# AES 2024 Ignite session

Reflections by a non-analyst on the use of state-wide data sets and modelled data in evaluation

**Presenter:** Gabby Lindsay-Smith

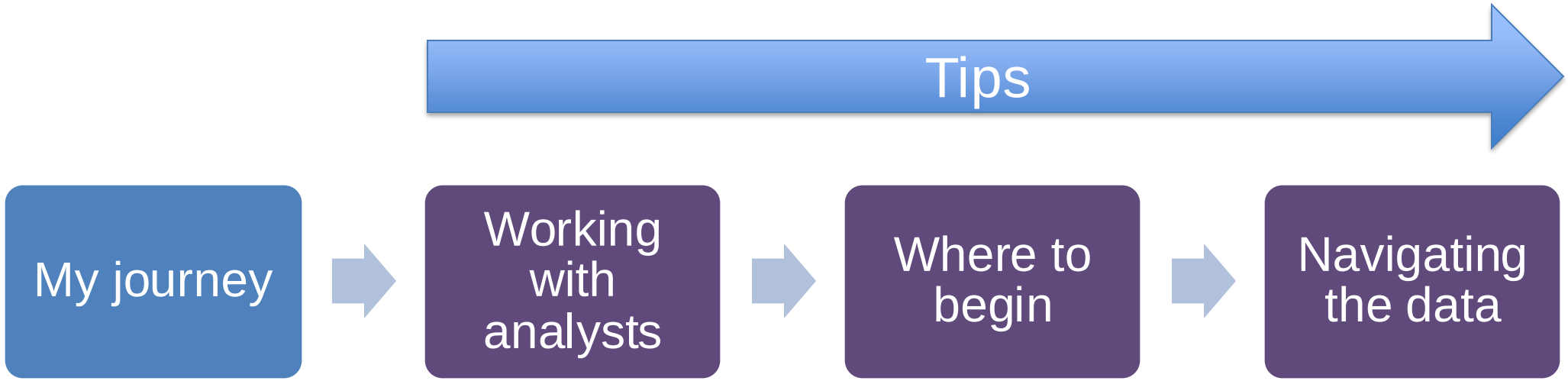
Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence

VICTORIA State Government

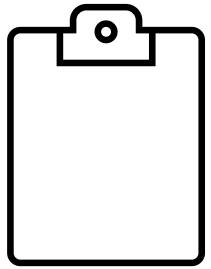
# Acknowledgement of Country

‘Country’ by  Mandy Nicholson

# Outline


Tips
My journey
Working with analysts
Where to begin
Navigating the data

# My Journey - the opportunity



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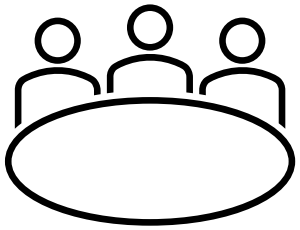
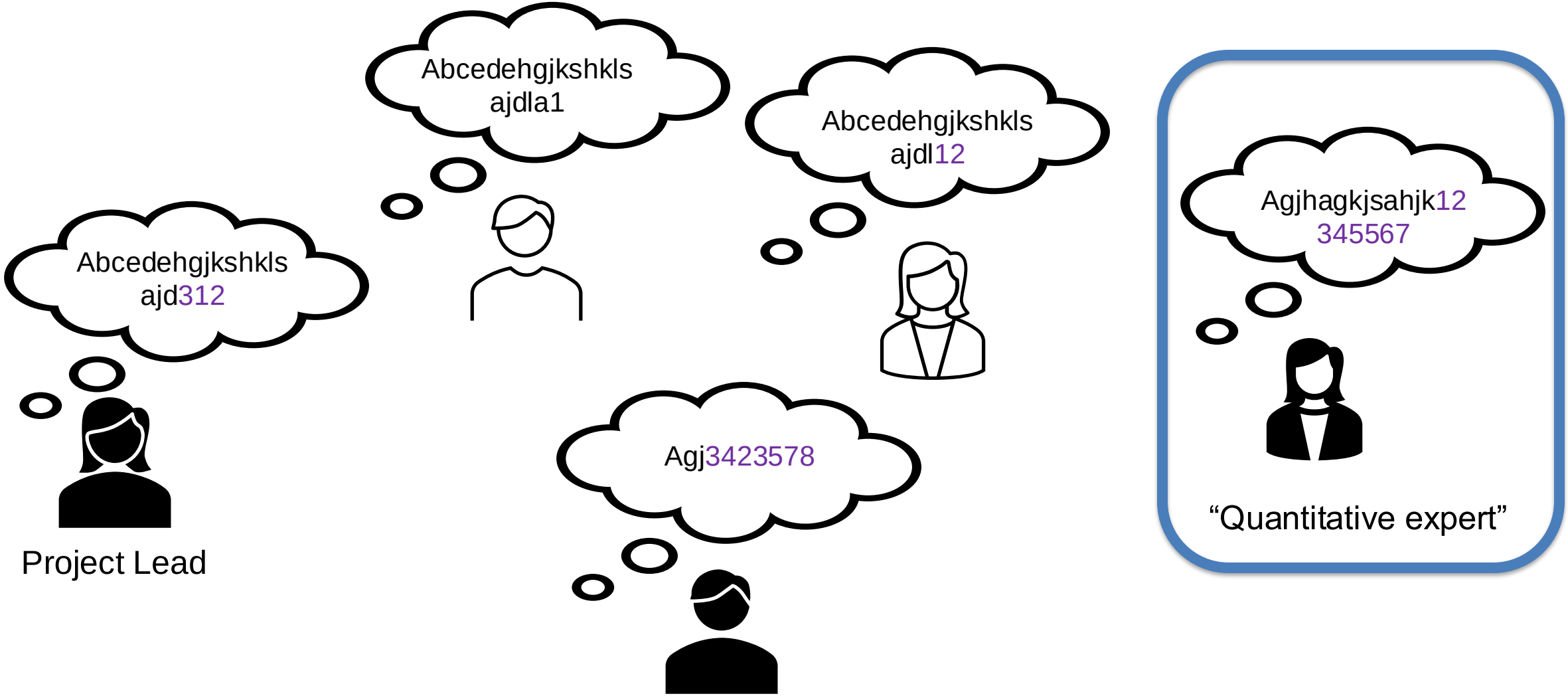
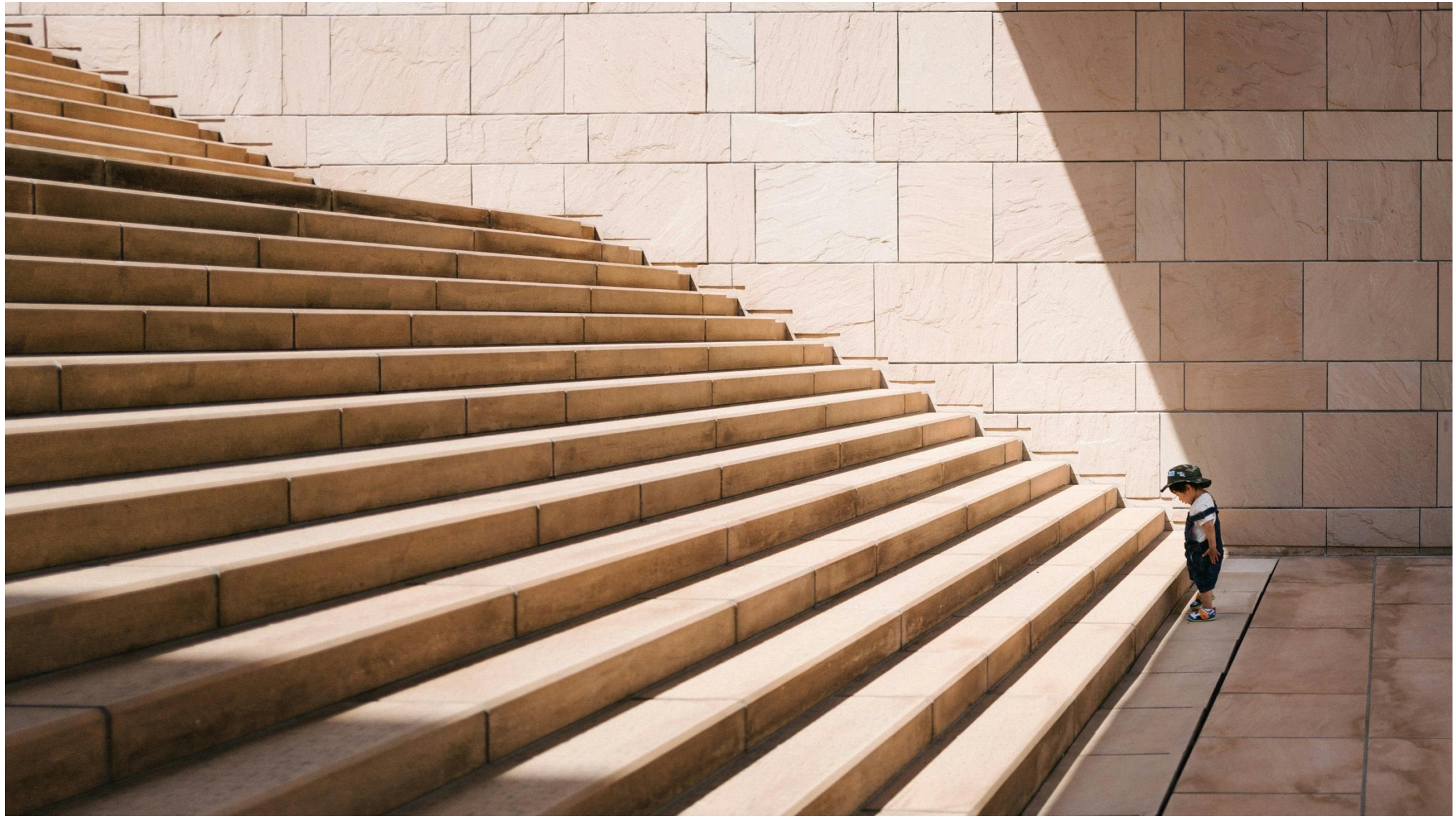


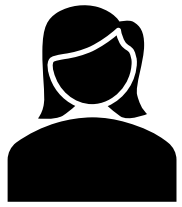
# The evaluation team





# Scoping

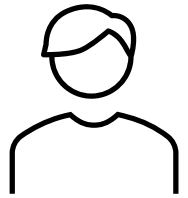
"We need **xyz** data. Can you help?"



Project Lead

"Sure, we have that in our new model!"

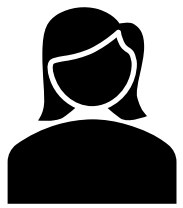
*Xyz? They must mean abc??*



Analytics manager

# Data familiarisation

Will be using data from the modelled dataset



Project lead

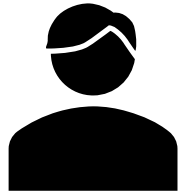
Sure…….I'm sure we can figure it out

Me

*……that sounds complicated…*

# Collecting the data


Me



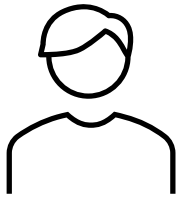
Fellow quant expert

# Data analysis

We needed xyz but your modelled data reports abc

Project lead

We thought that is what you needed... we can't do more now

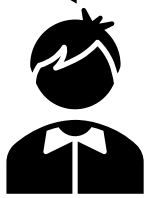


Analytics manager

An analyst from our other team will help you

# Data analysis

I am not familiar with this modelled data set. Which variables do you need?



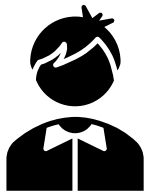
Analyst

Oh, I thought your colleagues would have told you? Let me ask them….

Me

# Still trying to analyse the data……

Here is the analysis you asked for



Analyst

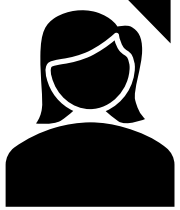
Ok, thanks for all your time!

Me

*Oh no, this still feels wrong!!*

# And in the end……..

The director of analytics said we have to use the abc data reported originally



Project Lead

Ok thanks, we will delete all this analysis

Me

*What a waste of everyone's time!!*

# TIPS 1 - Working with analysts

Clean, process, analyse, SQL, Python,….

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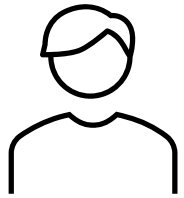
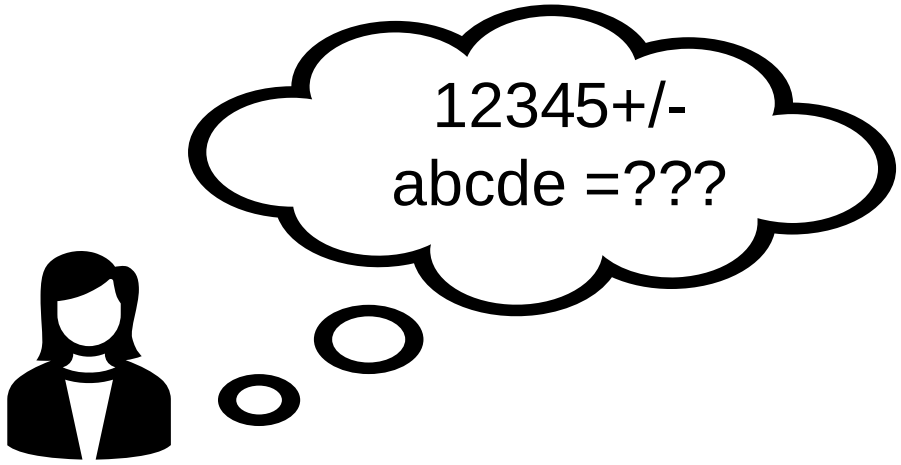


Background

- Data Science
- Advanced stats
- Python
- SQL
- Advanced maths

# Evaluators – varied backgrounds

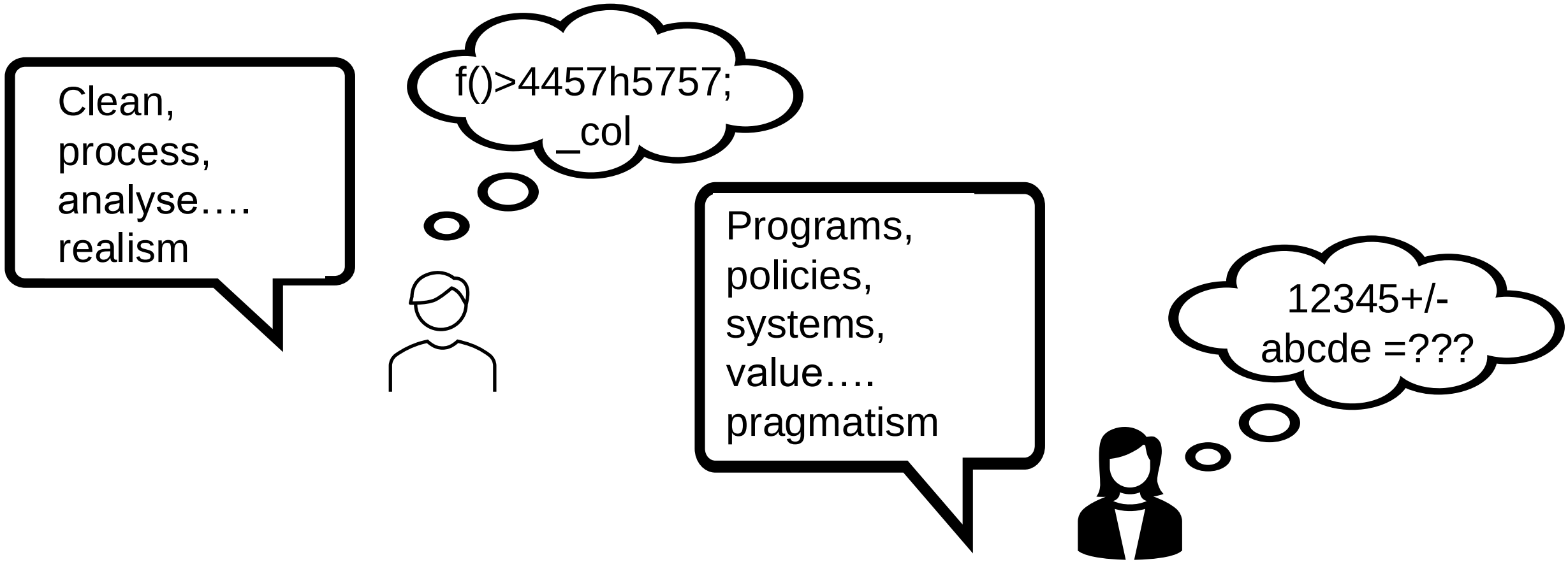
Programs, policies, systems, triangulation, value.




**Background**

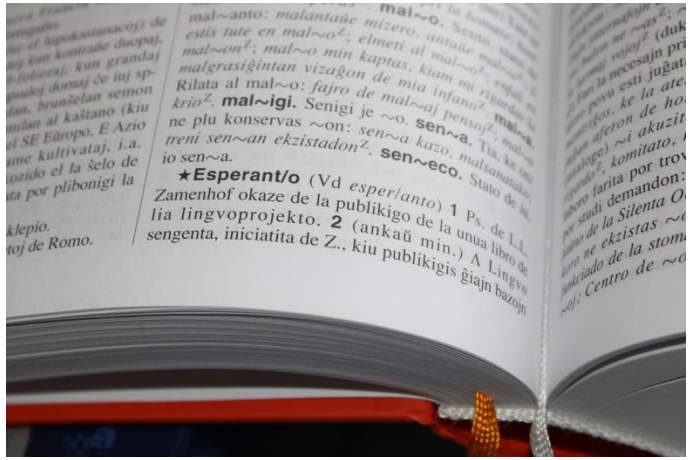
- Anatomy/physiology
- Statistics 101
- Public health
- Mixed methods research
- Evaluation

# We speak and understand different languages

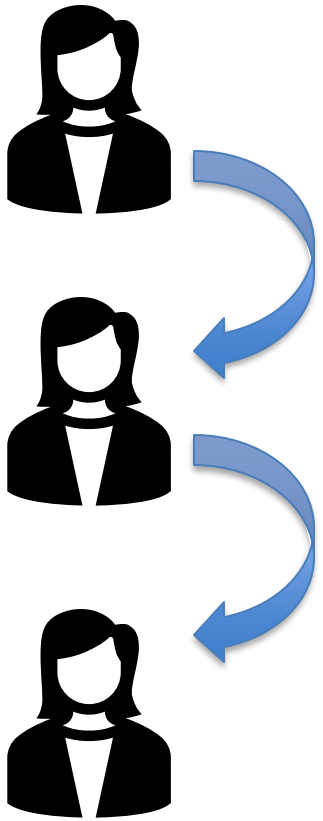


# TIPS 2 – where to begin

Appreciate language differences. Request a data dictionary.



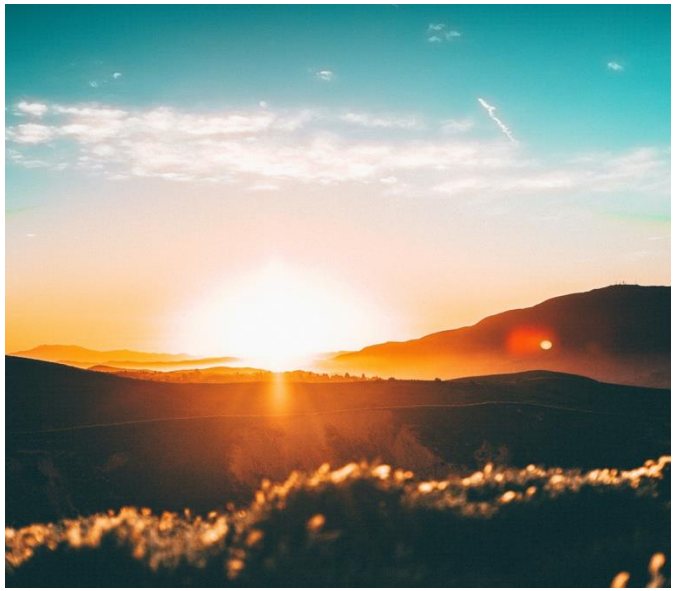
Familiarity



Clarify


# TIPS 3 -Navigating the data

## Start early

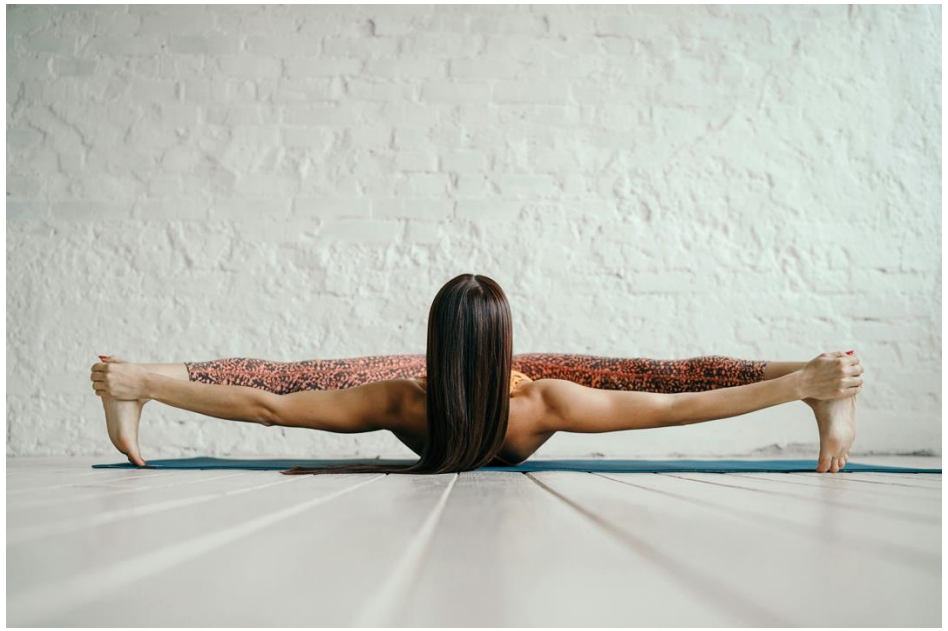


## Clarify…again!

## Keep analysis plans simple

# Navigating the data

**Its temping to want everything from data but if you aren't an analyst:**



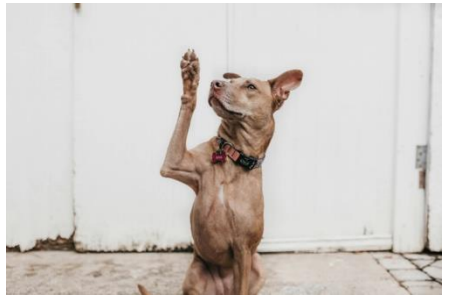
Be flexible

Keep expectations constrained to pre-analysed data

# In summary

Big data are becoming more accessible but still pose challenges.

When working across disciplines clarification of language at many points will save you time and work.


THANK YOU