





The manipulation of official statistics as corruption and ways of understanding it

MISUSE OF STATISTICS: TIME TO SPEAK OUT

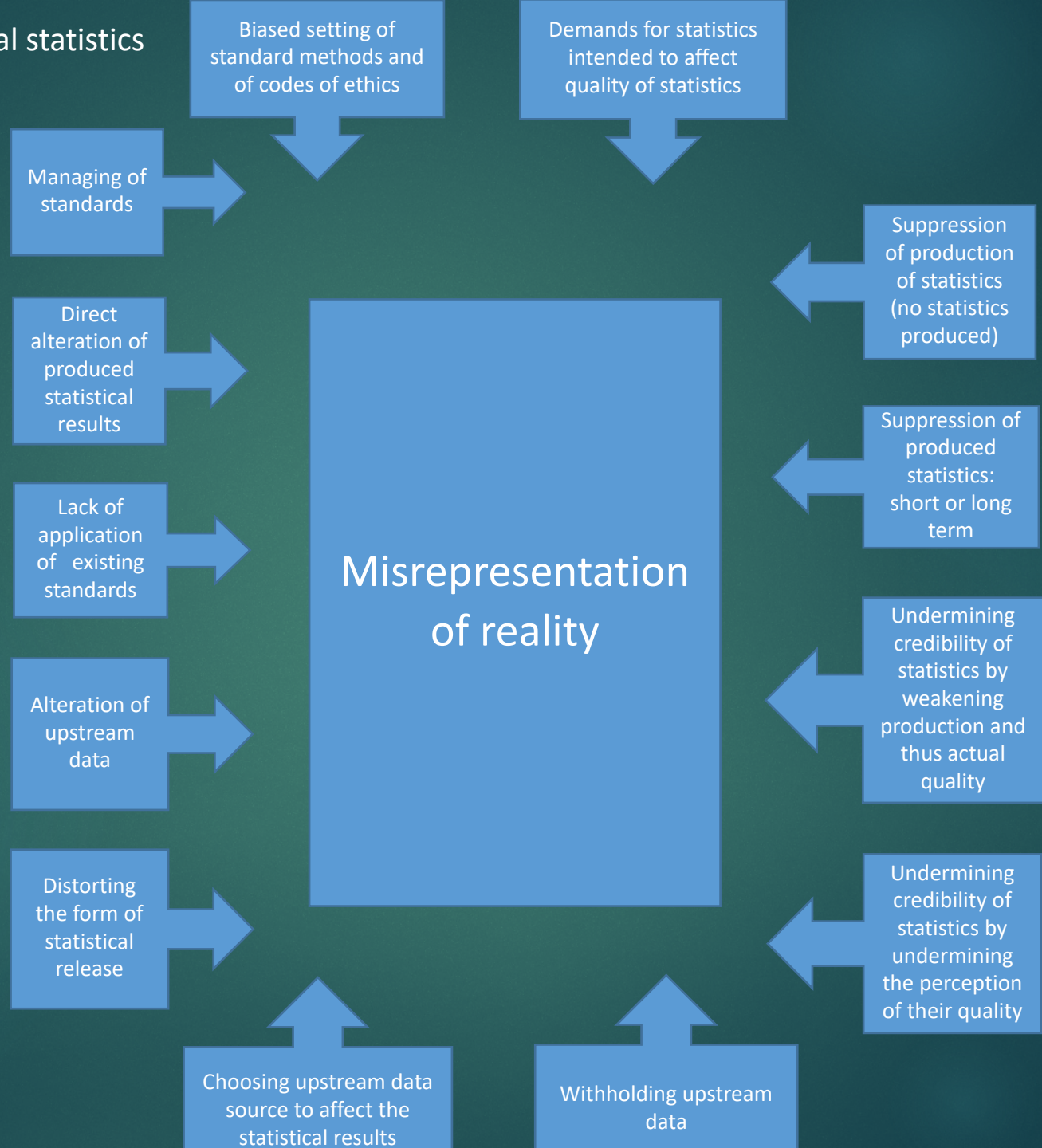
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- ❖ The manipulation of official statistics is corruption and indeed it is grand corruption and political corruption
 - ❖ it is a manipulation of the statistical processes and statistical institutions, at the instruction of or in anticipation of the interests of politicians/policy makers and those they represent, and this is done so as to achieve a false picture of economic, social and environmental reality with a view to distorting policies and state functions
 - ❖ the ulterior motives are the distortion of allocation of economic resources of the state and of the economy as well as the misappropriation of political power

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- ❖ Steps have been taken in recent decades, which inter alia help make corruption in official statistics more difficult, but instances of corruption persist
 - ❖ To address the problem of corruption in official statistics, it is important to have an analytical tool for understanding it
 - ❖ I offer a schematic model for understanding corruption in official statistics (for details see paper in March 2021 issue of SJIAOS)

Phenomena of manipulation of official statistics



Phenomena of manipulation of official statistics can be understood by identifying the *process* or *mechanism* that gives rise to such phenomena and the *elements* or *component parts* of this process/mechanism. These elements or component parts can be categorized as follows:

- drivers of the phenomena
- enabling conditions of the phenomena
- modalities or methods used to arrive at the phenomena
- vectors or agents that execute/propagate the phenomena



- manifestations/phenomena (outward instruments) of statistical manipulation



Vectors

Misrepresentation
of reality

Phenomena
of
manipulation
of statistics

Modalities/
Methods

Drivers

Enabling conditions

- ❖ All cases of corruption in official statistics can be analyzed using this schematic model
- ❖ Can help identify what institutional or legal setting, action, institution or person presents a problem, vulnerability or source of risk in a given system of production of a specific official statistical product in a given country, and address it
- ❖ Can also inform a discussion about what needs to be changed at the level of international/supranational arrangements, whether concerning institutional settings, processes, or legal and ethical frameworks, affecting the production of official statistics