

Using Big Data to inform practice

Valerie Rowles RCDP

Career Development Practitioner

Erm, 'Big Data' ...?



- The three Vs: volume, velocity, variety (Laney, 2011; 2017)

© Valerie Rowles 2025

Background to my Big Data project

My research interest

Research question: what does a linguistics-based examination of contemporary English language data reveal about current perceptions of career?

Big Data methodology – corpus linguistics (CL)

Existing scholarly work

Ideas about career: Arthur and Rousseau(1996) Adamson et al., (1998) Baruch and Vardi (2016), Bergmo-Prvulovic (2015), Cohen and Duberley (2021), Coupland, Ng et al. (2004), Young and Collin (2004)

Metaphor & career: Inkson (2004)

Narrative & career: Reid (2014)

Quantitative linguistic analysis: Vahidi (2021)



Method – how I used big data

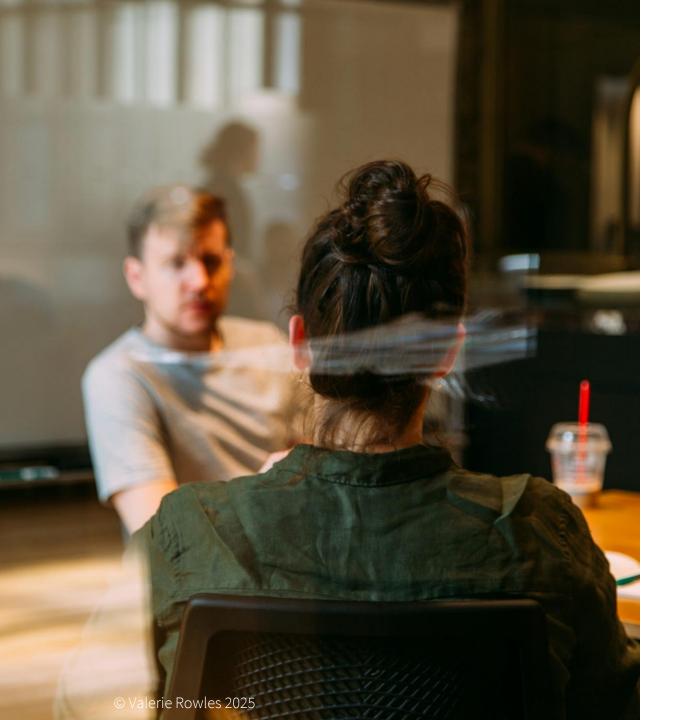
Sourcing the data:

- Parliament Hansard
- Business media *Nexis*

Analytical tool:

Corpus Linguistics software - Sketch Engine

© Valerie Rowles 2025



How Big Data is informing my practice

Objective evidence

Increasing my confidence in taking a critical gaze
Helping me recognise my own conditioning

Speedy results

Distinctive linguistic patterns easily revisited to gain new insights

Alternative source of CPD/lifelong learning

Enabling pursuit of my personal research interest Opportunities to discuss with fellow CPDs!

References/further reading

Adamson, S.J., Doherty, N. and Viney, C. (1998). 'The Meanings of Career Revisited: Implications for Theory and Practice'. British journal of management, 9(4): 251–259.

Baruch, Y. and Vardi, Y. (2016). 'A fresh look at the dark side of contemporary careers: Toward a realistic discourse'. British journal of management, 27(2): 355–372.

Bergmo-Prvulovic, I., (2015) 'Social representations of career and career guidance in the changing world of working life' Doctoral Thesis. Jönköping University, School of Education and Communication, HLK, Lifelong learning/Encell. Available at: https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A798955&dswid=-6547

Cohen, L. and Duberley, J. (2021). 'Making Sense of Our Working Lives: The concept of the career imagination'. Organization Theory, 2(2): 1-15

Corbett, C.J. (2018) 'How sustainable is Big Data?'. Production and Operations Management. Vol. 27(9)

Coupland, C. (2004). 'Career definition and denial: A discourse analysis of graduate trainees' accounts of career'. Journal of vocational behavior, 64(3): 515–532.

Halliday, M.A.K. and Matthiessen, C.M.I.M. (2014). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Routledge Inkson, K. (2004). 'Images of career: Nine key metaphors'. *Journal of vocational behavior*, 65(1): 96–111.

Kitchin, R., (2016) 'What makes Big Data, Big Data? Exploring the ontological characteristics of 26 datasets'. Big Data & Society. 1-10

Laney, D.B. (2017) How to Monetize, Manage and Measure Information as an Asset for Competitive Advantage. New York:Routledge.

Mehdipour, F., Noori, H., Javadi, B., (2016) 'Chapter two – Energy-Efficient Big Data Analytics in Datacenters'. Advances in Computers Vol. 100: 59-101

Ng, E.S., Lyons, S.T. and Schweitzer, L. (2018). 'Career Concepts'. in *Generational Career Shifts*. United Kingdom: Emerald Publishing Limited, pp. 21–43.

Reid, H. (2014) 'What is career about if not biography?: Examining the 'shift' to constructivist and interdisciplinary approaches in career counselling'. Constructing Narratives of Continuity and Change. London:Routledge

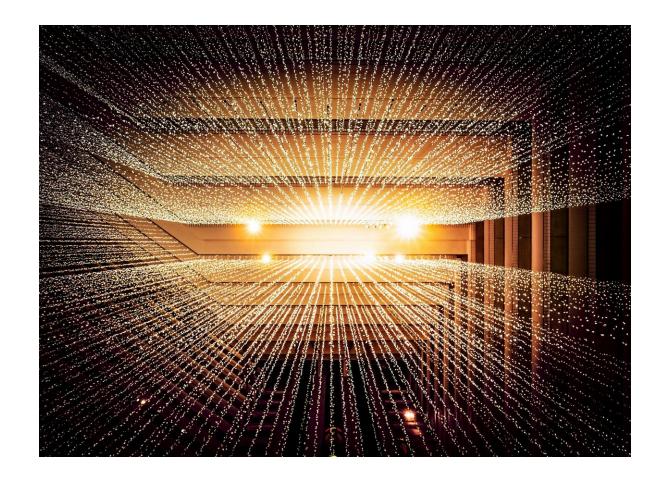
Vahidi, G. (2021). Representation of Careers in British Print Media, 1985-2015. PhD thesis University of Loughborough.

Young, R.A. and Collin. A., (2000). 'Introduction: framing the future of career'. In A. Collin and R.A. Young (eds.) *The Future of Career*. Cambridge, GBR: Cambridge University Press.

Feel free to get in touch:

valerierowles@yahoo.co.uk

https://www.linkedin.com/in/valerierowles/



Thank you

© Valerie Rowles, 2025