

On the Future of Evaluation and BELIV

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*BELIV 2016 Panel
October 24 2016, Baltimore MD*

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#beliv16panel>

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I sense a great disturbance in the Force:

The replication crisis in psychology & its possible repercussions for the future of vis evaluation;

or, What's making me lose sleep lately

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The replication crisis in psychology

- early rumblings left me with (ignorable) qualms
 - papers: Is most published research false?, Storks Deliver Babies ($p=0.008$), The Earth is spherical ($p < 0.05$), False-Positive Psychology
- groundswell of change for what methods are considered legitimate
 - out
 - p-value fishing / data dredging
 - Hypothesizing After Results are Known (HARKing)
 - in
 - replication
 - pre-registration
 - brouhaha with bimodal responses
 - some people doubling down and defending previous work
 - many willing to repudiate (their own) earlier styles of working

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Remarkable introspection on methods

- thoughtful willingness to change standards of field
 - Andrew Gelman's commentary on the Susan Fiske article
 - <http://andrewgelman.com/2016/09/21/what-has-happened-down-here-is-the-winds-have-changed/>
 - Simine Vazier's entire Sometimes I'm Wrong blog
 - <http://sometimesimwrong.typepad.com/>
 - especially posts on topic Scientific Integrity
 - Joe Simmons Data Colada blog post What I Want Our Field to Prioritize
 - <http://datacolada.org/53/>
 - Dana Carvey's brave statement on her previous power pose work
 - http://faculty.haas.berkeley.edu/dana_carney/pdf_My%20position%20on%20power%20poses.pdf

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When and how will this storm hit us?

- they're ahead of us
 - they have some paper retractions
 - we don't (yet) have any retractions for methodological considerations
 - they agonize about difficulty of getting failure-to-replicate papers accepted
 - we hardly ever even try to do such work
 - they are a much older field
 - we're younger: might our power hierarchies thus be less entrenched?...
 - they are higher profile
 - we don't have vis research results appear regularly in major newspapers/magazines
 - they have rich fabric of blogs as major drivers of discussion
 - crosscutting traditional power hierarchies
 - we have far fewer active bloggers

Terrain of blog critiques

- meta: methods for methodological critique
 - Uri Simonsohn DataColada post on civility
 - <http://datacolada.org/52>
 - don't label, describe
 - don't infer motives
 - reach out: contacting authors whose work you discuss before making things public
 - as a heuristic check on tone, imagine going to dinner with authors and their parents that night
 - resonates with my own first foray into blog critique
 - <https://tamaramunzner.wordpress.com/2016/01/16/on-the-memorability-debate/>
 - tone check advice is spot on
 - I *did* go out to dinner with Stephen Few the night I wrote my blog posts!
 - leading me to pick my tone with suitable care
 - I did not reach out, but now I think it would be wise indeed

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Is BELIV still needed?

- yes yes yes! so much to think about!
- progression / cycle
 - no evaluation
 - first wave of quantitative evaluation
 - second wave of qualitative evaluation
 - now: third wave revisiting quantitative evaluation??

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