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**Calculated risks: the teacher as big data producer and risk analyst.**

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Summary: Teachers' work is often subjected to data analysis from outside sources in the forms of standardized examinations and media critique. This article uses the literature of risk analysis to play with two important analogies for teachers with regards to the emerging big data culture and the risk decisions therein. The complex context of the classroom facilitates the exploration of teacher as big data producer, while the multi-faceted nature of risk decisions provide the groundwork for the exploration of teacher as risk analyst. Illustrative classroom episodes portray examples of real and virtual risk faced by teachers, and a third category – curricular risk – is proposed.

*Classification:* K90 B10 K40

*Keywords:* risk; teacher role; decision making; active risk analysis; teaching; research; risk assessment; calculated risks; real risk; virtual risk; vertical curricular risk; lateral curricular risk

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