From scientist to evaluator: Lessons *beyond* numbers



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The journey

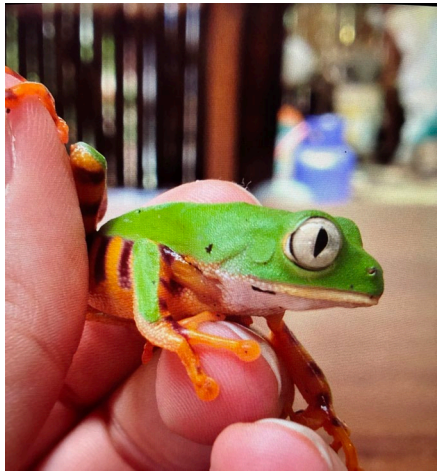




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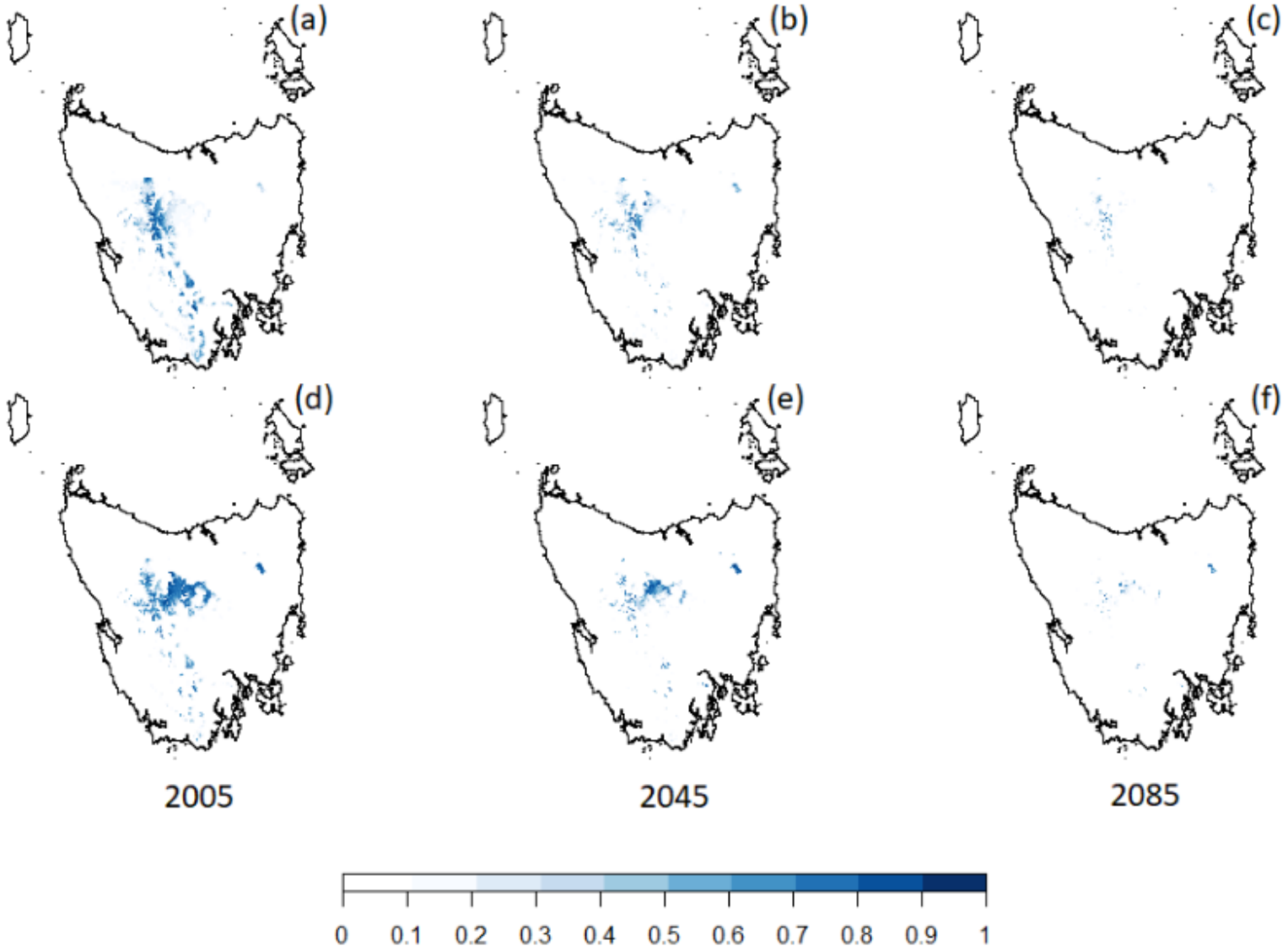




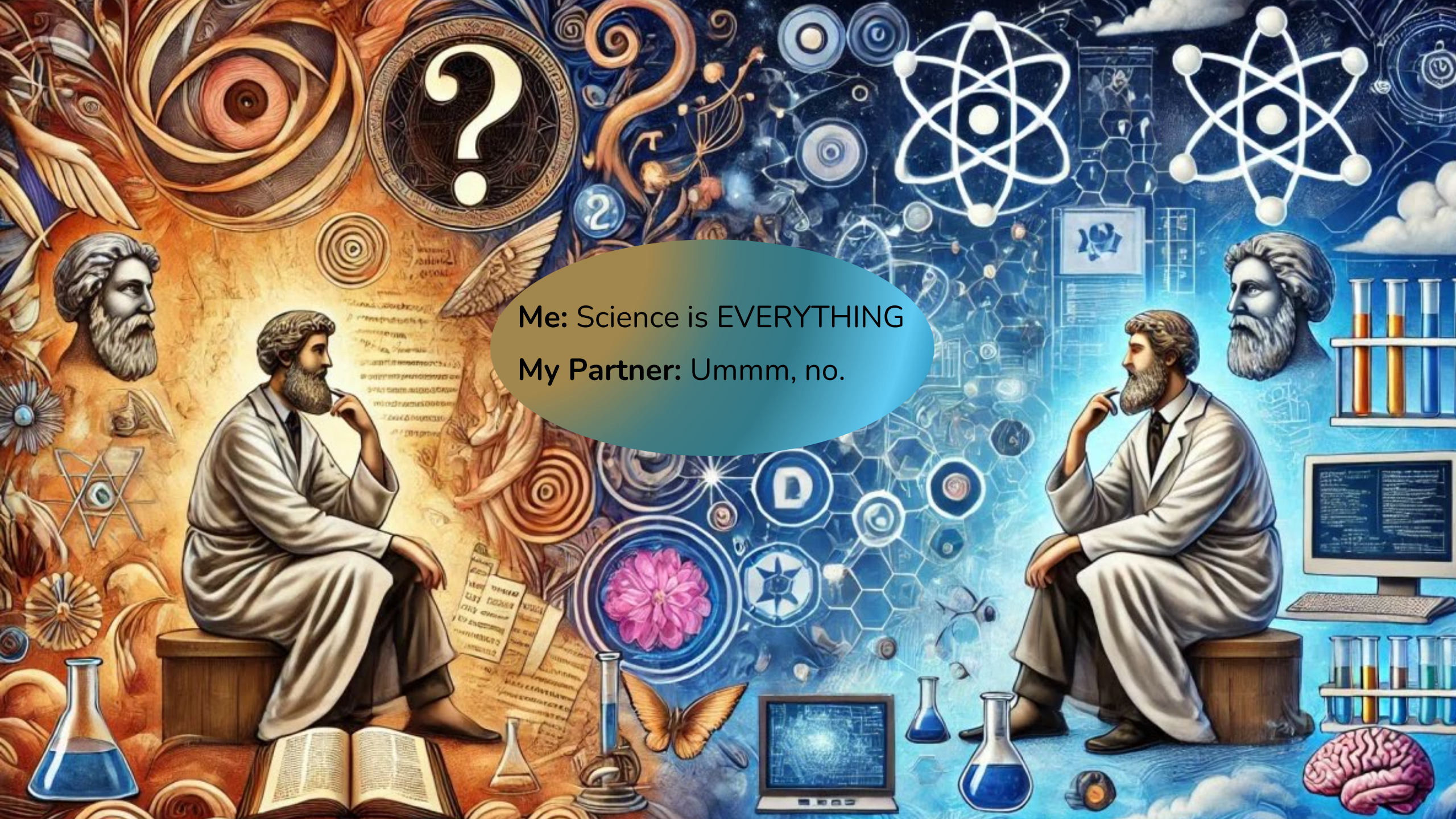




Honours



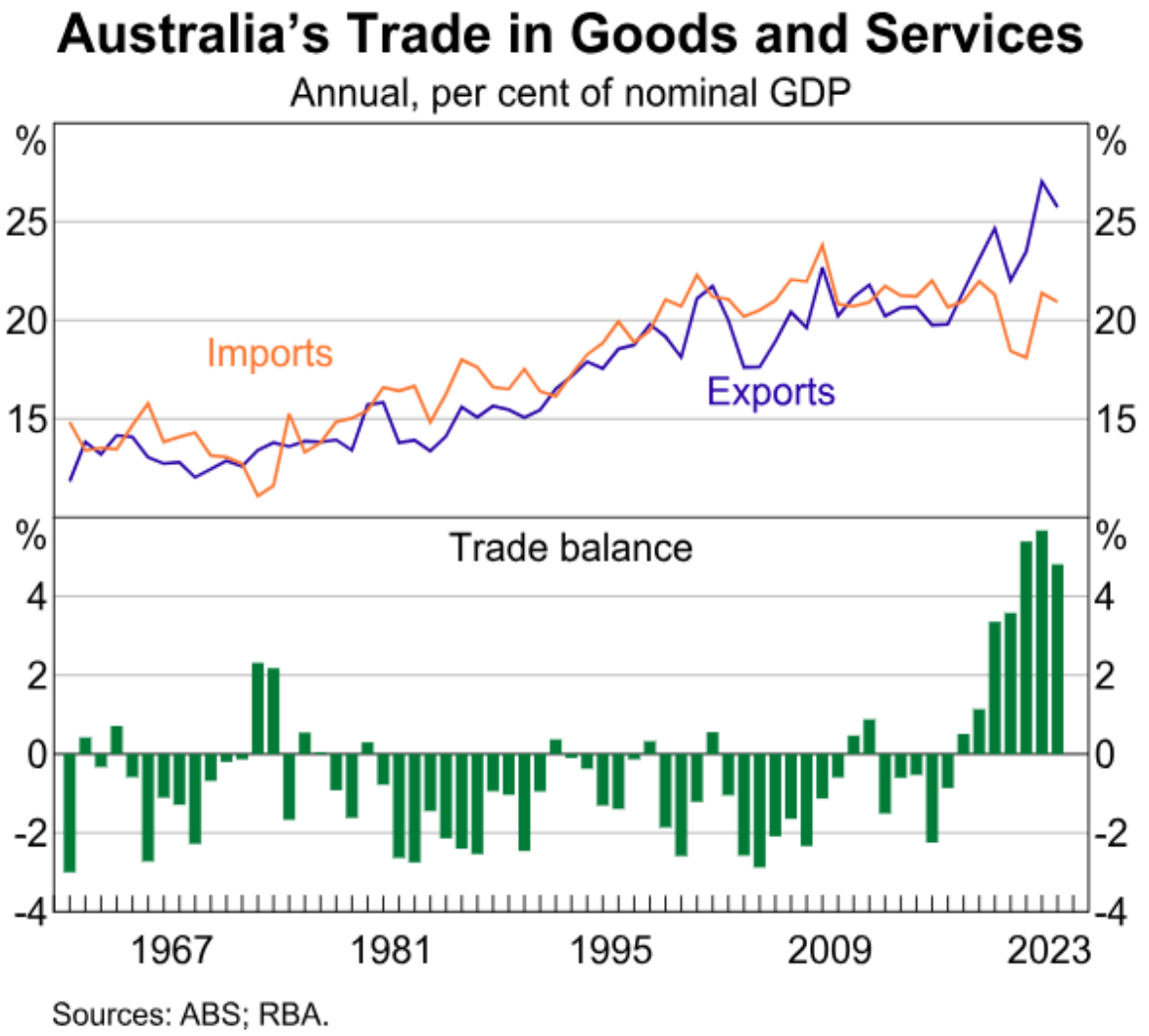



Me: Science is EVERYTHING
My Partner: Ummm, no.

ABS data analyst



Australian Bureau of Statistics



Early evaluator



Evaluation

We help organisations evaluate their programs, projects, and services using best-practice methods.



Systems Strategy

We apply systems thinking methodologies to help understand complexity and identify leverage points.



Research & Design

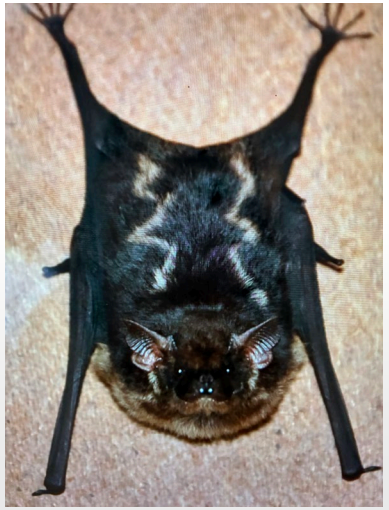
We combine rigorous research with human-centred design to create solutions that meet real needs.

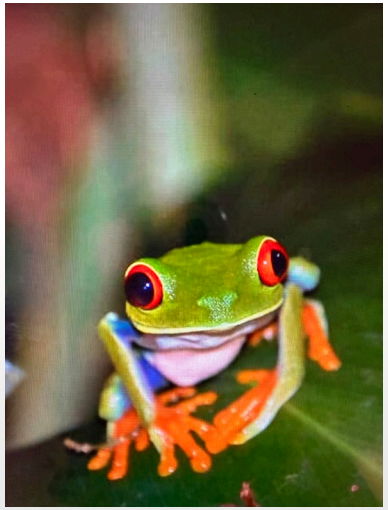


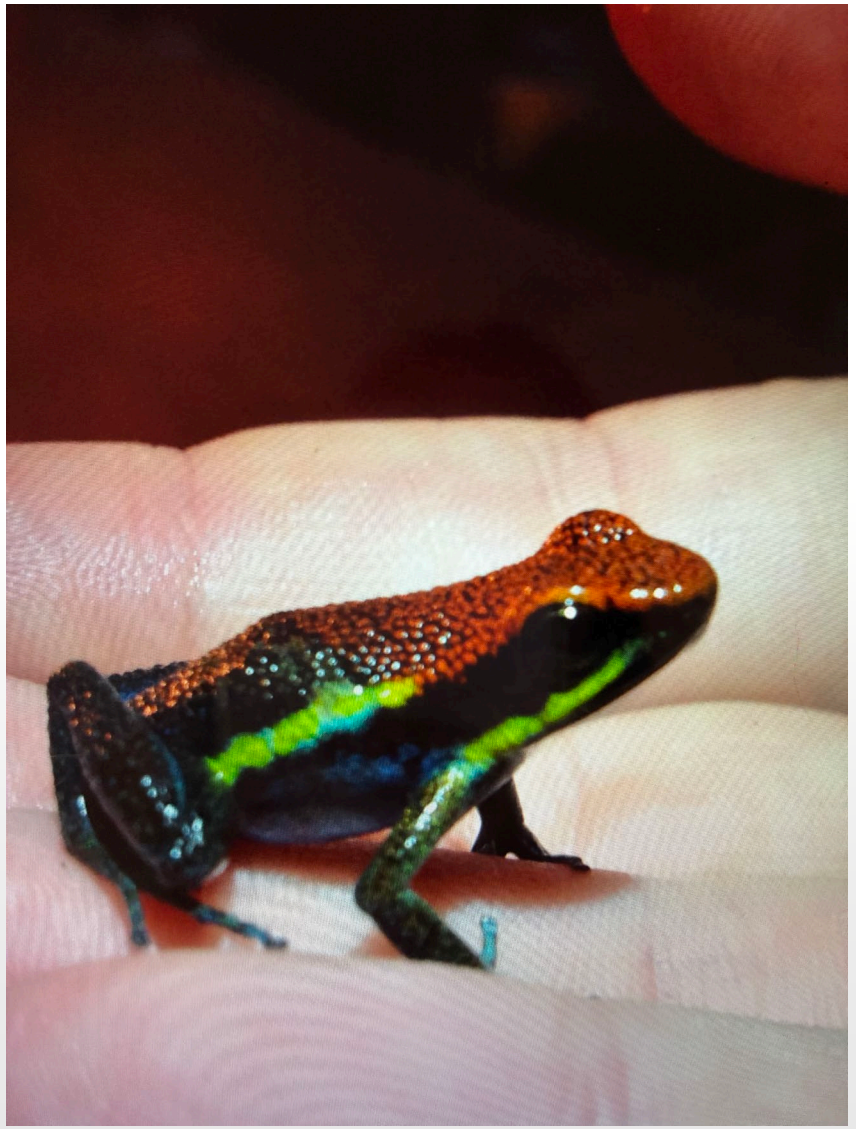
Workshop & Training

We develop fit-for-purpose learning programs that leave you with new skills and ways of thinking.

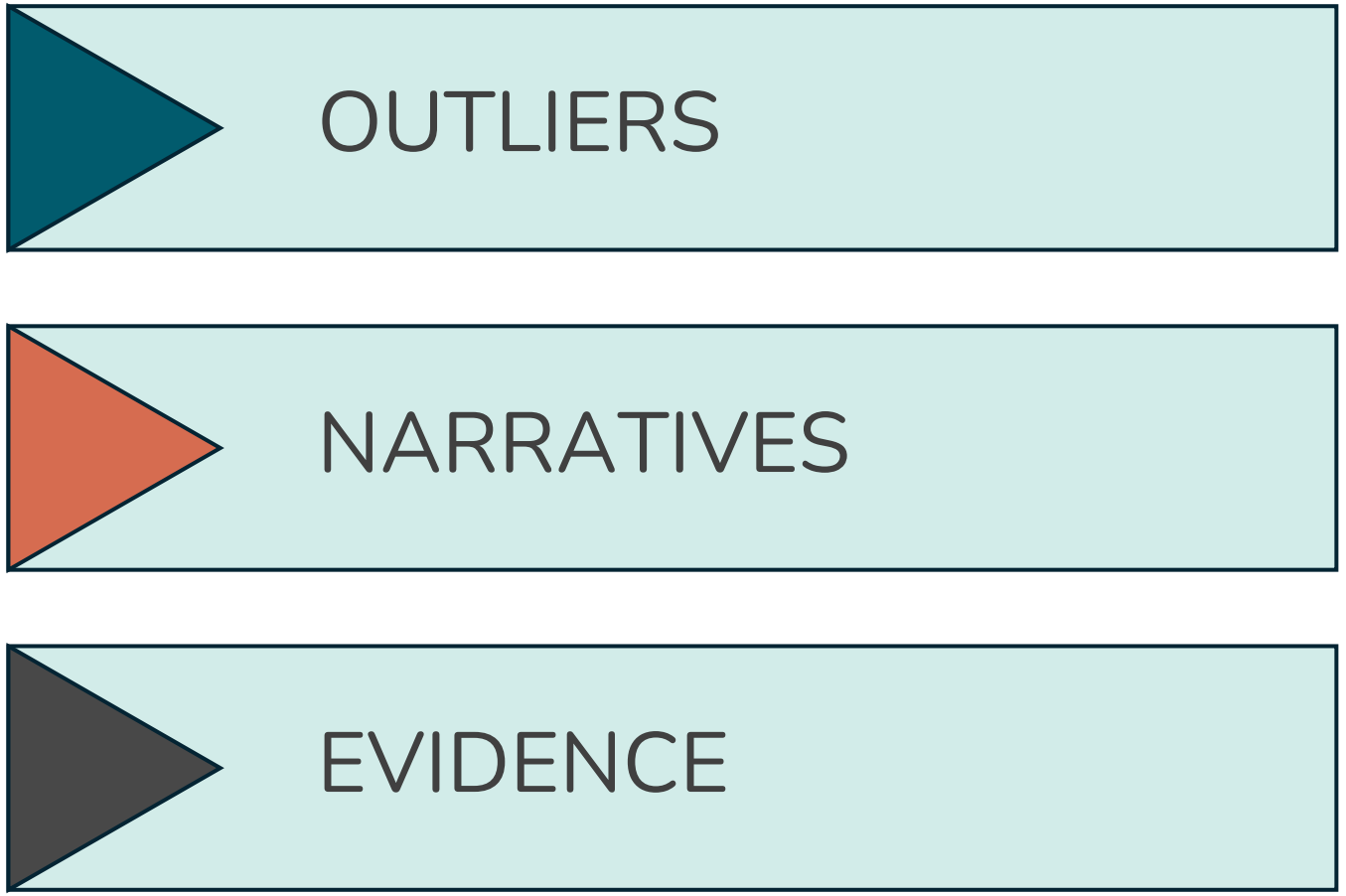








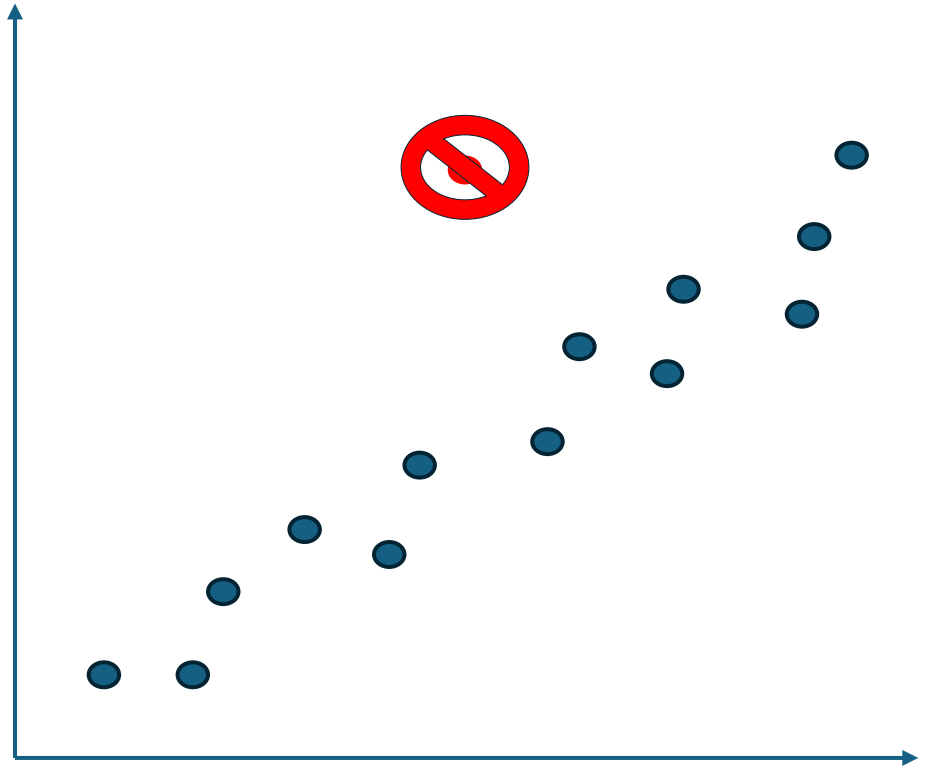
Three key takeaways



OUTLIERS

- “Noise”, measurement error, sampling artefact
- Removed to protect statistical validity
- Odd point rarely changes conclusions in large datasets

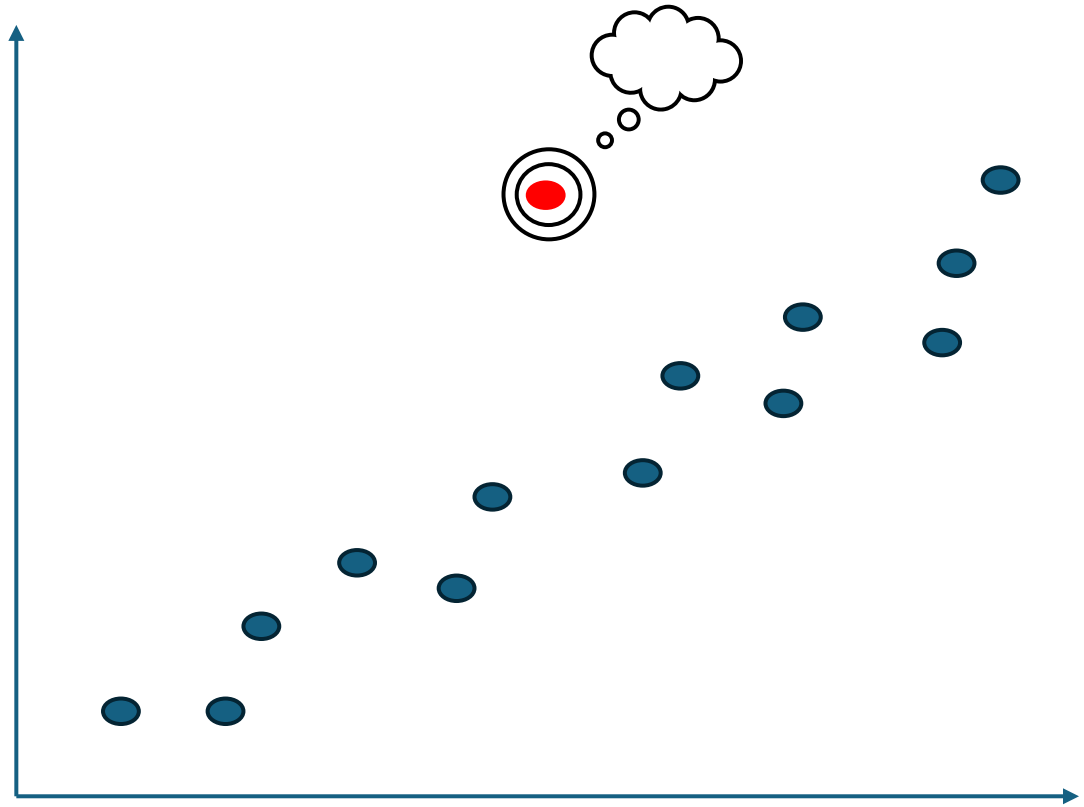
Science = issues



OUTLIERS

- Stories, signals, lived experience
- “Rare” experiences matter
- Outliers become meaning, not contamination
- Small samples - one voice can reshape interpretation

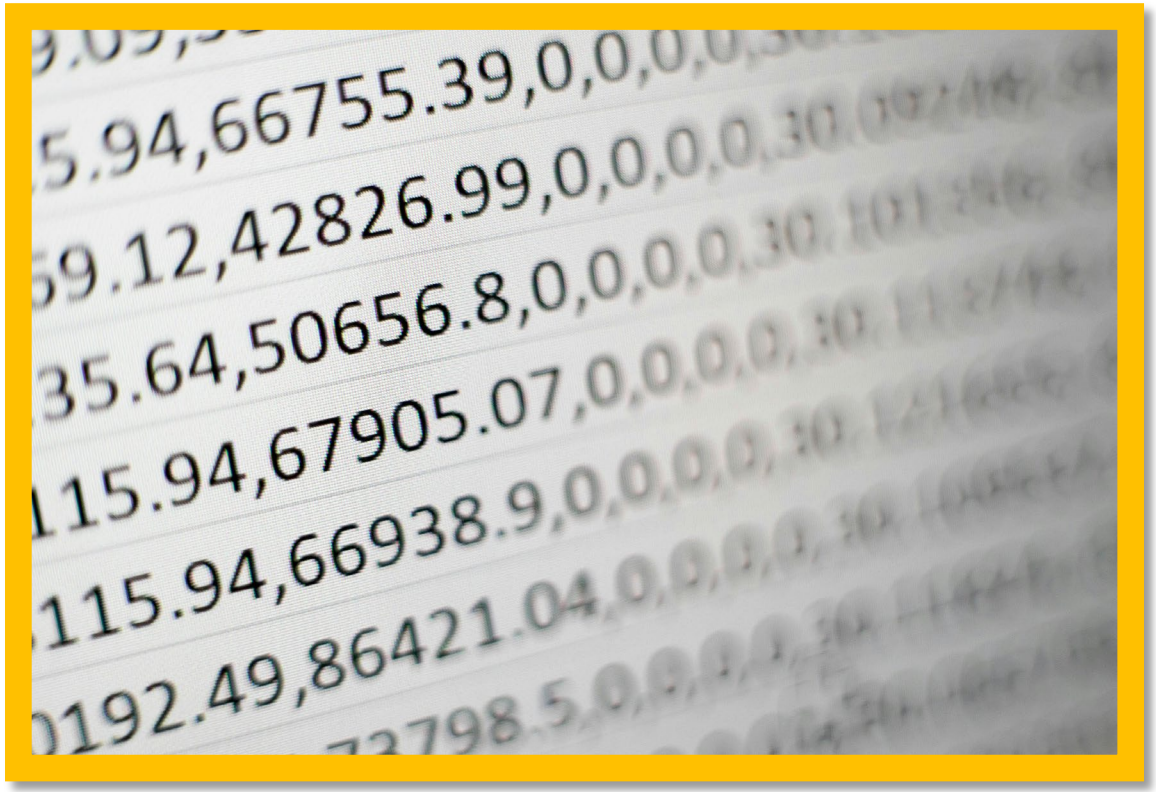
Evaluation = important data



NARRATIVES

- Numbers are the narrative
- Qualitative observations are supplementary, not central
- Story emerges from statistical patterns

Numbers tell the story



NARRATIVES

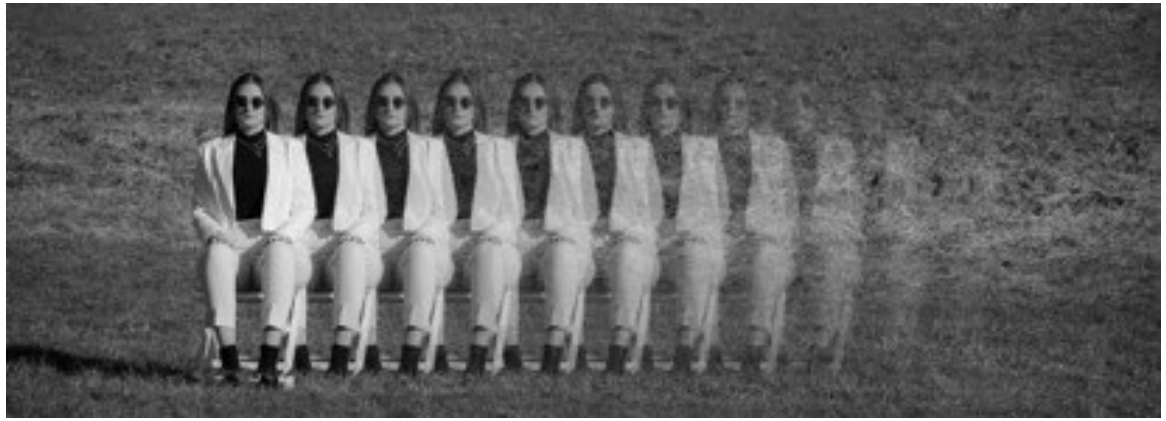
- Narrative is data
- Interviews, case studies, lived experience – all hold weight
- Numbers show what happened; stories show ***why***
- Meaning through diverse viewpoints

Stories explain the numbers



EVIDENCE

- Objectivity is idealised
- Researcher influence minimised
- Methods designed to reduce bias



Objectivity is ideal



EVIDENCE

Subjectivity part of evidence

- Subjectivity is *data*
- Stakeholder perspectives, values, and context shape interpretation
- Reflexivity strengthens credibility



	SCIENCE	EVALUATION
OUTLIERS	Issues	Important data
NARRATIVES	Numbers tell story	Stories explain statistics
EVIDENCE	Objectivity is ideal	Subjectivity part of evidence

Social Justice



Energy Efficiency




Biodiversity







Thank you

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