DATA VISUALISATION & INFOGRAPHICS

ONLINE TRAINING

MASTERCLASS

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The Masterclass in Data Visualisation & Infographics Design is an online training course providing attendees with an advanced understanding of how to effectively communicate data visually. The training aims to facilitate this understanding by de-constructing this contemporary, multi-disciplinary craft, making it accessible to learners of any background and experience.

The training agenda is structured around a proven design process that helps you to organise and organise your critical thinking, irrespective of the data-driven communication challenges you are facing. Attendees will build up, stage-by-stage, the knowledge and capability required to make the best creative, analytical, editorial, and contextual decisions. To fulfil this there are four key learning aims:

To challenge your existing approaches towards creating and consuming visualisation and infographics, helping to clarify the capabilities required to enhance your competence and confidence.

To enlighten you about the wide range of visual communication design options including a gallery of chart types, interactive techniques, methods for annotating, features of colour, and choices around composition.

To equip you with an efficient workflow process and robust principles of effectiveness so you have a critical framework to make excellent choices.

To inspire you to elevate your ambitions by broadening your visual vocabulary and exposing you to the best examples and case studies.

This is not a technical course and will not be delivered through tutorial-based instruction explaining how to use certain tools or applications. The emphasis is on learning the underlying craft. However, during the course there will be profiles of the most common visualisation technologies.

The sessions will be delivered entirely online using video conferencing and collaborative tools. All materials will be issued digitally, including the teaching slides, exercise files and further useful resources. Attendees will need laptops/desktops with camera and microphone access enabled.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Over 6,000 attendees have participated in Andy Kirk’s classroom and online training events, representing all backgrounds, all types of roles and talents, and every organisation category and industry. They are designed for and relevant to anybody who needs to communicate with data.

You might be an analyst, statistician, or researcher looking to enhance the creativity and impact of your communications. Perhaps you possess creative flair, as a designer or developer, but you’re seeking to enhance the rigour of your data-driven thinking.

In our contemporary digital and data rich society we cannot avoid encountering visual communications in our workplace, through the media and beyond. A key dimension of this training is to enhance critical visual literacy as consumers, interpreters and evaluators of visual displays.

There are no technical pre-requisites for this course. You should have an instinct for an interest in sharing insights from data, and demonstrate an appetite for embracing fresh approaches to communicating data. You should be willing to contribute to and learn from discussions with fellow attendees during exercise activities, doing so in a respectful and constructive manner. The course will be richer and more fun as a result.

TRAINEER PROFILE

Andy Kirk is an experienced UK-based data visualisation specialist: design consultant, trainer, lecturer, author, speaker, researcher, podcast host, and editor of visualisingdata.com. Since founding Visualising Data Ltd. in 2010, Andy has conducted nearly 300 training courses in 27 countries, with clients including Spotify, Google, EU Council, and CERN.

Andy has delivered post-graduate teaching with MICA (USA) and Imperial College (UK), and is now an adjunct lecturer with UCL (UK). He has authored three books, with the most recent published by Sage in August 2019 and titled ‘Visualising Data: A Handbook for Data Driven Design (2nd edition)’. He provides data visualisation consultancy services to organisations, helping them do more with their data, and has an ongoing engagement working with the Arsenal F.C. Performance Team.

TRAINING AGENDA

To accommodate the unique demands of learning online, the training will be delivered across a sequence of several 3-hour daily workshops blending teaching, in-class exercises, discussions, and practical activities. The training times presented are indicative and based on UK time-zone.

WORKSHOP #1 - Day 1, 10:00am to 1:00pm BST

10:00 Welcome and introduction to the training
10:15 Defining data visualisation
10:30 The process and principles behind good visualisation design
10:50 Exercise – Instinctive critical evaluations
11:05 [Screen break]
11:15 Exercise – Instinctive critical evaluations | Discussion
11:30 STAGE 1: FORMULATING YOUR BRIEF
Exercise – Understanding the influence of context | Discussion
Context: Curiosity and circumstances
12:00 [Screen break]
12:10 Vision: Purpose and ideas
12:30 Technology: A profile of key tools, applications and libraries
12:50 Session review & homework task, workshop 2 preview
13:00 FINISH

WORKSHOP #2 - Day 2, 10:00am to 1:00pm BST

10:00 Workshop 2 introduction, review of workshop 1
10:10 STAGE 2: WORKING WITH DATA
Exercise – Thinking about data | Discussion
Four steps towards developing intimacy with your data
Exercise – Data driven thinking (1) | Discussion
11:00 [Screen break]
11:10 STAGE 3: ESTABLISHING EDITORIAL THINKING
Exercise – Editorial brainstorming | Discussion
Defining editorial thinking and the key editorial perspectives
Exercise – Data driven thinking (2) | Discussion
11:45 [Screen break]
11:55 STAGE 4: DEVELOPING YOUR DESIGN SOLUTION
4.1: DATA REPRESENTATION
Visual encoding and the gallery of chart types
Influencing factors and considerations
12:50 Session review & homework task, workshop 3 preview
13:00 FINISH

WORKSHOP #3 - Day 3, 10:00am to 10:00pm BST

10:00 Workshop 3 introduction, review of workshop 2
10:20 4.2: INTERACTIVITY
Techniques for employing interactivity & influencing factors
Exercise – Forensic critical evaluations (1)
10:45 4.3: ANNOTATION
Features of annotation & influencing factors
11:00 [Screen break]
11:10 Exercise – Forensic critical evaluations (2)
11:20 4.4: COLOUR
Applications of colour & influencing factors
Exercise – Forensic critical evaluations (3)
11:45 4.5: COMPOSITION
Decisions about composition & influencing factors
12:00 [Screen break]
Exercise – Forensic critical evaluations (4) and redesigns
Exercise – Forensic critical evaluations & redesigns | Discussion
12:50 Session review & homework task, workshop 3 preview
13:00 FINISH

[Optional] WORKSHOP #4 - Day 4, 10:00am to 12:00pm BST

10:00 Workshop 4 introduction
10:10 Individual project presentation, discussion and feedback
11:00 [Screen break]
11:10 Individual project presentation, discussion and feedback (continued)
11:45 Workshop review, further resources, final Q&A
Ongoing availability for ‘one-to-ones’ through to Thursday 30th April
12:00 FINISH