Data for Development:
an under-valued topic

Data in the media

Bloomberg, February 20, 2017

Trump Team Fosters Fears He'll Adopt Alternative Economic Facts

by Michelle Jamrisko
20 February, 2017 6:01 AM *Updated on* 20 February, 2017 3:05 PM

The Guardian, January 19, 2017

How statistics lost their power – and why we should fear what comes next
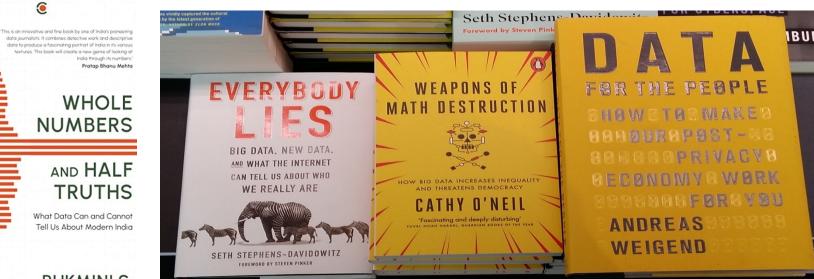
The ability of statistics to accurately represent the world is declining. In its wake, a new age of big data controlled by private companies is taking over – and putting democracy in peril
by William Davies

The Guardian, February 26, 2017

The Guardian view on big data: the danger is less democracy
Editorial

The information gathered about us by the internet giants makes our political system vulnerable to new forms of manipulation

The Financial Times, August 26, 2016

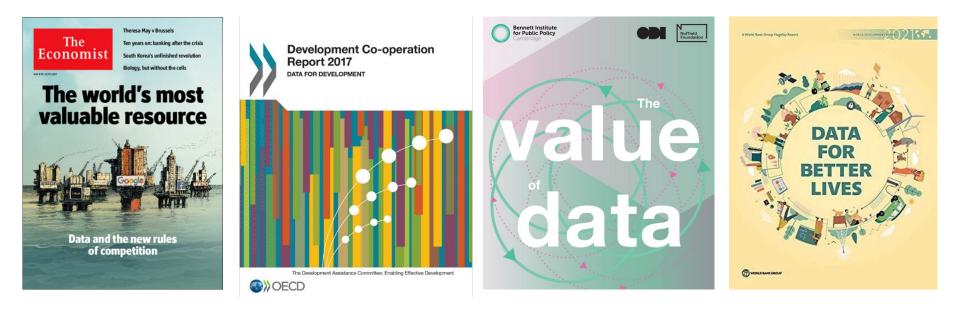Yuval Noah Harari on big data, Google and the end of free will

Forget about listening to ourselves. In the age of data, algorithms have the answer, writes the historian Yuval Noah Harari
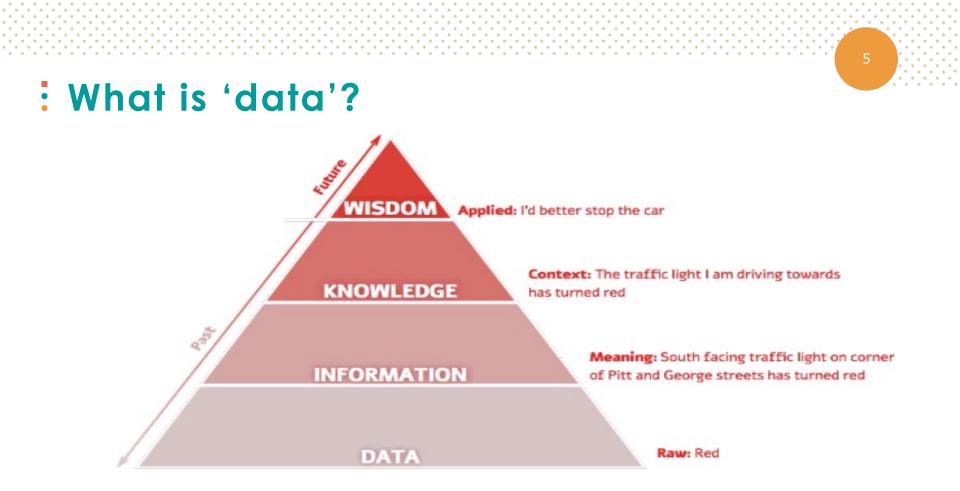
...and as books

Data in economics and development

⦂ What is 'data'?

⋮ **What is development data?**

Administrative data and registries

Survey Data and census

New data sources

Does data matter for development?

- Decision-making
- Government accountability
- Economic activity
- Help citizens make better decisions

Figure 1 Three pathways along which data can foster development

Data analytics and processing

Individuals
Civil society
Academia

Government
International organizations

Private sector

Data production and collection

Development

Greater transparency
More data on individuals
Production process in firms

Reuse
Reuse

Greater accountability
Criminal activity, dark net
Better policy making and service delivery
Political surveillance
Increased business opportunities
Market concentration
Widening inequality
Discrimination

Source: WDR 2021 team.
Note: Positive impacts are shown in green; negative impacts are shown in red.

State of play in development data

Good data for development are lacking

44% of countries worldwide do not have comprehensive birth and death registration data

13% of countries worldwide have a dedicated budget for gender statistics

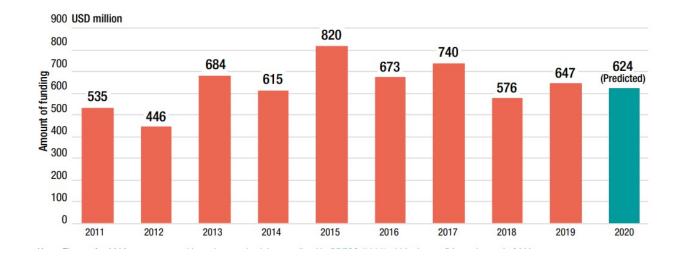**37 countries** have statistical laws that meet UN standards

No data exist for two thirds of Sustainable Development Goal indicators

Limited data, of low quality and outdated.
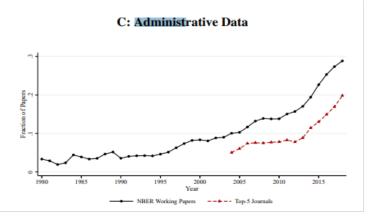
Support for data and statistic is stagnant

Global commitments to statistics

Source: Partner Report on Support to Statistics 2021

Development data – academic perspective

- Cutting edge of economics and development research: admin data and new data sources on the rise

C: Administrative Data

Development data – academic perspective

- Data use, value and impact as research topics

- Data for development not only technical, data science but also governance, legal, political economy, sociological etc questions