How to be an effective data editor

And build a data-friendly newsroom for international investigations

ICIJ INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM
of INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

The
Guardian

OCCRP

How to build a data team capable of delivering groundbreaking work?

- **Advocate** for data journalism within our organisations, its value to storytelling and its role in shaping editorial priorities

- Implement a **data mindset** (promote a culture of collaboration, attention to detail, sense checks, have each others' backs)

- Create a **safe space** for your team where they can share skills, experiment and speak freely

- **Manage up**: personalise communications; act as a "data translator"

How to manage complex, multinational collaborations

ALL INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS ARE ORGANISED CHAOS

- **Pick a communication method** and stick to it: everyone will hate it but you just need to suffer through it

- **Regular partner meetings** (but not too regular)

- **Timebox deliverables** from the start (and communicate this to higher-uppers)

- **One task at a time** (helps you avoid overwhelm)

How to juggle deadlines/push back on unreasonable demands

- Identify your **workflow**…BE REALISTIC…and try to preempt the bottlenecks/all stages of the story: fact checking, subbing, visuals, legal, etc

- Anticipate unknown unknowns: something unexpected WILL happen so always bake in more time

- Don't be afraid to say NO (or, if you can't, say, fine I can do *this* but it means *I can't do that*

Questions?
(here are some starters in case you dont' have any but feel free to pose your own)

- What skills and tools do data editors look for when hiring data journalists

- *Creating* a data-driven culture is not the same as *maintaining* it: discuss

- Common challenges data journalists face when collaborating with other teams: (and how to deal with editors/correspondents/journalists who come to them too late in a project or see data work as "just numbers"...gah!!)