DECODING DATA VIZ:
HOW TO FACT CHECK CHARTS AND VISUALS

Speaker Biographies

Alberto Cairo is a journalist and designer and the Knight chair in visual journalism at the University of Miami's (UM's) School of Communication. He is also the director of the visualization program at UM's Center for Computational Science and has been head of information graphics at media publications in Spain and Brazil. The author of several textbooks, Cairo currently consults with companies and institutions like Google and the Congressional Budget Office and has provided visualization training to the European Union, Eurostat, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Army National Guard, and many other organizations.

Lazaro Gamio is a deputy managing editor at Axios, where he oversees a group of visual journalists that make charts, maps, interactive graphics, and editorial illustrations. Previously, he worked at the *Washington Post* as an assignment editor on the graphics team, and before that, at his hometown paper, the *Miami Herald*.

Amanda Makulec, is the data visualization lead at Excella, a technology consulting firm where she works with clients across sectors to deliver user-centered data visualization products. Before joining Excella, Makulec spent eight years working with data in global health, during which she traveled to nearly a dozen countries conducting workshops and coaching community organizations on data visualization. She is a founding board member and operations director for the Data Visualization Society and co-organizer for Data Viz DC. Makulec has a bachelor's degree in zoology and sociology from Miami University and a master's degree in public health from Boston University School of Public Health.

Jonathan Schwabish is a senior fellow in the Income and Benefits Policy Center at the Urban Institute. He also specializes in data visualization and presentation design as a member of Urban's communications team. His research agenda includes earnings and income inequality, immigration, disability insurance, retirement security, data measurement, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Schwabish is considered a leader in the data visualization field and is a leading voice for clarity and accessibility in research. He has written on how to best visualize data, including technical aspects of creation, design best practices, and how to communicate social science research more accessibly. He was named a "visualization thought leader" by *AllAnalytics* in 2013 and speaks frequently on data visualization, open data, and data use in organizations. Schwabish teaches data visualization and presentation skills at Georgetown University, American University, and the Maryland Institute College of Art. He is also founder of PolicyViz, a small consulting firm that helps clients improve how they work with and communicate data and analysis. He also hosts the PolicyViz podcast, which focuses on data, open data, and data visualization. He is author of a new book about presentation design and techniques, *Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks*.

Alli Torban is a data visualization designer at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. With a background in mathematics and geospatial intelligence, Torban has spent the past decade honing her data and analysis skills while serving as a government contractor for clients like the FBI and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In her spare time, she turns data visualizations into interesting audio stories on her podcast *Data Viz Today*.