

## Journalism in the Age of Data

### Overview

Stanford's *Journalism in the Age of Data* provides fantastical data visualization feats from leading figures of the industry. With inspiring examples such as Baby Name Voyager by Martin Wattenburg, and Amanda Cox's New York Times graphics, they introduce a wide variety of unique, attention-grabbing charts and graphs filled to the brim with information. Quickly, the focus shifts to how following trends may play out poorly. Take "unique" and "interesting" too far, and the visualization becomes increasingly difficult for others and the average person to delve into and learn from. In the end, the focus (and most difficult task) of data visualization should be to convey narratives or stories to instill curiosity and knowledge.

### Review

I wholeheartedly agree with the video's message about conveying a message to an audience. However, quite a number of visualizations demonstrated in the video report (even as "good" examples) I found to be rather convoluted and difficult for the average reader to meaningfully extract and still fell into the pit of focusing too much on "wow" factor. I envision data visualization to inspire and share knowledge in a clear, explicit way that anyone can be drawn in, captivated, and then explore immediately. With this in mind, I hope to inspire others as these leaders have inspired me. Although I am skeptical of the ease-of-use data visualization tools that experts have developed, I look forward to what this field has in store for us.