

# David H. Montgomery

Journalist, coder, designer & cartographer passionate about explaining the world

## Experience

### Senior data journalist, YouGov (2023-present)

- Conducted and analyzed hundreds of polls
- Interpreted survey findings through articles and a newsletter
- Wrote custom R functions to automate survey analysis and visualization for myself and colleagues

### Podcaster, *The Siècle* (2018-present)

- Created, researched, wrote, recorded & edited an ongoing scripted history podcast about France 1814-1914
- Supplemented research by interviewing historians
- Used historical data to convey history through charts & maps

### Freelance journalist (2014-present)

- Worked for clients including *HuffPost*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, *CityLab*, *Politico Magazine*, *MPR News* & *APM Reports*
- Covered topics from politics to history, as well as doing data analysis and making charts and maps

### Data journalist, Minneapolis Federal Reserve (2022-2023)

- Used data & visuals to explain the Upper Midwest economy
- Automated regular tasks by writing internal R packages

### Data journalist, *MPR News* (2020-2022)

- Ran COVID-19 data analysis for the entire newsroom, producing charts, writing articles and analyzing stats on air
- Spearheaded political data journalism for the 2020 elections
- Wrote popular newsletters on COVID data and MN politics

### Data journalist, *CityLab* (2018-2019)

- Produced hundreds of maps & charts for *CityLab* staff
- Invented the Congressional Density Index, a novel way to categorize all 435 congressional districts by the density of their neighborhoods, cited by *The Washington Post*, *FiveThirtyEight*, *The Wall Street Journal* & others

### Political reporter, *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (2014-2017)

- Focused on explaining politics instead of incremental coverage
- Enhanced traditional articles with maps and charts

### Political reporter, *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* (2012-2014)

- Chief political reporter for largest newspaper in the state

### Political reporter, *Rapid City Journal* (2010-2012)

### Reporter, *Pierre Capital Journal* (2008-2010)

## Skills

### Journalism

- Swift, clean writing in AP Style
- Mastery of politics, policy & government
- Data analysis through R
- Distinctive & informative use of Twitter

### Code

- Expert R programmer, including data analysis, advanced **ggplot** visualizations, package creation and **Shiny** interactives
- Basic: CSS, MySQL, Javascript/D3

### Design

- Sophisticated **ggplot** graphs, including custom theme development
- Expert with **Datawrapper**, including customized charts using its API
- Adept with Photoshop & Illustrator

### Cartography

- Expert: QGIS, mapping in R
- Intermediate: Leaflet, Carto

## Appearances

- BBC News, MSNBC, CBS News, The Washington Post, C-SPAN Radio, MPR News, SDPB, The Gist, TPT

## Education

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science  
*Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, May 2008*

## Contact

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