

Consuming Research

The **BLUF** highlights what we at **The Threat Lab** are watching, listening to, reading, and thinking about. This month, we highlight three artifacts that offer strategies to keep in mind when consuming the numbers and data that come at us every day.



ARTICLE

From Hannah Fry's article, **What Data Can't Do**, "Whenever you try to force the real world to do something that can be counted, unintended consequences abound. That's the subject of two new books about data and statistics: 'Counting: How We Use Numbers to Decide What Matters' (Liveright), by Deborah Stone, which warns of the risks of relying too heavily on numbers, and 'The Data Detective' (Riverhead), by Tim Harford, which shows ways of avoiding the pitfalls of a world driven by data."

Read the article

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/03/29/what-data-cant-do>



VISUALIZATION

From Compound Interest's **visualization, A Rough Guide to Spotting Bad Science**, "Being able to evaluate the evidence behind a scientific claim is important. Being able to recognise bad science reporting, or faults in scientific studies, is equally important. These 12 points will help you separate the science from the pseudoscience."

View the visualization

<http://www.compoundchem.com/2014/04/02/a-rough-guide-to-spotting-bad-science/>



VIDEO

From Mona Chalabi's talk, **3 ways to spot a bad statistic**, "Statistics come from the state; that's where they got their name. The point was to better measure the population in order to better serve it. So we need these government numbers, but we also have to move beyond either blindly accepting or blindly rejecting them. We need to learn the skills to be able to spot bad statistics."

Watch the video

https://www.ted.com/talks/mona_chalabi_3_ways_to_spot_a_bad_statistic

The Defense Personnel and Security Research Center (PERSEREC) founded **The Threat Lab** in 2018 to realize the DoD Counter-Insider Threat Program Director's vision to incorporate the social and behavioral sciences into the mission space. Our team is headquartered in Seaside, California, and includes psychologists, sociologists, policy analysts, computer scientists, and other subject matter experts committed to workforce protection.

To be added to our distribution list, please email dodhra.ThreatLab@mail.mil

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