

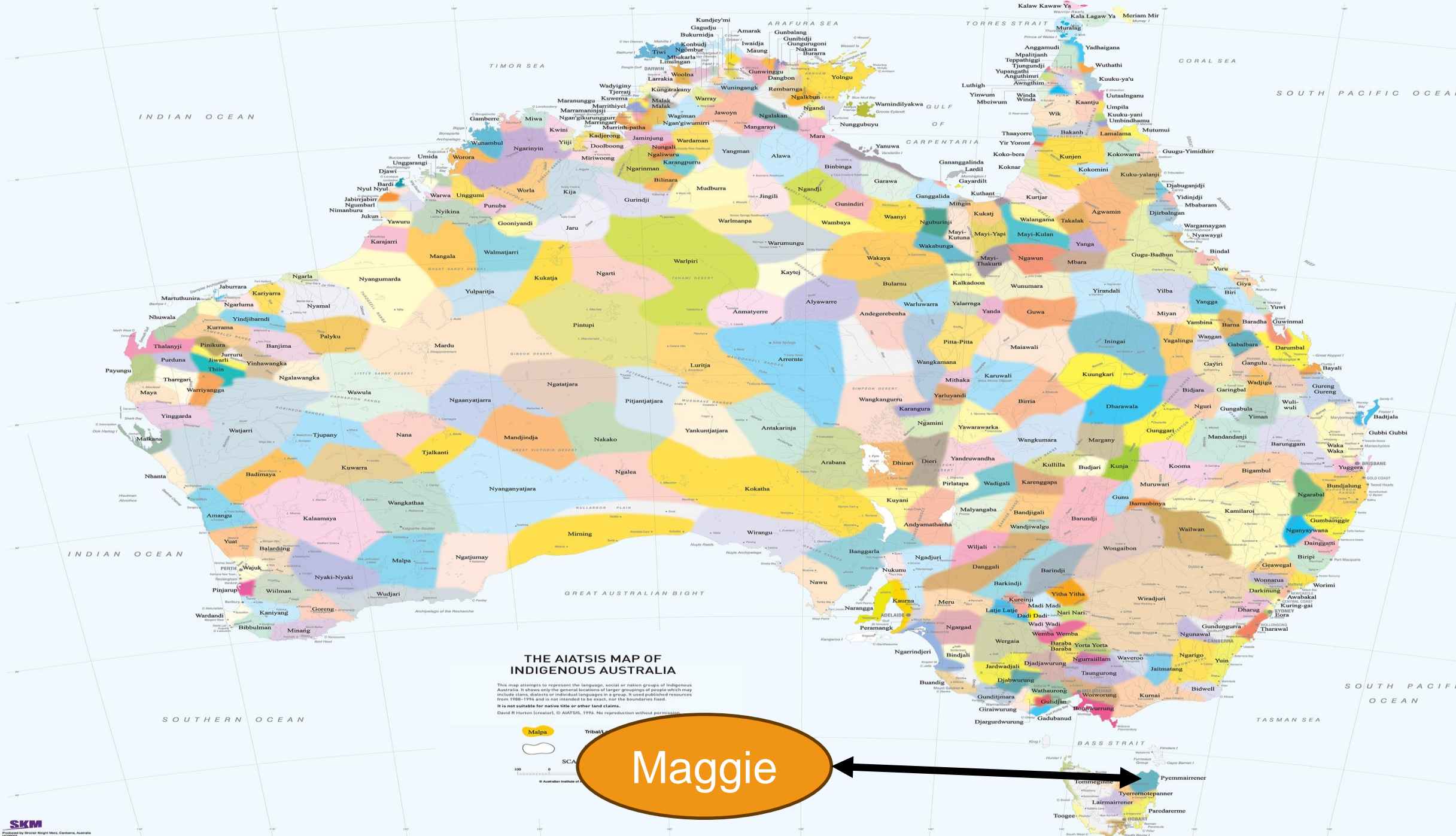


UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

lutruwita

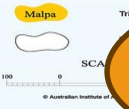
INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY, DATA GOVERNANCE AND METHODOLOGIES

Distinguished Professor Emerita Maggie Walter
Chiefs of Ontario: Powering up Data Sovereignty
Conference 24-26 October 2023 Toronto



THE AIATSI MAP OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

This map attempts to represent the language, social or nation groups of Indigenous Australia. It shows only the general locations of larger groupings of people which may include clans, dialects or individual languages in a group. It used published resources from 1988-1994 and is not intended to be exact, nor the boundaries fixed. It is not suitable for native title or other land claims.
 David R Horton (creator). © AIATSI, 1996. No reproduction without permission.



Maggie

MEET THE 5 D STATISTICAL INDIGENE



Indigenous data traditionally constructs a discourse of Indigenous peoples as deficit ...measuring Indigenous Peoples as 5D:

- difference
- disparity
- disadvantage
- dysfunction and
- deprivation (Walter 2016)

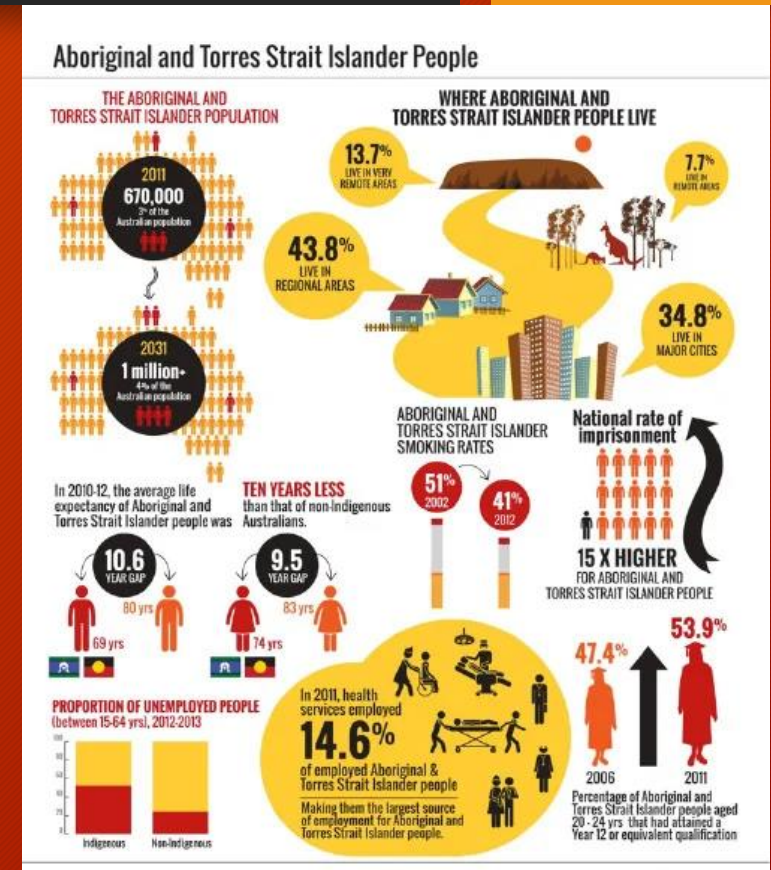


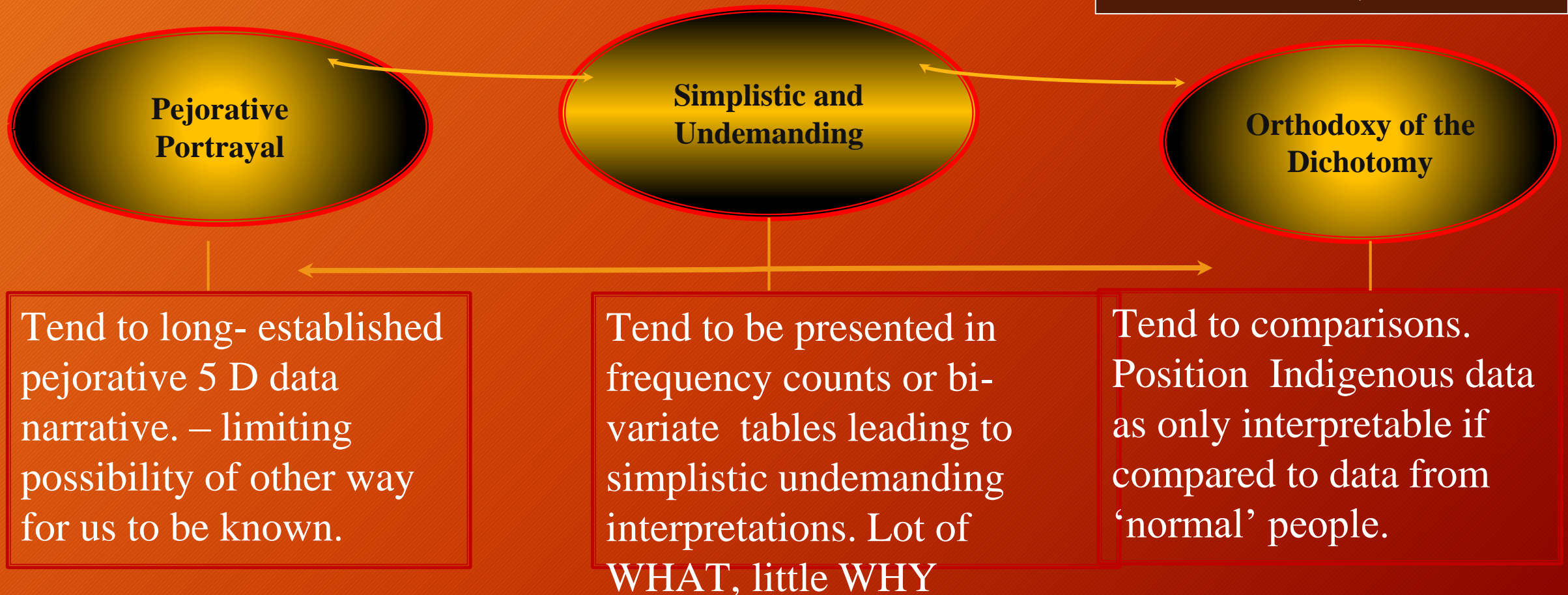
Figure by Australian Human Rights Commission: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/education/face-facts-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples>

THE POLITICS OF INDIGENOUS DATA: PROBLEMATIC PEOPLE CORRELATION



Data not neutral - artifacts reflecting realities of those whose purposes they serve. Result is a situating of Indigenous Peoples as Hapless, Hopeless and Helpless.

Source: Walter, M. 2010



PROBLEMS OF DEFICIT INDIGENOUS DATA FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



[s]tatistics about Indigenous Peoples are enmeshed in discourse associated with long-standing government policies that aim to ‘close the (socioeconomic) gap’ between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous populations. The unacknowledged power relations inherent in these discourses position the Indigenous population as in need of being ‘bought up’ to the non-Indigenous standing in educational, labour market and other socioeconomic indicators, produce statistical configurations anchored in developmental or deficit-based understandings of Indigenous Peoples and communities

(Walter & Andersen 2013 p.22)

INDIGENOUS DATA NARRATIVE: PATTERN AS OLD AS COLONISATION



DATA SOURCE 1:

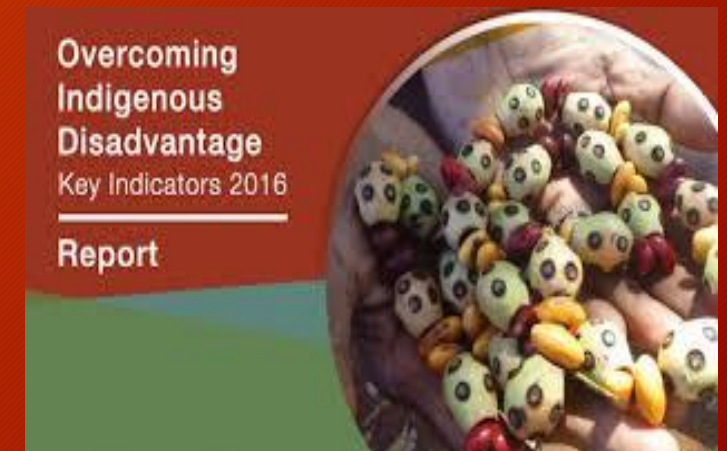
Colony of Victoria 1858 *Select Committee Enquiry into the present condition of the Aborigines of this Colony and the best means of alleviating their absolute wants*



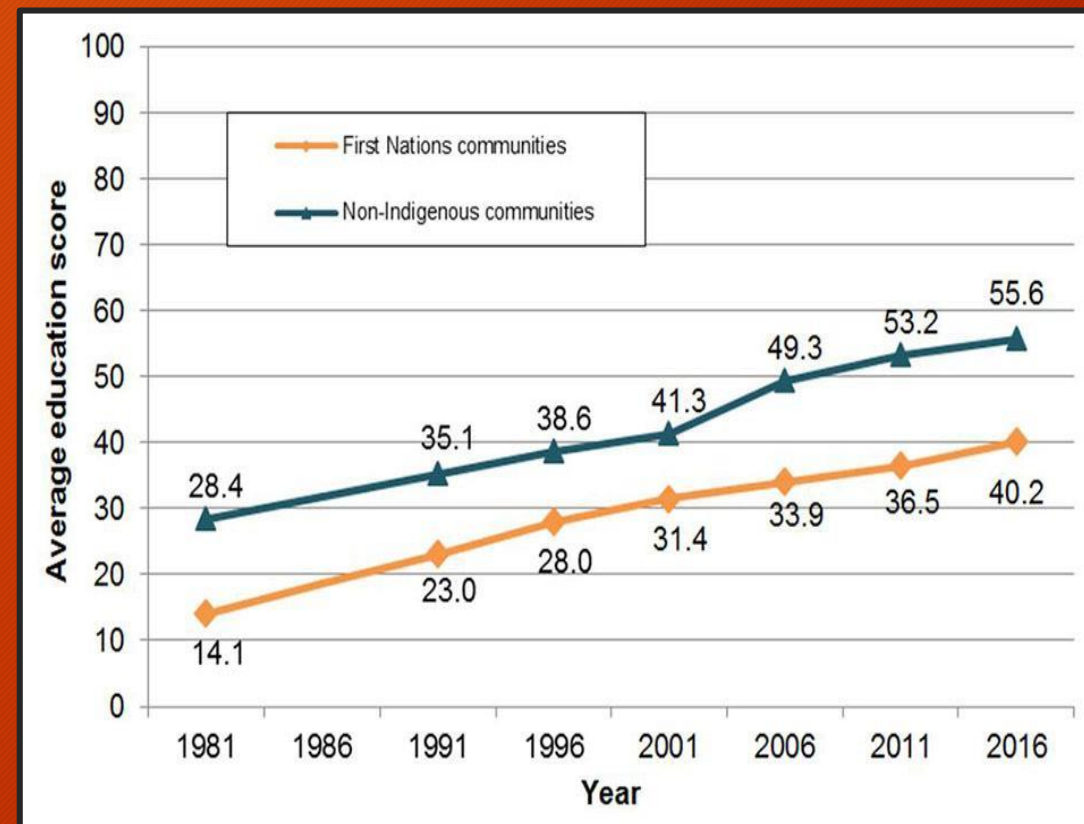
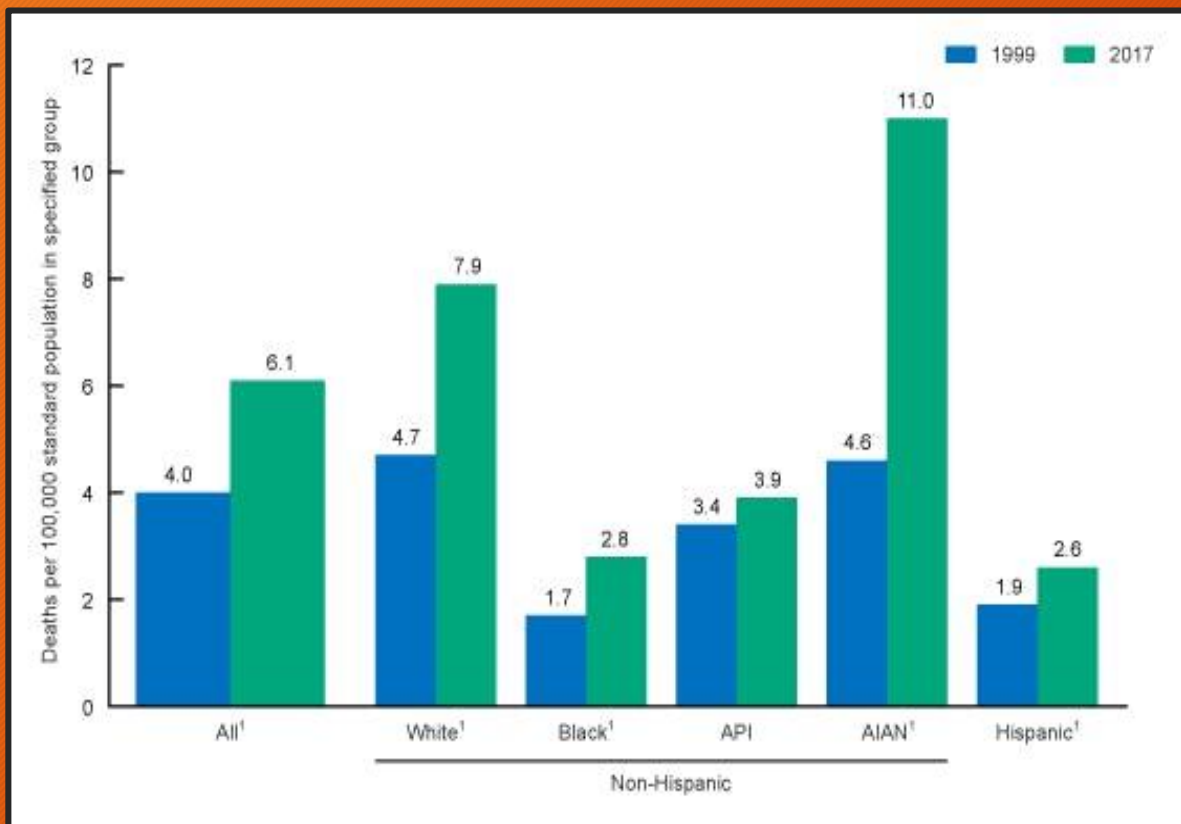
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

DATA SOURCE 2:

Productivity Commission 2021 *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*



DATA NARRATIVE IS GLOBAL IN ANGLO COLONISED NATIONS



WHY DO INDIGENOUS STATISTICS LOOK LIKE THEY DO?



Data are Not Neutral Numbers - Whose Cultural Framework?

The cultural framework of data instigators determines all aspects of the Indigenous statistical ecosystem

Determines Why

Determines what data are deemed necessary for collection, from whom; and for what purposes

Determines How

Determines how the data are collected and the design & process of data collection

Determines: What

Determines what topics will be prioritized for inclusion – and as importantly what topics are not included.

Determines: Use

Determines what and how data are analysed, the perceptual frame from which results are interpreted and the end use of those statistics.

Colonisation is the primary frame through which Indigenous data are understood and enacted = with real life consequences for Indigenous Peoples

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVERIEGNTY AND GOVERNANCE

INDIGENOUS DATA PARADOX - TOO MUCH AND TOO LITTLE

Dominant BADDR Data	Indigenous Data Needs
Blaming Data	Lifeworld Data
Too much data contrasts Indigenous/non-Indigenous data, rating the problematic Indigene against the normed Australian as the ubiquitous pejorative standard	We need data to inform a comprehensive, nuanced narrative of who we are as peoples, of our culture, our communities, our resilience, our goals and our successes
Aggregate Data	Disaggregated Data
Too much data are aggregated at the national and/or state level implying Indigenous cultural and geographic homogeneity	We need data that recognises our cultural and geographical diversity to provide evidence for community-level planning and service delivery
Decontextualised Data	Contextualised Data
Too much data are simplistic and decontextualized focussing on individuals and families outside of their social/cultural context	We need data inclusive of the wider social structural context/complexities in which Indigenous disadvantage occurs
Deficit, Government Priority Data	Indigenous Priority Data
Too much data reprises deficit linked concepts that service the priorities of Government.	We need data that measures beyond problems and addresses our priorities and agendas
Reductive Data	Available Amenable Data
Too much data are reductive, treating Indigenous identity as a dichotomous, explanatory, dependent variable	We need data that reflect the complexity and social and cultural embeddness of who we are as First Peoples.

Source: Walter 2018

INDIGENOUS DATA



Indigenous data refers to information or knowledge, in any format, inclusive of statistics, that is about Indigenous people and that impacts Indigenous lives at the collective and/or individual level.

Indigenous Data

**Data on Our Resources/
Environments** land history,
geological information, titles,
water information

Data about Us Demographic
or social data - legal, health,
education, use of services,
including our own data

Data from Us traditional
cultural data, archives oral
literature, ancestral
knowledge, community stories

Source: Informed by British Columbia First Nations' Data Governance Initiative (2018) Home <http://www.bcfndgi.com/>

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY



**Right of Indigenous Peoples to govern the collection, management access, interpretation, dissemination and reuse of data related to them*



Relates to all data about Indigenous Peoples, Country and resources or has significant impact on these



Reaffirms Indigenous Peoples' obligations to respect knowledge (data) and to recognise data as belonging to the collective



Premised on data accountability to Indigenous Peoples as per UNDRIP



Demands that data reflect Indigenous Peoples' priorities and be used to enhance Indigenous collective wellbeing

*Definition derived from Kukutai & Taylor 2016; Snipp 2016

INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE



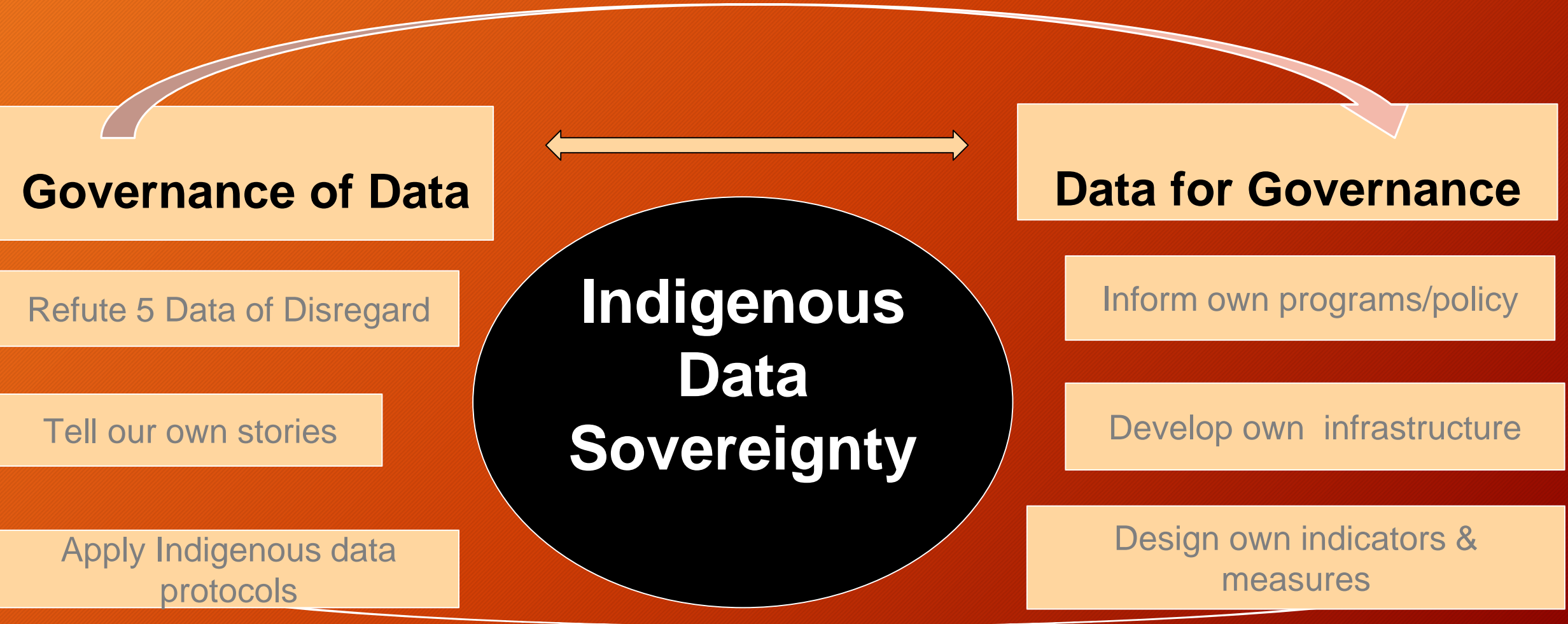
Indigenous Data Sovereignty is practiced through Indigenous Data Governance (ID-GOV) which asserts Indigenous interests in relation to data by:

- informing the when, how and why our data are gathered, analysed accessed and used;
- ensuring Indigenous data reflects our priorities, values, culture, lifeworlds and diversity.



Source: Carroll et al (2019)

INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE - DUAL DIRECTION



Big/Open ≠ Better



May be benefits
– but definitely
risks.

1. Overrepresentation in data of disadvantage
Risk Accelerate 5D data focus:

2. Alienation from data collection/use

Risk moving our interests further from decision making

3. Predictive algorithms

Risk embedding stigma for our families and communities

4. Our marginalised position

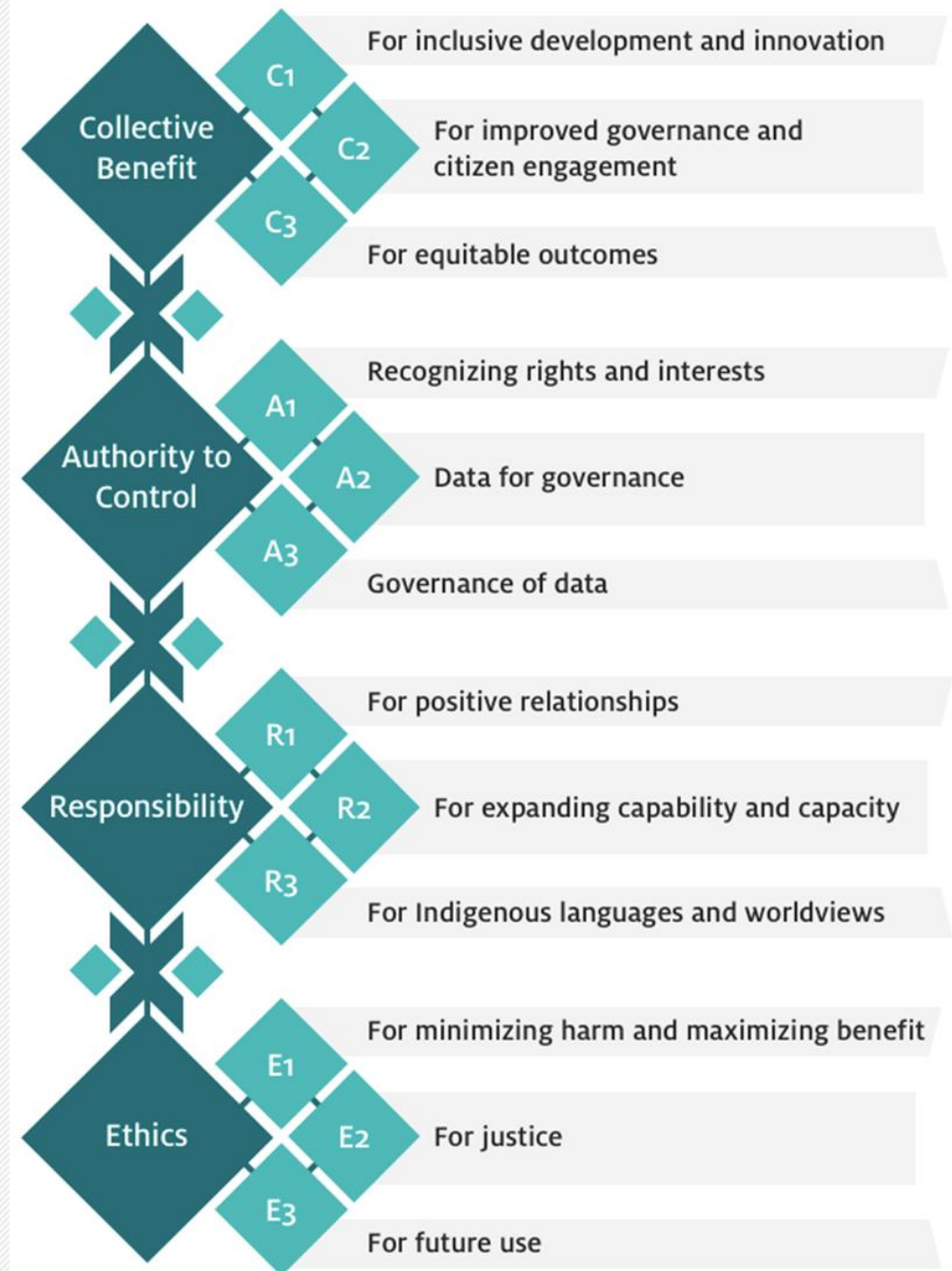
Risks our capacity to share equally in the benefits

Indigenous governance

- can mediate risks & provide pathways to collective benefit.
- Needed for an Indigenous cultural and social licence



CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance



Source: CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance Russo Carroll et al (2020) <https://datascience.codata.org/articles/10.5334/dsj-2020-043/>

INDIGENOUS QUANTITATIVE METHODOLOGY

METHOD VERSUS METHODOLOGY

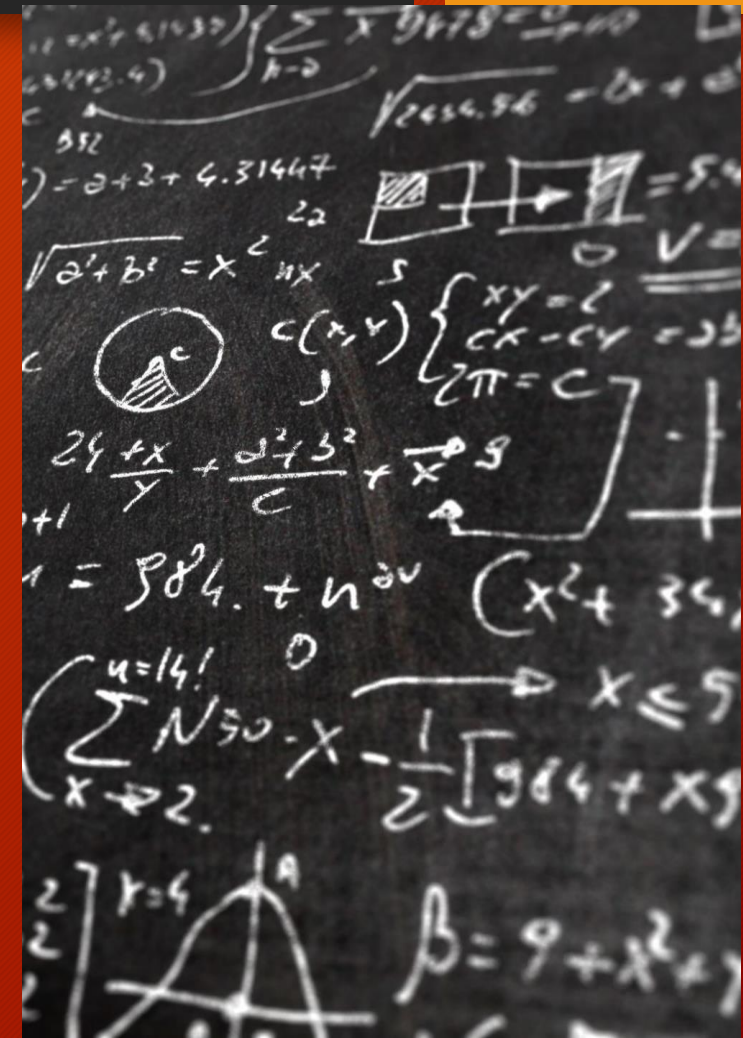
Methodology and method NOT interchangeable

Method = the research technique or practice used to gather and analyse the research data i.e. survey

Methodology is the Lifeworld through which research is designed and conducted

Methodology = assumptions, values & understandings of reality that shape conceptualisation and operationalisation

Methodology has real world outcomes



Conceptualizing our Methodology

Western lifeworld theory - the meaning we make of our lived reality is contextual, inseparable from our social, cultural and physical world and our relational positioning within that world (Husserl 1970).

As colonized First Peoples the context our lived reality differs from settler descendants. We are encircled by dual intersubjectivities

Intersubjectivity within Peoplehood: ways of being and doing, inclusive of traditional and ongoing culture, belief systems, practices, identity and ways of understanding the world and our place within it;
and

Intersubjectivity as colonized Peoples: dispossessed marginalized with everyday life framed through and impacted by our historical and ongoing relationship and interactions with the colonising nation state

INDIGENOUS DATA REQUIRES MEASURES FROM BOTH LIFEWORLD INTERSUBJECTIVITIES

INDIGENOUS METHODOLOGY: REFLECTING THE INDIGENOUS LIFEWORLD

Makes visible what is meaningful and important to Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous lived reality

Is founded on Indigenous ways of knowing and prioritises Indigenous Peoples as who/what as knowers/knowledge

Upholds and is built on Indigenous collective cultural values and belief systems

Draws from Indigenous understandings of how the world is and our place within it

Uses methods (data collection practices) that are consistent with Indigenous ways of being, doing and knowing.

Conceptualisation of a Methodology

Our Lifeworld

- What meaning do we make of our lived reality and who are we in our social, cultural and physical world (race, gender, age, class, etc) ?
- How do we understand our own position and in relation to others?

Our Epistemological Position:

- What do we know?
- How do we know it?
- Who are our knowers?
- How do we prioritise different knowledges?

Our Ontological Position

- How do we understand the issue?
- What is the wider social-cultural milieu?
- How do we understand the position of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the problem?

Our Axiological Position

- What are our values on this issue?
- What are our beliefs?

Our Method

INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA



Maiaam nayri Wingara

Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Communique

Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit
20th June 2018, Canberra, ACT



This Communique, from the Maiaam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, is addressed to all individuals and entities involved in the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of data and data infrastructure in Australia.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty is a global movement concerned with the right of Indigenous peoples to govern the creation, collection, ownership and application of their data¹. Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Australia is derived from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples inherent right to govern our peoples, Country (including lands, waters and sky) and resources as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),² for which Australia has declared its support.

Data is a cultural, strategic, and economic asset for Indigenous³ peoples. Indigenous Australians have always been active in what is now known as 'data'. Yet in modern times we have been isolated from the language, control and production of data at community, state and national levels. This has resulted in data that are overly focused on Indigenous peoples as the problem. Existing data and data infrastructure does not recognise or privilege our knowledges and worldviews nor meet our current and future needs.

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY SUMMIT

JUNE 2018 CANBERRA



- Delegates asserted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have the right to:
- Exercise control of the data ecosystem including creation, development, analysis, dissemination and infrastructure
 - Data that is contextual and disaggregated (available and accessible at individual, community and First Nations levels)
 - Data that is relevant and empowers sustainable self- determination and effective self-governance.
 - Data stewardship and structures that are accountable to Indigenous peoples and First Nations.
 - Data that is protective and respects our individual and collective interests.



Indigenous Data Governance Communique

National Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit
13th June 2023, Cairns, QLD

This Communique is addressed to all individuals and entities involved in the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination, and reuse of data and data infrastructure in Australia.

The Communique reports the outcomes of the 2nd National Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit convened by Maiam nayri Wingara, the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, and the Lowitja Institute in June 2023. Over 130 Indigenous¹ delegates from every State and Territory were joined by international experts from Aotearoa (New Zealand), Canada, and the United States.

Data are a cultural, strategic and economic asset for Indigenous Peoples across the globe. But our isolation from the data ecosystem results in data focused on Indigenous Peoples as the problem. On data that are: blaming; aggregated; decontextualised; deficit; and of restricted access (BADDR data)². Existing data infrastructure does not recognise our knowledges and worldviews, meet our data needs, or make data accessible to us.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty asserts Indigenous rights to govern Indigenous data's creation, collection, ownership, and application³. Indigenous rights over data are supported in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)⁴. Indigenous Data Governance serves as the mechanism for realising Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles and operates through two interconnected modes:

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE SUMMIT

JUNE 2023, CAIRNS



- Delegates asserted that the realisation of Indigenous data governance in Australia:
- Adheres to internationally agreed definitions of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous data governance
 - Must be integrated at all data lifecycle stages
 - Requires Indigenous leadership and Indigenous control of all processes
 - Requires support of Indigenous data literacy and capability
 - Is based on ensuring accountability of entities that hold Indigenous data
 - Requires that creation of new data incorporate Indigenous data governance mechanisms and that data production is ethical, representative and beneficial.



All publicly funded Indigenous related research projects in Australia require formal ethical approval

Indigenous knowledge and data

2.7 Indigenous peoples have the right to manage the collection, interpretation and use of their information.

- a. ownership management and communication of research data and results should be negotiated between Indigenous peoples and the researcher or other parties based on the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty and governance.
- b. processes should be agreed at an early stage for ownership, management and use of, access to, and distribution of research results. Written agreements are normally required to clarify and secure rights in data.

2.8 The contribution of Indigenous peoples' knowledge, resources and access to data should be acknowledged by ensuring ongoing ownership, control and/or access for Indigenous people to research results.

2.9 Institutions with responsibility for data access and use policies or design and management of data ecosystems should adopt Indigenous data sovereignty and governance principles.⁶³

- a. where a conflict arises between accessibility and Indigenous peoples rights, then Indigenous peoples' rights should prevail.⁶⁴
- b. b. researchers must be aware of and apply the international data principles of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and CARE (Collective benefit, Authority, Responsibility and Ethics).⁶⁵



Priority Reforms | Closing the Gap

closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/priority-reforms

PRIORITY REFORM FOUR

4 Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level

Outcome: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally-relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

Target: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

'Collect, analyse, use our own data to meet our own needs. It's our information and we should use it for our own purposes as decided by us.'

DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING ELEMENTS

- Partnerships are in place to guide

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Type here to search

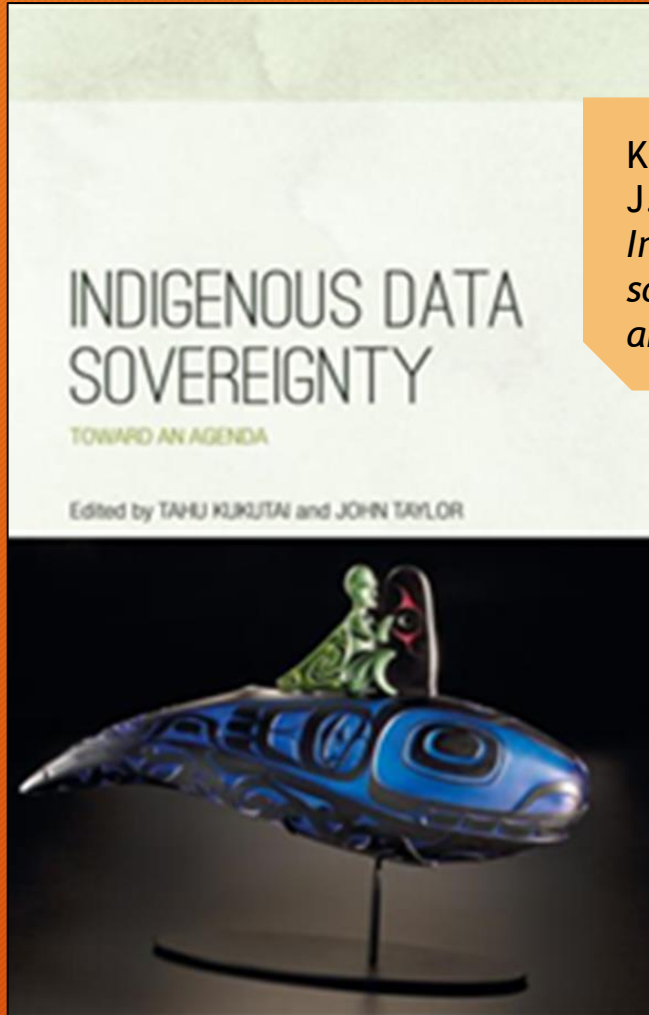
7:58 AM
25/10/2023

Framework for the Governance of Indigenous Data

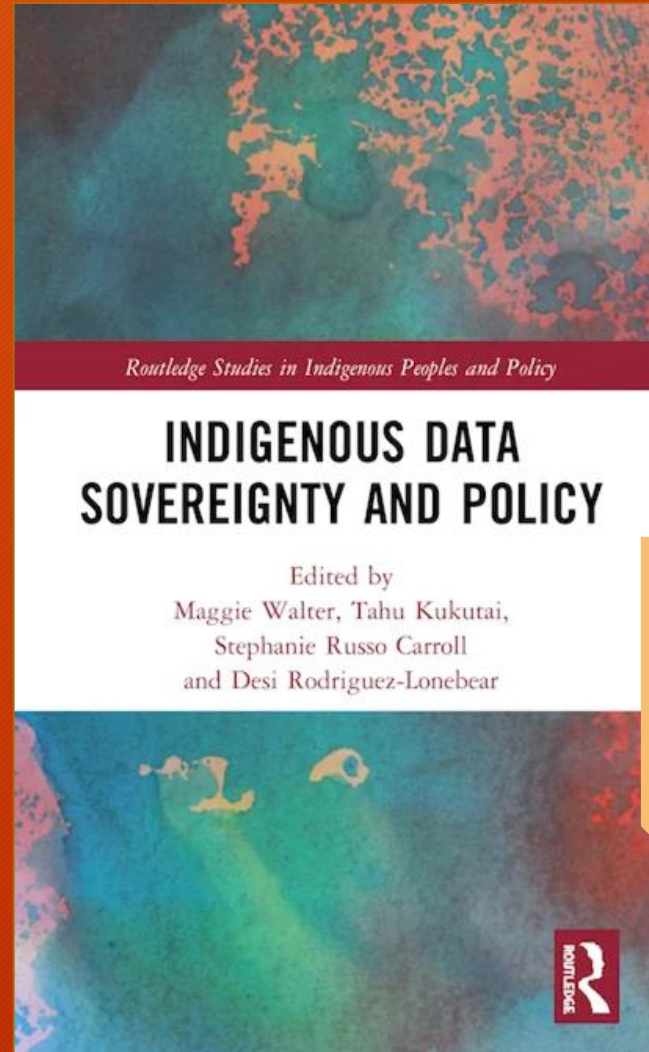
Practical guidance for the Australian Public Service

2023

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY: SEMINAL LITERATURE



Kukutai, T., & Taylor, J. (eds.). (2016). *Indigenous data sovereignty: toward an agenda.*



Walter, M., Kukutai, T., Carroll, S.R. & Rodriguez-Lonebear, D. (eds.). (2020). *Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Policy.*