

The section of Biostatistics, University of Copenhagen, Danish Society for Theoretical Statistics, and the Danish Society for Biopharmaceutical Statistics invite to a seminar

How Charts Lie

By Alberto Cairo

Knight Chair in Visual Journalism. School of Communication, Director of the Visualization Program at the Center for Computational Science, University of Miami

Thursday, November 28th @ 15.00

Location: Jerne auditorium, Mærsk Tower, Blegdamsvej 3, University of Copenhagen

Abstract

We've all heard that a picture is worth a thousand words, but what if we don't understand what we're looking at?

Charts, infographics, and diagrams are ubiquitous. They are useful because they can reveal patterns and trends hidden behind the numbers we encounter in our lives. Good charts make us smarter—if we know how to read them.

However, they can also deceive us. Charts lie in a variety of ways—displaying incomplete or inaccurate data, suggesting misleading patterns, and concealing uncertainty— or are frequently misunderstood. Many of us are ill-equipped to interpret the visuals that politicians, journalists, advertisers, and even our employers present each day. This talk teaches to not only spot the lies in deceptive visuals, but also to take advantage of good ones.

