Critical Visualization: Core Topics and the Rhetoric of Vis Research

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"... it is not quite a core topic for InfoVis."
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The museum of what you shall have been

Exhibits are really about the present culture that we like to imagine ourselves to be
The visualization of what you shall have been?
What do our visualizations say about us as a field?

Expert users?

Complex data sets?

Novel (but effective) encodings?

Complex interactions?

(and what is the right way to find out?)
What's missing?

Internal representations, prior knowledge
Is communication really subordinate to analysis?

Adapted from J. Stasko
Is storytelling really inherently “fuzzy”?

This is why I think that talking about "storytelling" in #dataviz may be a bad idea.
What’s missing?

Internal representations, prior knowledge
Does the observed data have to be the end goal?

Draw your line on the chart below

Percent of children who attended college

Parents’ income percentile

Free tip: Your line should go through this point.
Does the observed data have to be the end goal?
Can visualizations be used to gather data?

The Death of a Terrorist: A Turning Point?

President Obama’s announcement Sunday night about Osama bin Laden’s death produced an outpouring of reaction. We asked readers the following questions: Was his death significant in our war against terror? And do you have a negative or positive view of this event? Readers — 13,864 of them — answered by plotting a response on the graph and adding a comment to explain the choice. Each light blue dot represents one comment. Darker shades represent multiple comments made on a single point. (Comments are no longer being accepted.)
Thanks!

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