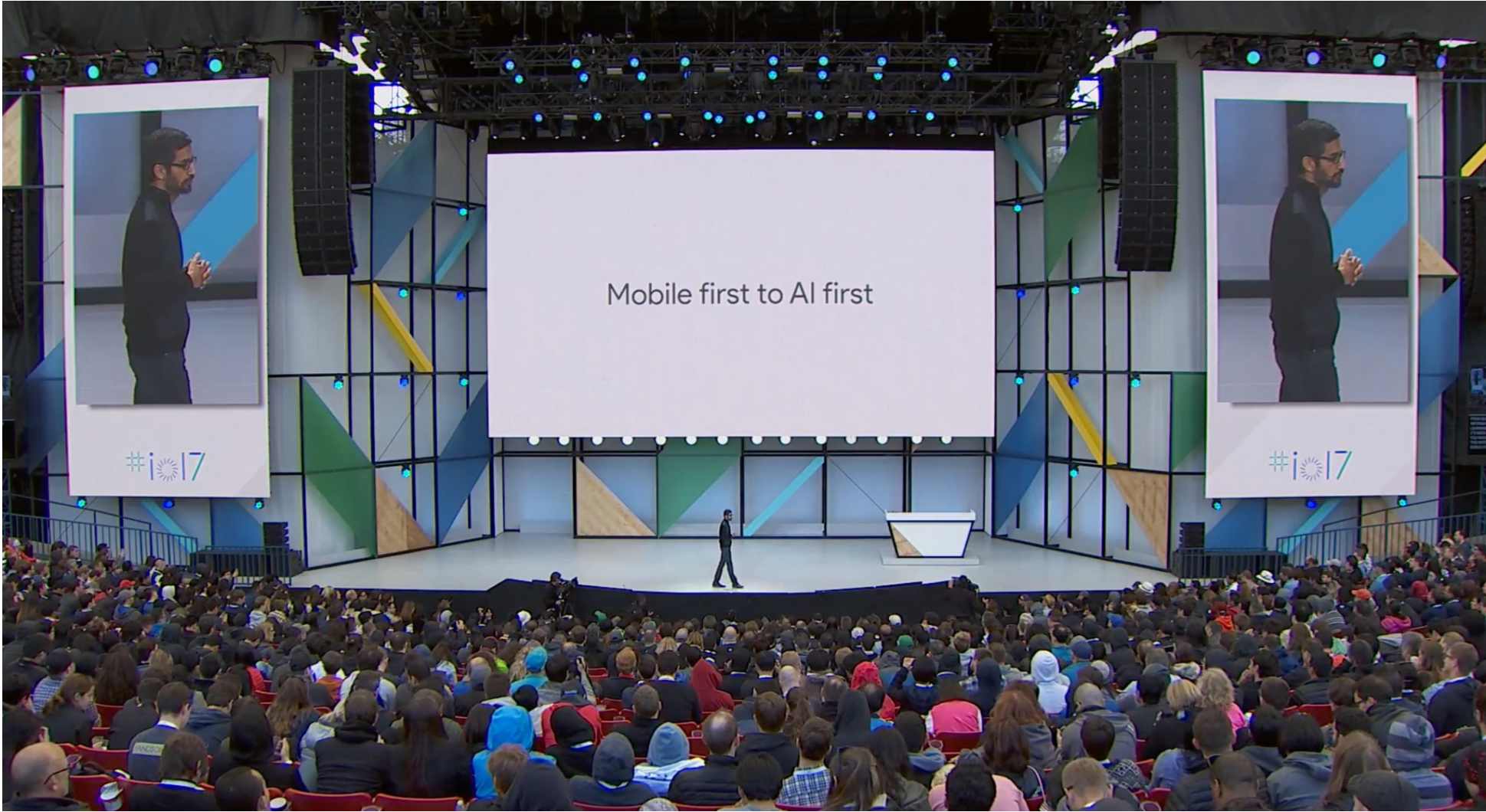


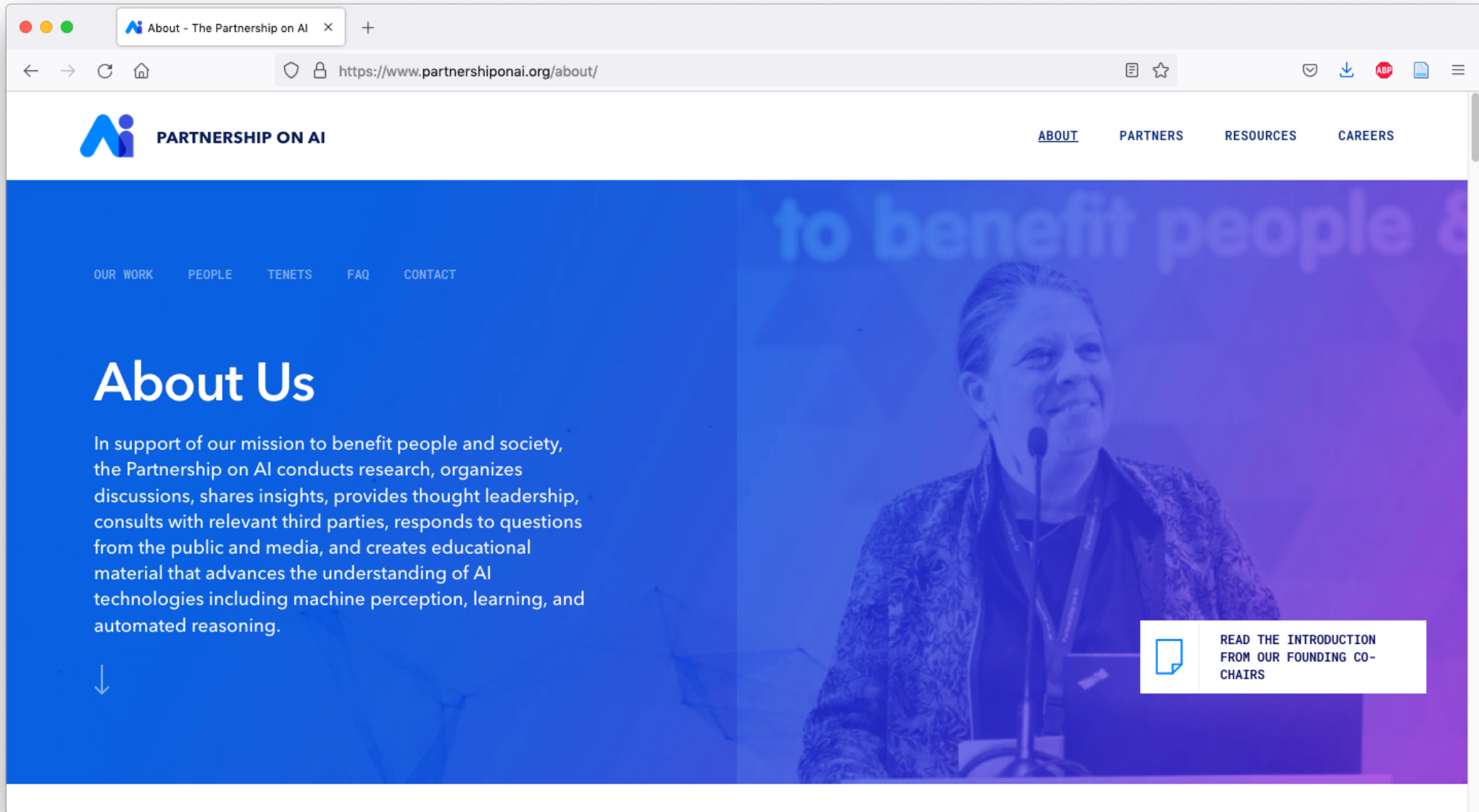
Datafication and Accountability

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Accountability is a core concept for making sense of datafication





»outsource moral responsibility«

»ethical mistakes«

»concerns about the ethics of data harvesting«

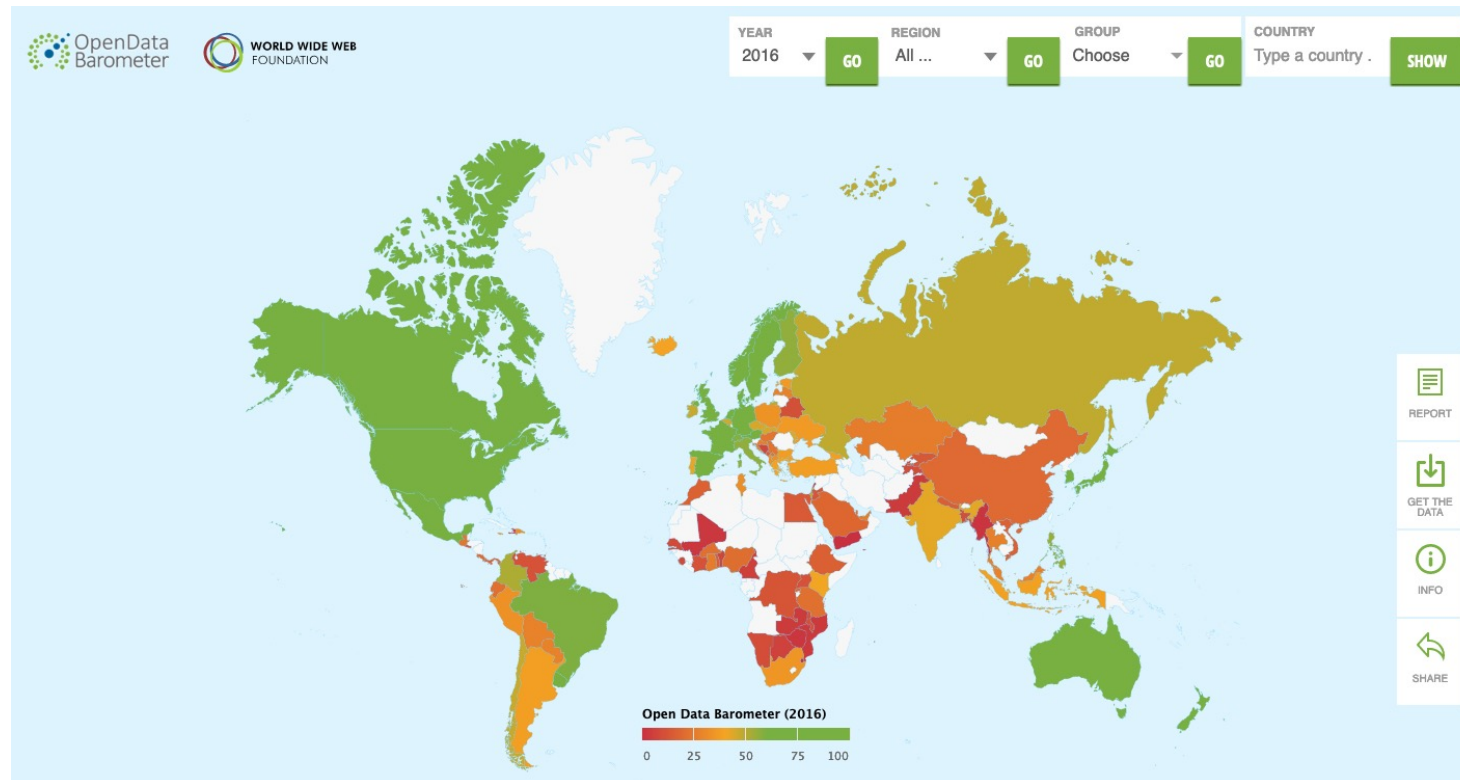
The more organizations embrace and stakeholders demand **transparency** and **accountability**, the more difficult it becomes to understand how these concepts relate to each other.

Three perspectives on the relation between transparency and accountability

The »causal« perspective

- Assumes a **direct** relation between transparency and accountability
- Shows **that** transparency creates accountability
- Treats concepts (transparency and accountability) as analytic resources used by **researcher-analysts**

Example: Open Data Barometer



»A global measure of how governments are publishing and using **open data for accountability**, innovation and social impact.«

The »critical« perspective

- Assumes a **complex** relation between transparency and accountability
- Explains **why** transparency can only create limited accountability
- Treats concepts (transparency and accountability) as analytic resources used by **researcher-analysts**

Example: Pirate Party

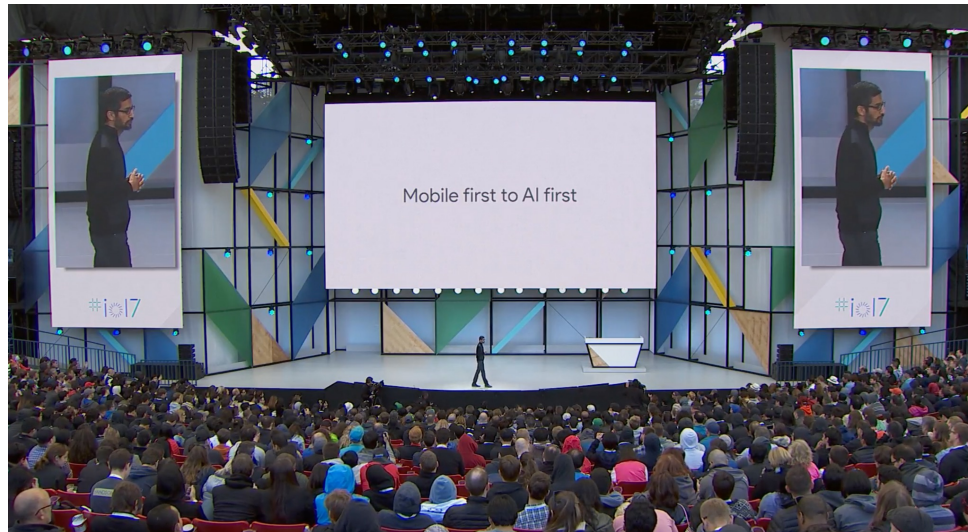


The »constructive« perspective

- Perspective creates a **symmetry** between researcher-analysts and practitioner-analysts
- Instead of assuming a type of relationship between transparency and accountability, **constructing** and **relating** these concepts is seen as something that practitioner-analysts do and researcher-analysts observe
- Makes visible **what is at stake** when people mobilize and relate transparency and accountability (with regards to datafication)

Example: Staged Performances

Google Developer Conference



Policy Conference



How do the ways in which Google defines and relates accountability and transparency in these two situations differ?

What can these differences tell us about the »work« that these concept do in these situations?

Summary

- Accountability is a core concept for making sense of datafication
- Accountability often ‘appears’ together with transparency
- Thinking about the different ways in which these concepts relate can be an interesting research strategy.
- Different perspectives on transparency and accountability (causal, critical, constructive) allow us to learn about the different implications that datafication has for organizing.