

# **REMARKS AT TRINITY COLLEGE HIGH TABLE PANEL ON DATA SCIENCE**

**ROHAN ALEXANDER, 19 OCTOBER 2021.**

# ROHAN ALEXANDER

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

- **Assistant Professor, Information and Statistical Sciences**
- **Assistant Director, CANSSI Ontario**
- **Senior fellow, Massey College**
- **Faculty affiliate, Schwartz Reisman Institute**
  
- *Telling Stories With Data*
- *Multilevel Regression and Poststratification: A Practical Guide and New Developments*
  
- **Co-organizer, Toronto Data Workshop**
  
- **Recent arXiv pre-print: 'Reproducibility of COVID-19 pre-prints'**
- **Recent CRAN acceptance: `heaps`**

# **WHAT I DO IN DATA SCIENCE**

---

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?

***'HUMANS MEASURING STUFF, TYPICALLY RELATED TO OTHER HUMANS, AND USING SOPHISTICATED AVERAGING TO EXPLAIN AND PREDICT.'***

# WHAT IS A MODEL?

$$y = x_1 + x_2 + \epsilon$$

y	x1	x2
Right	4	6
Left	6	4
Right	2	2
Left	8	1
Left	2	10

---

# **WHAT IS GPT-3?**

- 1. 175 billion parameters.**
- 2. Trained on essentially the whole internet.**

---

# WHAT IS GPT-3?

*[Live demo]*

# **GETTING INTO DATA SCIENCE**



# HOW DO WE DO ~~POLITICS~~ DATA SCIENCE?

***'THE GRIND OF POLITICS, THE ENDLESS TRAVEL, THE MEETINGS, THE IMPOSSIBLE SCHEDULE, THE CONSTANT BEING ON SHOW ARE ALL IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHORITY THAT CAN BE ACQUIRED IN NO OTHER WAY. YOU HAVE TO LEARN THE COUNTRY.'***

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF

---

# **HOW DO YOU WORK WITH A PROFESSOR?**

**Demonstrate:**

- 1. an interest; and**
- 2. some skills.**

# THANK YOU

rohanaalexander.com

@RohanAlexander

rohan.alexander@utoronto.ca