About the Data Foundation

Our research and educational activities proactively and rapidly address relevant, emerging data-related needs in the country with the goal of devising realistic solutions, accelerating policy coordination, and advancing innovation.

The Data Foundation focuses its nonpartisan research, education, and programming in five areas:

- Culture for Evidence-Based Policymaking
- Value of Accessible Government Data
- Technical Capability for Improving Data Quality
- Use of Data in a Responsible Manner
- Future Planning for Emerging Technologies and Innovation

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Data Foundation (DF)

Description:

The Data Foundation is a non-profit think tank based in Washington, D.C. that seeks to improve government and society by using data to inform public policymaking.

Stakeholder(s):

Data Foundation Staff

Nick Hart, Ph.D. :
President

Jessica Yabsley :
Senior Director of Communications

Joe Willey, Ph.D. :
Director of Research

Ashley Nelle-Davis :
Director of Special Projects

Dora Engle :
Events and Operations Manager

Data Foundation Research Fellows :
The Data Foundation's network of thought leaders, policy experts, and researchers involves a rotating cohort of senior fellows and research fellows. The fellows include individuals from universities with extensive academic training and research credentials, who support the Data Foundation's overall research capacity. Individuals with notable policy careers and experience in government also support the policy-relevance of research from the Data Foundation. Collectively senior fellows and research fellows support specific projects and strengthen the Data Foundation's capabilities to produce valid, reliable, and credible research products and educational opportunities that are useful for policymakers and the data community.

Abigail Wozniak, Ph.D. :
Senior Fellow — Abigail Wozniak, Ph.D., is a labor economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, where she serves as Director of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute. Her research has examined migration between states and cities as well as employer compensation and screening policies. Dr. Wozniak is currently a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). She serves as co-editor of the journal Economic Inquiry. From 2014-2015, she served as Senior Economist to the White House Council of Economic Advisers, working on labor economics issues. She was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University in 2008-09. Prior to coming to Minneapolis, she was Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Notre Dame. She is a graduate of Harvard University (PhD) and the University of Chicago (AB). She is a former Associate Economist at the Chicago Federal Reserve. Her work has been featured in numerous media outlets.

Kira Fatherree :
Research Fellow — Kira Fatherree is an Advisor in the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania government's Department of Health and Human Services. She previously worked as senior policy analyst for the Bipartisan Policy Center Evidence Project and a policy analyst at the White House Office of Management and Budget. She has a masters degree in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelors degree from Occidental College.

Youngmin Kim :
Research Fellow — Youngmin Kim is the Manager of Cultural Open Data at South Korea's Broadcasting Technology Department. He developed the open-data API for Gov.kr and designed the Open Data archiving system for the South Korean Ministry of Culture , Sports, and Tourism (similar to data.gov). With more than a decade of experience in the South Korean government, he developed expertise in data structures and applying ontologies in real-world settings. He attended Jeju National University and completed a doctoral certificate in information engineering, a masters degree, and a bachelors degree. Kim is a recipient of the highly competitive "Korean Government Long-Term Fellowship for Oversees Training."

Rosa (Hyun Kyong) Lee, Ph.D. :
Research Fellow — Rosa (Hyun Kyong) Lee, Ph.D. is a data-driven policy researcher. Her research focuses on urban and regional growth, income inequality and financial security of the household, regional governance, and housing policies. Her dissertation focusses on the American middle class in U.S. metropolitan areas, especially how the definition of the middle-class matters and to what extent the share of the middle-income class affect the economic performance of the region. She received a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Korea University and a Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received a Ph.D. in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University. Dr. Lee also worked for Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington D.C. as a legislative researcher.

Karol Olejniczak, Ph.D. :
Research Fellow — Karol Olejniczak, Ph.D. is an associate professor at SWPS University of the Social Sciences and Humanities. His research focuses on the intersection of public policy, evaluation, and application of behavioral insights. He is an internationally-recognized expert in applying theories about the use of research evidence, including to train, develop, and promote knowledge brokers. Dr. Olejniczak is currently consulting with U.S. Federal agencies to develop learning agendas and evidence-building plans through participatory and user-centric design processes. He holds a doctorate in management sciences.

Data Foundation Board of Directors

Craig Clay :
President, Global Capital Markets, Donnelley Financial Solutions (DFIN) — Craig Clay has been with Donnelley

Financial Solutions for 23 years and is the President of Global Capital Markets. Craig's responsibilities include customer satisfaction and retention, owning the vision, strategy and goals for the Capital Markets business and aligning regional market strategies with the overall strategy. He is also responsible for delivering superior service distinctiveness to customers and delivery technology solutions to answer client needs. Craig has demonstrated leadership, a customer focus, and commitment to results throughout his career with Donnelley and its corporate predecessor, RR Donnelley.

Nick Hart, Ph.D. :
President, Data Foundation — Nick Hart is the President of the Data Foundation. Prior to joining the Data Foundation, Hart was Director of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Evidence Project. In that capacity, he championed a strategy for implementing the bipartisan recommendations issued by the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking. Hart previously served as the policy and research director for the commission, overseeing the policy and research team and leading development of the commission's final report, The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking, for Congress and the President in 2017.

Hudson Hollister :
Founder and Principal, HData — Hudson Hollister founded the Data Coalition in 2012 to serve as the leading industry advocacy group for open data in government. He has helped to craft landmark U.S. government data reforms, including the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) and the Financial Transparency Act. In early 2016, Hudson founded the Data Foundation, a nonprofit research organization, to work alongside the Data Coalition and partner with government to deliver insights, education, and programming supporting open data transformations.

Molly Irwin, Ph.D. :
Vice President, Research and Science, Pew Charitable Trusts — Molly Irwin oversees Pew's research and science portfolio, which spans the Trusts' programmatic work (including conservation, health, and social science portfolios) and focuses on advancing research quality and expertise across Pew.

Valerie Logan :
CEO and Founder, The Data Lodge — Founding The Data Lodge in 2019, Valerie is as committed to data literacy as it gets. She believes that in today's digital society, data literacy is not just a work skill- it's a life skill. With advisory services, bootcamps, a resource library and community services at The Data Lodge, Valerie is certifying the world's first Data Literacy Program Leads across commercial, nonprofit and public sectors, and pioneering the path forward in cracking the data culture code.

Steven Meizanis :
Global Data Product Manager, Bloomberg LP — Steven Meizanis is a senior executive with nearly 25 years of experience in the financial industry. Steven graduated summa cum laude from Rider University with a bachelor's degree in finance. Steven is currently the global head of Bloomberg LEI Services and Entity Management. He also manages Open Symbology and the FIGI standard and Bloomberg's Regulatory Content. With a focus on industry standards, Steven most recently led an effort through

the GLEIF accreditation process, allowing Bloomberg to become a Local Operating Unit (LOU) and issuer of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI).

Kathy Newcomer, Ph.D. :
Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University — Kathryn Newcomer is a professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University where she teaches graduate level courses on public and nonprofit program evaluation, and research design. She served as the Trachtenberg School director for over 12 years, until July 2019. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and currently serves on the Comptroller General's Educators' Advisory Panel. She served as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) (2013-2015 and 2016-2018), and as AEA president for 2017. She served as President of the Network of the Association of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for 2006-2007. She routinely conducts research and training for federal and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations on performance measurement and program evaluation, and has designed and conducted evaluations for many U.S. federal agencies and dozens of nonprofit organizations.

Nancy Potok, Ph.D. :
Former Chief Statistician of the United States — Dr. Nancy Potok is the CEO of NAPx Consulting. She formerly was the Chief Statistician of the United States, co-chairing the Federal Data Strategy and serving as a Commissioner on the bipartisan Commission for Evidence-Based Policy Making. She previously served as Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Census Bureau; Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs at the US Department of Commerce; Senior VP for Economic, Labor, and Population Studies at NORC at the University of Chicago; and Chief Operating Officer at McManis & Monsalve Associates, a business analytics and organizational transformation consulting firm.

Dean Ritz :
Senior Director, Structured Data Initiatives, Workiva — Dean Ritz is a subject matter expert in information modeling with over three decades of experience in various data-dominated domains, including artificial intelligence, expert systems, object-oriented programming, and most recently the modeling of financial information. As a Senior Director at Workiva, he applies his expertise to product strategy for collaborative work management and the management of the company's expanding patent portfolio. His interests extend to the topics of rhetoric and ethics, with scholarly work in these areas published by Oxford University Press (2011, 2009, 2007), and Routledge (in press 2017).

Clare Rowley :
Head of Business Operations, GLEIF — Clare Rowley is the Head of Business Operations at the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). Prior to working with GLEIF, Ms. Rowley worked at the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation where she led technology initiatives improving bank resolution programs and contributed to research on subprime mortgages. Ms. Rowley is a CFA® charterholder and

holds a MS in Predictive Analytics from Northwestern University.

Kris Rowley :
Chief Data Officer, Conference of State Bank Supervisors — Kris is the Chief Data Officer at the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. In this role, Kris will support technology modernization efforts that drive data analytical capabilities and support the organization in prioritizing data and information needs of state regulators across the country.

Paul Seckar :
Principal, Public Sector Advisory, Grant Thornton — Paul is a Principal with Grant Thornton's Enterprise Technology Strategy and Innovation business line and leads the Advanced Digital Technology and Analytics service line. He is also responsible for Applied Analytics across the federal and state & local in the Public Sector. Prior to joining Grant Thornton, Paul was an Associate Partner leading IBM's Public Sector Business Analytics and Optimization (BAO) Predictive Analytics service line.

Sherry Weir :
Program Manager, Kearney & Company — Sherry Weir has been with Kearney since 1996 and became a Partner in 2005. Sherry directs Kearney's financial management and information systems consulting business primarily within the Departments of the Treasury, Department of Education and Veterans Affairs.

Dan Tucker :
Vice President, Cloud and Data Platforms, Booz Allen Hamilton — Dan Tucker leads Booz Allen's Digital Platform capability team, which leverages platform as a service (PaaS), container as a service (CaaS), big data platforms, and cloud-based infrastructures to assist clients in developing business functions and applications in a cloud-native environment. He sponsors strategic alliances with platform technology partners and coordinates innovation and development initiatives in the cloud domain.

Mark Urbanczyk :
Principal, Analytics & Cognitive practice, Deloitte — Mark Urbanczyk leads the Data & Analytics Modernization practice within Deloitte's Government & Public Services industry. The practice focuses on helping federal agencies, state and local governments, and higher education institutions enhance their mission effectiveness through data- and AI-powered transformations.

Data Foundation Supporters & Partners :
The Data Foundation is funded by philanthropic foundations, private donors, and technology and consulting firms. The Data Foundation also provides targeted contract services to non-profit organizations and government agencies.

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Vision

Government and society are improved

Mission

To use data to inform public policymaking

Values

Diversity: The Data Foundation values diversity and transparency in pursuit of an equitable, data-informed society.

Transparency

Equity

Data

Information

Coordination

Innovation

1. Research

Illuminate the value of open data for government and society

Academic-quality research to illuminate the value of open data for government and society

1.1. Culture

Enable an environment in which decision-makers and policymakers demand evidence and organizations supply the data and capabilities to meet the demand

Culture for Evidence-Based Policymaking. Changing long-standing practice to use data and evidence for informing key decisions and policy choices requires a supportive organizational culture and political environment. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 established new positions and leaders in hopes that these roles would collaborate and succeed in changing culture over time. This pillar focuses on developing insights for enabling an environment that encourages and empowers decision-makers and policymakers to demand evidence and for organizations to supply the data and capabilities to meet this demand.

Stakeholder(s):

Decision-Makers   **Policymakers**

1.2. Policies

Apply data to understand current policies and options for future reforms

Value of Accessible Government Data. As past efforts have made more government data accessible and open, articulating the economic and practical value of that information to government and the private sector is an essential element of future success for similar initiatives. Research that allows policymakers, citizens, and private companies to better understand "why data matters" for society can be applied to understand current policies and options for future reforms.

Stakeholder(s):

Policymakers   **Companies**

Citizens

2. Programming

Bring together supporters of open data

Compelling programming to bring together supporters of open data from across government, academia, and the private sector.

2.1. Collection & Review

Enable data collection and review

Technical Capability for Improving Data Quality. Cultural dynamics and understanding the value proposition for using data can only succeed in fulfilling the stated goals if the technical capabilities exist to enable high-quality data to be used by society. The application of targeted data standards and requirements for how data are published in particular formats based on modern technology can enhance data quality. Fostering policies and practices that efficiently enable data collection and review can similarly ensure government data are most useful for society.

3. Innovation

Train government leaders for the transformation of government information into open data

Stakeholder(s)
Government Leaders

Hands-on education to train government leaders in the concepts and skills that are needed to execute, and benefit from, the transformation of government information into open data.

3.1. Sharing & Trust

Share government data and ensure public trust

Use of Data in a Responsible Manner. The value of government data can only be realized if data are actually used in practice. Multiple disciplines and strategies exist for extracting value from data, including policy research, statistics, program evaluation, and data science, among other fields. In each of these domains the ability to link, combine, and share data is increasingly relevant. This pillar focuses on strategies to access and share government data as well as to ensure public trust in protecting confidential and sensitive data.

3.2. Emerging Technologies

Develop insights for adoption of new approaches for government data and policy

Future Planning for Emerging Technologies and Innovation. New technologies are constantly emerging that change the nature of how data are collected, managed, accessed, and used. Whether privacy-preserving technologies or approaches for enhancing transparency in data transactions, the platforms for supporting innovation increasingly rely on the development and deployment of emerging technologies. This pillar focuses on the real-world implications of emerging technologies to develop insights relevant for policymakers in adopting new approaches for government data and policy.

Administrative Information
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