Novice vs. Expert Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind

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Session Overview

- Brief Background
- Examine authentic example of an expert making sense of a data representation from the media
 - In small groups, participants will discuss (and record on a collaborative whiteboard) the habits of mind they identify in the example
 - Brainstorm a list of any other habits of mind that may be important for making sense of data representations from a critical perspective.
- Brief context of this snippet of my study
- Overview of Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind (CSLHM)
- Comparison of the CSLHM of both a novice and an expert will to illustrate what is typical and what is possible.

I hope that you (goals of the session):

- Gain an understanding of what Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind (CSLHM) are and why they are important
- See the value in using the guiding questions in the CSLHM framework to inform instruction, development of instructional materials/activities, and as a tool for students to use to improve their analysis of statistical messages presented in the real world

Data is Everywhere

"a world driven by data"

(Levitt, 2019, 42:34)

"golden era of data"

(Bersin & Zao-Sanders, 2020)



The Composition Of Misinformation **Coronavirus Misinformation** Composition of Covid-19 rumors, stigma and conspiracy theories circulating on social media/online news platforms* Illness, transmission 24% and mortality Control measures Miscellaneous Treatment and cure Cause of disease including 15% the origin Violence 1% * Based on 2,311 reports in 25 languages from 87 countries between Dec 31, 2019 and Apr 15, 2020. Source: American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 000 statista 🗹 eepens merican

FAKE NEWS FACTS



The Composition Of Coronavirus Misinformation

Illness, transmission and mortality Control measures Miscellaneous

Treatment and cure Cause of disease including

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the origin

Violence

Composition of Covid-19 rumors, stigma and conspiracy theories circulating on social media/online news platforms'

Mininformation

There is a need for clearly articulating the ideal habits of mind for making sense of statistical messages or the *Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind* (CSLHM)

FACTS

Main Purpose of my Dissertation

Goal 1

Describe the Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind (CSLHM) in detail and provide an example of how an expert and novice would enact CSLHM

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Goal 1

Explore the similarities and differences of CSLHM enactment across individuals with varying backgrounds

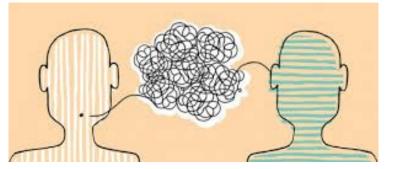
Goal 2

Main Purpose of my Dissertation

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Describe the Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind (CSLHM) in detail and provide an example of how an expert would enact CSLHM	Explore the similarities and differences of CSLHM enactment across individuals with varying backgrounds	Explore how pre-service secondary mathematics teachers (PSMTs) enact CSLHM

Main Purpose of my Dissertation: Focus Today is Goal 1

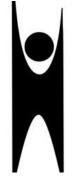
Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Describe the Critical Explore the Explore how similarities and Statistical Literacy pre-service secondary Habits of Mind differences of mathematics teachers (CSLHM) in detail **CSLHM** enactment (PSMTs) enact and provide an across individuals CSLHM example of how an with varying expert and novice backgrounds would enact CSLHM















Libberal (Adj.)Not limited to or by establisher, traditional, orthodox, or authoritarian attitudes, views, or dogmas; free from bigotry.

Let's Start with Common Ground: Terminology

What do we mean by **Habits of Mind**?

• Habits of Mind refer to the collection of thinking behaviors that when used appropriately lead to sense-making

(Costa, 1991, 2008; Costa & Kallick, 2000a, 2000b; Goldenburg, 1996)

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• Statistical Habits of Mind describe the routinized ways in which an expert would make sense of a statistical investigation

(Lee & Tran, 2015)

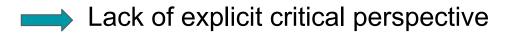
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What do we mean by **Critical Statistical Literacy**?

When statistical literacy entails interrogating statistical content to inform reflection, action, or change, it is referred to as **Critical Statistical Literacy** (CSL).

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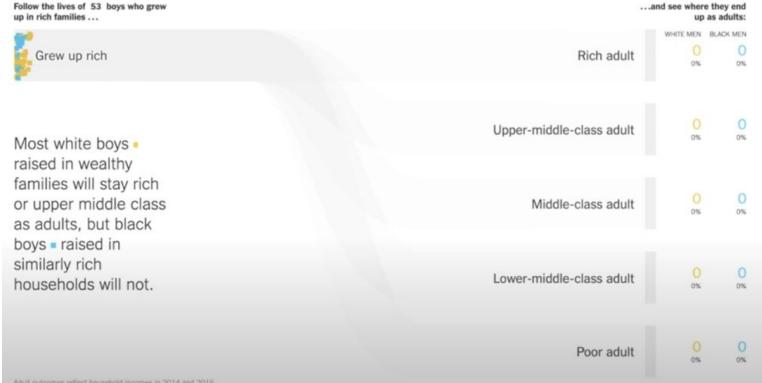
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 - Teachers were asked to watch the dynamic data representation and talk aloud as they made sense of it, watching as many times as needed.
 - Then asked what conversations they would have about the representation with trusted friends/family members

Focus of Today: NY Times Dynamic Graph



An Expert Making Sense of a Statistical Message from the Media

In Small Groups

- Discuss (and record in Jamboard) the habits of mind that you identify. In other words what does this expert do that enables them to consume and make sense of the statistical message in a critical manner?
- Brainstorm a list of any other habits of mind that may be important for making sense of data representations from a critical perspective.

Commonalities Across Groups

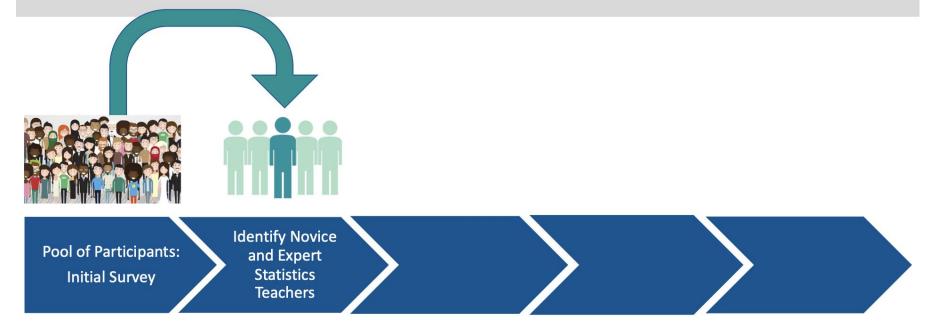
- Effectiveness of Visualization, Question construction (does it match data?), How it demonstrates the fall, is it just eye candy?
- Do we Trust the Source?
- Count vs. Percent, Concerns about units
- Confirmation Bias
- What do the categories mean how are they defined?

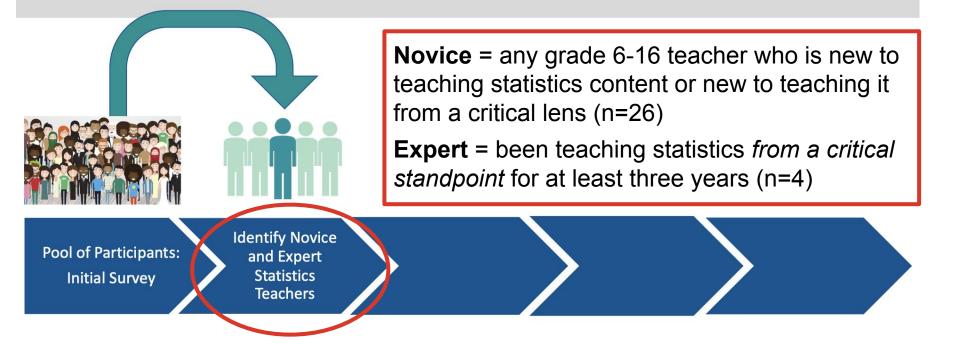
Context of my Study

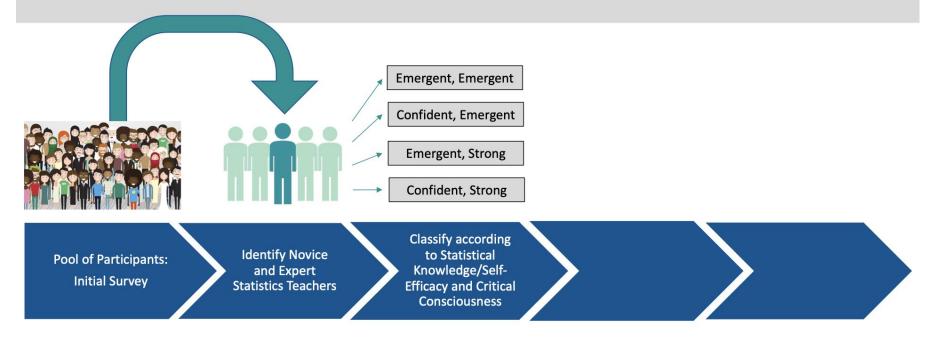


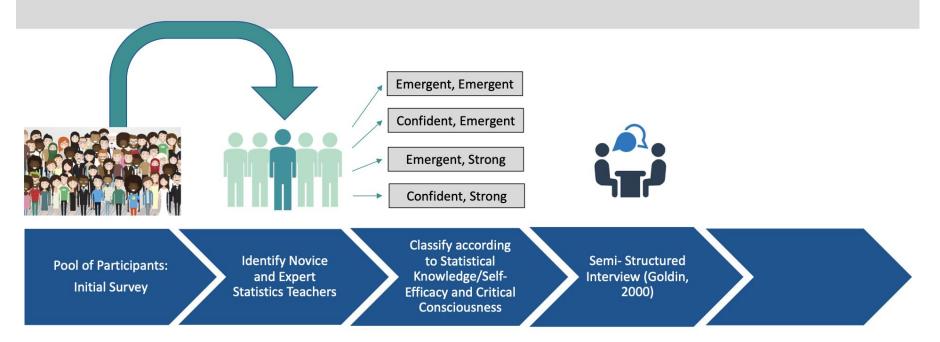
Pool of Participants: Initial Survey

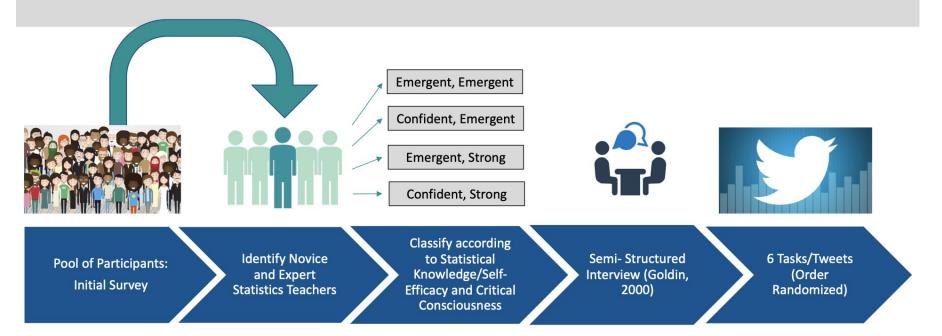












Context

Statistical messages

- From Twitter
- Contain Static or Dynamic Graph

Why Tweets?

- Brief but real-life
- Folks use it as news source
- Engage with statistical message as they would normally



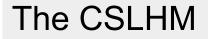
What are the Critical Statistical Literacy Habits of Mind (CSLHM)?

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 - operationalized Gal's (2002) worry questions from his critical stance to develop an initial set of CSLHM
 - distinct absence of a true critical perspective -- I agree with Weiland (2017)
 - operationalized Weiland's (2017) emphasis on using statistics to interrogate, disrupt, and dismantle injustice, as well as his focus on communicating and understanding the influence of one's own social and political position



Questioning Sample Size and Methods

Recognizing Appropriate Statistics and Appropriate Representations

Desiring Additional Information

Acknowledging Alternate Explanations

Recognition of One's own Sociopolitical/Critical Consciousness

Employing Active Citizenry

Acknowledging Ethical Considerations

In Small Groups

- What differences do you see between the novice and expert examples?
- Which guiding questions were addressed? And to what depth?

Novice	Expert
Um, so I guess when I think of the wealth gap, I'd always thought of, like, I had never thought of it from this angle. So I'd always thought that, I guess the reason there was such a wealth gap, um, between like black Americans and white Americans was that, uh, black Americans had never like broken out of the lower class, like the poverty shell, which not all this is, but, um, like inner city, they had been in a poorer. Cause that's what I see, not with black Americans, but with white Americans around, we don't have the percentage of black people in our town is very small. Um, but for white Americans around me, the primary, primarily what I see is lower class families staying in that lower class, um, area and not, and I think this is the conversation I'll be having with probably, yeah, the people that I'm, that I share beliefs with around me, this would be this conversation. So what I had mostly seen was, um, people in, white Americans, low, low to middle class or poor staying in that, in my town. And so when I had thought of the wealth gap, I was always thinking of kind of that group of people and then black people who were also initially in the	I'll start by recognizing that this is an issue I care about deeply. And in this particular moment, unless I actually have somebody who can give me an informed opposing argument, I'm not going to bother considering it, just because of this issue and how, how, important I think it is. I want to intuitively go look there's evidence of systemic racism, but I don't think that there actually is per se, because I don't know enough about how this was calculated to really say that it was done rigorously to say that I could actually conclude something that powerful from it. And I really don't want to fall into the pitfall of making conclusions that match what my beliefs are without actually making sure that the data was telling me that's what what's happening. Um, because you know, bad data goes, knows no political affiliation. They, they both do it. Everybody does it. Um, everybody's biased. So I'm still hesitant to make any kind of firm conclusions here.

Novice

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Times representation

• identified that they care deeply about

dismantling racial injustice and that it

would be hard to convince them that

such injustice does not exist

 intentionally noted that their analysis of this particular representation should

not be driven by these beliefs

Expert

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Novice	Expert	
 less common to identify the influence that 	• more common to explicitly recognize and/or stop	
their own beliefs and experiences play in	to acknowledge their own beliefs and experiences	
interpreting the data	and how they influence their assessment of the	
\circ If they did, it was often via a	statistical message being presented	
discussion of what they witness in	 Some experts did so more implicitly by 	
the world that surrounds them.	discussing their stance on the issue being	
	addressed.	

In Small Groups

- What differences do you see between the novice and expert examples?
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Desiring Additional Information

Novice	Expert
What time period was this? And so before I can, we can have a real conversation. You would have to know	I'm not sure what timespan it's for, because it would have to be some sort of time series data to go from, grew up rich to what they are as an adult. And all I see down here is "adult outcomes reflect household incomes in 2014 and 15". I would imagine they would have had to have traced back to, to make sense of that. So I'm not sure like how far back they went. Um, so that starts to raise questions of methodology of where this came from.
certain things.	I'm still really hesitant to make any conclusions here because for one, I don't know what "grew up rich" meant, nor do I know what these categories are or where they came from. I'm assuming there's some sort of income intervals that they're using for this, but I don't know what they are. So that makes it all those questions of like, where did these numbers come from? Make me really hesitant to actually conclude anything from this. I want to intuitively go look there's evidence of systemic racism, but I don't think that there actually is per se, because I don't know enough about how this was calculated to really say that it was done rigorously to say that I could actually conclude something that powerful from it.

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Desiring Additional Information

Novice	Expert	
• typically wonder in a general	• experts also wondered about similar questions, yet these questions	
fashion asking questions like	were often explicitly connected to why they desire this information	
"why did they do this?" or	• tend to desire more information regarding specific aspects of the	
"when did this happen?"	methodology that are not transparent in the representation	
	 usually leads experts to look for a source that they can use to 	
	dig for answers	
	• often want to know how the variables are defined, what the creators of	
	the data representation mean by specific terms, what the categories	
	represent, or whether the intervals are consistent	

What is Typical for the remaining CSLHM?

Novice Expe		ert	
•	tend to consider whether the graph is	•	typically emphasize the connection between the
	easy to read or not		statistical message and the choice of measure, test,
•	sometimes ponder the choice of		and/or representation
	statistical measure in a questioning		 assessed if there was a better choice of
	manner (e.g., would a rate be better		statistical measure/test to demonstrate the
	here?)		point (e.g., to make a fair comparison a rate
•	Focus on design elements such as		should have been used) while also attending
	colors		to issues of correlation versus causation

Questioning Sample Size and Methods

Nov	ice	Expe	ert
•	rarely explicitly focus on measures aimed	•	wonder more specifically about who was
	to reduce bias or the specific sampling		sampled and why
	methods	•	question the methodology employed that would
•	common to wonder about aspects of the		make the sample representative of the
	sample that are answered through analysis		population (or not)
	of the representation		\circ $$ and often this includes a discussion of
			their level of trust in the source.

Acknowledging Alternate Explanations

Novice	Expert	
• tended to wonder if other	• experts tended to wonder if other variables play a role and often connected	
variables play a role and	this to their personal experience with the world	
often connected this to their	• more often provided potential explanations from both sides of an	
personal experience with	issue or argument	
the world	• tended to expand upon this by either connecting it to what they have	
\circ tended to wonder in	read or researched or by trying to understand the argument from an	
ways that provided	opposing viewpoint	
potential reasons for	 ponder if those variables were considered and/or controlled for, if 	
what they saw from	information was omitted or not clear, and how transparent the creator of	
one perspective	the visualization/message was about their goal in sharing the information.	

Employing Active Citizenry

Novice	Expert	
• tend to acknowledge inequity and	 tend to acknowledge inequity and express some desire to 	
express some desire to either learn	either learn more or converse on the topic with the goal of	
more or converse on the topic with	challenging someone who does not see or acknowledge the	
the goal of challenging someone	inequity	
who does not see or acknowledge	• tend to express the desire to research to better understand the	
the inequity	context with the goal of being able to better dig into the	
	statistical analysis	
	 explicitly demonstrate how they would or would not use a data 	
	representation to press on the views of others.	

Acknowledging Ethical Considerations

Novice Expert	
• tend to ask questions such as "Why	 tend to explicitly question the transparency or
did this person share this?" or by	motivation behind the message in some way
expressing a general unease such as	• frequently comment on the trustworthiness of the
"There is something off here"	representation as it connects to the creator/source
• did <i>not</i> frequently comment on the	especially if the message was political
trustworthiness of the representation	• often move beyond how a variable is defined to why it
as it connects to the creator/source	is defined the way it is and what purpose(s) that might
	serve

Implications

- In the examples we have seen today, it is evident that even statistics teachers need support to develop and enacting these habits of mind
 - Allison and I have introduced it to preservice secondary math teachers and in their subsequent data talk rehearsals they enacted many, if not all, of the CSLHM
- More research is needed on how to support students and teachers in developing CSLHM

Implications

• The distinct differences in enactment by novice and expert statistics teachers suggests that the CSLHM has both conceptual and analytical power as a framework

Implications: Analytic Power

- CSLHM addresses a gap in the literature by providing an operationalization of CSL.
- Helpful analytical tool for teasing out the important aspects of CSL related to reading the world (e.g., Gutstein, 2003; Weiland, 2017)
 - Helpful grain size for identifying the differences in the ways that individuals enact each of the individual CSLHM
- Given the calls for the need of applying a critical lens to the consumption of statistical messages (e.g., Callingham & Watson, 2017; Cannon, 2020; Weiland, 2017), the field would benefit from further research in this area; we hope that CSHLM can help to move that forward.

Implications: Conceptual Power

- We envision the use of CSLHM to guide the design of instruction for both K-16 students and their teachers
 - In response to the continued call for students and teachers to engage in SL with a critical lens (Weiland, 2017) and research that suggests that this is an area in which students need support (e.g., Callingham & Watson, 2017)
- Since the CSLHM describes each habit of mind and provides guiding questions, we see the potential for CSLHM to support the intentional development of activities and lessons that elicit and/or unpack each CSLHM and specifically those aspects less common to novices.
- Future research should endeavor to reveal the potential of CSLHM to be used in this way.

HUGE THANK YOU to ...

My chair & committee

All the folks that helped with the pilot

Everyone that has talked about CSL, SJ, CM, methods, etc. etc. with me over the years and refined my understanding, goals, hopes, and ultimately this work thus far.



All the Questions Now

(that's how we grow)

Questioning Sample Size and Methods

Novice	Expert
I wonder where the data comes from. I mean, are they pulling it from the same city or are they, do they have the same sample, same population? Were they all throughout the country or world, or were they just picked in certain regions of the area? I mean, the different variables have got to make a difference here. Were half of them Black, half of them white? Was that a statistic or a, or a variable? I mean, I'd like to know that, uh, that little bit of information too.	So one thing I haven't done yet is source any of this. I'm actually kind of just trusting it. Partially because it's the New York Times and generally their editorial board does a decent job of sourcing. But I probably would want to check this because I'm not actually entirely clear where this data comes from. It does make me curious, I'm guessing it's ACS data, American Community Survey, because I'm not sure what other representative sample they would have for this sort of study.

Acknowledging Alternate Explanations

Novice

Like I see this and I don't fully understand it. Um, I mean, I do understand like the numbers, but I don't understand why, like, why is it, um, that 12 percent more of black men end up poor even when they grew up rich? Like, is it college education? Is it police, uh, discrimination, brutality? Like what's the, what's the underlying cause of this. I really look at what, what made that, that young man that was raised in a rich family, white or black, what may, what situation, or what instance made that person or that young man become poor as an adult? Was it, was it drugs? Was it, uh, violence? I'm just wondering what, what is the driving force behind that?

Expert

I'm also thinking about how can we strengthen the argument by making sure that the two groups are comparable. Perhaps we need to know more about other demographic aspects of those families and their professional lives. I know that there's a lot of literature in sociology about all the other factors that would contribute to this. I mean, there's obviously the geography aspect of it. Based on the little I have read, I know a lot of policies have driven the lives of black persons in certain ways in the US in the last couple of decades. That's, that's sort of the best reference I have, but in terms of, uh, what happens to their lands, where the, uh, gentrification is a term I have read about, um, I don't know too much, but I think I know enough to understand that it would have affected them negatively. I want to know what are, what are the other aspects of this story? Cause there's clearly more to it, and I want to learn more about that. I think one question that I would definitely want to keep in mind is what are the confounders, because this is not enough. Where you started matters, but a lot happens to you during your life before you become an adult, that's going to drive your social economic status when you're an adult, so, yeah.

Employing Active Citizenry

Novice

And I had never realized that even for black, um, like black men that grow up rich, there's such a spread that like less black men that grew up rich stay rich than white men. Like I just didn't realize that spread. And I, I don't really have, I mean, I don't have an explanation or a full understanding, so I think this would just leave me like the conversation I would have just kind of, do you see this or understand this? or, um, just kinda start I would start researching I guess. That's kind of what I do when I don't really get something. Is just try to research what's going on.

I'm going to have to share this graphic, and stir up some conversations. I wonder, I wonder if people are ready to have these tough conversations. And I wonder if this, if people are really bothered by things like this?

Expert

And with mom, economics, ooh, with mom, this could be a heated discussion. Um, I think this piece, this piece of, um, causation versus association, wouldn't be obvious to her. And I think I'll have to spend some time, reminding her that the social demographics of the family you're born into don't define who you are. The parts shape your life in many, many ways. Some of them positive, some of them negative, but that's not who you are. I think just because of cultural references, the question of crime would come into the discussion. Like when we talk about rich Black families, where does it come from? And that's not the answer to that question. So I think there'll be a lot of resistance to, resistance from her to the idea that neither the racial makeup of your parents, nor the economic situation of your parents should themselves define where you end up when you grow up. That just because somebody might be born into a Black family, and if we forget that socioeconomic status doesn't mean that yeah, sure, they're just going to be poor. I think I'll be able to get across to her that there's just a lot of questions to ask. And the question is not very simple. I think the piece that I will have a resistance to is if she tries to provide anecdotal evidence. I mean the relative discussion may not be about race. It would be about caste, but in a lot of ways the issues are similar, the questions are similar.

Acknowledging Ethical Considerations

Novice

I'm just noticing things. Most white boys raised in wealthy families will stay rich or upper middle class as adults, but black boys raised in similar rich houses will not [reading visualization]. Well if they don, eventually there has to be an end point to how many, you know, black boys will stay rich. I mean, if it trickles down, it'll be so diminished. It's almost like blacks will not be rich. It's almost like there's a bias in saying that blacks do not have the ability to bounce back and become successful rich in the upper upper class ends of our socioeconomic status. So I'm just noticing there's a bias there with how short it says, but black boys raised in similar rich houses will not

Expert

I think the visualization is powerful in the sense that you can see it. I struggle with it sometimes though, because there is a lot of black box magic behind the scenes, so to speak, and any time that's happening in something, it makes me somewhat hesitant just because I am guessing. It was probably more of a computer science type person that built this thing, and they may have taken creative license to visualize it in certain ways. And so I don't know how accurately it matches the data. I do think it has this dramatic effect of the black boys being the blue dots falling. So you've fallen in stature and in SES and you've fallen visually speaking. Um, so they're certainly trying to highlight that.

So one thing I haven't done yet is source any of this. I'm actually kind of just trusting it. Partially because it's the New York Times and generally their editorial board does a decent job of sourcing. But I probably would want to check this because I'm not actually entirely clear where this data comes from. It does make me curious, I'm guessing it's ACS data, American Community Survey, because I'm not sure what other representative sample they would have for this sort of study.

Novice	Expert
Yeah. Um, this, I dunno, I kind of	I think the visualization is powerful in the sense that you can see it. I struggle with
like that they chose yellow and	it sometimes though, because there is a lot of black box magic behind the scenes,
blue, um, for the, the dots, because	so to speak, and any time that's happening in something, it makes me somewhat
it shows like you have a pretty	hesitant just because I am guessing. It was probably more of a computer science
yellow bar up here with rich adult	type person that built this thing, and they may have taken creative license to
and then a little bit more blue. So	visualize it in certain ways. And so I don't know how accurately it matches the
it's getting to green, um, down here	data. I do think it has this dramatic effect of the black boys being the blue dots
in the upper-middle-class adult and	falling. So you've fallen in stature and in SES and you've fallen visually speaking.
then it gets bluer as you go down.	Um, so they're certainly trying to highlight that.
Um, so I think any other colors	I also don't like how they emphasize the counts, but then shrunk the percentage.
might've been, uh, harder to	Because to me what's more important to look at are the percentages. That's what
differentiate, um, cause like I can	really tells me what's going on. And the percentages are constant. Those aren't
see that it's yellow and the top one	changing. Um, at least I didn't notice them changing drastically.
for rich adult and like really blue	This whole color bar nonsense here [referring to bars filled with blue and yellow],
for poor adult. Um, but it's also, it's	um, to me is just useless visualization because I don't know what's, I don't know if
really cool to see like the dots	it's actually proportional. Why didn't they just turn this into like a stacked bar
move along the screen.	where there's a yellow segment and a blue segment?

Novice

Yeah. Um, this, I dunno, I kind of like that they chose yellow and blue, um, for the, the dots, because it shows like you have a pretty yellow bar up here with rich adult and then a little bit more blue. So it's getting to green, um, down here in the upper-middle-class adult and then it gets bluer as you go down. Um, so I think any other colors might've been, uh, harder to differentiate, um, cause like I can see that it's yellow and the top one for rich adult and like really blue for poor adult. Um, but it's also, it's really cool to see like the dots move along the screen.

The novices focused on the appropriateness

of the color choice and the appeal

of the movement

the counts are visually

larger than the percents

(i.e., font size), but that

percents are the more

appropriate measure for

comparison

Expert

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This whole color bar nonsense here [referring to bars filled with blue and yellow], um, to me is just useless visualization because I don't know what's, I don't know if it's actually proportional. Why didn't they just turn this into like a stacked bar where there's a yellow segment and a blue segment?

the bars collecting the

blue and yellow squares

for each income category

are muddled and that a

stacked bar graph would

be more ideal for

comparison

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Recognizing Appropriate Statistics and Appropriate Representations

Experts were wary of drawing conclusions as they were unsure of how well the representation reflects the proportionality and rigor of the calculations Expert

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Recognizing Appropriate Statistics and Appropriate Representations

noted the power of the

representation in

demonstrating the literal

fall in status from

growing up rich to

becoming an adult of a

lower income class

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Current Statistical Self-Efficacy Scale

(CSSE; Finney & Schraw, 2003)

- 14 items on a 6-point Likert scale:
 - \circ No Confidence at All \rightarrow Complete Confidence

Distinguish between the objectives of descriptive versus

inferential statistical procedures

• Statistical confidence will be classified as ratings of much confidence (4), very

much confidence (5), and complete confidence (6)

• Sum \geq 56 classified as Confident, Sum < 56 classified as Emergent

Short Critical Consciousness Scale (S-CCS; Diemer et al., 2020; Rapa et al., 2020)

- 3 Parts: Critical Reflection, Critical Motivation, Critical Action
- 6-point Likert scale (Strongly Disagree \rightarrow Strongly Agree) or

5-point (Never \rightarrow At Least Once a Week)

Certain racial or ethnic groups have fewer chances to get ahead

• Sum \geq 50 classified as Strong, Sum < 50 classified as Emergent

Short Critical Consciousness Scale (S-CCS; Diemer et al., 2020; Rapa et al., 2020)

(1) Critical Reflection

- 4 items using a 6-point Likert scale (Strongly Disagree \rightarrow Strongly Agree)
- Sample Item:

Certain racial or ethnic groups have fewer chances to get ahead

• I expect Critically Conscious individuals to Agree (5) or Strongly Agree (6) with the statements

Short Critical Consciousness Scale (S-CCS; Diemer et al., 2020; Rapa et al., 2020)

(2) Critical Motivation

- 4 items using a 6-point Likert scale (Strongly Disagree \rightarrow Strongly Agree)
- Sample Item:

It is important to correct social and economic inequality

• I expect Critically Conscious individuals to Agree (5) or Strongly Agree (6) with

the statements

Short Critical Consciousness Scale (S-CCS; Diemer et al., 2020; Rapa et al., 2020)

(3) Critical Action...

- I expect Critically Conscious folks to rate the statements as a 2, 3, 4, or 5.
- Selected 50 as the cutoff sum for individuals evidencing strong critical consciousness
 - Sum of ratings of 5 on critical reflection and motivation and the sum of ratings of 2 on critical action is 50
- Individuals with a sum below 50 will be classified as emergent



CODING STAGE 1: Employ apriori theoretical codes based on the CSLHM descriptions from Theoretical Framework



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CONSISTENCY: me + 2nd researcher to code random interview. Compare and refine codebook until consistent application is achieved. I will code the remaining data and use spot checks with 2nd researcher.



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CROSS CASE: I will perform cross-case analysis with the goal of comparing "any within-case patterns" across cases" (Yin, 2018, p. 196).