

About Social Science One

Building Industry-Academic Partnerships ~ Academic social scientists have more data than ever before to study human society, but a smaller proportion of existing data than at any time in history because most of it is now tied up inside companies. Through information sharing, demonstration projects, collaborations, and other activities, we seek to reduce barriers to industry collaboration, unlock commercial information for public good in privacy protective ways, and enable both academics and companies to advance their separate and joint goals.

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Social Science One (SS1)

Stakeholder(s):

Gary King :

More detail on the two-part organizational structure that makes Social Science One possible is explained in the paper “A New Model for Industry-Academic Partnerships” by Gary King and Nathaniel Persily. <https://gking.harvard.edu/partnerships>

Nathaniel Persily

Institute for Quantitative Social Science :

Social Science One is being incubated at Harvard's Institute for Quantitative Social Science, which is directed by Gary King.

SSO Consortium :

With leading social science research centers from around the world, we have formed a consortium to share information about models for industry-academic partnerships, learn how to access company data for social scientific research in privacy protective ways, enable the flow of information between our sectors, and simultaneously optimize the interests of academia, companies, governments, universities, regulators, and the public good. Representatives of social science research centers serve on the Social Science One Institutional Committee and provide advice about industry and governmental partnerships, staff, funding, and coordinating among, and appointing members to, the other committees.

SSO Institutional Committee

Rebecca Adler-Nissen :

Center for Social Data Science, University of Copenhagen

Todd BenDor :

Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, UNC

Kenneth Benoit :

(Co-Chair) Data Science Institute, London School of Economics

Karen Cook :

Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University

Munther Dahleh :

Institute for Data, Systems and Society, MIT

Jeff Gill :

Center for Data Science, American University

Daniel Gingerich :

Quantitative Collaborative, University of Virginia

Jane Green :

Nuffield Politics Research Centre, University of Oxford

Kevin Guthrie :

Ithaka

Darryl J. Holman :

Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington

Hiroshi Ishida :

Center for Social Research and Data Archives, University of Tokyo

Simon Jackman :

United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney

Slava Jankin :

Data Science Lab, Hertie School

Gary King :

(Co-Chair) Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University

David Lam :

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

David Lazer :

Network Science Institute, Northeastern University

Nolan McCarty :

Data Driven Social Science Initiative, Princeton University

Andy Przybylski :

Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University

Jeremy Seekings :

Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town

Joshua Tucker :

Center for Social Media and Politics, New York University

Jaeyeol Yee :

Korea Social Science Data Archive, Seoul National University

SSO Company Partners :

We develop models for industry collaboration, lead demonstration projects, and help others develop their own partnerships... Currently, Social Science One is helping to structure partnerships with Facebook and Microsoft, representing several different models of collaboration.

Facebook :

To learn about how to access Facebook data, see here — <https://socialscience.one/rfps> — for a Dataverse of our Facebook datasets, see <https://socialscience.one/facebook-dataverse> With Facebook, we put together an RFP-based data sharing system, overcoming considerable legal, institutional, and political barriers to release a dataset of all URLs shared on Facebook (the data set has about 57 million URLs, more than 1.7 trillion rows, and nearly 40 trillion cell values).

Facebook Ad Library :

We also help make data available through the Facebook Ad Library and CrowdTangle APIs, and have initiated and support a partnership to study the 2020 election.

CrowdTangle

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Stakeholders (continued)

Microsoft :

We have a collaboration with Microsoft to build SmartNoise software and to aid our OpenDP project which seeks to engage a community of collaborators in academia, industry, and government to build trustworthy, open-source software tools for privacy-protective statistical analysis of sensitive personal data. These tools offer the rigorous protections of differential privacy for the individuals who may be represented in confidential data and statistically valid methods of analysis for researchers who study the data.

Brandwatch :

In the recent past, our team worked in partnership with Crimson Hexagon (now Brandwatch) to download and analyze all Chinese social media posts before the Chinese government could censor them. The team has also partnered with 48 media companies to perform a massive experiment that enabled researchers for the first time to randomly assign what news outlets would publish and when in order to measure the effect of news media exposure on political behaviors.

SSO Scientific Advisory Committee :

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is composed of distinguished academics who advise on scientific, policy, and organizational decisions about proposals to analyze data (when review processes are made necessary by specific companies). Subcommittees for specialized, technical, or policy issues are formed from SAC members.

SSO Privacy and Security Subcommittee :

Members of the Privacy and Security Subcommittee are responsible for advising on privacy protocols, statistical methods for the analysis of privacy protected data, and computational and security needs for social scientists analyzing company data. The committee liaises with the OpenDP project and the privacy staff within companies.

Howard Raiffa :

Core operations at Social Science One are funded by an endowment in honor of the late Howard Raiffa, who held the Frank P. Ramsey Professorship at Harvard's HBS and HKS. Raiffa pioneered the field of decision science, making important contributions to both abstract mathematical theory and conflict resolution in difficult real world circumstances.

Vision

Society's greatest challenges are understood and solved

Mission

To unlock commercial information for public good in privacy protective ways

Values

Commercial Information

Public Good

Collaboration: Social Science One develops models for industry collaboration, leads demonstration projects with major companies, and helps others develop their own partnerships.

Partnership: Only a few of these partnerships are run by Social Science One or housed with us;

Information Sharing: most of the work we do involves sharing information so academics worldwide can fan out and make partnerships with different parts of the corporate world.

Data: Throughout this hybrid process, we have facilitated sharing vast amounts of data including some of the largest social science datasets ever constructed.

Expertise: We have also seen many corporate employees detailed to joint projects and large amounts of expertise flowing between academia and industry.

Privacy

1. Societal Challenges

Understand and solve society's greatest challenges.

Social Science One implements a new type of partnership between academic researchers and private industry to advance the goals of social science in understanding and solving society's greatest challenges.

1.1. Analysis

Enable academics to analyze information amassed by private industry.

The partnership enables academics to analyze the increasingly rich troves of information amassed by private industry in responsible and socially beneficial ways. It ensures the public maintains privacy while gaining societal value from scholarly research.

1.1.1. Democracy & Elections

Analyze the effects of social media on democracy and elections.

Social Science One's inaugural project on "the effects of social media on democracy and elections" offers researchers privacy-preserving data access from Facebook as well as ...

Stakeholder(s):

Facebook

1.1.2. Progress

Speed scientific progress.

a new type of peer pre-review service from Social Science One designed to speed scientific progress and shorten time-to-publication.

1.1.3. Publication

Shorten time-to-publication.

2. Collaboration

Enable firms to enlist the scientific community.

Stakeholder(s)

Firms

Scientific Community

And it enables firms to enlist the scientific community to improve their business and produce social good, while protecting their competitive positions.

2.1. Business

Improve businesses.

2.2. Social Good

Produce social good.

2.3. Competition

Protect competitive positions.

Stakeholder(s):

Businesses

Administrative Information

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Submitter:

Given Name: Owen

Surname: Ambur

Email: Owen.Ambur@verizon.net

Phone:

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www.turnkey.com.au