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### **The Construction of Social Realities Through Open Government Data: Making visible the contextual underpinnings of open data published by Statistics Netherlands (CBS)**

Open government data has a growing influence in our public and everyday life. This growing presence coupled with its opaque nature leads to a societal and academic call for more transparency and accountability (i.e. Seaver 2017; Urrichio 2016). Through their position of power, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) determines the ontological construction - through open government data - of social realities affecting citizens and their participation in democracy. This article contributes to these overarching notions in an empirical manner, focusing on Dutch open government data provided by Statistics Netherlands. Within the publication of open government data, the context in which the data are generated, collected and processed is often neglected and/or mystified. How is open government data (implicitly) obscured through the publication processes on the open data Statline platform of Statistics Netherlands? And what are its presumptions and biases? The authors argue that the contextual underpinnings of open government data need to be opened up, by mapping out and analyzing the processes preceding the publication of open data by Statistics Netherlands through a Critical Data Studies framework. By employing the concept of the data assemblage, the contextual socio-technical, political, cultural and economical dimensions surrounding the open data are made visible (Kitchin & Lauriault 2014). Within these dimensions the research focuses on how the data affect knowledge production and transference. By employing a mixed-method approach, we analyze the open data Statline platform of Statistics Netherlands to excavate the context in which open data are generated, processed and appropriated.