CONTEXT

In general, we got a dataset about witch-hunt in Scotland. Firstly, we all misunderstood the 'witch'. When we know the witch-hunt is an attempt to find and punish a particular group of people who are being blamed for something, we started finding the background.
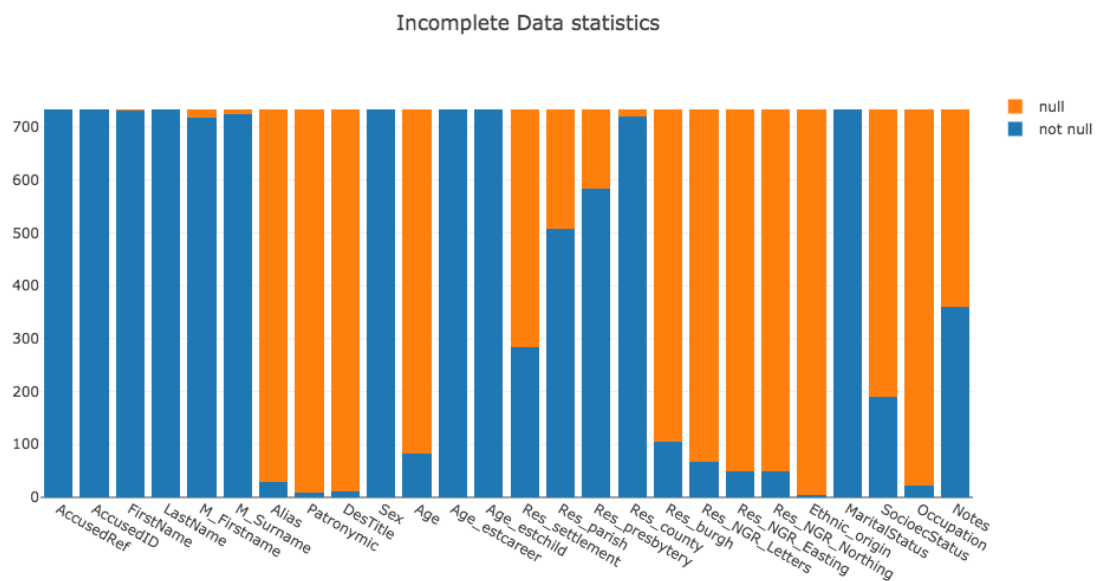
In order to get the data communication clear and attractive enough, we decided to make a story to show the process of how witches are accused, however, if we want to build a complete story, we still need more data of background. Eighty percent of the analysis of the data was finished in assignment2, all we do for assignment3 are more like re-structure the data analysis- find more database and background- structure the story - re-structure the data analysis again.

A lot of researches done for these: 'Who was selected as witches', 'What kind of charges', 'What kind of torture they bared', 'How many people involved in the witches hunt', 'How did this kind social event expand during'. Although we find some interesting data after our analysis, we abandoned below questions: 'Why most witches were in the coastal cities?' and 'Why almost 60% of our data is missing?'.

Our purpose of this data analysis and communication is to popularize knowledge of real witches in the history to the audiences who have the misunderstanding or no knowledge of witches like us who initially think witches are women who have magic power. At the same time, we try to get reflections from this story.
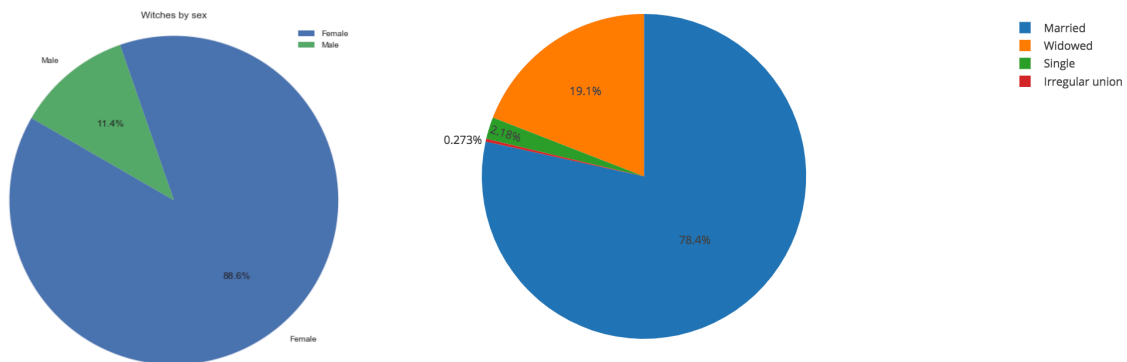
DATA AND FINDINGS

INCOMPLETE DATA

Incomplete Data statistics

Most of our data are incomplete, especially some useful properties like age, social-economic Status, occupation so any calculations have to be treated cautiously. For example, our martial analyze pie chart uses those whose marital status was known or recorded, only 23% of the total. Of that a majority of 78% were recorded as married. This appears to contradict evidence from the rest of Europe.
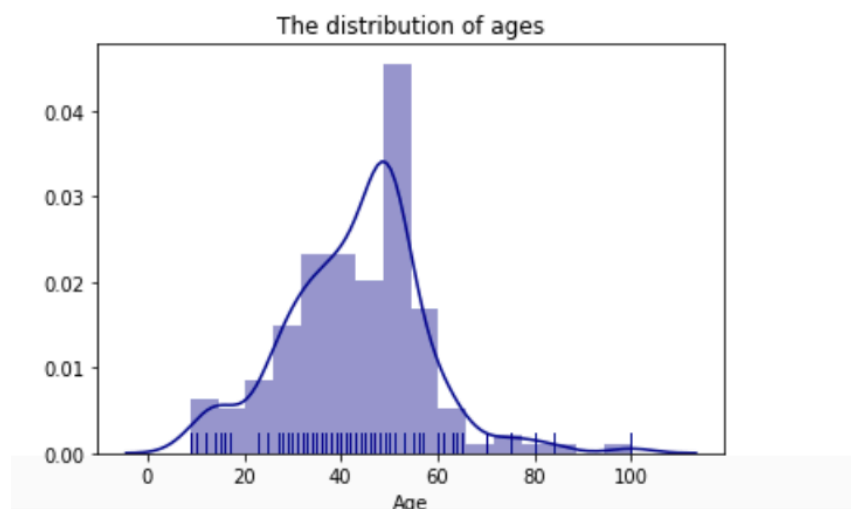
All of our findings below are just from this incomplete data and they are just assumptions.

FEMALE AND WIDOWED

Most of witches are female, in percentages as high as 88.6% of the victims. Among these female witches, 78.7% of them were married and 19.2% of them were widows. Only a few witches were single. While many witch hunters explicitly went after women, very often men fell victim to the witch hunts. We assume that it was because people have believed women to be more susceptible to sins than men, and sinning is a clear indication of devil worship. We assumed that a married woman would be more likely to have her status recorded, because she had a husband with an interest in his wife's trial. An unmarried woman or widow did not need to have her marital status mentioned.
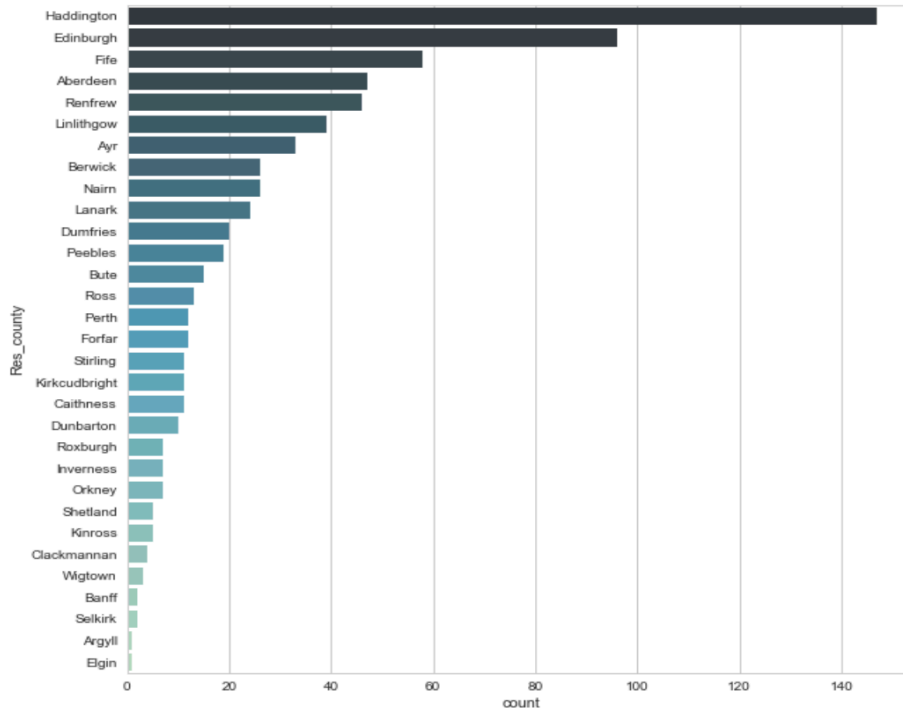
THE OLD

From the distribution of ages, most of witches were from 50 to 60. And from research, the lifespan of people at that time was around 50, so we argued that most of them were the old. We assumed that old people were regarded as easy target because they were vulnerable people.
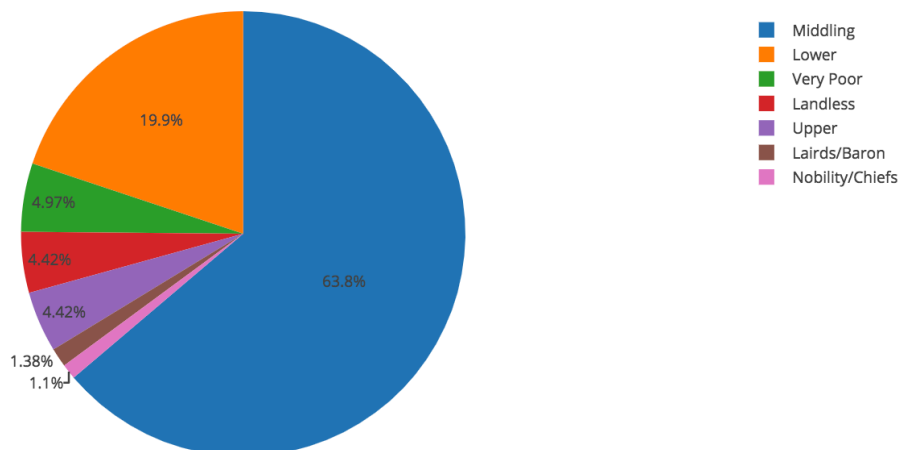
THE FAMILY

We linked accused witches to accused families and found that
most of the young people and men were accused because they were related to an accused witch, usually as daughters and husbands. There were 86 families involved in witch hunt and 1380 witches came from accused families.
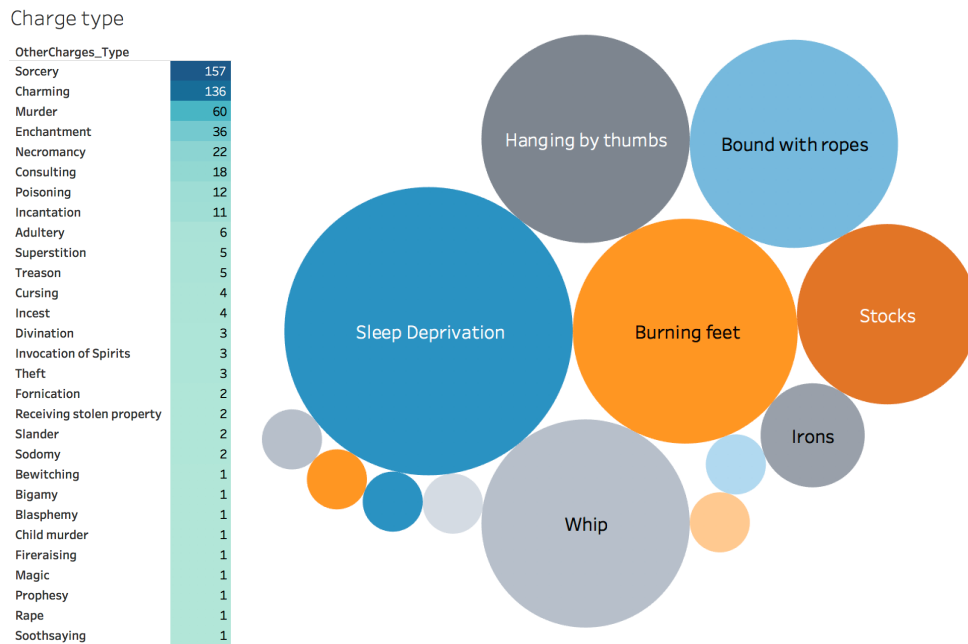
HADDINGTON AND EDINBURGH

Most witches were from Haddington and Edinburgh. We assumed that because these places were more developed and there were mature church systems. So witches could be accused systematically.

MIDDLING CLASS

Most witches were the middling class, followed by lower and very poor people. Nobility and Lairds did not need to work and they could inherit lands and status. The upper and Middling class had to work but upper was more successful. Lower and very poor people had limited work opportunities. And there was an interesting circle, the middling class worked the land from nobility and lairds or at a craft, and they hired lower and very poor people as the workforce. We assumed that because the middling class was in the middle, they were easier to be envied by lower and poor people and to be disliked by nobility and lairds when it was related to business and money.

CHARGE TYPES AND TORTURES TYPE

Charge type

OtherCharges_Type	
Sorcery	157
Charming	136
Murder	60
Enchantment	36
Necromancy	22
Consulting	18
Poisoning	12
Incantation	11
Adultery	6
Superstition	5
Treason	5
Cursing	4
Incest	4
Divination	3
Invocation of Spirits	3
Theft	3
Fornication	2
Receiving stolen property	2
Slander	2
Sodomy	2
Bewitching	1
Bigamy	1
Blasphemy	1
Child murder	1
Fireraising	1
Magic	1
Prophesy	1
Rape	1
Soothsaying	1

Most of the charges were sorcery and charming which were obviously ridiculous. We assume that people tended to use these ridiculous charges to explain 'unexplained' phenomena.

Most of the tortures were very cruel and merciless.

DISTILLATION

Although people from Asia do not know very well about this historical events, but actually, there were some similar events happened in their own country, like Chinese Cultural Revolution. In which, Millions of people were persecuted in the violent struggles that ensued across the country, and suffered a wide range of abuses including public humiliation, arbitrary imprisonment, torture, hard labor, sustained harassment, seizure of property and sometimes execution. (En.wikipedia.org, 2017) Cultural and religious sites were ransacked.

Another hysteria was during the McCarthyism of the 1950's accusing American citizens of communism was the last famous witch-hunt of the 20th century. Some went to prison for refusing to answer questions that violated their constitutional rights. The term witch-hunt is used in modern times to describe any official investigation carried out to uncover alleged subversive activities but actually used to harass those with differing viewpoints. (Americanwiki.pbworks.com, 2017)

In the last century, because few people are aware that witch-hunts still claim thousands of lives every year, especially in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, and above all in South Africa.

Why people with less power, less money and people in vulnerable groups face such cruel and unfair treatments. This draws our attention to marginal phenomenon. Since most of the accused are women and children but can also be elderly people or marginalized groups of the community such as albinos and the HIV-infected. People are equal when born and have the right to live a normal life. If we can not protect those people in a safe way, why not we make more suitable laws and policy to help them lead a peaceful life as they tend to be more invaded. In addition, since the public may not be really aware of this kind of phenomena and they may invade such kind of people without deliberation,we are supposed to do more popularize knowledge to assist them, such as more meaningful propaganda without disturbing their normal life. We think such kind of communication video posted on the internet or museums is a useful way.

Reference

En.wikipedia.org. (2017). Cultural Revolution. [online] Available at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution [Accessed 7 Dec. 2017].
Americanwiki.pbworks.com. (2017). americanwiki / Modern Day Hysterias. [online] Available at:
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