

POLITICIANS MANIPULATING STATISTICS

Highly original and insightful, Michael Billig and Cristina Marinho's book investigates how politicians misuse official statistics. Setting this problem in its historical context – and offering vivid case studies of Donald Trump, Boris Johnson and Gérald Darmanin – the authors demonstrate that the manipulation of statistics involves the misuse of words as well as the misuse of numbers. Most importantly, the authors show that politicians will manipulate official statisticians to produce politically convenient, but statistically inappropriate, numbers. Another unique part of the book is that the authors are not content with analysing how statistics are manipulated; they also rigorously analyse the efforts of statistical agencies in France and Britain to combat such manipulation. These chapters herald unsung heroes who operate largely 'behind the scenes' to expose and oppose the corruption of statistics. An indispensable read for anyone concerned with the intersection of power and data.

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POLITICIANS MANIPULATING STATISTICS

How They Do It and How to Oppose Them

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List of Abbreviations

Statistical organisations and constructs

ASA	American Statistical Association
ASP	Authority for Public Statistics (France)
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics (USA)
BPP	Billion Prices Project (a way of calculating CPI)
CPI	consumer price index
ELSTAT	Hellenic Statistical Authority (Greece)
GDP	gross domestic product
GRO	General Register Office (England and Wales)
GROS	General Register Office for Scotland
INDEC	National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (Argentina)
INSEE	National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France)
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics (China)
NSSG	National Statistical Service of Greece
ONS	Office for National Statistics (United Kingdom)
SSM	Ministerial Statistical Services (France)
SSMSI	Ministry of Internal Security's Statistical Services (France)
TsUNKhU	Central Statistical Office (USSR)
UKSA	United Kingdom Statistics Authority