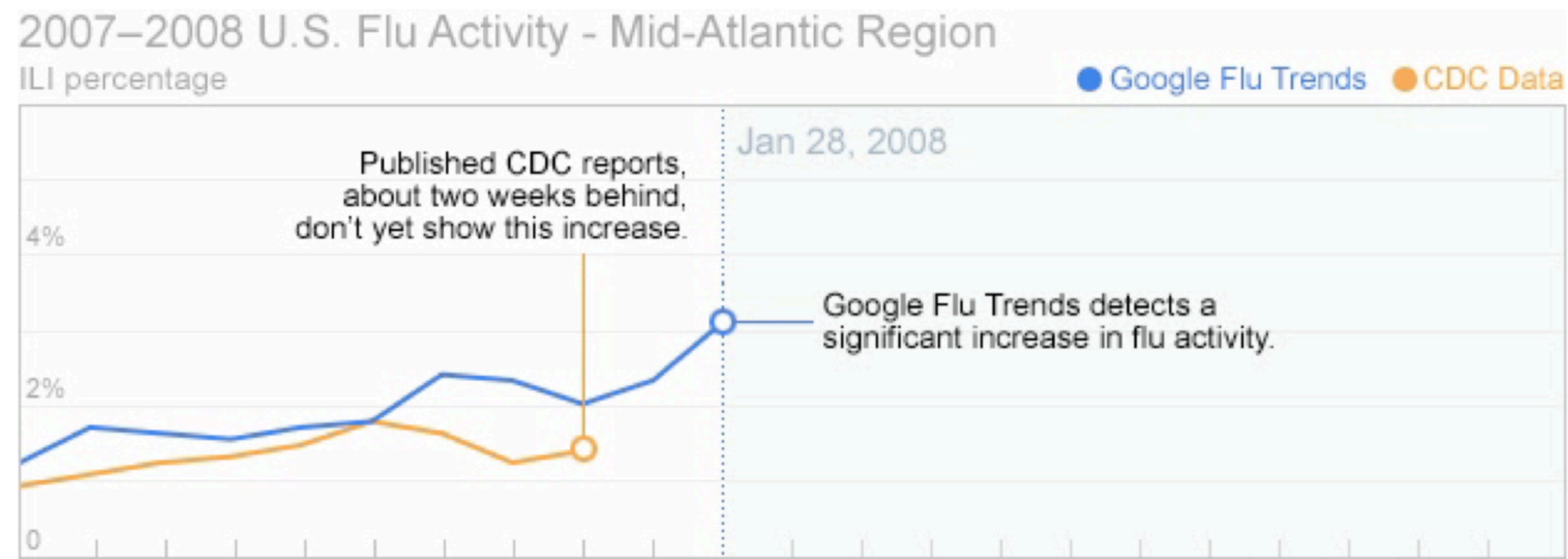
Search volume for the term "cough"





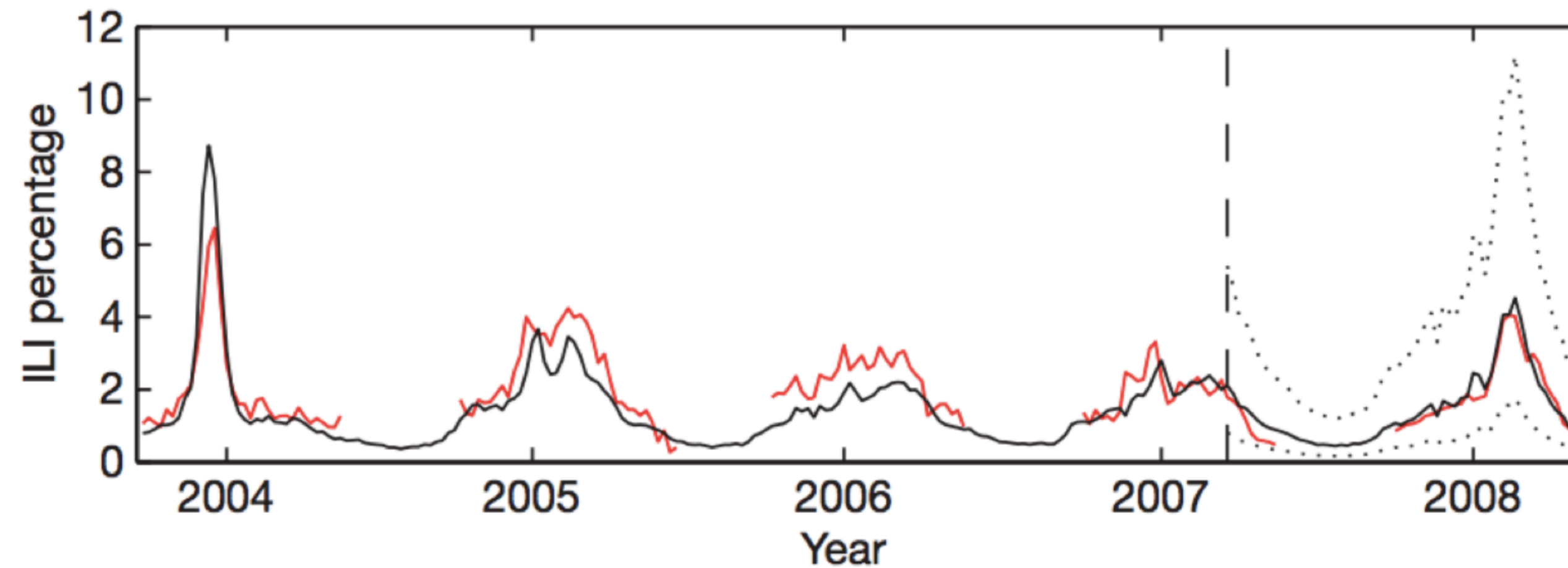
# Observing Behaviour: 2. Nowcasting

The flu has a 1-2 week lag from when cases are reported to when the CDC releases official stats

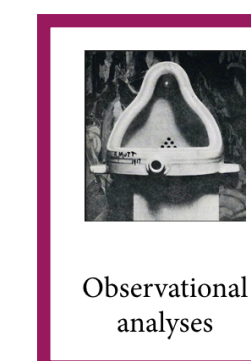




# Observing Behaviour: 2. Nowcasting



**Figure 2 | A comparison of model estimates for the mid-Atlantic region (black) against CDC-reported ILI percentages (red), including points over which the model was fit and validated.** A correlation of 0.85 was obtained over 128 points from this region to which the model was fit, whereas a correlation of 0.96 was obtained over 42 validation points. Dotted lines indicate 95% prediction intervals. The region comprises New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Human  
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Surveys

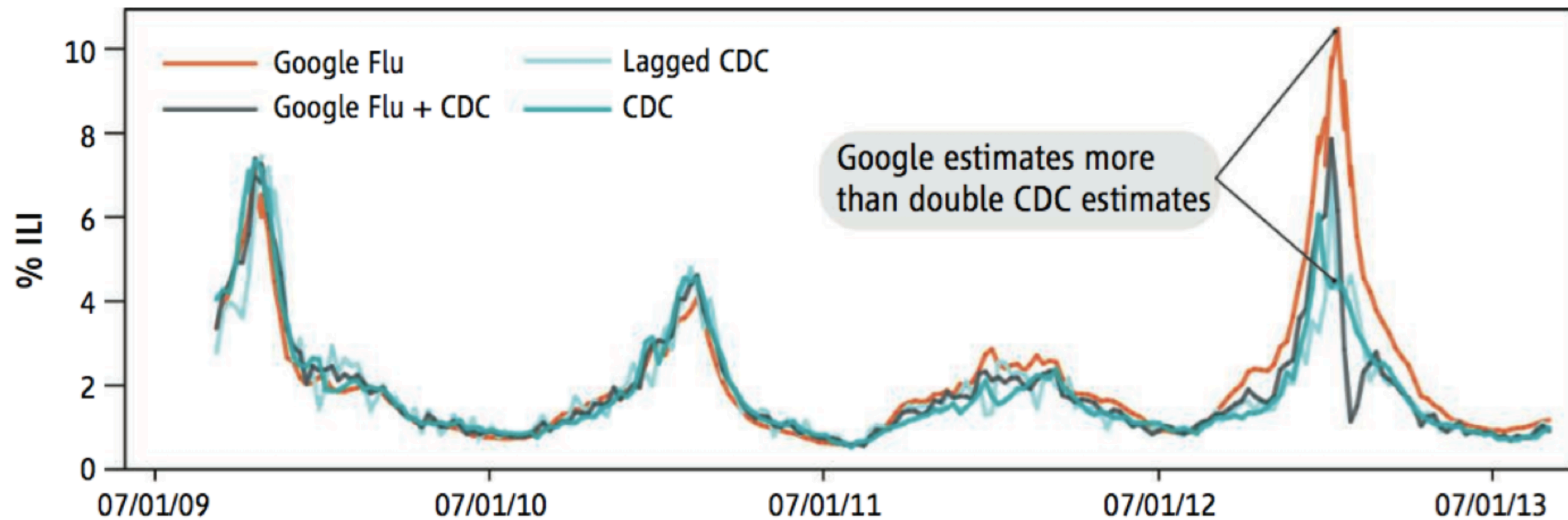
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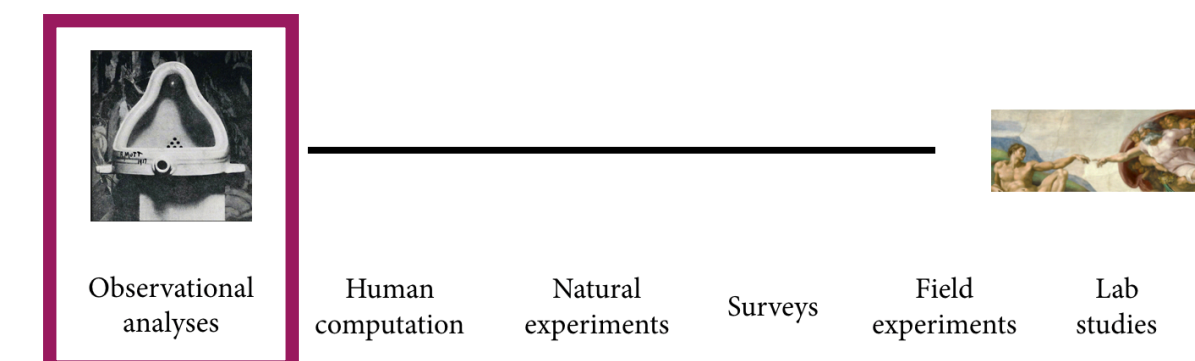




# Observing Behaviour: 2. Nowcasting



Soon after Google Flu Trends launched, it was drastically off





# Observing Behaviour: 2. Nowcasting

Media attention

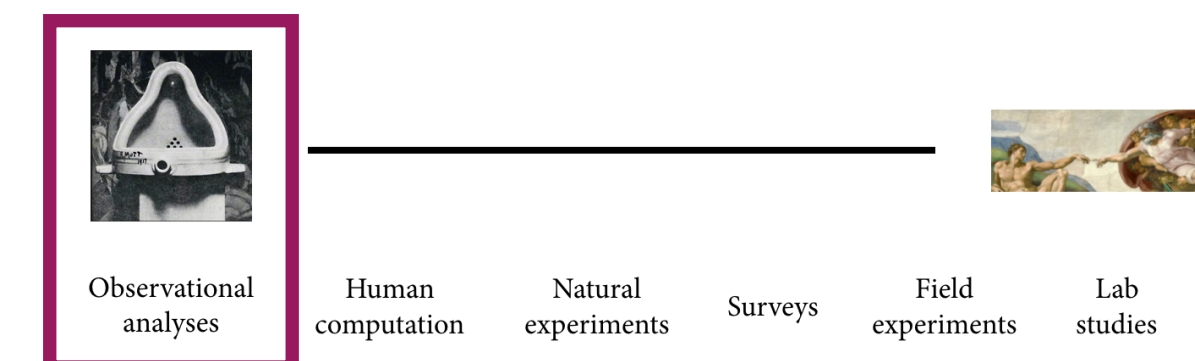
“Bird flu”, “swine flu”

Algorithm changes

Starting suggesting search terms

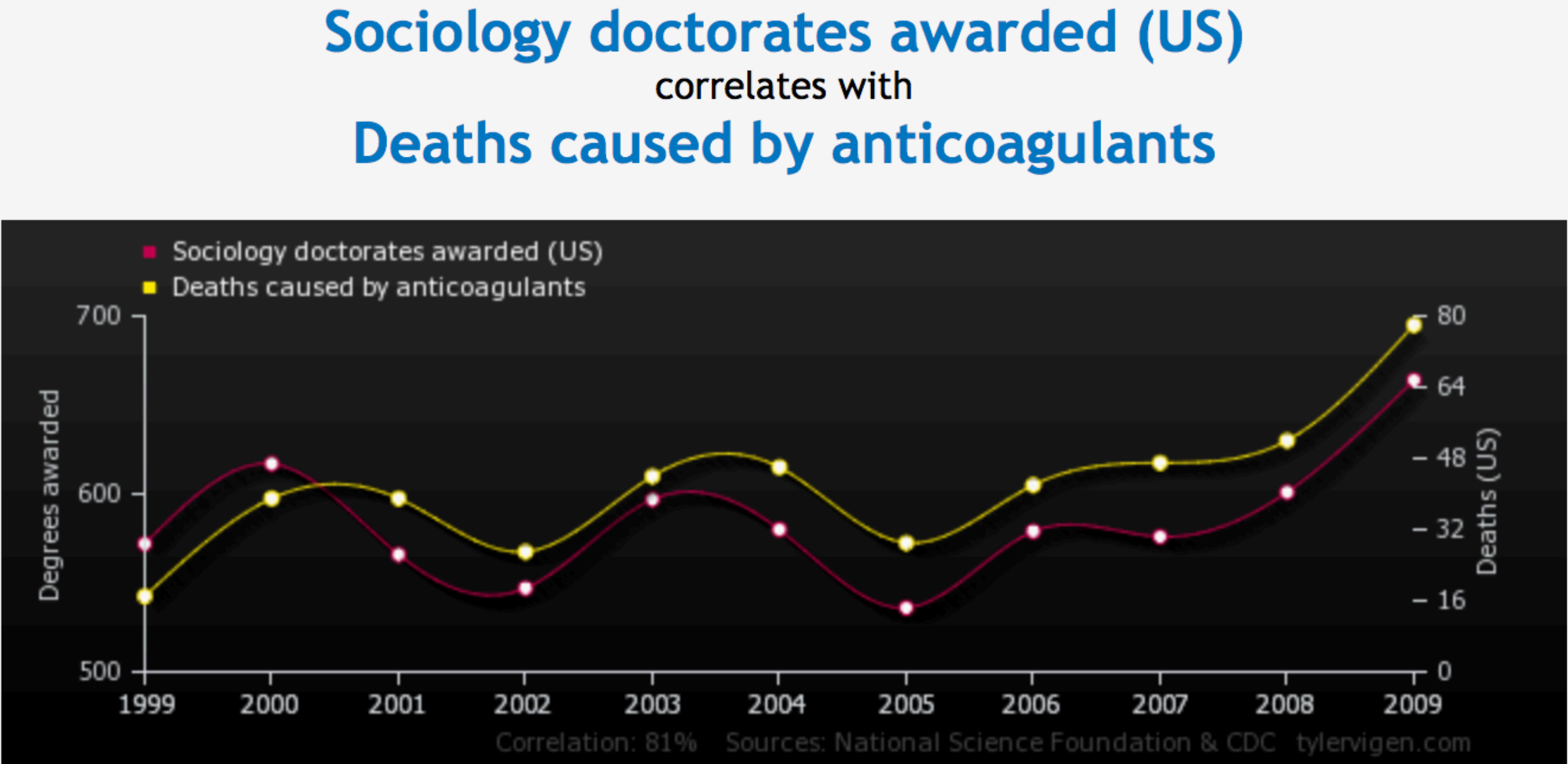
“Social hacking” (Trolling)

Hey look we can screw up Google’s flu predictions





# Correlation and causation



[Upload this chart to imgur](#)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Sociology doctorates awarded (US) Degrees awarded (National Science Foundation)	572	617	566	547	597	580	536	579	576	601	664
Deaths caused by anticoagulants Deaths (US) (CDC)	17	39	39	27	44	46	29	42	47	52	78

**Correlation: 0.811086**



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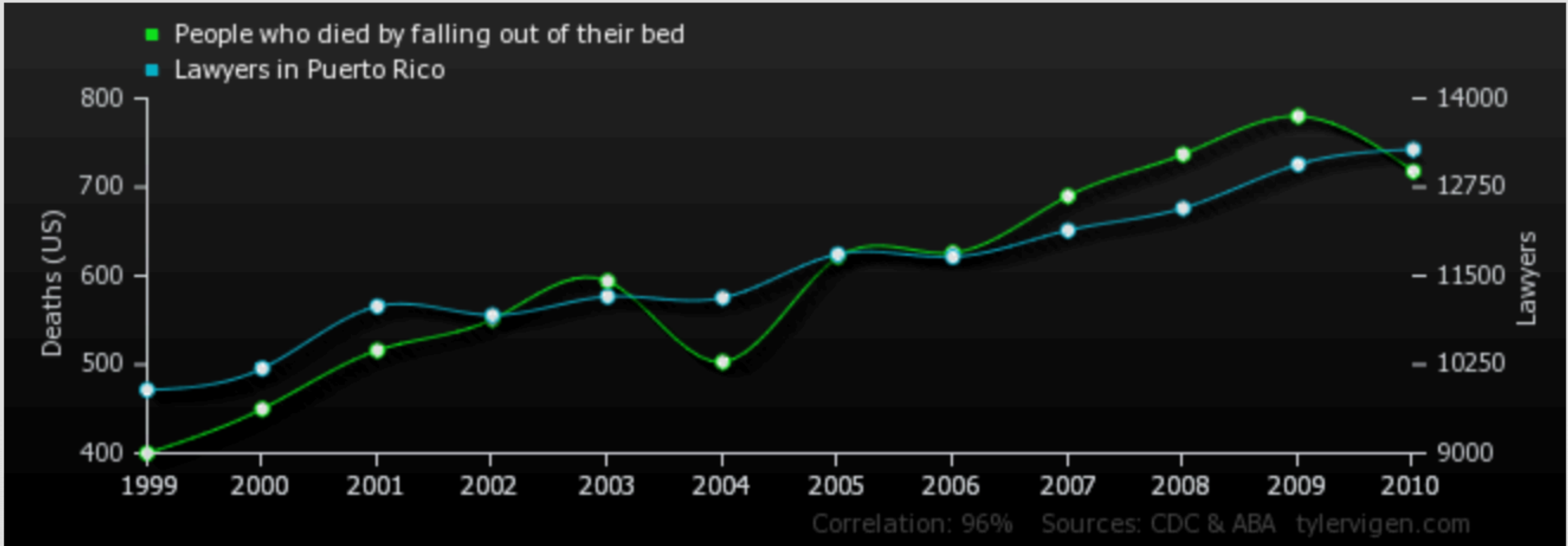
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# Correlation and causation

People who died by falling out of their bed  
correlates with  
Lawyers in Puerto Rico



Upload this chart to imgur

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
People who died by falling out of their bed Deaths (US) (CDC)	400	450	516	551	594	503	621	626	690	737	780	718
Lawyers in Puerto Rico Lawyers (ABA)	9,892	10,195	11,071	10,947	11,209	11,191	11,805	11,767	12,142	12,454	13,071	13,282
Correlation: 0.957087												



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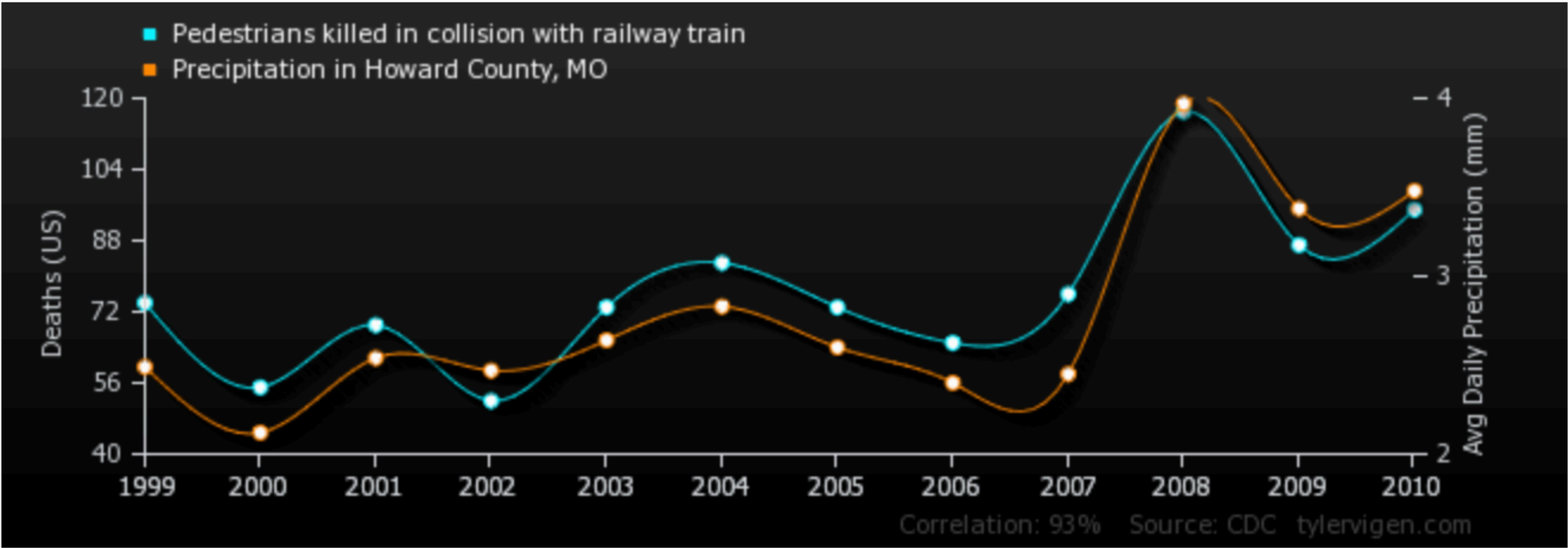
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# Correlation and causation

Pedestrians killed in collision with railway train  
correlates with  
Precipitation in Howard County, MO



[Upload this chart to imgur](#)

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
<i>Pedestrians killed in collision with railway train Deaths (US) (CDC)</i>	74	55	69	52	73	83	73	65	76	117	87	95
<i>Precipitation in Howard County, MO Avg Daily Precipitation (mm) (CDC)</i>	2.49	2.12	2.54	2.47	2.64	2.83	2.6	2.4	2.45	3.97	3.38	3.48
<b>Correlation: 0.92783</b>												



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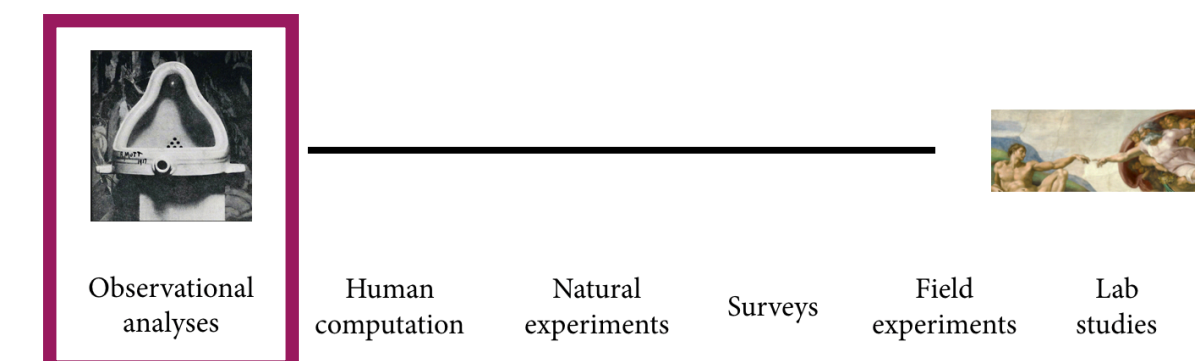
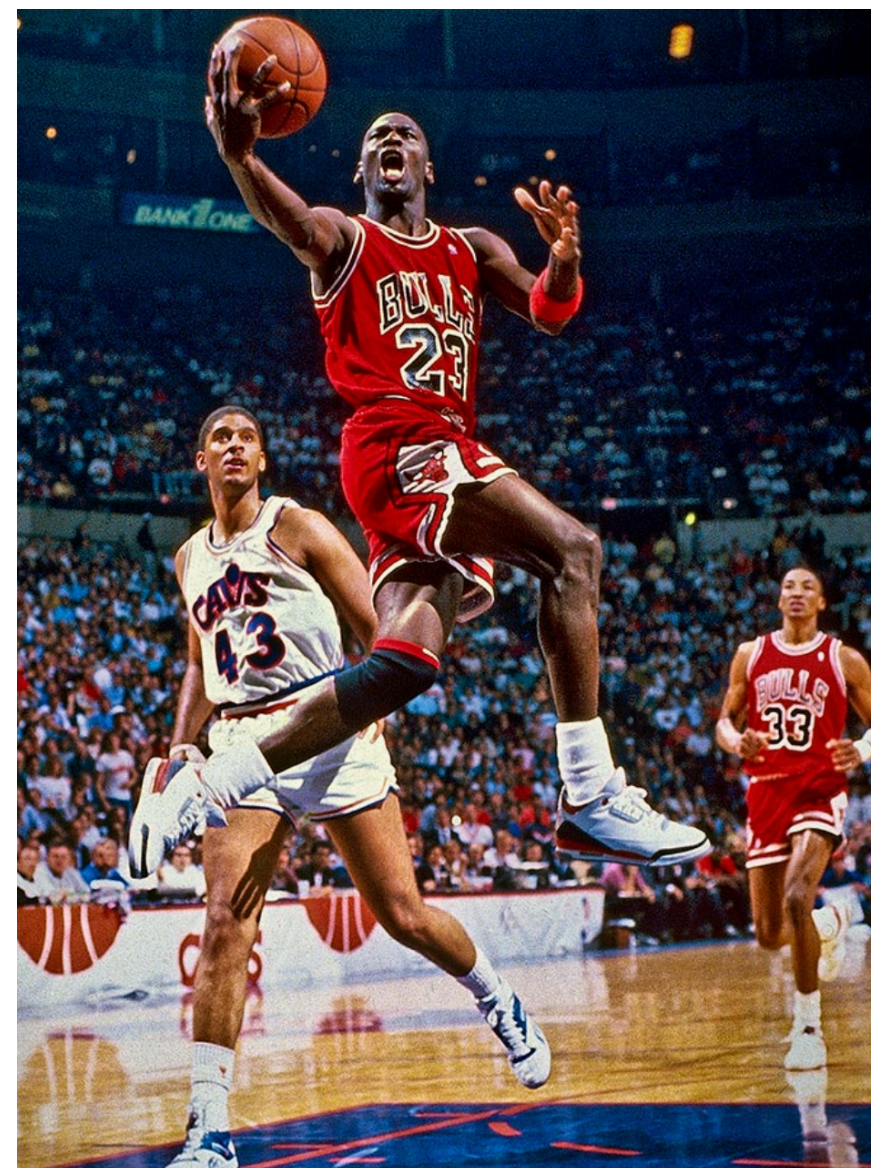




# Perils of big data

“When you have large amounts of data, your appetite for hypotheses tends to get even larger. And if it’s growing faster than the statistical strength of the data, then many of your inferences are likely to be false. They are likely to be white noise.”

— Michael Jordan

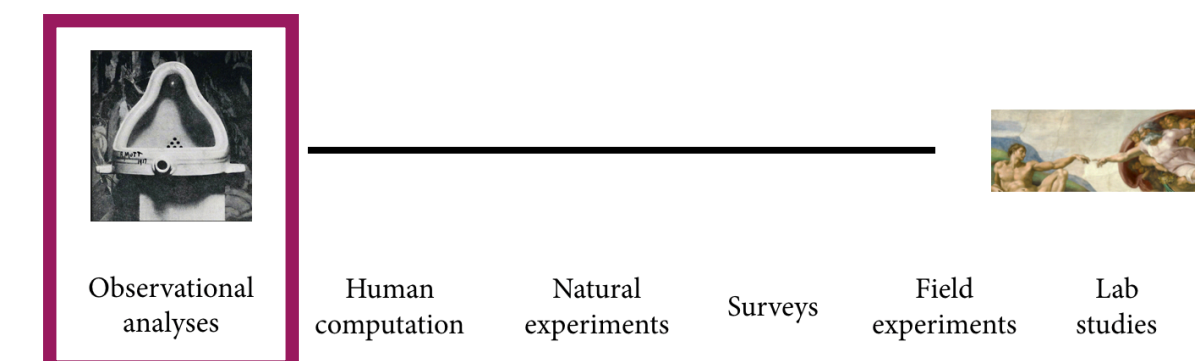




# Perils of big data

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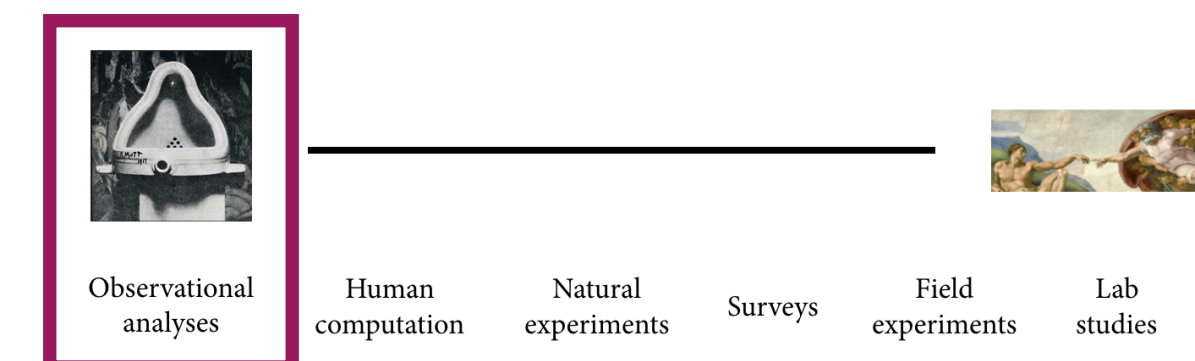
# Observing Behaviour: 3. Approximating Experiments

Some clever strategies allow us to do “**causal inference**”: make causal claims from observational data (i.e. arrive at experiment-like conclusions without actually running an experiment)

One well-known technique is **instrumental variables**: exploit natural variation in something to make a causal claim

Rain → Exercise

Friends exercising → You exercise?





# Ways of doing computational social science



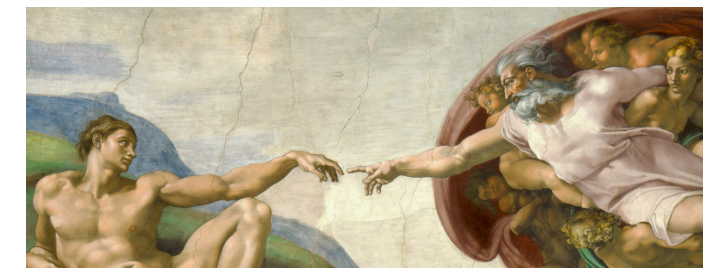
Observational  
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Experiments



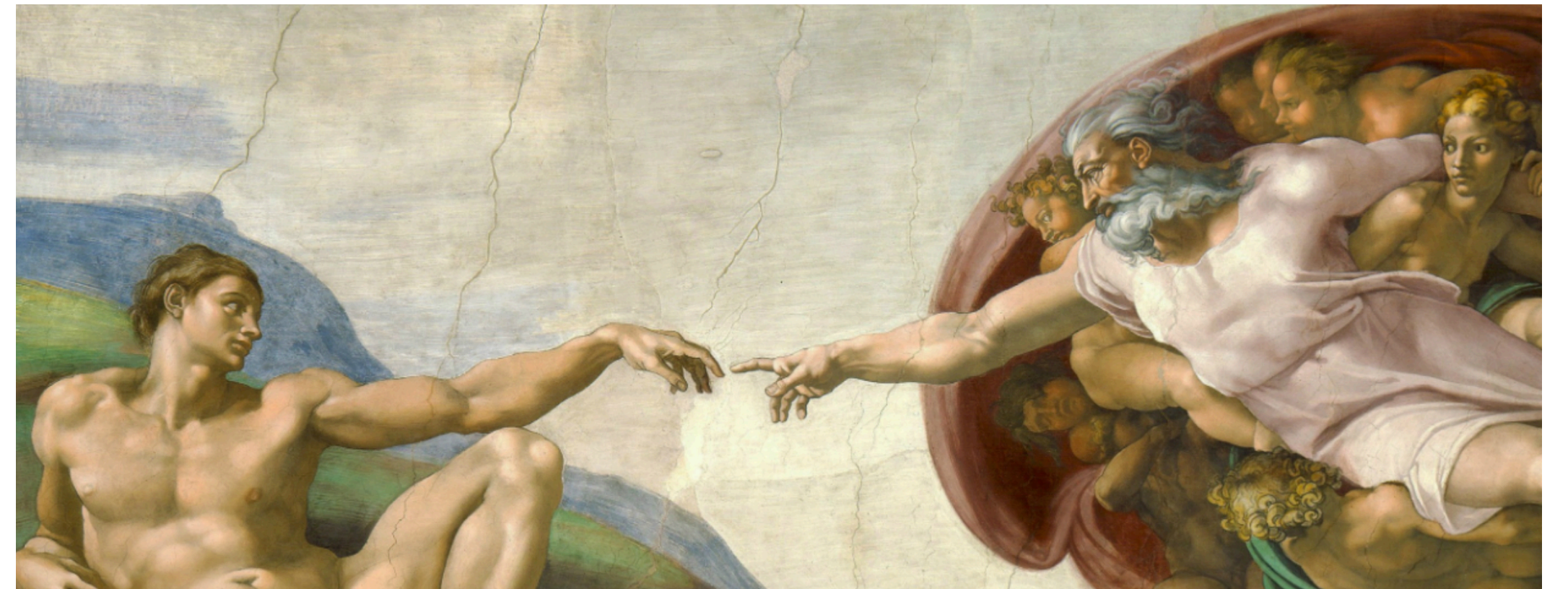
# Experiments

On the other end of the spectrum is experimentation

The goal is to learn about causal relationships (cause-and-effect questions)

The strategy is to directly manipulate the environment and observe the consequences

Design the ideal scenario that will create just the data you need to answer your question



# Experiments

Here, researchers intervene in the world to **isolate and study** a specific question

Nomenclature:

“Experiment”: **perturb and observe**

“Randomized controlled experiment”: **Intervene for one group, don’t for another (randomly)**

## **Correlation is not causation**

Observational data often riddled by unknown or hard-to-control **confounding variables**

E.g. Do students learn more in schools that offer high teacher salaries?

What’s an observational way to study this question?

What’s wrong with it?

What’s an experimental way to study this question?

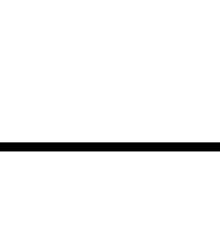
What’s wrong with it?



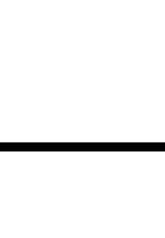
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experiments



Surveys



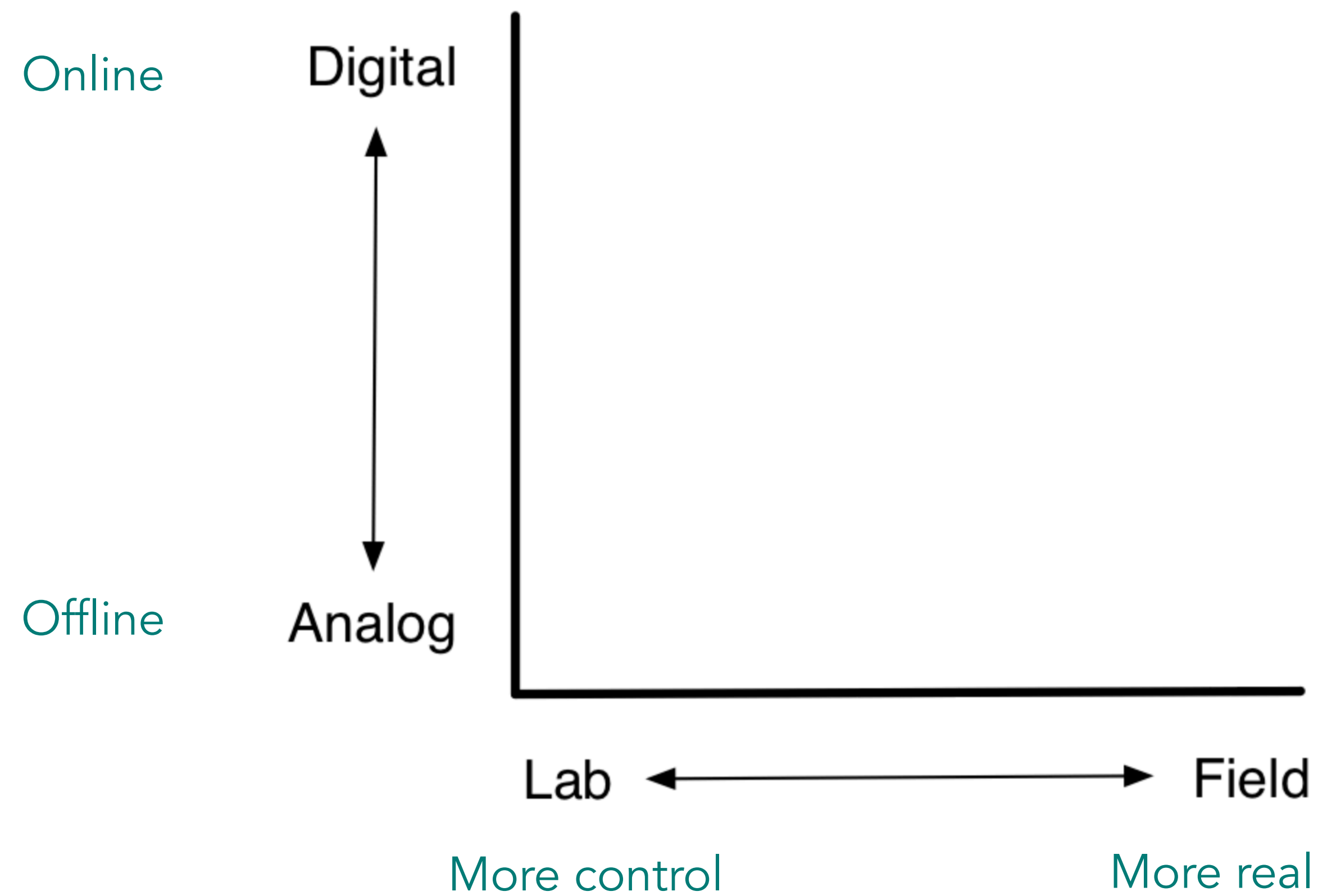
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Lab  
studies



# Experiments



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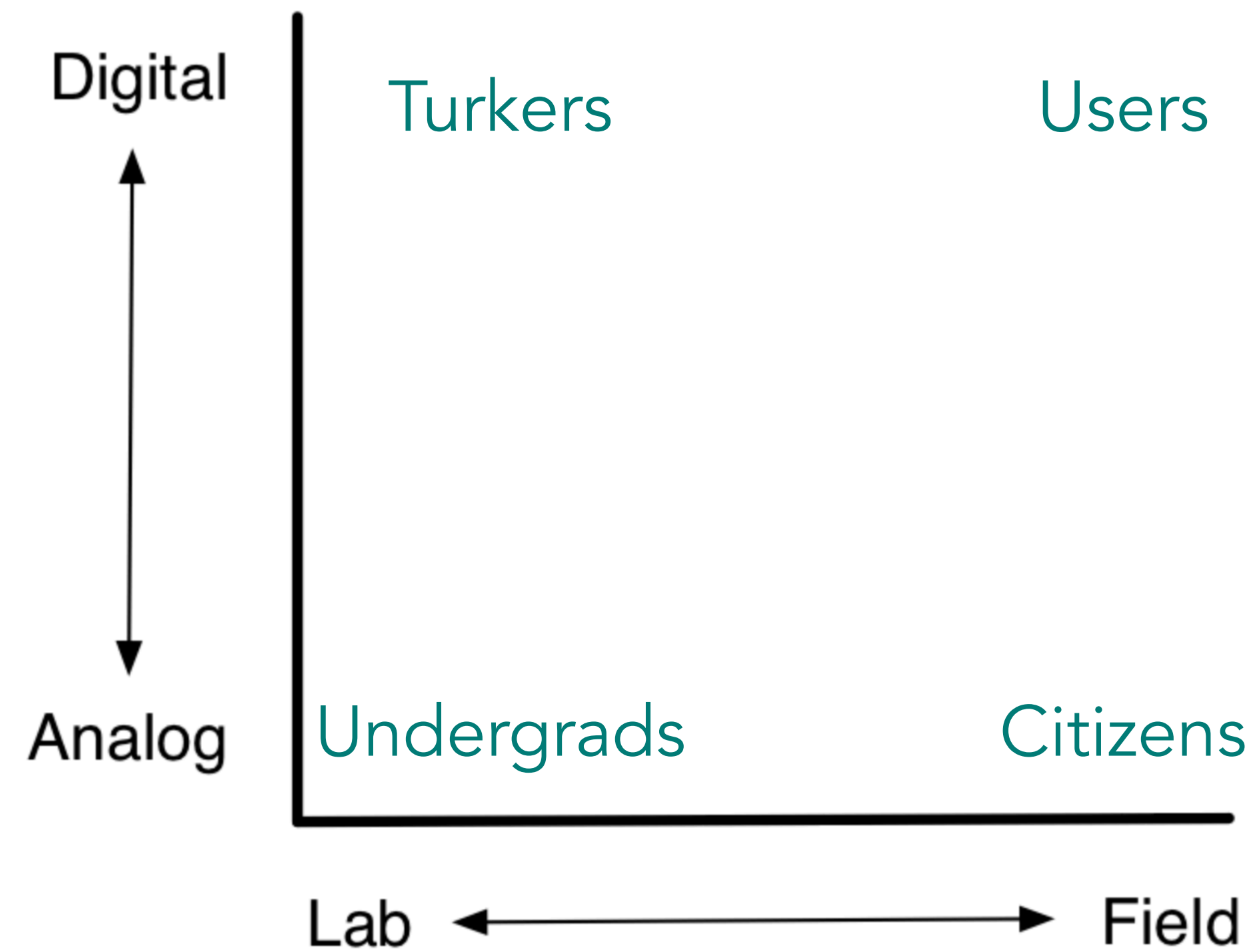
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# Experiments



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# Three major components of rich experiments

1. Validity
2. Heterogeneity
3. Mechanisms



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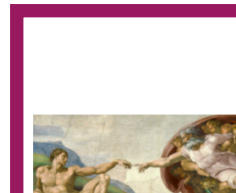


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experiments

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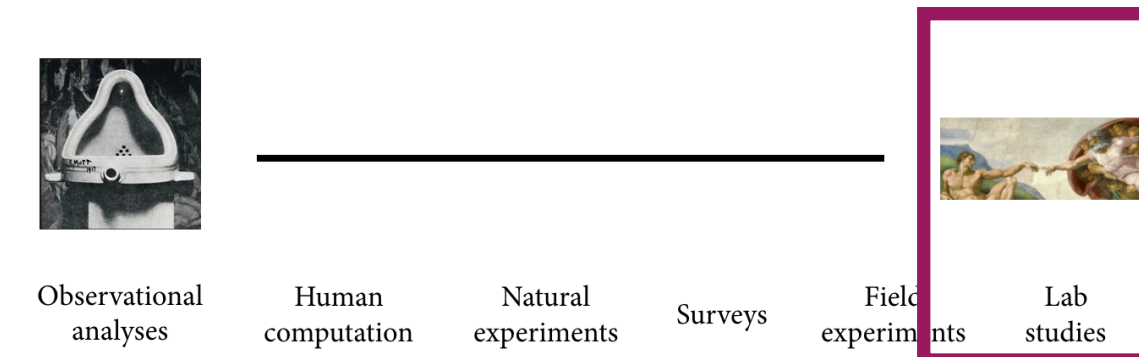


# Three major components of rich experiments: 1. Validity

Validity: **How general are the results?**

## Types of validity:

1. **Statistical conclusion validity**: were the stats done right?
2. **Internal validity**: was the experiment done right?
3. **Construct validity**: are we measuring the right thing?
4. **External validity**: is this applicable in other settings?

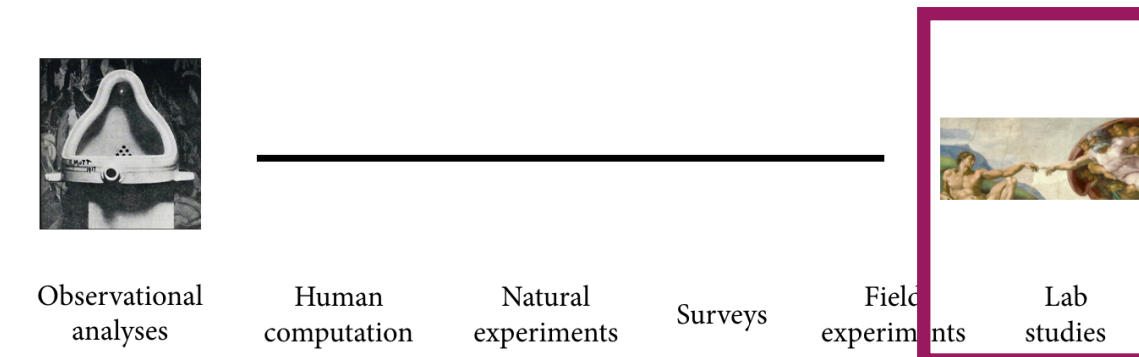


# Three major components of rich experiments: 2. Heterogeneity

Barebones experiment: measure the **average treatment effect** (ATE)

But in social research, **people almost always vary**.

Digital research presents many more opportunities to **measure how causes affect people differently**

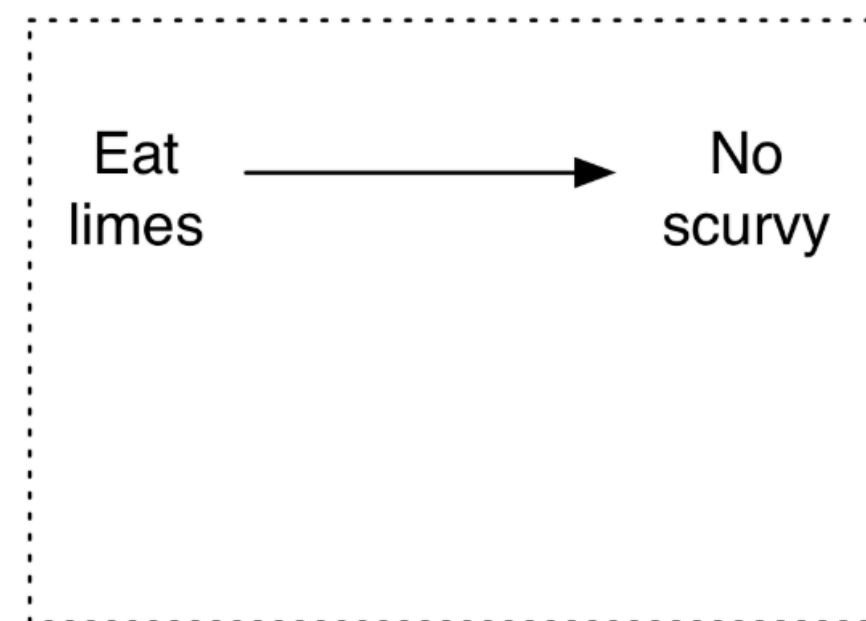




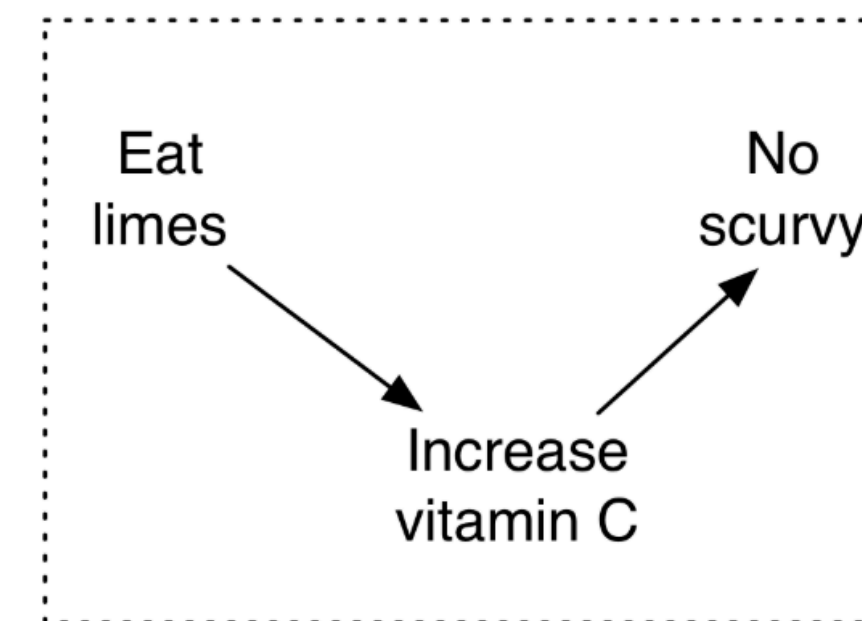
# Three major components of rich experiments: 3. Mechanisms

Barebones experiment: measure **what happened**.

Mechanisms: **why** and **how** did it happen?



Causal effect  
without mechanism



Causal effect  
with mechanism



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# Ways of doing computational social science



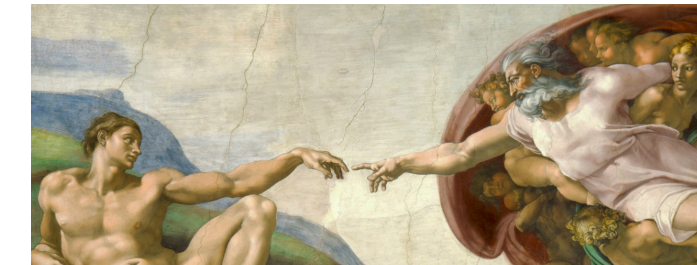
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Experiments



# Human computation

- Online crowdsourcing platforms allow dividing work into microtasks
- Human-in-the-loop computing, modern-day lab studies, mass collaboration to build big resources (Wikipedia etc.)

The screenshot displays the Amazon Mechanical Turk dashboard for a worker named Dietmar Hafner. The interface includes a navigation bar with links for 'Your Account', 'HITS', and 'Qualifications'. A search bar allows filtering by 'All HITS', 'HITS Available To You', or 'HITS Assigned To You'. The main section, titled 'All HITS', shows a list of 2317 results, sorted by 'HIT Creation Date (newest first)'. The list includes details for each HIT, such as the requester, expiration date, time allotted, reward, and the number of available HITs. The first HIT is from 'CopyText Inc.' with a reward of \$0.01 and 35 available HITs. The second HIT is from 'techlist' with a reward of \$0.02 and 1067 available HITs. The third HIT is also from 'techlist' with a reward of \$0.02 and 1073 available HITs. The fourth HIT is from 'techlist' with a reward of \$0.02 and 1071 available HITs. The fifth HIT is from 'Crowdsurf Support' with a reward of \$0.20 and 7 available HITs. The sixth HIT is from 'SDG Production' with a reward of \$0.02 and 1 available HIT. The seventh HIT is from 'Jon Brelig' with a reward of \$0.02 and 7948 available HITs.

Requester	HIT Expiration Date	Time Allotted	Reward	HITS Available
CopyText Inc.	Jul 10, 2015 (9 minutes 52 seconds)	4 minutes	\$0.01	35
techlist	Jul 10, 2015 (9 minutes 52 seconds)	1 minute 30 seconds	\$0.02	1067
techlist	Jul 10, 2015 (9 minutes 52 seconds)	1 minute 30 seconds	\$0.02	1073
techlist	Jul 10, 2015 (9 minutes 51 seconds)	1 minute 30 seconds	\$0.02	1071
Crowdsurf Support	Jul 8, 2016 (51 weeks 6 days)	6 hours	\$0.20	7
SDG Production	Jul 13, 2015 (2 days 23 hours)	10 minutes	\$0.02	1
Jon Brelig	Jul 17, 2015 (6 days 23 hours)	20 minutes	\$0.02	7948

# Ways of doing computational social science



Observational  
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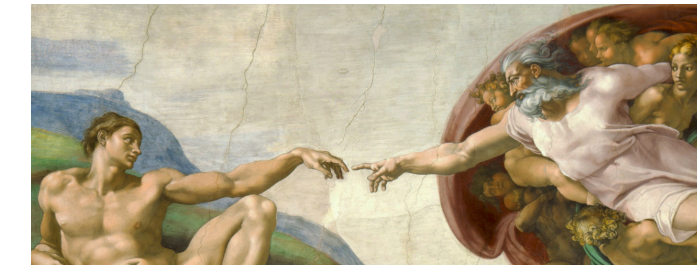
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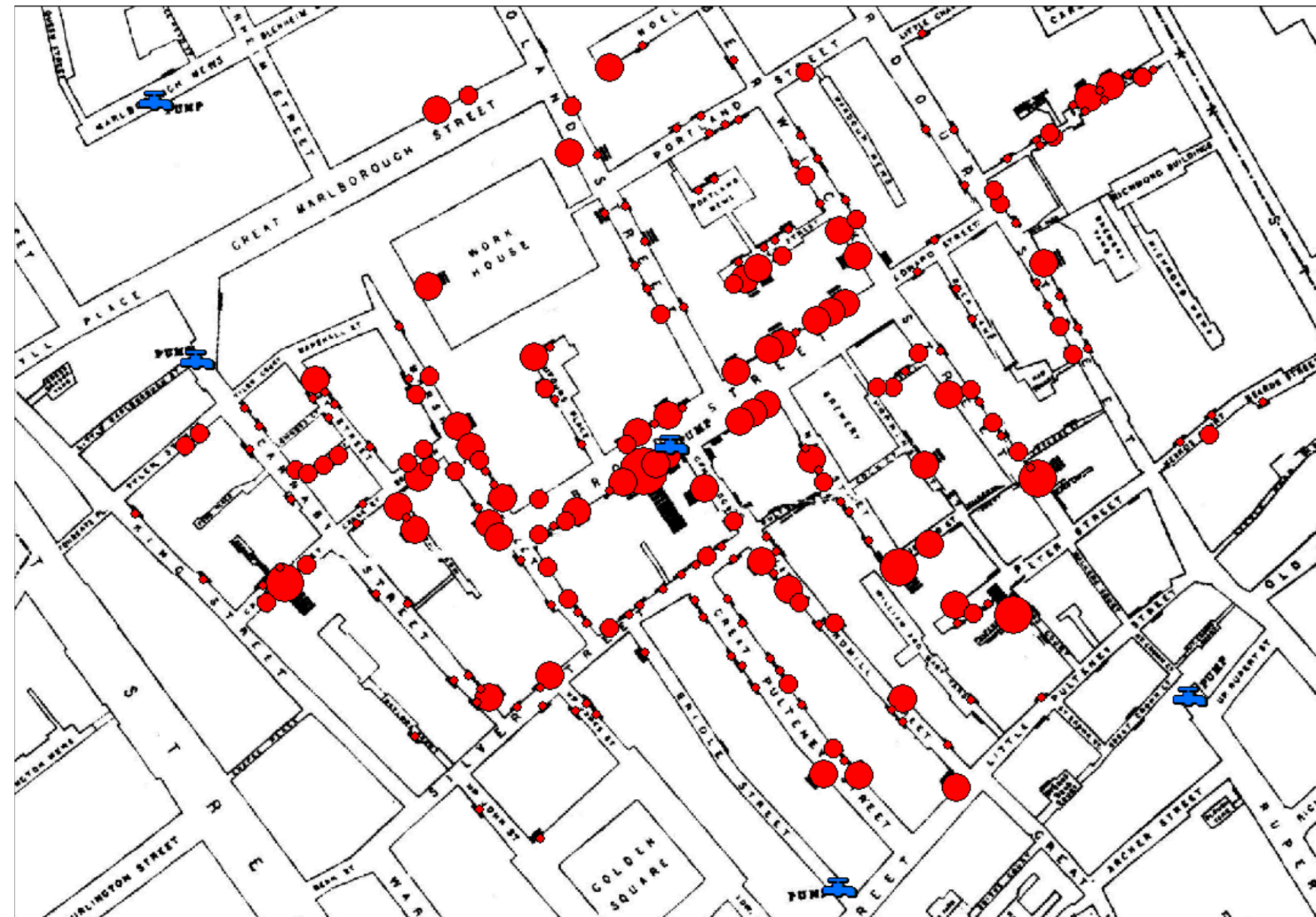
Experiments





# Natural experiments

Sometimes observational data has some random component you can exploit, and analyze as a “natural” experiment

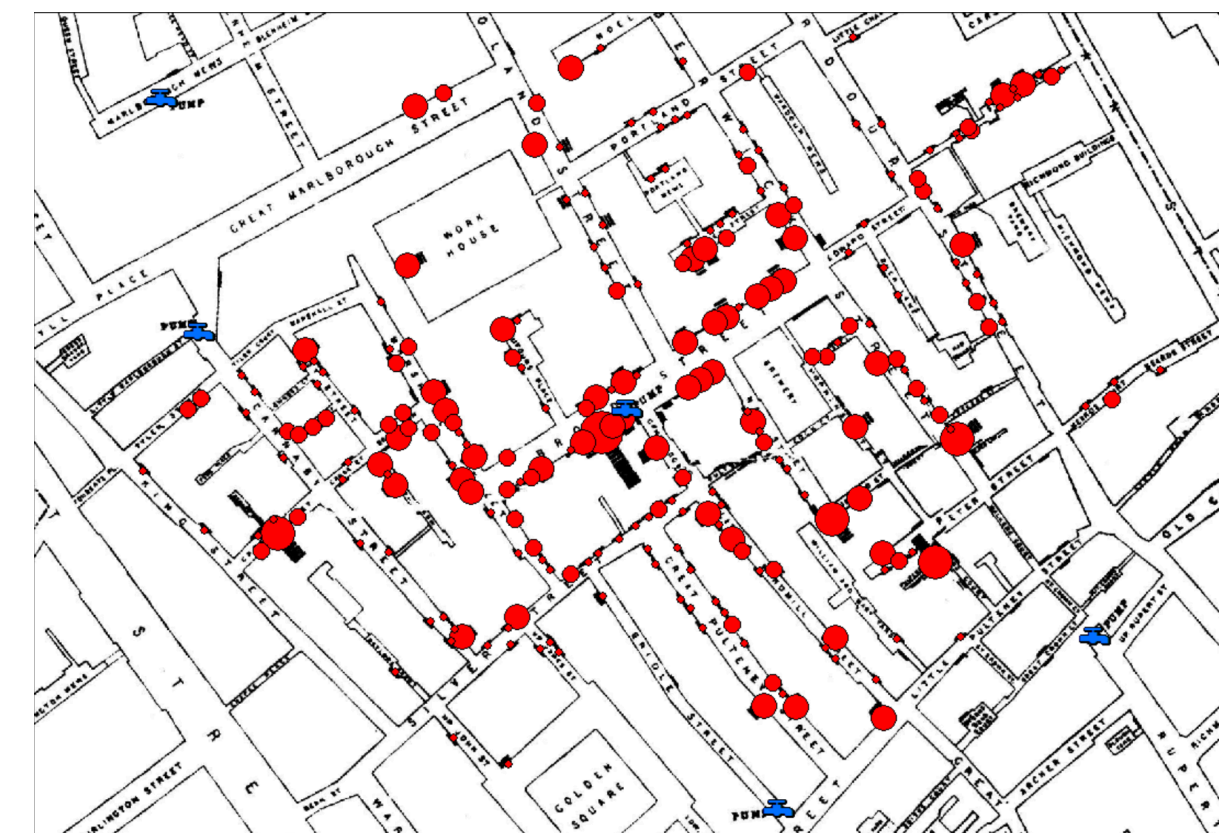


Cholera outbreak in London in 1850s

# Natural experiments

- Physician John Snow produced a map suggesting particular water was the culprit
- Two main water suppliers: one from downstream Thames where raw sewage was dumped in the water (high attack rates), and one from upstream (low attack rates)
- Which supplier you had was arbitrary (varied even within same house, same neighbourhood, etc.)
- Exposure to polluted water was as-if random

Now: in large datasets, more opportunities to identify and argue for as-if random assignment



Cholera outbreak in London in 1850s



# Ways of doing computational social science



Observational  
analyses

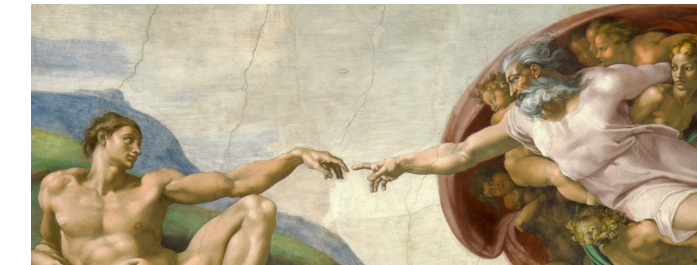
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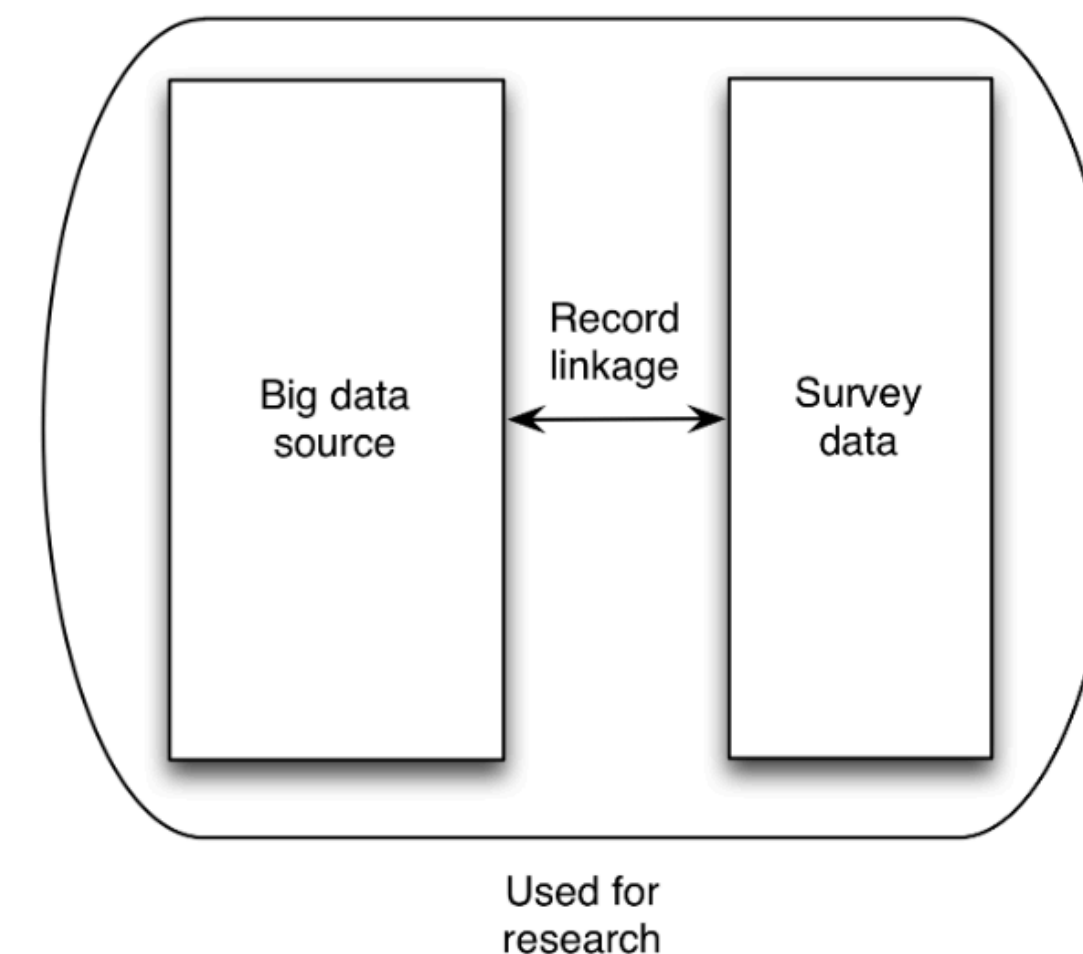
# Surveys: asking questions

Social research has a unique advantage: we can ask our subjects what they're thinking!

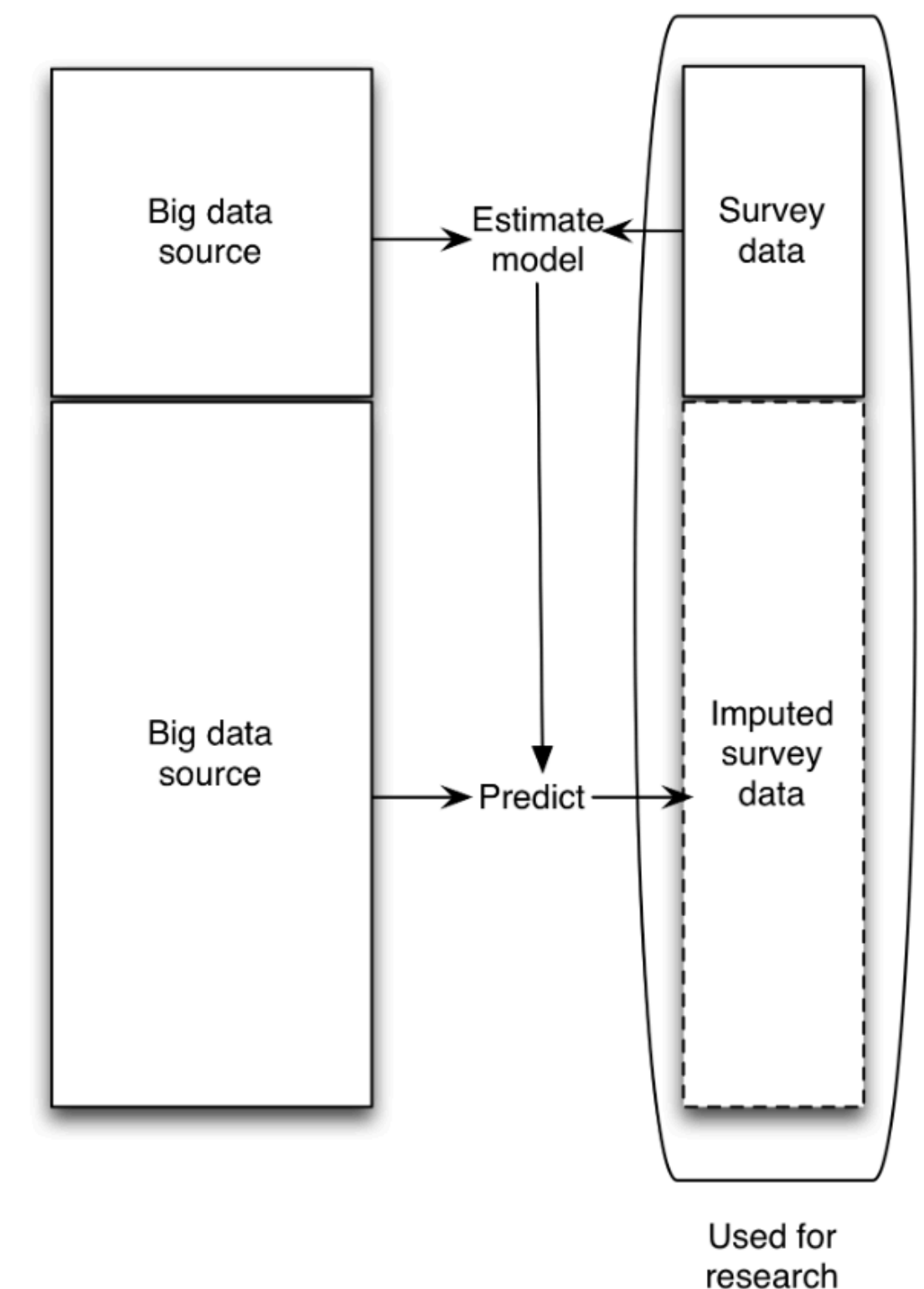
Still the best way to learn the answer to many questions

In the digital era, there are new ways of asking questions

**Enriched asking**



**Amplified asking**





# Ways of doing computational social science



Observational  
analyses

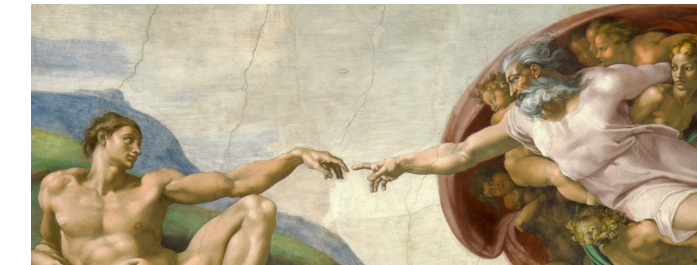
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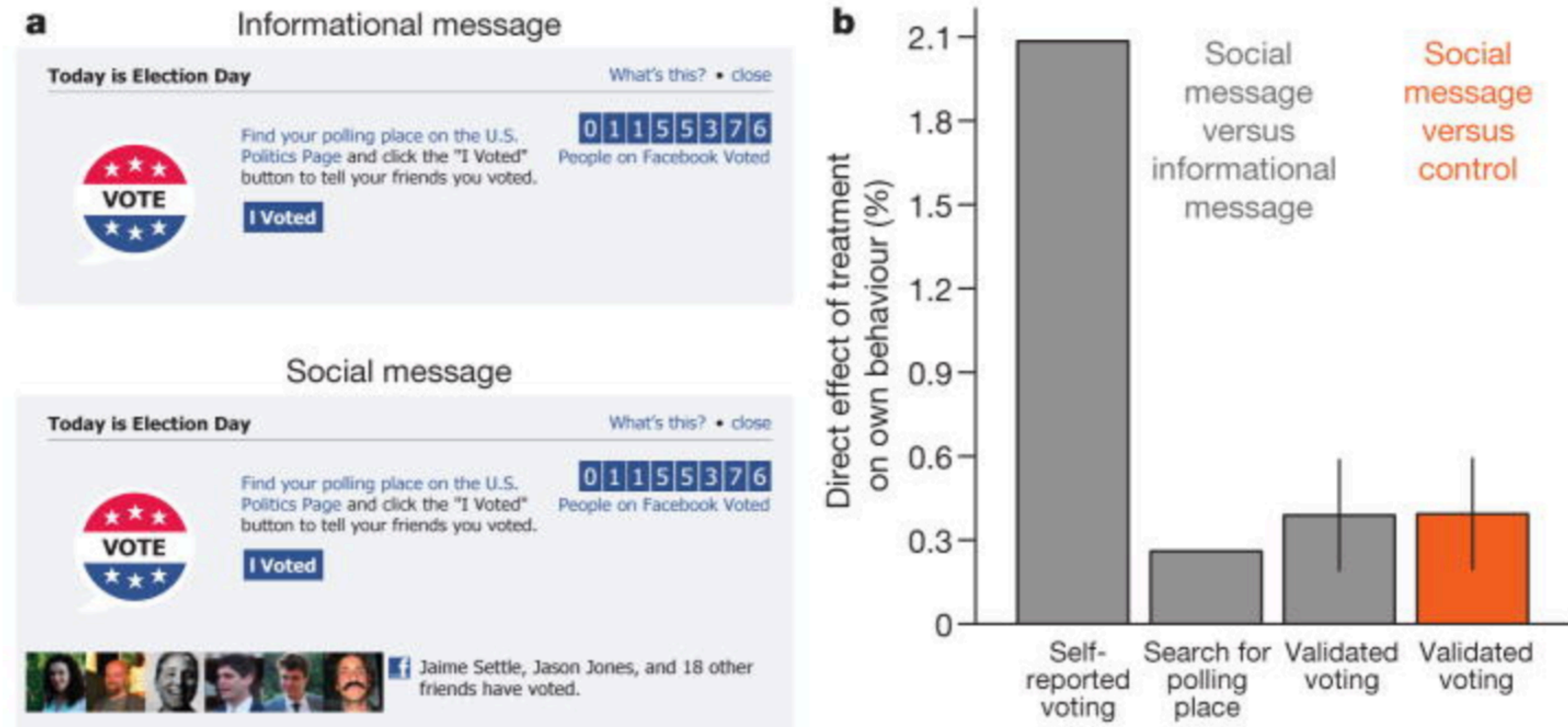
# Field experiments

- Introducing a treatment into a real system
- Much more possible now with algorithmic systems



# Voting experiment on Facebook

Figure 1



## The experiment and direct effects

**a, b**, Examples of the informational message and social message Facebook treatments (**a**) and their direct effect on voting behaviour (**b**). Vertical lines indicate s.e.m. (they are too small to be seen for the first two bars).

~300,000 more validated votes

# AI & Society: Algorithmic decision-making

St. George's Hospital in the UK developed an algorithm to sort medical school applicants. Algorithm trained to mimic past admissions decisions made by humans.

But past decisions were biased against women and minorities. It codified discrimination.



# Web search ads for “Kristen Haring”

Ads by Google

[We Found:Kristen Haring](#)

1) Contact **Kristen Haring** - Free Info! 2) Current Phone, Address & More.

[www.peoplesmart.com/Kristen](http://www.peoplesmart.com/Kristen)

[Search by Phone](#)

[Search by Email](#)

[Background Checks](#)

[Search by Address](#)

[Public Records](#)

[Criminal Records](#)

[Kristen Haring](#)

Public Records Found For: **Kristen Haring**. Search Now.

[www.publicrecords.com/](http://www.publicrecords.com/)

# Web search ads for “Latanya Farrell”

Ads related to latanya farrell ⓘ

**Latanya Farrell, Arrested?**

[www.instantcheckmate.com/](http://www.instantcheckmate.com/)

1) Enter Name and State. 2) Access Full Background Checks Instantly.

**Latanya Farrell**

[www.publicrecords.com/](http://www.publicrecords.com/)

Public Records Found For: **Latanya Farrell**. View Now.

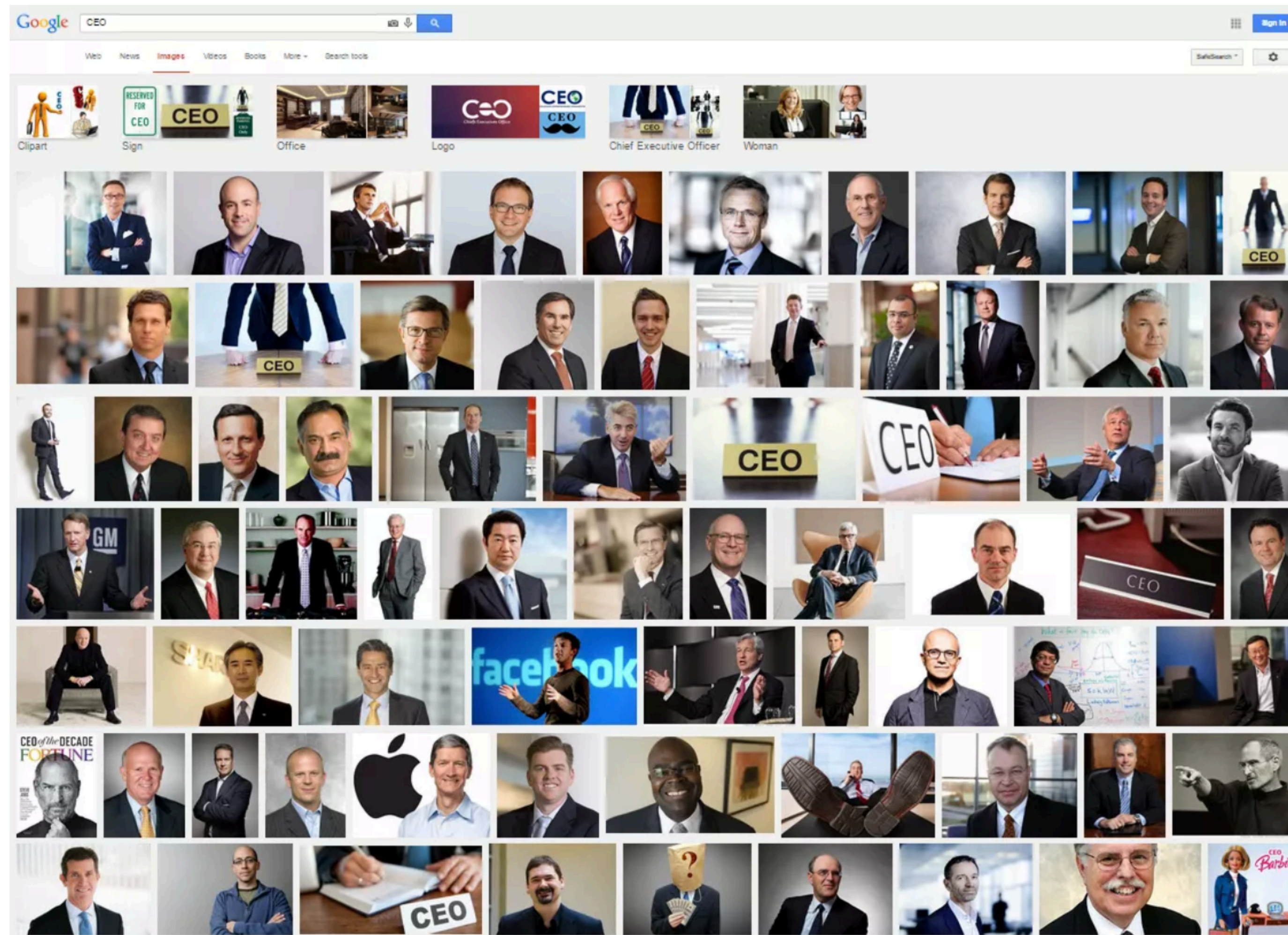


# Image labeling gone wrong





# Image searching for “CEO”





# Image searching for “CEO”



Last nail in the coffin: this picture is from an Onion article.

# Ethics and privacy

## Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks

Adam D. I. Kramer<sup>a,1</sup>, Jamie E. Guillory<sup>b,2</sup>, and Jeffrey T. Hancock<sup>b,c</sup>

**Facebook's Users Outraged Over Emotion Experiment**

Facebook reveals news feed experiment to control emotions

**Facebook emotion experiment sparks criticism**

*Facebook Tinkers With Users' Emotions in News Feed Experiment, Stirring Outcry*

Facebook conducted secret psychology experiment on users' emotions

**Everything We Know About Facebook's Secret Mood Manipulation Experiment**



# Computational social science

Game-changing opportunity to improve our understanding of human behaviour and have positive societal impact.

Doing so requires addressing serious technical, scientific, and ethical challenges.

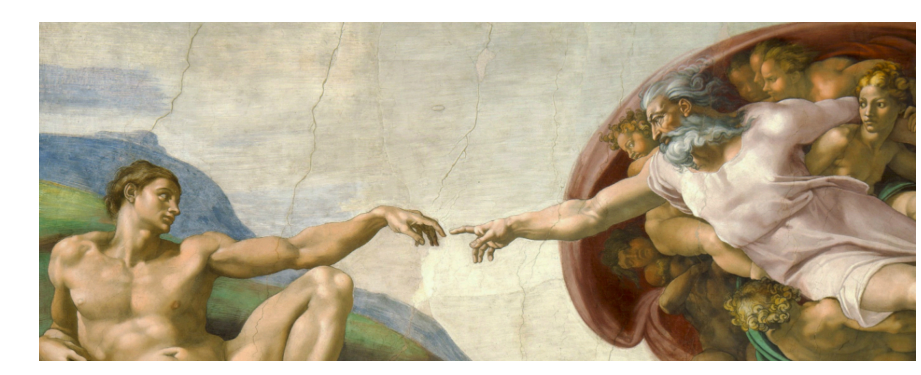
# Computational social science in 7 easy pieces

	Week	Date	Topic	Reviews Due	Textbook Readings
	1	9/7	Introduction to computational social science		<a href="#">Ch. 1</a>
	2	9/14	Introduction to computational social science cont'd		<a href="#">Ch. 1</a>
★	3	9/21	Observational studies 1	9/20 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 2</a>
★	4	9/28	Observational studies 2	9/27 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 2</a>
★	5	10/5	Experiments 1	10/4 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 4</a>
	6	10/12	Project proposals		
★	7	10/19	Experiments 2	10/18 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 4</a>
★	8	10/26	Asking questions	10/25 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 3</a>
★	9	11/2	Deep learning	11/1 9:00pm	
★	10	11/16	Ethics in computational social science	11/15 9:00pm	<a href="#">Ch. 6</a>
	11	11/23	Project presentations (Part 1)		
	12	11/30	Project presentations (Part 2)		



Readymades

Custommades





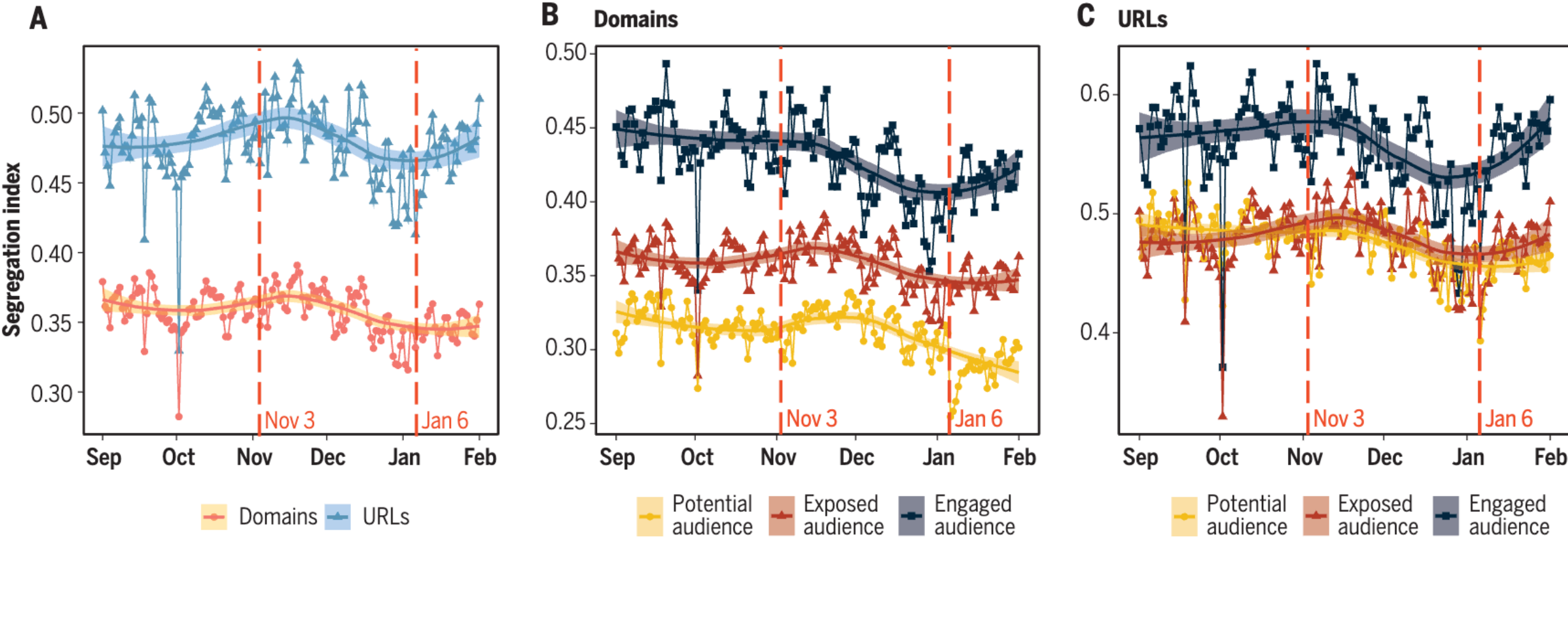
# Observational studies 1

## SOCIAL MEDIA

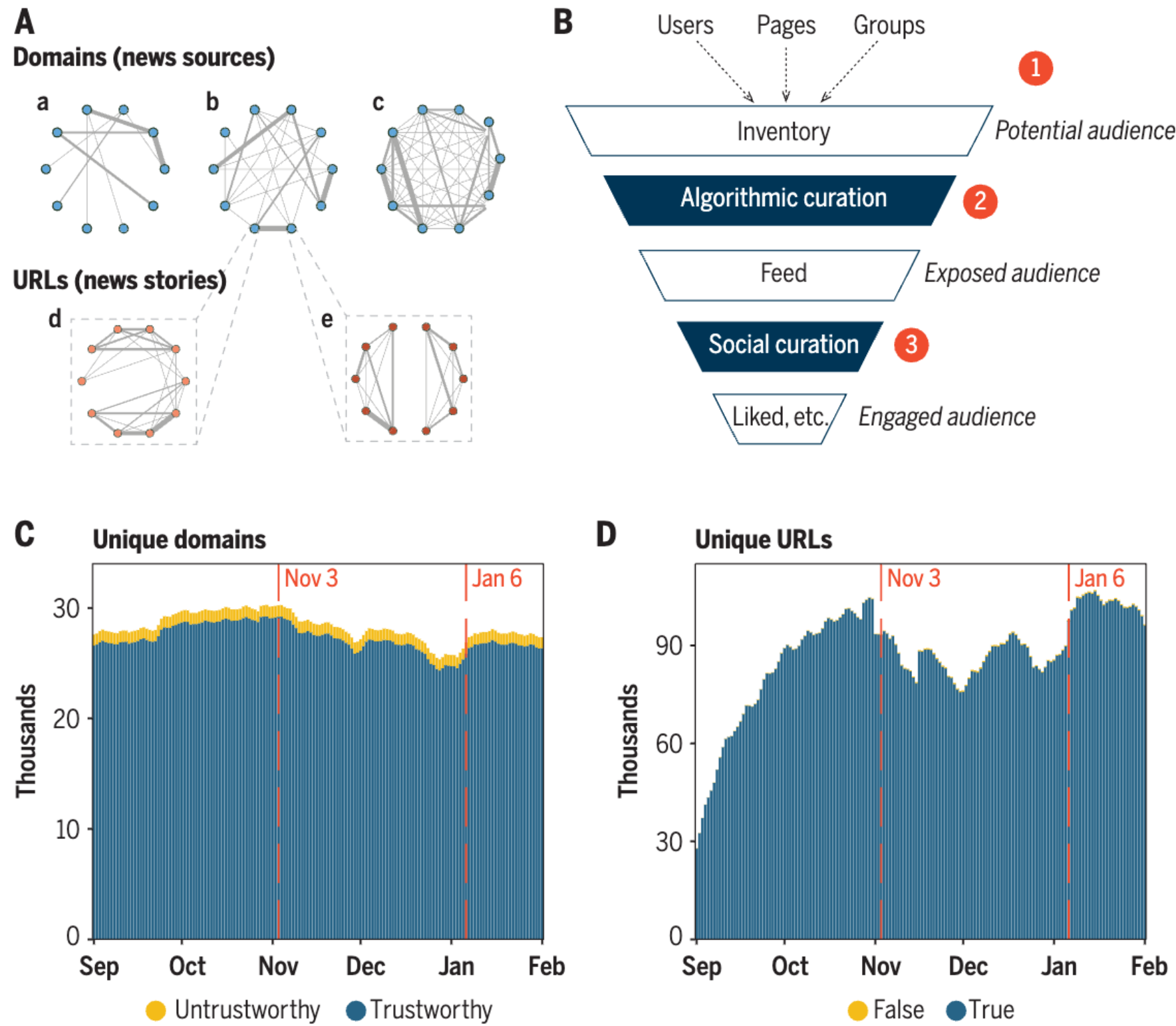
### Asymmetric ideological segregation in exposure to political news on Facebook

Sandra González-Bailón<sup>1\*</sup>, David Lazer<sup>2</sup>, Pablo Barberá<sup>3</sup>, Meiqing Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Hunt Allcott<sup>4</sup>, Taylor Brown<sup>3</sup>, Adriana Crespo-Tenorio<sup>3</sup>, Deen Freelon<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Gentzkow<sup>5</sup>, Andrew M. Guess<sup>6</sup>, Shanto Iyengar<sup>7</sup>, Young Mie Kim<sup>8</sup>, Neil Malhotra<sup>9</sup>, Devra Moehler<sup>3</sup>, Brendan Nyhan<sup>10</sup>, Jennifer Pan<sup>11</sup>, Carlos Velasco Rivera<sup>3</sup>, Jaime Settle<sup>12</sup>, Emily Thorson<sup>13</sup>, Rebekah Tromble<sup>14</sup>, Arjun Wilkins<sup>3</sup>, Magdalena Wojcieszak<sup>15,16</sup>, Chad Kiewiet de Jonge<sup>3</sup>, Annie Franco<sup>3</sup>, Winter Mason<sup>3</sup>, Natalie Jomini Stroud<sup>17,18</sup>, Joshua A. Tucker<sup>19,20</sup>

Science, 2023



Analysis of news exposure during US 2020 election for 208M US Facebook users



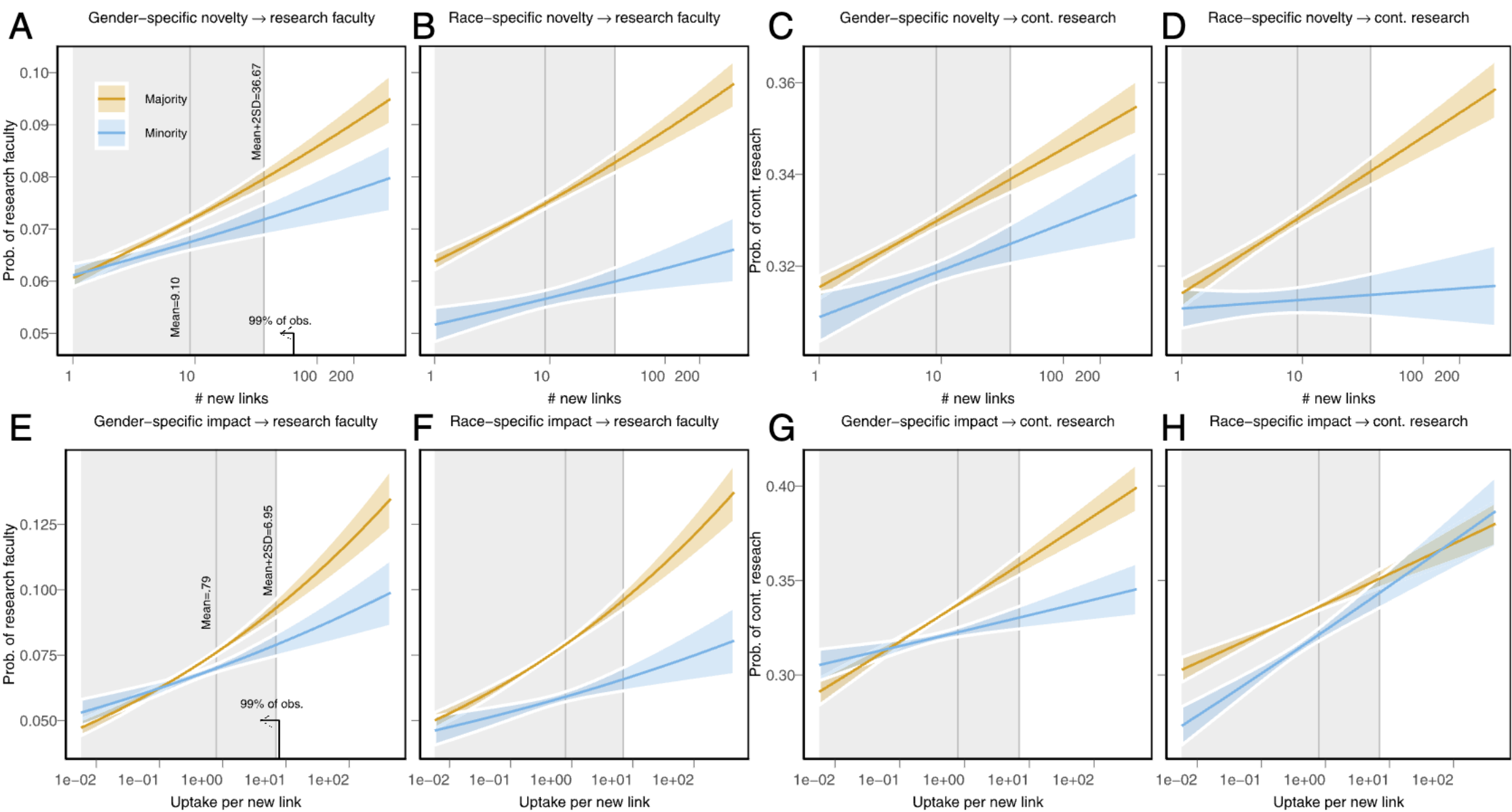
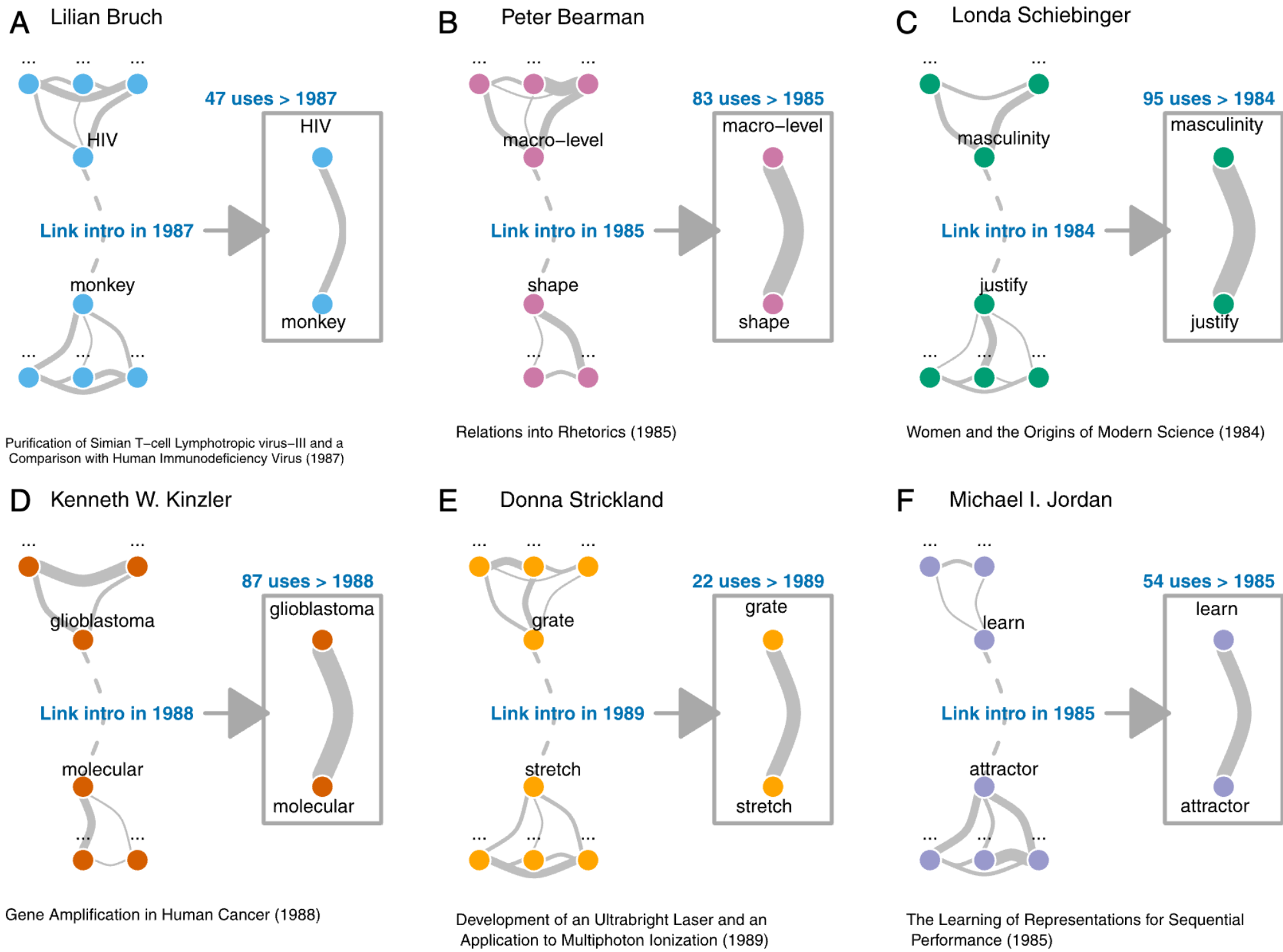
# Observational studies 1

## The Diversity–Innovation Paradox in Science

Bas Hofstra<sup>a,1</sup>, Vivek V. Kulkarni<sup>b</sup>, Sebastian Munoz-Najar Galvez<sup>a</sup>, Bryan He<sup>b</sup>, Dan Jurafsky<sup>b,c</sup>,  
and Daniel A. McFarland<sup>a,1</sup>

PNAS, 2020

Analysis of all 1.2M US PhD students 1977–2015 on the diversity paradox in science: diversity breeds innovation, yet under-represented groups are less successful



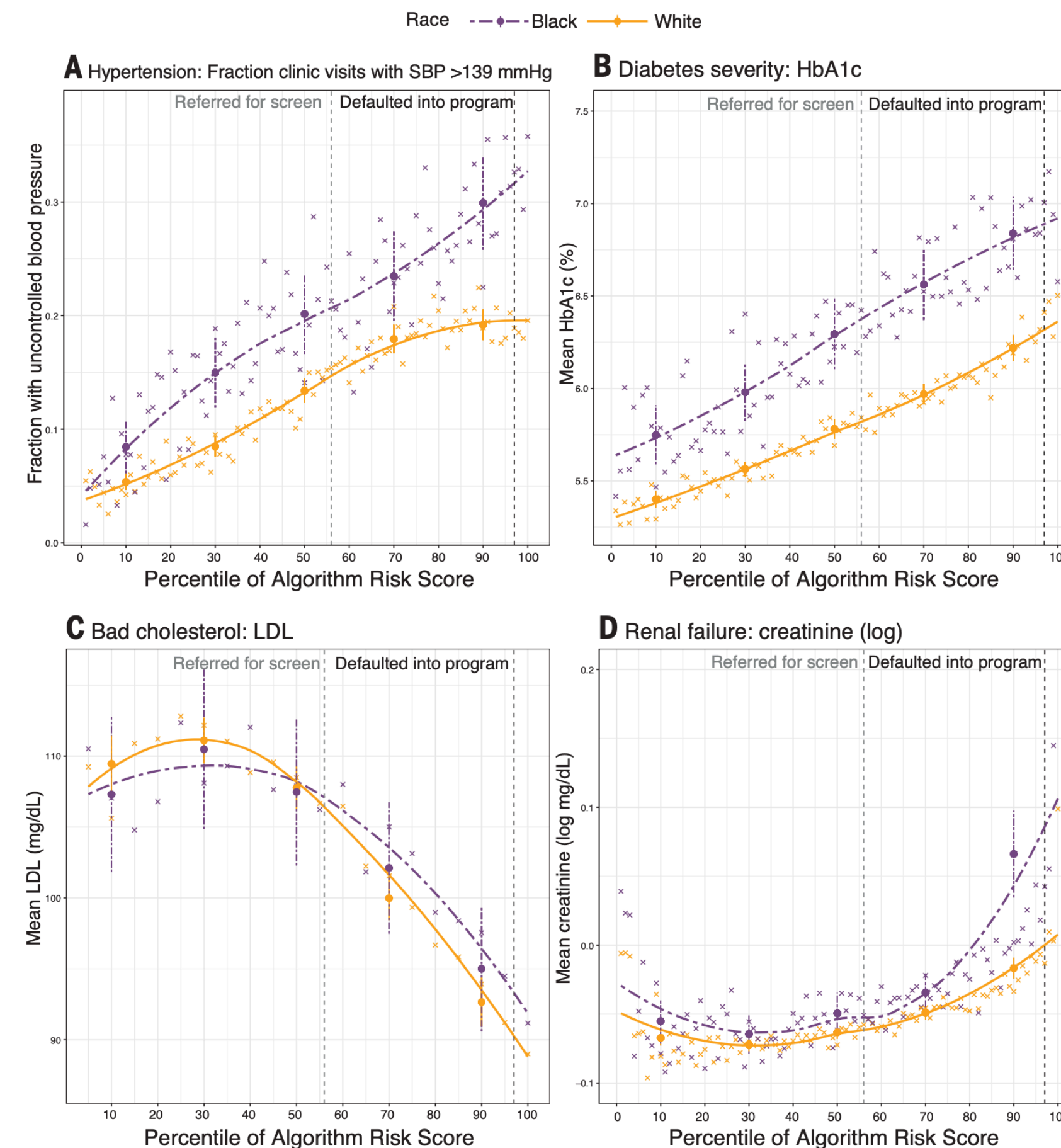
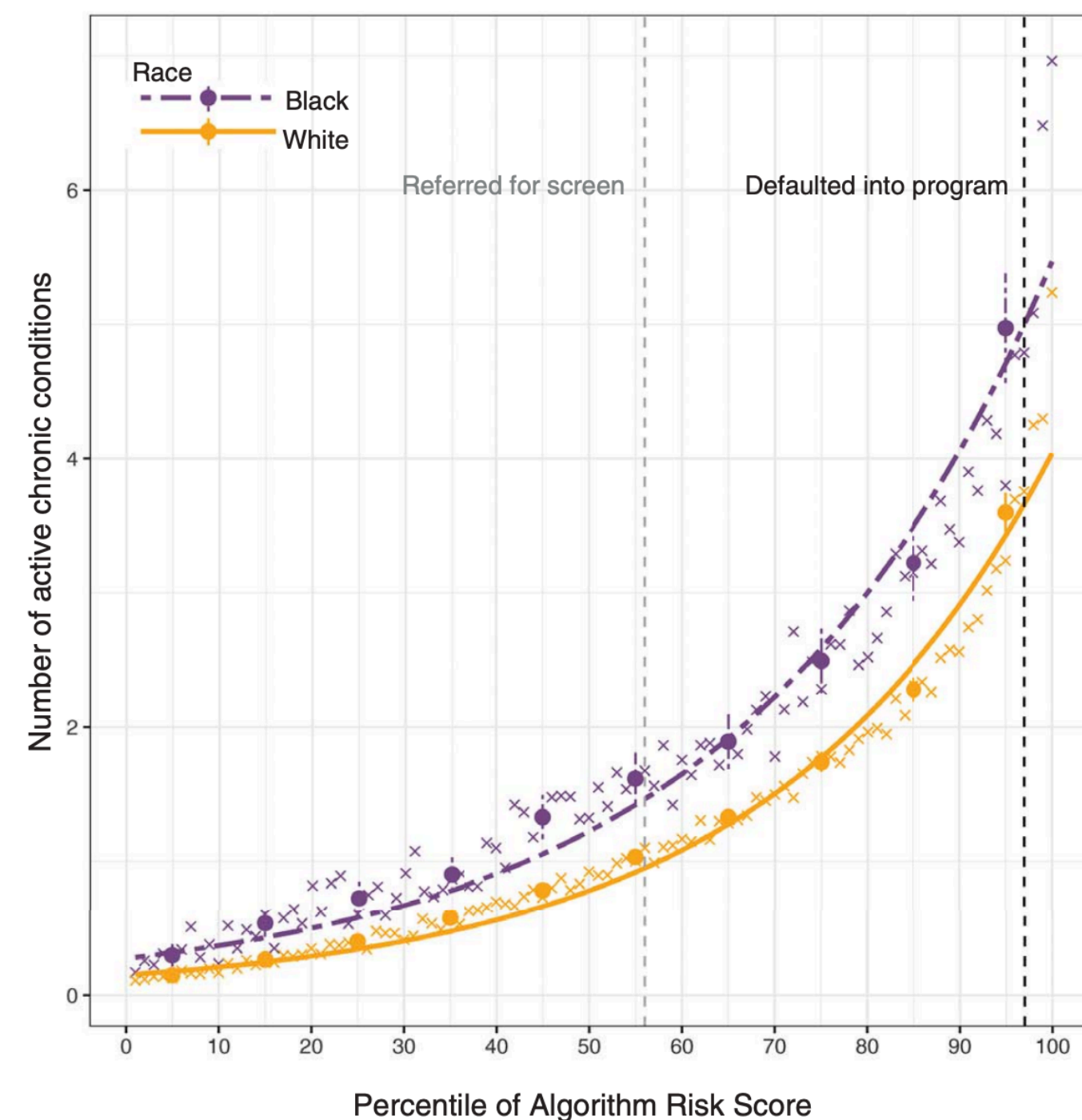


# Observational studies 2

## Dissecting racial bias in an algorithm used to manage the health of populations

Ziad Obermeyer<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Brian Powers<sup>3</sup>, Christine Vogeli<sup>4</sup>, Sendhil Mullainathan<sup>5\*†</sup>

Science, 2021



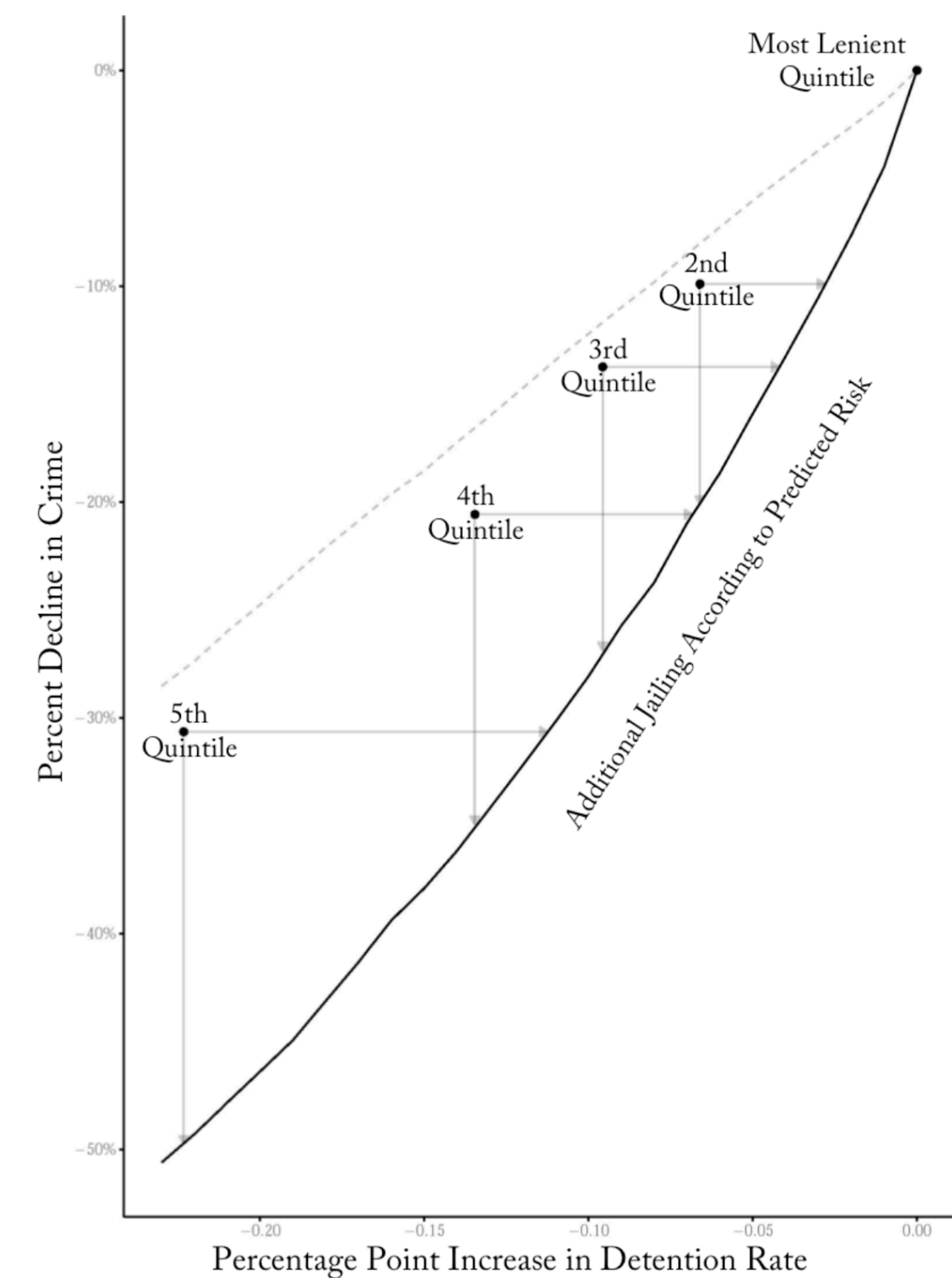
# Observational studies 2

HUMAN DECISIONS AND MACHINE PREDICTIONS\*

JON KLEINBERG  
HIMABINDU LAKKARAJU  
JURE LESKOVEC  
JENS LUDWIG  
SENDHIL MULLAINATHAN

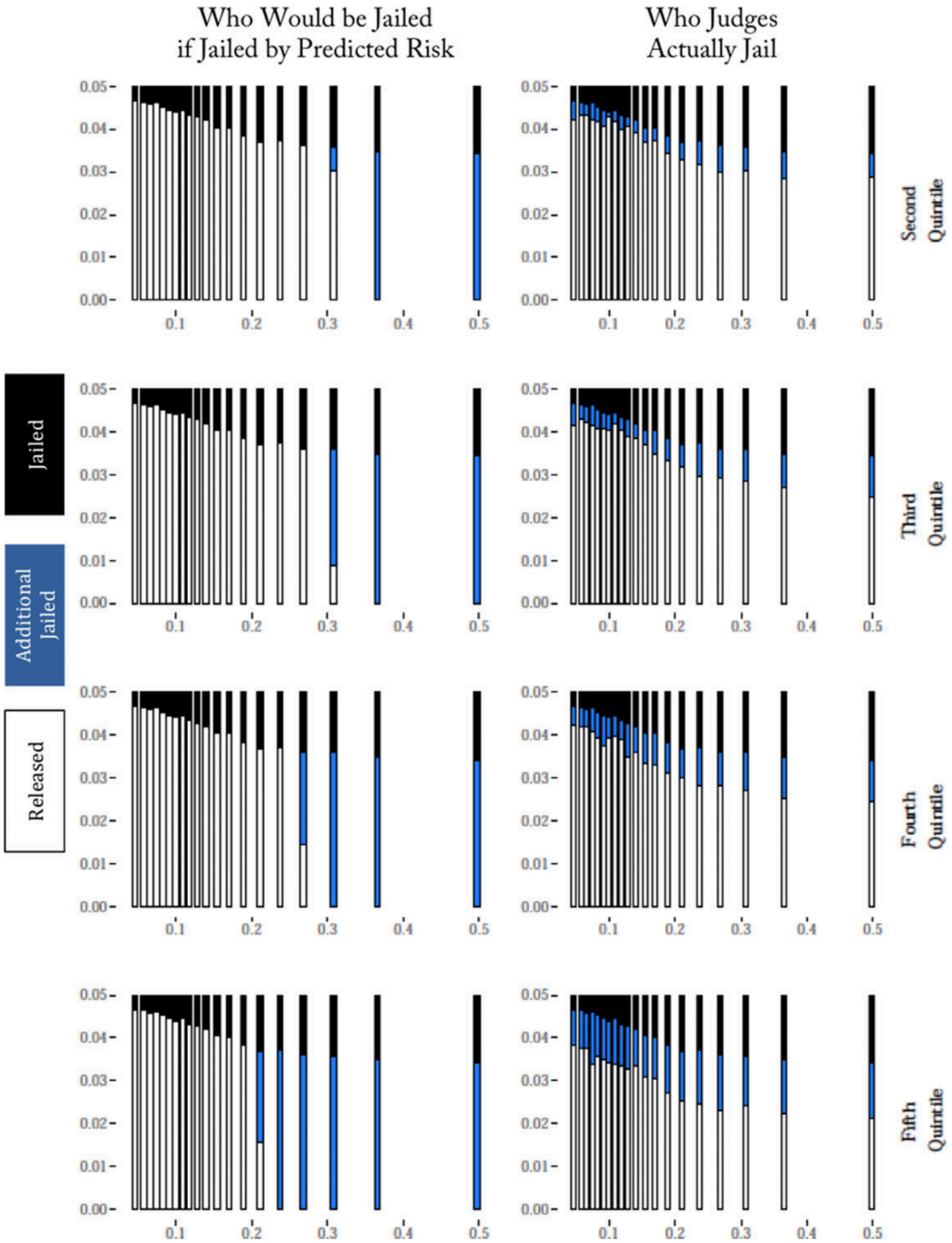
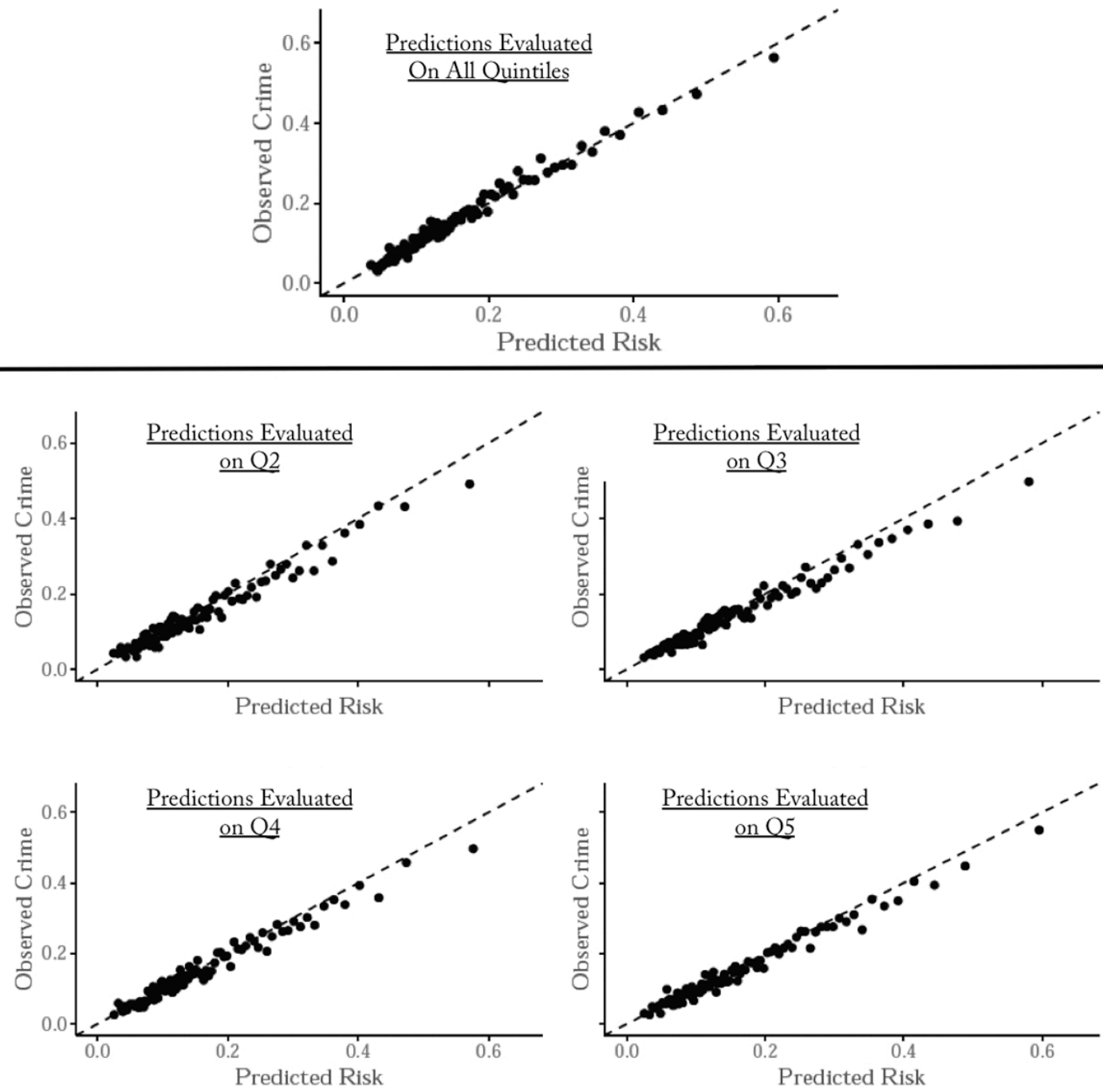
Comparing human judges with machine learning  
on 758K pretrial bail decisions after arrests

Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2017



Predictions Formed Using All Quintiles

Predictions Formed Using Most Lenient Quintile Only



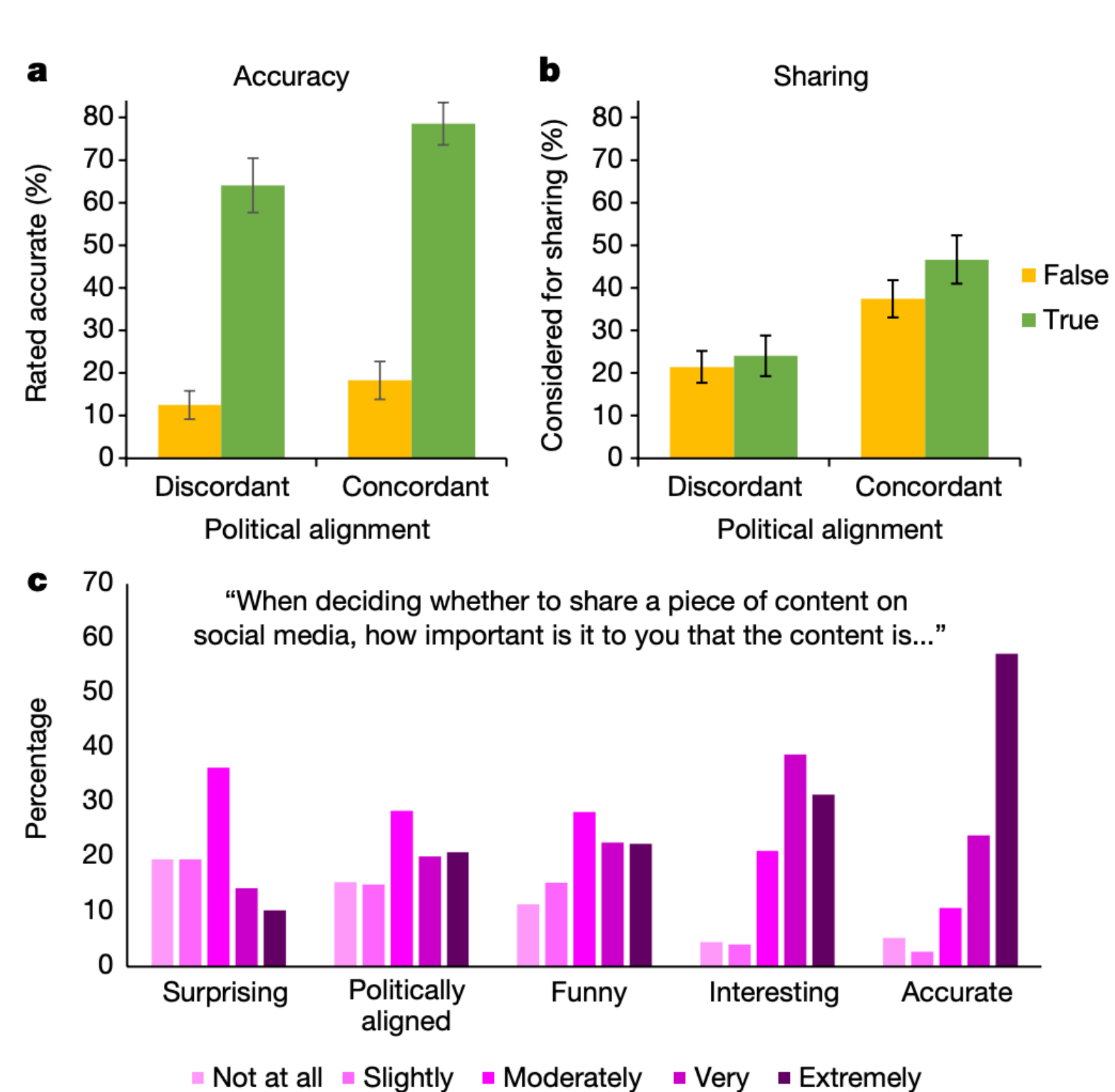


# Experiments 1

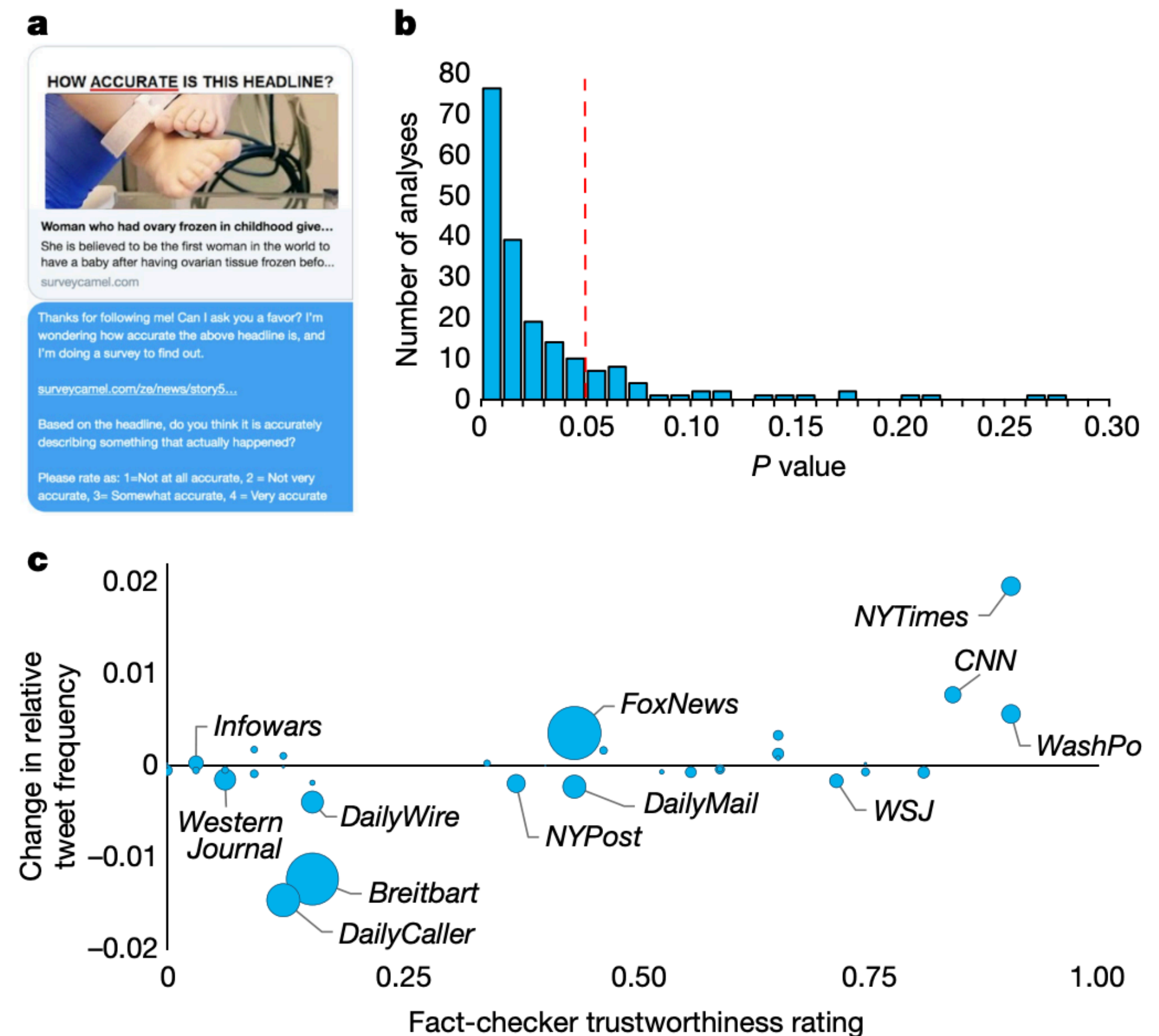
## Shifting attention to accuracy can reduce misinformation online

Why do people share misinformation, and how can we reduce this?

Nature, 2021



**Fig. 1 | Sharing intentions are much less discerning than accuracy judgements—despite an overall desire to share only accurate content.** In study



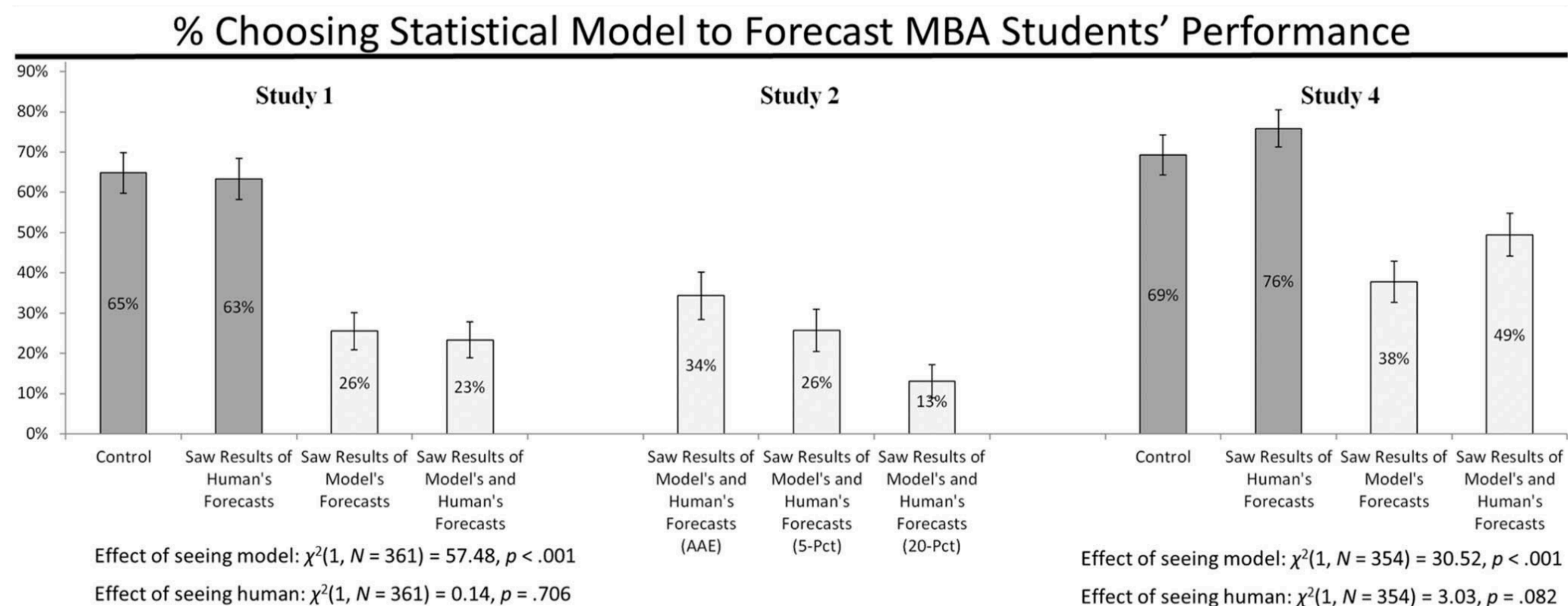
# Experiments 1

## Algorithm Aversion: People Erroneously Avoid Algorithms After Seeing Them Err

Berkeley J. Dietvorst, Joseph P. Simmons, and Cade Massey  
University of Pennsylvania

Do people trust algorithms  
(even when they should)?

Journal of Experimental Psychology, 2014





# Experiments 2

## The Welfare Effects of Social Media<sup>†</sup>

By HUNT ALLCOTT, LUCA BRAGHIERI, SARAH EICHMEYER,  
AND MATTHEW GENTZKOW\*

American Economic Review, 2020

What are the causal effects of social media on time spent online, political polarisation, and well-being?

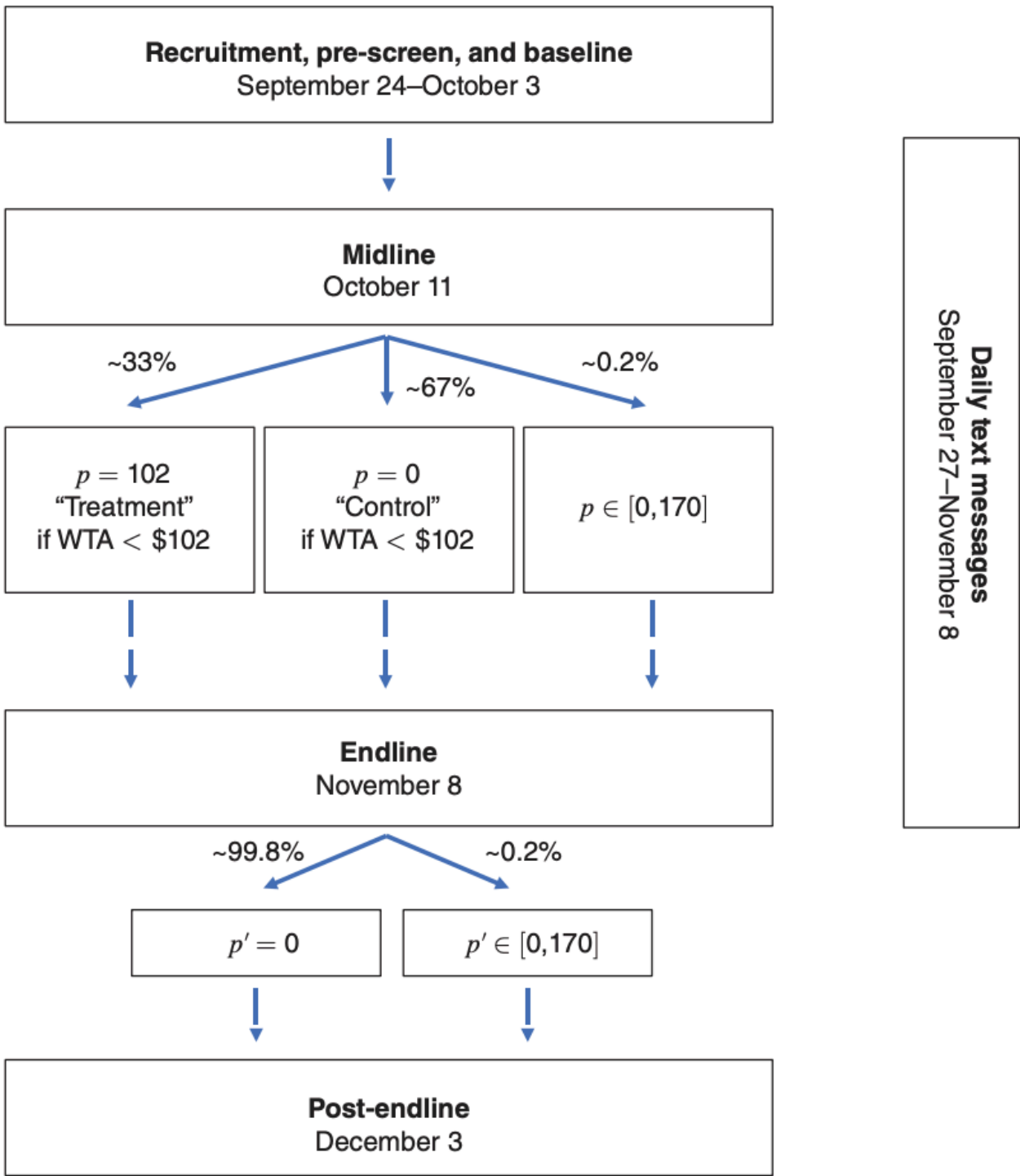


FIGURE 1. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

TABLE 1—SAMPLE SIZES	
Phase	Sample size
Recruitment and baseline	$N = 1,892,191$ were shown ads
	$N = 32,201$ clicked on ads
	$N = 22,324$ completed pre-screen survey
	$N = 20,959$ were from United States and born between 1900 and 2000
	$N = 17,335$ had $15 < \text{daily Facebook minutes} \leq 600$
Midline	$N = 7,455$ consented to participate
	$N = 3,910$ finished baseline
	$N = 2,897$ had valid baseline and were randomized, of which:
	$N = 2,897$ began midline
	$N = 2,743$ received a price offer, of which:
Endline	$N = 1,661$ were in impact evaluation sample
	$N = 2,710$ began endline
	$N = 2,684$ finished endline, of which:
	$N = 1,637$ were in impact evaluation sample
	$N = 2,067$ reported Facebook mobile app use, of which:
Post-endline	$N = 1,219$ were in impact evaluation sample

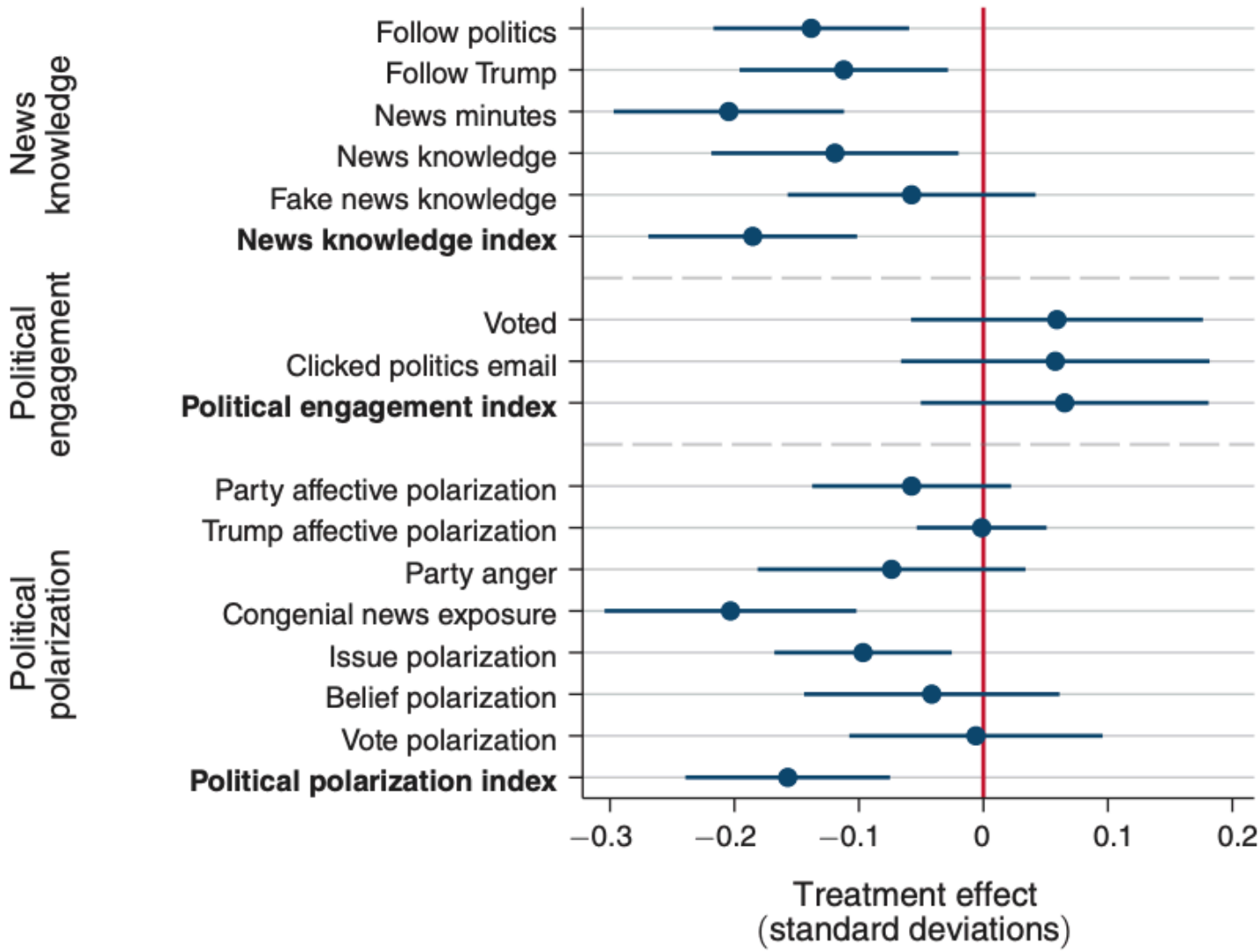


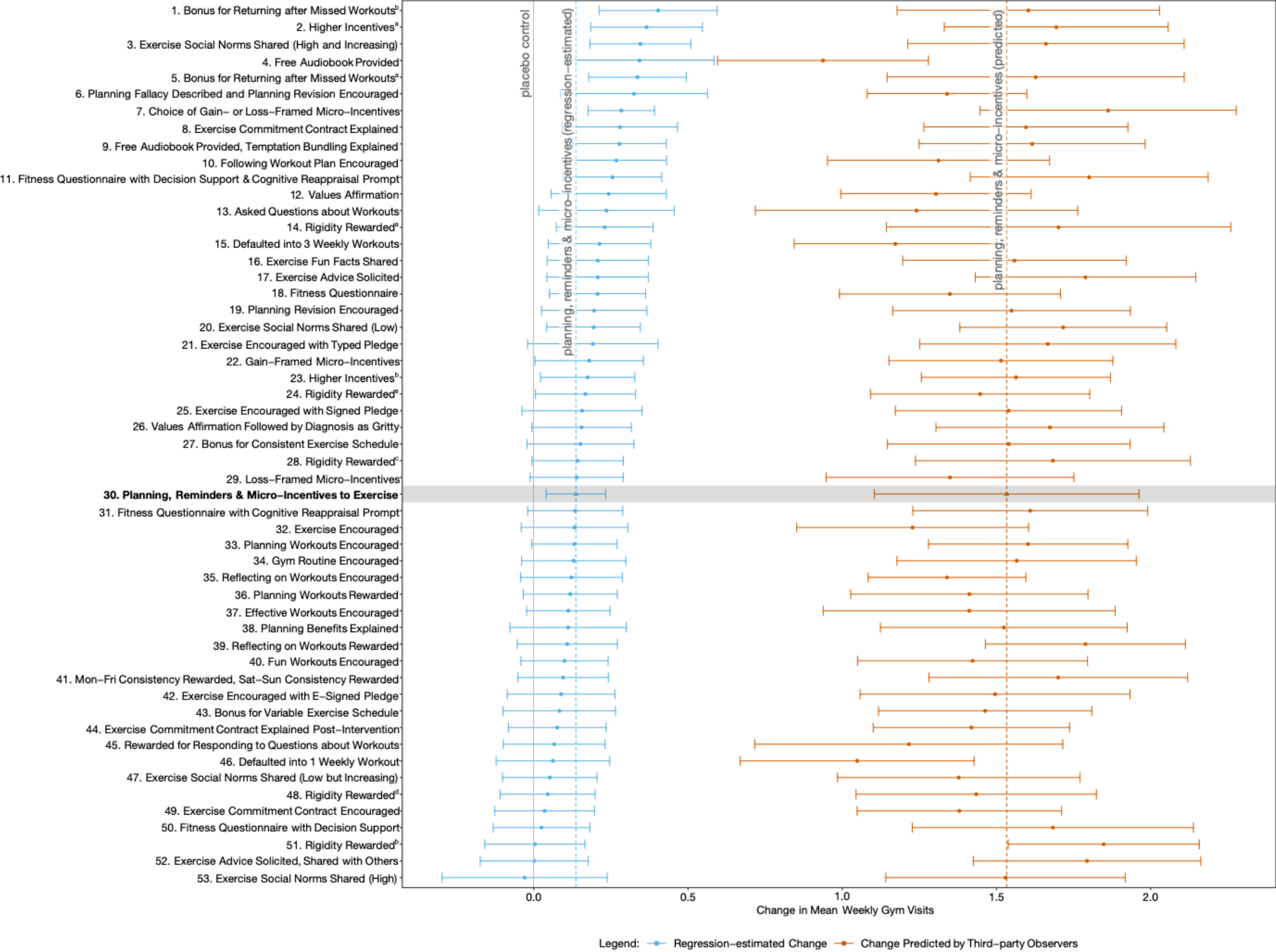
FIGURE 3. EFFECTS ON NEWS AND POLITICAL OUTCOMES

# Experiments 2

## Megastudies improve the impact of applied behavioural science

Nature, 2021

What interventions increase exercise? (And running experiments with many treatments)





# Asking questions

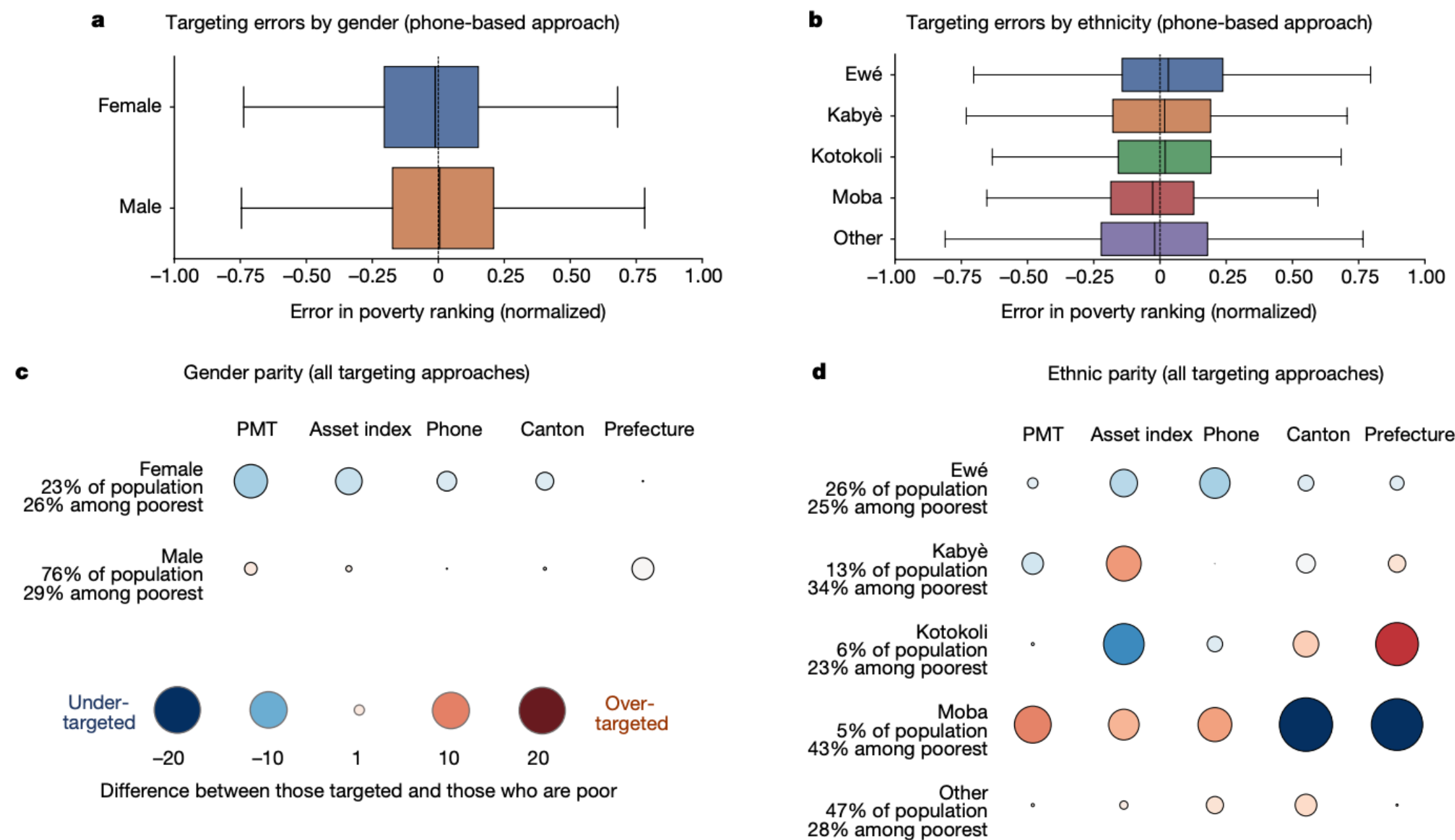
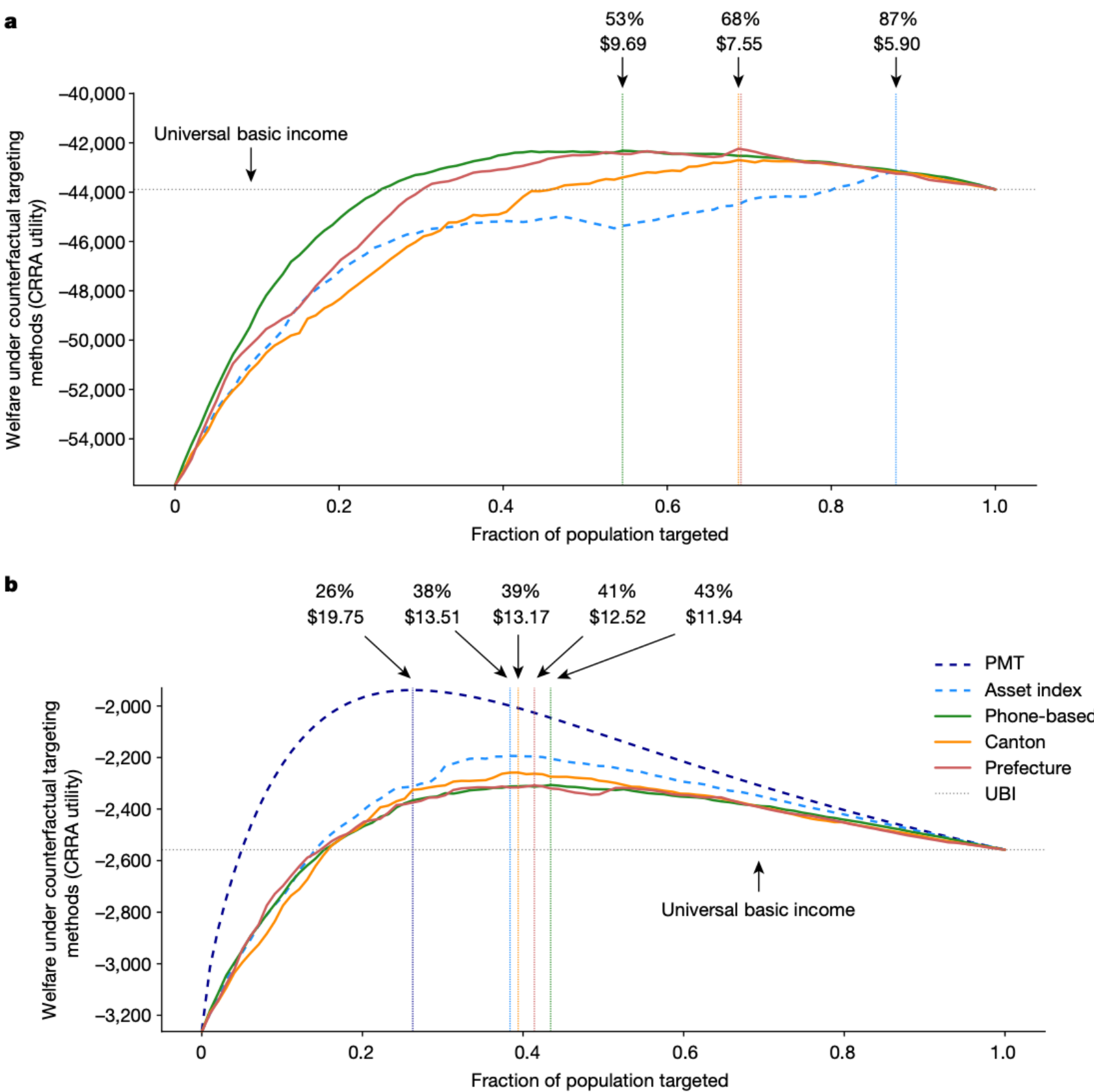
## Article

## Machine learning and phone data can improve targeting of humanitarian aid

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04484-9> Emily Aiken<sup>1,5</sup>, Suzanne Bellue<sup>2</sup>, Dean Karlan<sup>3</sup>, Chris Udry<sup>4</sup> & Joshua E. Blumenstock<sup>1,5</sup>✉  
Received: 15 July 2021

Nature, 2022

Can we improve aid targeting with amplified asking?



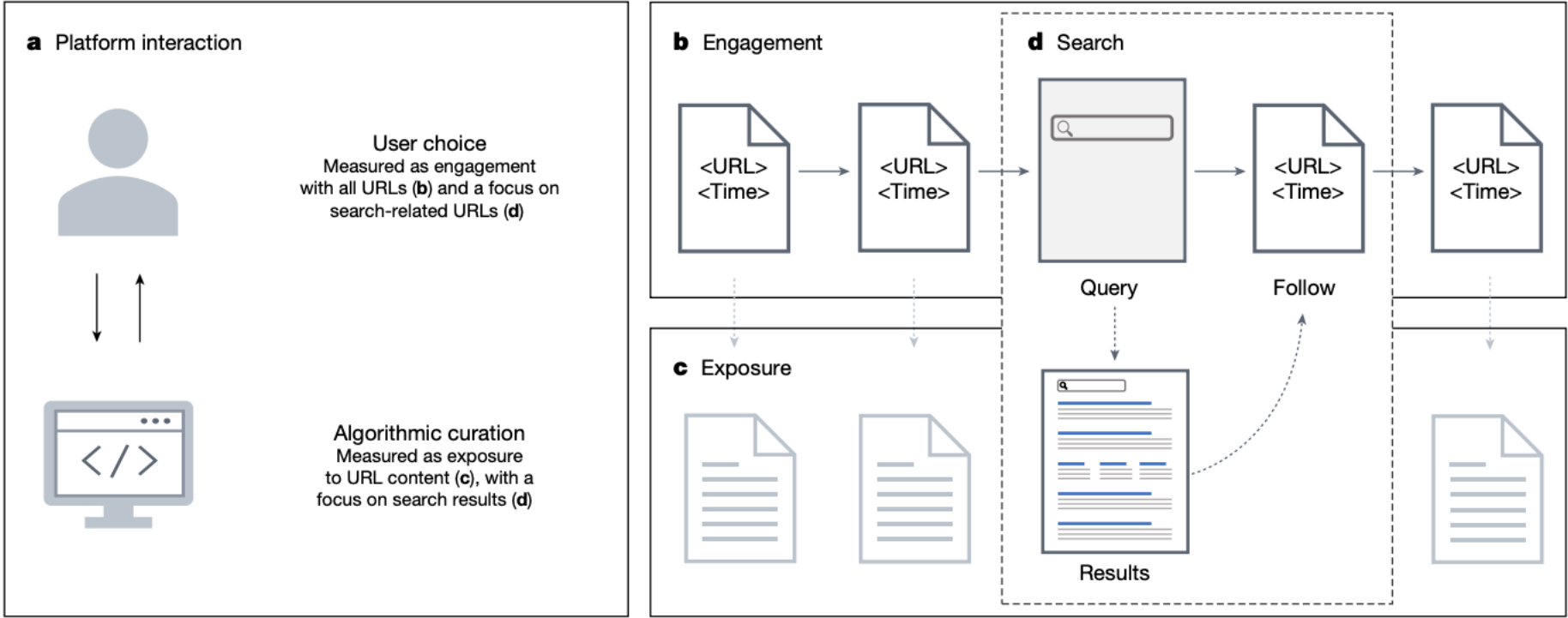
# Asking questions

## Article

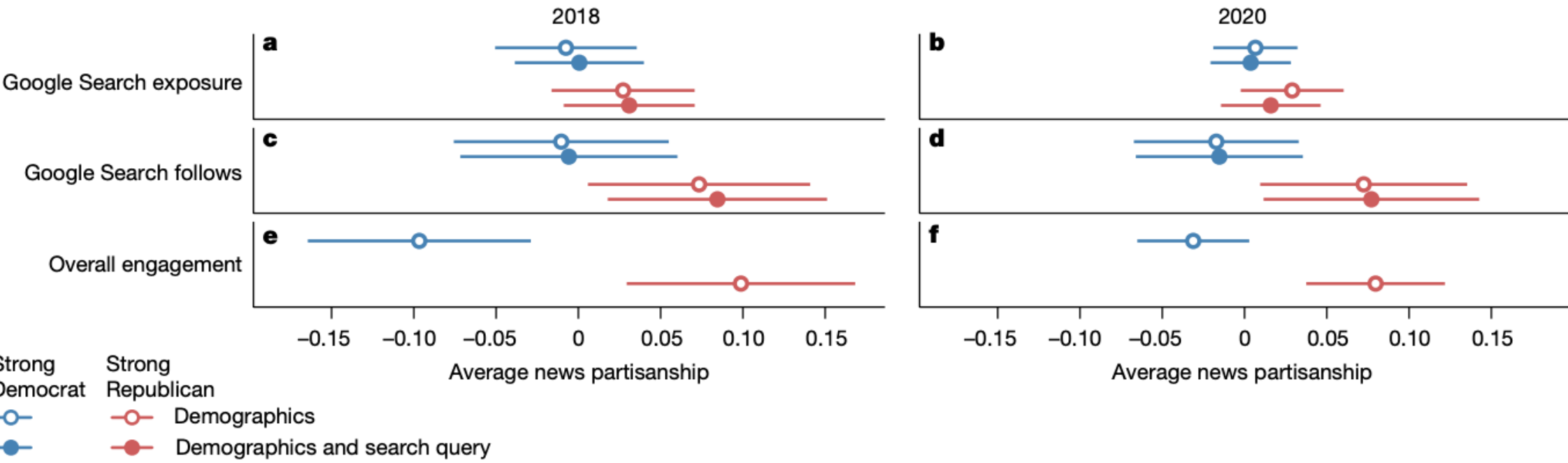
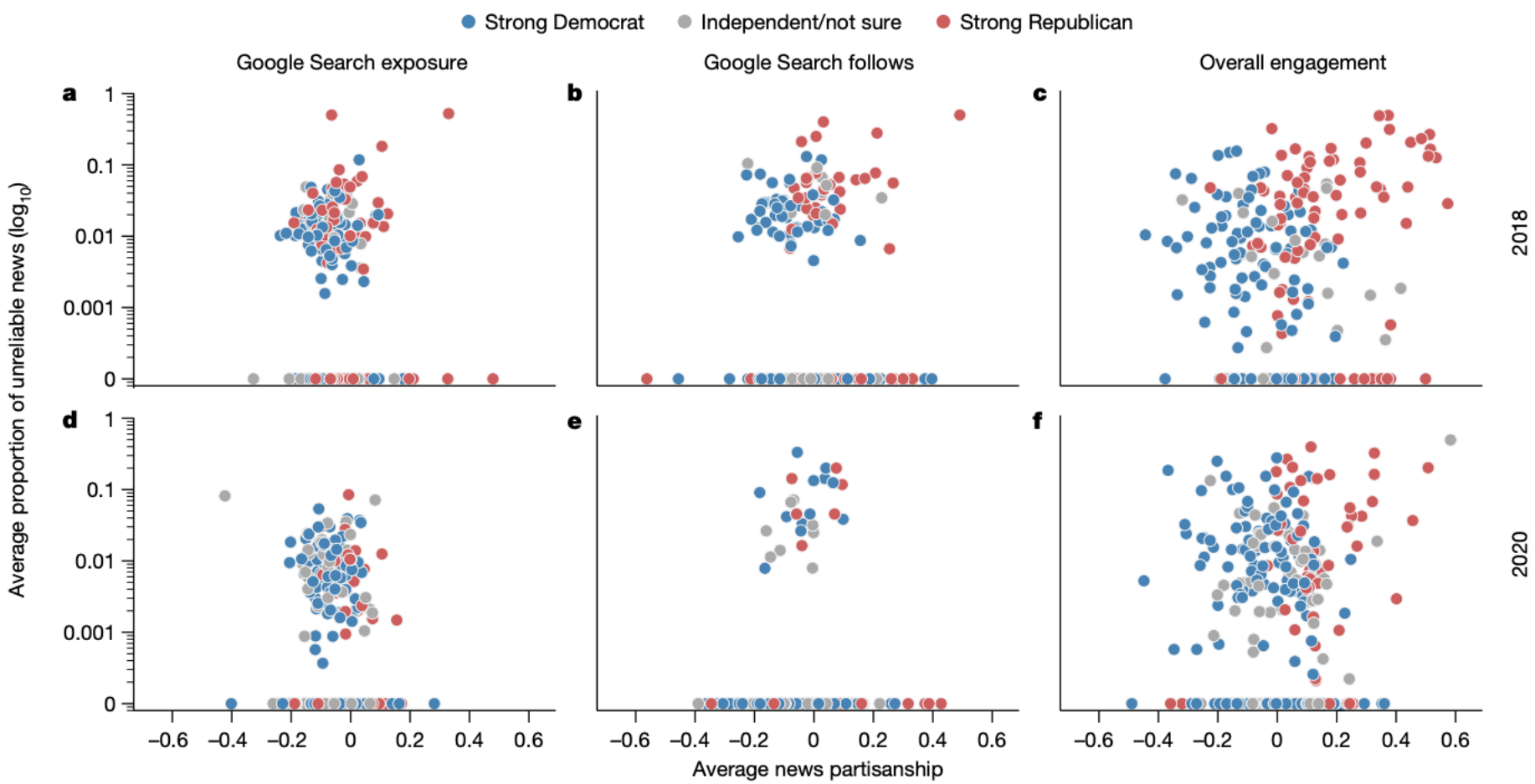
# Users choose to engage with more partisan news than they are exposed to on Google Search

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06078-5> Ronald E. Robertson<sup>1,2</sup>, Jon Green<sup>2</sup>, Damian J. Ruck<sup>2</sup>, Katherine Ognyanova<sup>3</sup>, Christo Wilson<sup>2,4</sup> & David Lazer<sup>2</sup>  
Received: 17 February 2022

Nature, 2023



Is user selection or algorithmic influence a bigger driver of partisan news engagement on Google?







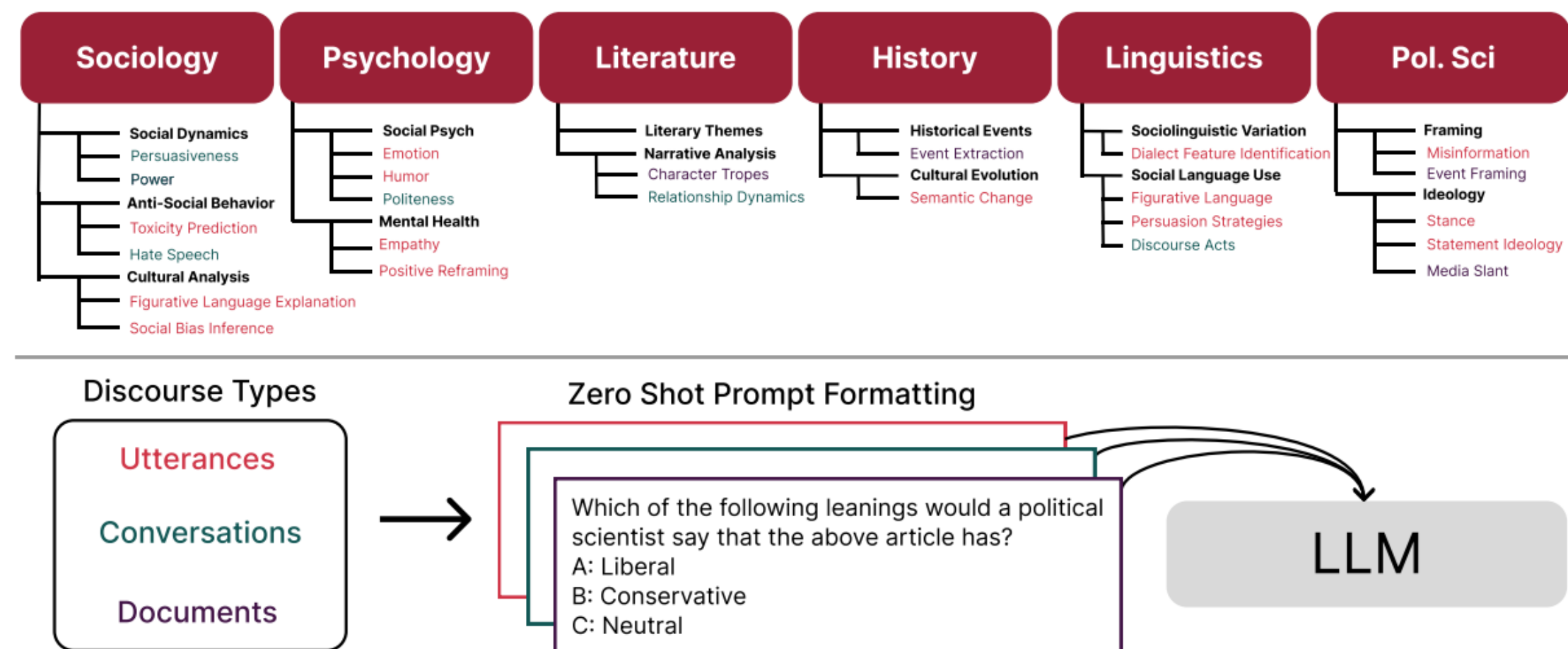
# Deep learning

## Can Large Language Models Transform Computational Social Science?

Caleb Ziems\* William Held\* Omar Shaikh\* Jiaao Chen\*  
Zhehao Zhang\* Diyi Yang\*

 Georgia Institute of Technology,  Shanghai Jiao Tong University,  Stanford University  
{cziems, wheld3, jiaaochen}@gatech.edu, zzh12138@sjtu.edu.cn, {oshaikh, diyiy}@stanford.edu

Preprint, 2023



## How can we use LLMs to augment CSS?

Model Data	Baselines		FLAN-T5					FLAN	Chat	text-001				text-002	text-003
	Rand	Finetune	Small	Base	Large	XL	XXL	UL2	ChatGPT	Ada	Babb.	Curie	Dav.	Davinci	Davinci
Utterance Level Tasks															
Dialect	4.5	41.5	1.9	2.3	15.8	16.5	22.6	23.7	15.0	5.3	5.6	6.0	10.9	10.5	16.9
Emotion	16.7	91.7	23.9	65.3	69.1	65.9	66.7	70.3	46.2	44.6	16.1	18.7	19.3	39.8	36.5
Figurative	25.0	94.4	23.6	29.0	25.4	40.2	56.0	64.0	50.2	25.0	24.4	25.0	28.8	52.0	60.6
Humor	50.0	73.1	52.0	51.8	56.2	59.0	50.6	58.8	55.4	55.2	59.0	58.6	50.4	51.4	51.0
Ideology	33.3	61.9	33.1	39.2	48.6	49.2	54.4	48.2	54.8	–	33.3	33.3	34.3	57.6	48.2
Impl. Hate	14.3	69.9	17.7	22.7	17.9	36.3	34.5	35.9	29.7	17.1	18.6	15.7	21.3	22.7	27.1
Misinfo	50.0	82.3	50.0	55.4	69.2	70.2	71.2	77.6	69.0	–	50.4	52.2	52.6	75.6	75.0
Persuasion	12.5	40.4	14.3	19.8	43.9	43.4	†51.6	49.4	40.9	–	16.5	17.0	18.8	26.3	26.3
Sem. Chng.	50.0	65.7	50.3	50.0	†66.9	55.5	51.2	53.7	56.1	50.0	50.5	54.3	39.5	45.9	50.0
Stance	33.3	47.0	34.7	47.8	51.3	52.6	55.9	55.4	†72.0	–	33.1	31.0	48.0	57.4	41.3
Conversation Level Tasks															
Discourse	14.3	47.5	14.7	26.4	37.2	44.3	†52.5	41.9	44.5	13.1	16.5	14.3	17.0	39.8	37.8
Empathy	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	35.1	33.7	36.8	†39.8	37.6	–	33.1	35.3	33.3	33.3	33.3
Persuasion	50.0	50.0	48.4	55.3	†57.1	53.0	53.5	53.2	52.9	50.2	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.8	55.9
Politeness	33.3	75.9	33.9	44.2	53.0	59.2	54.2	52.8	50.8	33.1	33.1	32.1	42.2	55.6	47.8
Power	50.0	74.0	47.6	47.2	50.4	56.8	58.8	60.8	61.6	–	52.2	50.6	49.6	50.5	57.0
Toxicity	50.0	64.6	46.8	50.6	49.4	54.2	50.0	56.6	53.0	44.6	50.6	49.0	50.8	52.2	51.2
Document Level Tasks															
Event Arg.*	–	59.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	22.3	–	–	8.6	8.6	21.6	22.9
Event Det.*	–	75.8	9.8	7.0	1.0	10.9	41.8	50.6	51.3	29.8	47.3	47.4	44.4	48.8	52.4
Ideology	33.3	51.0	33.1	34.1	34.1	32.1	49.6	40.3	58.8	32.9	35.1	33.6	25.6	48.7	44.0
Tropes	1.4	0.8	0.9	4.4	8.8	7.9	10.5	16.7	25.4	4.3	7.0	9.6	10.5	18.4	18.4

Table 2: **Zero-shot Classification Results** across our selected CSS benchmark tasks. All tasks are evaluated with accuracy, except for Event Arg. and Event Detection, which use F-1. Models which did not always follow instructions are marked with a dash. Best zero-shot models are in green ; zero-shot models that are not significantly worse ( $P > .05$ ; Paired Bootstrap test (Dror et al., 2018)) are marked blue ; and † denote cases where zero-shot LLMs match or beat finetuned baselines.



# Deep learning

## Trucks Don't Mean Trump: Diagnosing Human Error in Image Analysis

J.D. Zamfirescu-Pereira  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, USA

Allison Koenecke  
Microsoft Research and Cornell  
University  
Cambridge, USA

Jerry Chen  
Stanford University  
Stanford, USA

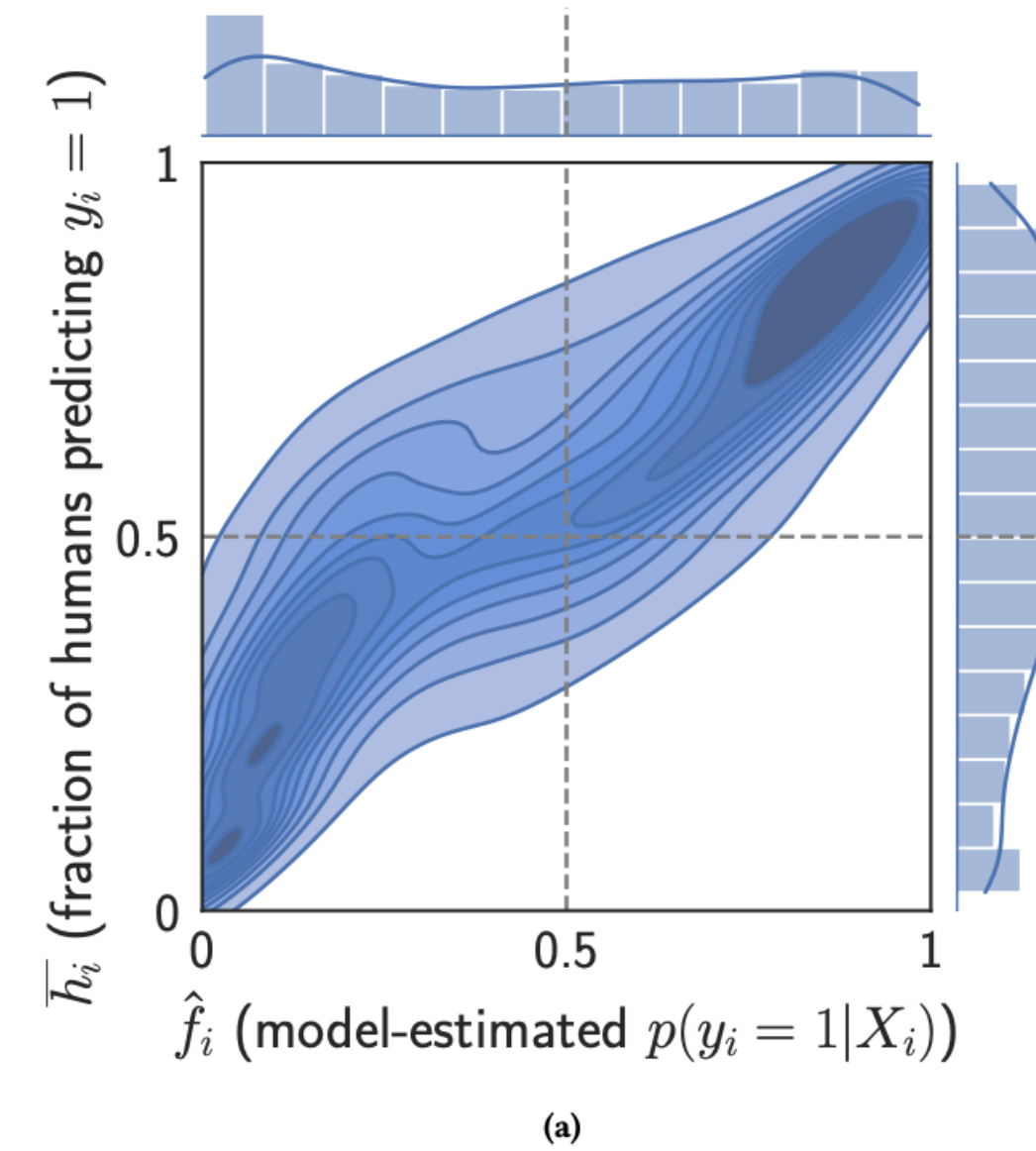
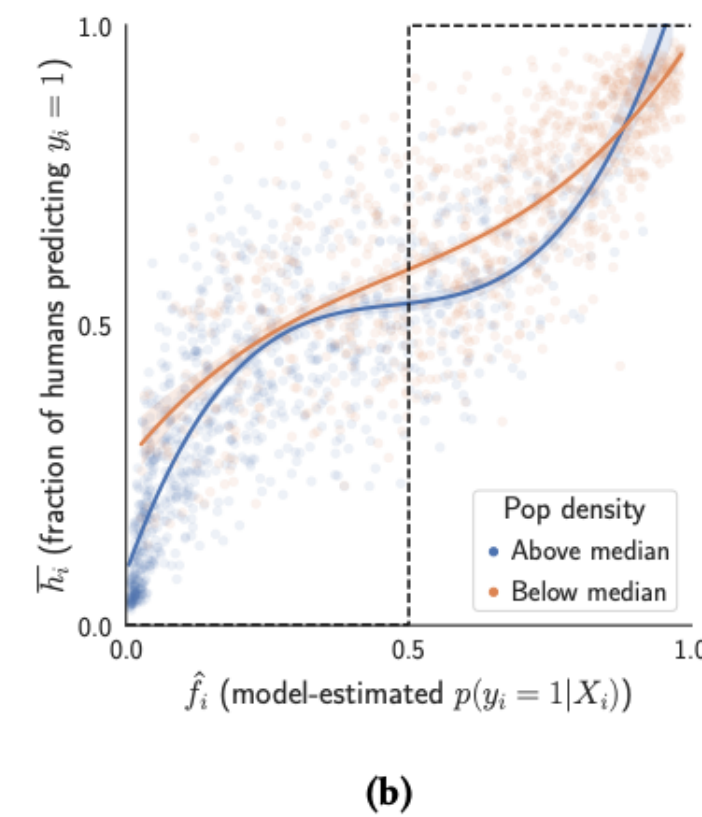
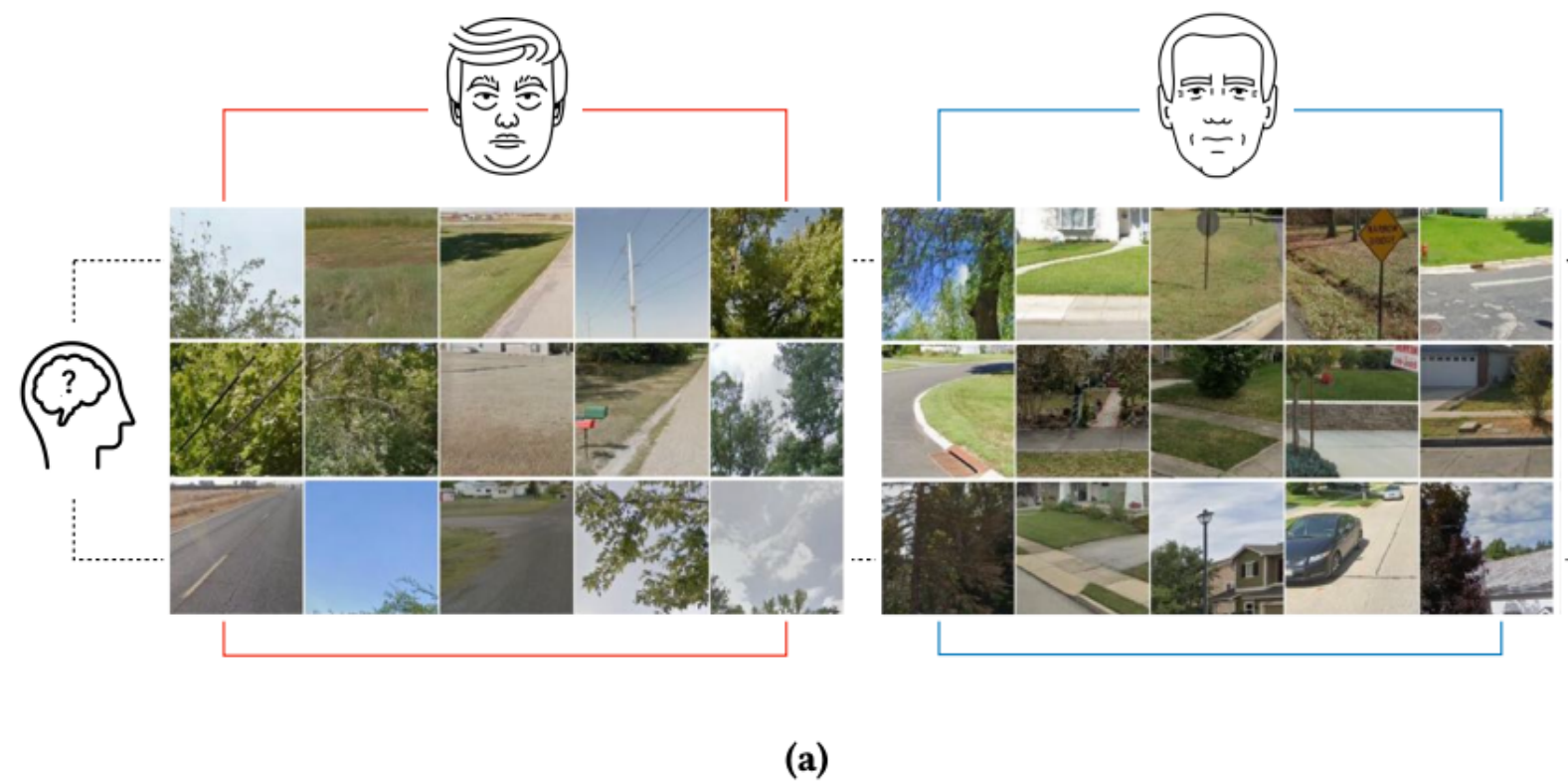
Nikhil Garg  
Cornell Tech  
New York City, USA

Emily Wen  
Stanford University  
Stanford, USA

Emma Pierson  
Cornell Tech  
New York City, USA

Why do people make mistakes in  
analyzing images?

FAccT, 2022





# Ethics in computational social science

## Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification\*

Joy Buolamwini

MIT Media Lab 75 Amherst St. Cambridge, MA 02139

JOYAB@MIT.EDU

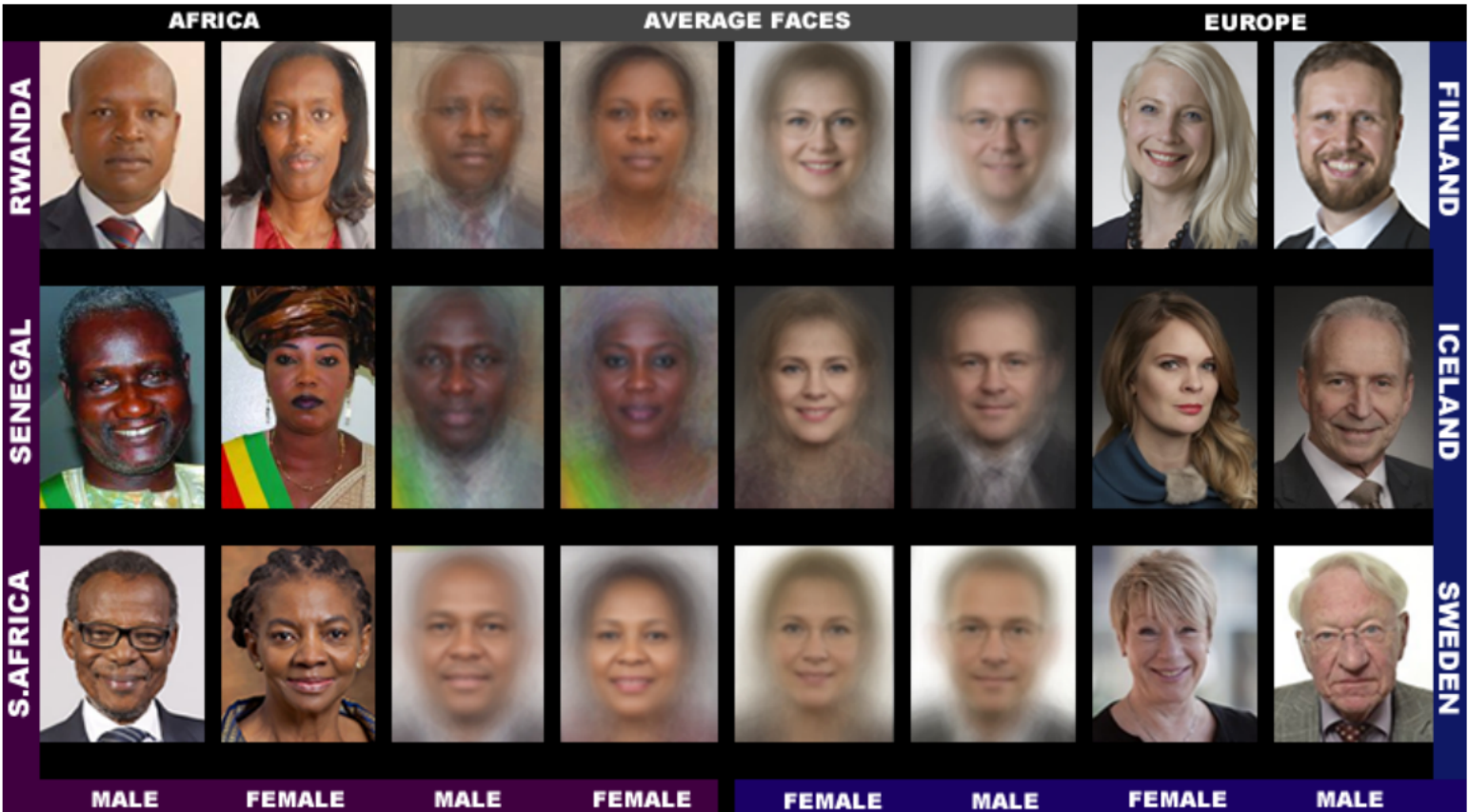
Timnit Gebru

Microsoft Research 641 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10011

TIMNIT.GEBRU@MICROSOFT.COM

Are facial recognition systems  
fair across groups?

FAccT, 2018



Classifier	Metric	All	F	M	Darker	Lighter	DF	DM	LF	LM
MSFT	TPR(%)	93.7	89.3	97.4	87.1	99.3	79.2	94.0	98.3	100
	Error Rate(%)	6.3	10.7	2.6	12.9	0.7	20.8	6.0	1.7	0.0
	PPV (%)	93.7	96.5	91.7	87.1	99.3	92.1	83.7	100	98.7
	FPR (%)	6.3	2.6	10.7	12.9	0.7	6.0	20.8	0.0	1.7
Face++	TPR(%)	90.0	78.7	99.3	83.5	95.3	65.5	99.3	90.2	99.2
	Error Rate(%)	10.0	21.3	0.7	16.5	4.7	34.5	0.7	9.8	0.8
	PPV (%)	90.0	98.9	85.1	83.5	95.3	98.8	76.6	98.9	92.9
	FPR (%)	10.0	0.7	21.3	16.5	4.7	0.7	34.5	0.8	9.8
IBM	TPR(%)	87.9	79.7	94.4	77.6	96.8	65.3	88.0	92.9	99.7
	Error Rate(%)	12.1	20.3	5.6	22.4	3.2	34.7	12.0	7.1	0.3
	PPV (%)	87.9	92.1	85.2	77.6	96.8	82.3	74.8	99.6	94.8
	FPR (%)	12.1	5.6	20.3	22.4	3.2	12.0	34.7	0.3	7.1



# Ethics in computational social science

## Easily Accessible Text-to-Image Generation Amplifies Demographic Stereotypes at Large Scale

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Myra Cheng\*  
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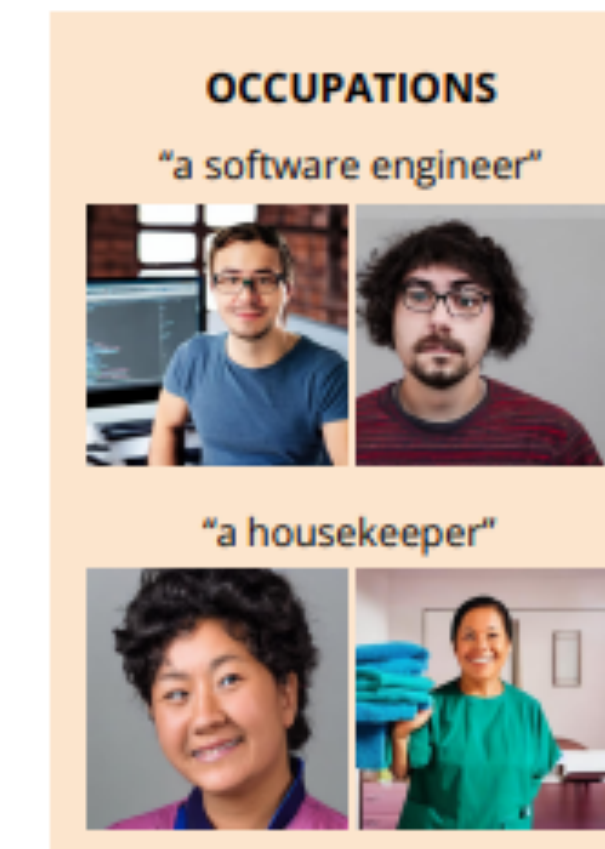
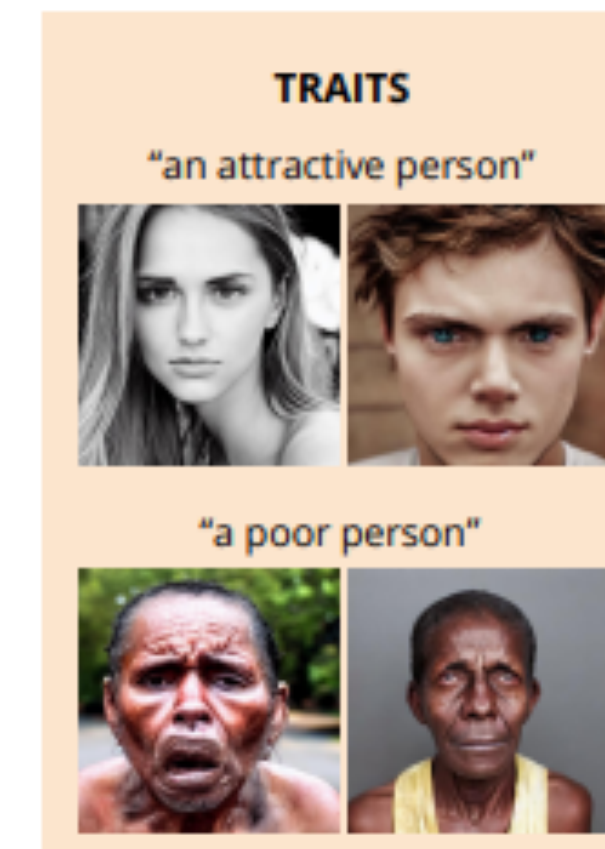
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ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), 2023

Do generated images amplify stereotypes?



# Logistics

- Course webpage: <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~ashton/csc2552/>
- Due Wednesday at 9pm: Reviews of the two papers we will discuss
- Reviews will be submitted on MarkUs in PDF format
- In-class discussions: 2-3 people will present each paper
  - Who wants to go next week? (fun!)
  - Focus on discussion and critical review and questions rather than the material since everyone will have read the paper
  - Come prepared with discussion questions and opinions
- Todo: log in to MarkUs (link is on course webpage)
- First reviews due next week