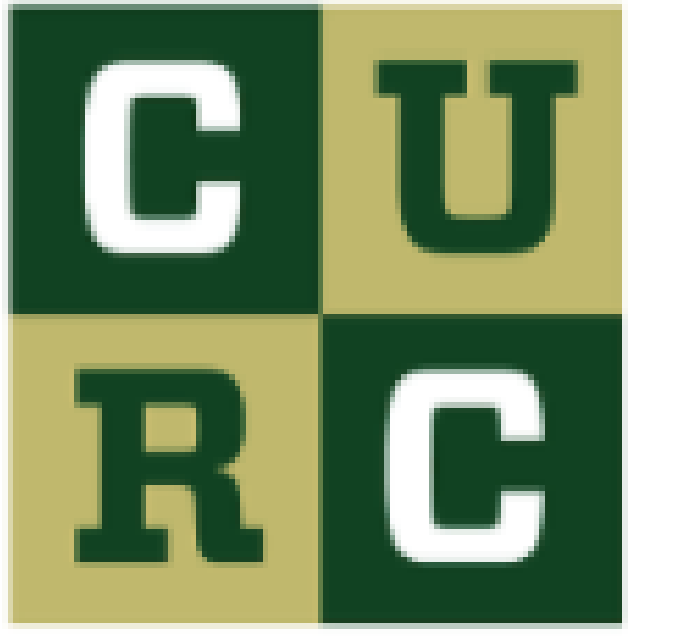


Mapping Museums: A Spatial Analysis of the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art at Colorado State University



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Background

The goal of this project is to identify parts of the world that are represented in the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art (GAMA) at Colorado State University. As international studies students, we believe it is important to be mindful of bias in art consumption and to have exposure to a variety of perspectives. Museums are powerful institutions for identity formation; therefore, the project is designed to encourage viewers to consider the scope of global representation.

Research Questions

- Where do the pieces of art originate?
- How is international art represented culturally and physically in the GAMA?

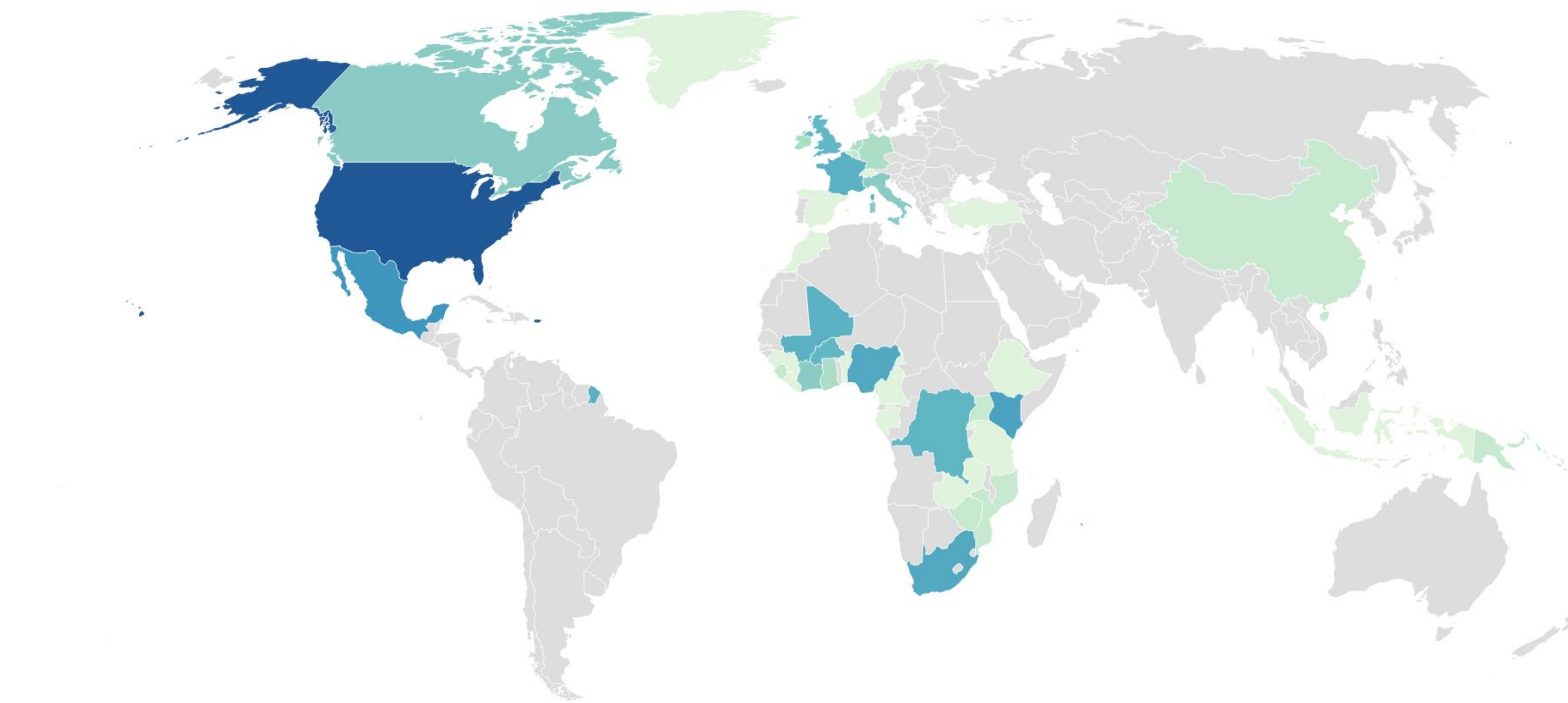
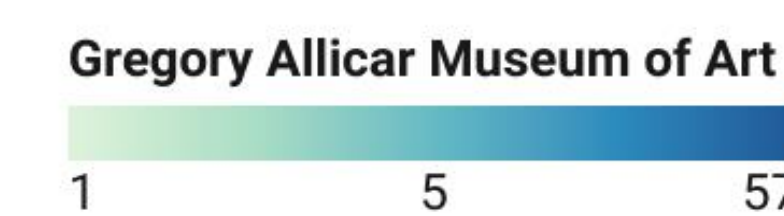
Methods

We employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods, particularly statistical analysis and mapping techniques to visually display global art representation in the GAMA. We recorded the country of origin for each piece of art in the museum and created a choropleth map that demonstrates each country's inclusion and frequency. Further, we created a pie chart to compare each country's frequency of representation.

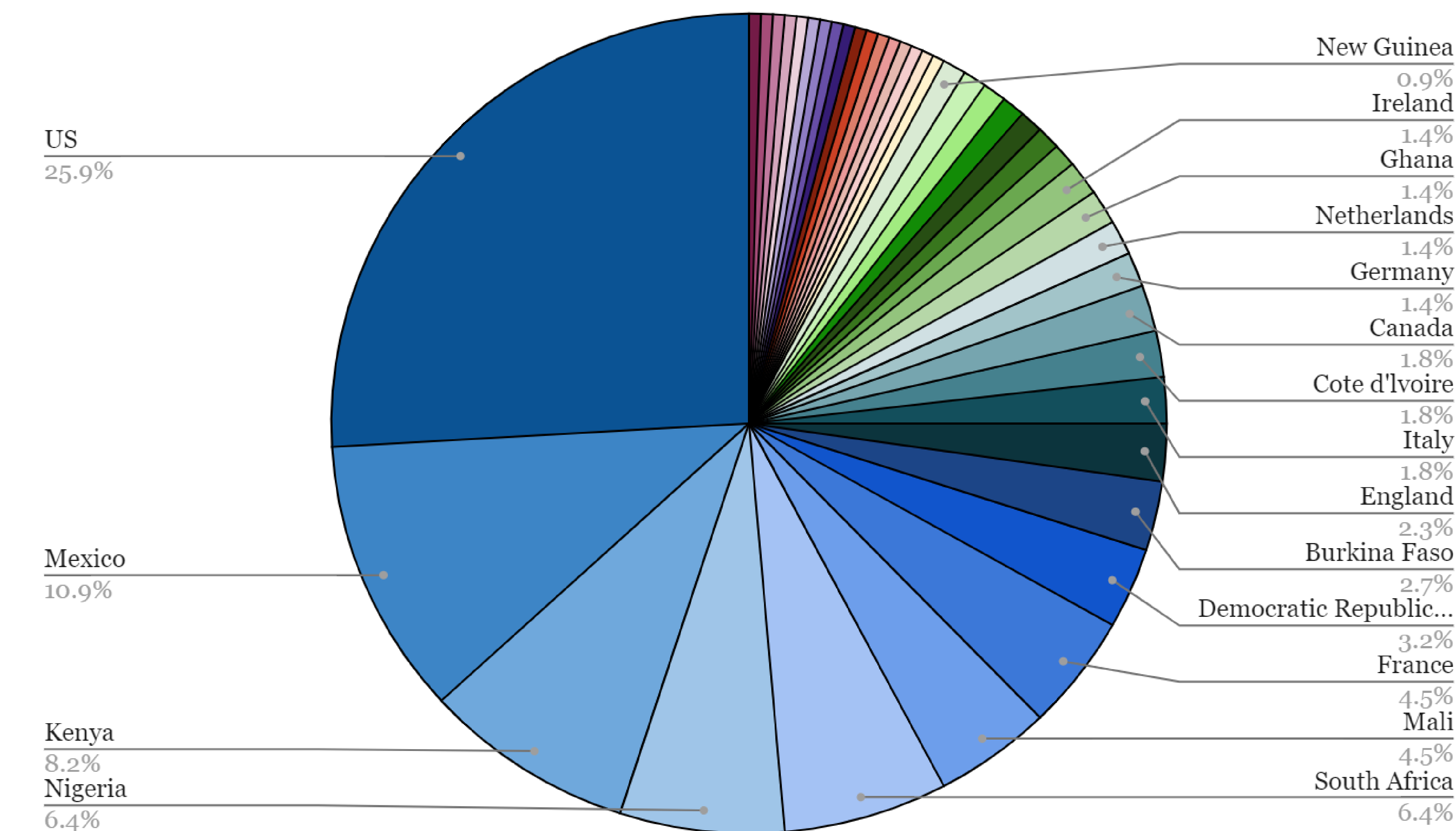
We used Datawrapper software to generate the choropleth map and Microsoft services for the pie chart.

Results

Global Art Representation



Created with Datawrapper



Discussion/Conclusion

Our findings show that the museum's art collection originates from a variety of countries and reflects diverse cultures, particularly in Africa, North America, and Western Europe. However, our findings revealed a notable lack of representation from South and Central America, the Middle East, Oceania, Eastern Europe and Asia. We hope that by highlighting the geographical origins of art, patrons will have more awareness of the scope of cultural representation and be encouraged to think critically about how this affects their interpretation. Lastly, we hope to draw attention to the importance of cultural representation in art education and provide an outline for future research in this topic to create more inclusive exhibits.

Limitations

Due to software limitations, we were unable to categorize Native American artworks based on regional locations in the U.S., but rather included them within the country at large, thus we did not show culturally diverse artwork within the U.S. Furthermore, it is difficult to measure representation, because while there is art from a country, it does not mean its values are accurately represented.

Bibliography

- Datawrapper: Create charts, maps, and tables. (2021, August 11). Retrieved from <https://www.datawrapper.de/>
- Leavy, P. (2017). *Research design: Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, arts-based, and community-based participatory research approaches*. Guilford Press.