

Data that works for people and the planet

Format: Panel

Theme: Data Governance & Trust

Proponents: Cetic.br, with the collaboration of DataSphere Initiative

1. Context and description

With over 5 billion people connected to the internet and the rapid expansion of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and IoT, data is being produced at an unprecedented rate, with an increasing value stemming from insights generated through analytics and combinations of different data sources. However, not everyone is reaping the benefits. Who has the decision-making power to determine which data - and from whom - is collected, and for what? Who has the capacity to store, process, and extract value from such data? To what extent is data being used for human development and for advancing the SDGs? Or is data mostly used as a commodity that feeds platforms' factories and monetization models?

Some governments are increasingly becoming data savvy and leveraging (open) data for improving their citizen's quality of life by improving the design of welfare policies, implementing data driven policies, and improving participative governance. Other countries are opting for various levels of localization to extract value from data (e.g. Europe Data Strategy for non-personal data or India's proposal for an Indian data infrastructure).

This panel proposes to explore different alternatives to deal with these matters and specifically identify norms and frameworks to responsibly unlock the power of data for all. For that purpose, awareness raising and a true paradigm shift in data governance frameworks are necessary. This workshop will discuss the latest trends and various data governance feasible alternatives from a Majority of the World perspective, and what would be needed to implement them.

The panel will then explore novel notions such as 'data divides', the 'datasphere', 'cross-border sandboxes', Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs), and more, and highlight options that allow for data flows - including cross-border - to support unlocking the value of data for all in the in the 21st century.

The panel builds on previous key IGF messages, since it focuses on how data is a key resource of the digital age, yet it remains a sensitive and unresolved topic. The panel further advances discussions on the challenges that need to be faced for achieving data widespread and equitable use, and for harnessing the promise of data for development and research. Specifically, the workshop will contribute to relaunching the discussion on what is needed for data to have a positive and inclusive impact on the economy and social life, in a sustainable way tackling issues of around governance, integrity, and

privacy, while also addressing data scarcity, biased representation of populations in data sets and commoditization of data, enriching the discussion with novel concepts and perspectives.

Attendees of the session will gain familiarity with novel concepts, novel frameworks, and a better understanding of the implications of data localization and data flows. Additionally, they will reach a broader understanding of the value of data and its contribution to the SDGs.

2. Policy questions and approach

This discussion will deal with both personal and non-personal data, what their value is, and how that value is distributed in society. It will question the processes of data gathering and processing, and who are the decision-makers on those. It will then discuss the implications of such decisions and processes, and how they should be improved to generate and distribute equity more fairly across society. Finally, it will tackle the rights and skills people need to better impact decision-making regarding various data.

- A.** What are the implications of the data revolution for society, the economy and internet governance?
- B.** How can we ensure that data is used for human development and for advancing the SDGs (beyond statistical data for policy development), rather than as a commodity?
- C.** What are the possible models and strategies for governing the datasphere towards greater social and environmental justice?

3. Panel dynamics

Total duration: 90 minutes

Structure: The session will begin with opening remarks from the moderator and an introduction of the speakers (up to 7 minutes), followed by two rounds of short interventions from the speakers (up to 5 minutes each), triggered by questions from the moderator, in the light of the policy questions.

The moderator will foster dialogue among the speakers, promoting the contrasting of their views and the analysis of que questions from different angles, highlighting the diverse contexts, expertise and stakeholder perspectives that the speakers bring to the panel, with an overall focus on a Majority of People perspective.

Finally, 25 to 30 minutes will be devoted to answering questions from the audience, and for a final wrap-up (5 minutes).

Confirmed speakers:

- **Alison Gillwald**, Director of Research ICT Africa (RIA)
- **Esperanza Magpantay** (confirmed onsite participation), Senior Statistician at International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Lorraine Porciuncula** (confirmed onsite participation), Executive Director of the Datasphere Initiative (NGO).
- **Moinul Zaber**, Associate Professor at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh & Senior Academic Fellow, United Nations University (UNU).
- **Jonghwi Park** (confirmed onsite participation), Head of Innovation and Education at of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

Onsite Moderator: *Alexandre Barbosa (Cetic.br | NIC.br)*

4. Publications of reference

The following selected publications have been produced by the organizers of the panel:

De La Chapelle, B. and L. Porciuncula (2021). We Need to Talk About Data: Framing the Debate Around Free Flow of Data and Data Sovereignty. Internet and Jurisdiction Policy Network. <https://www.thedatasphere.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/We-Need-to-Talk-About-Data-Framing-the-Debate-Around-the-Free-Flow-of-Data-and-Data-Sovereignty-Report-2021.pdf>

The Brazilian Network Information Center. (2023). Data Production and Ecosystem. Internet Sectoral Overview, 15 (1). <https://cetic.br/media/docs/publicacoes/6/20230522115244/year-xv-n-1-data-production-and-ecosystem.pdf>

Datasphere Initiative (2022). The Datasphere Governance Atlas 2022. <https://www.thedatasphere.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Datasphere-Governance-Atlas-2022-Datasphere-Initiative.pdf>

Datasphere Initiative (2022). Sandboxes for data: creating spaces for agile solutions across borders. <https://www.thedatasphere.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Sandboxes-for-data-2022-Datasphere-Initiative.pdf>

5. Profiles of the confirmed speakers



Alison Gillwald is the Executive Director of Research ICT Africa (RIA), an African digital policy and regulatory think-tank based in South Africa. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Cape Town's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance where she supervises doctoral students undertaking transdisciplinary research on the digital economy and society in Africa.

She co-led the Data Justice workstream of the Data Governance working group of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and serves on the Digital Inclusion Roundtable of the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. She leads the Research ICT Africa team that provided technical assistance to the African Union Data Policy Framework and the implementation and capacity-building plan.

She has advised the South African Presidency, the African Union Commission, SADC, CRASA and the SADC Parliamentary Forum, among others. She has been commissioned by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Bank and the African Development Bank to undertake research and provide technical assistance to inform policy across several African countries and collaborates with networks across the Global South to build an evidence base for policymakers and regulators. She is published in the areas of digital policy, regulation and data governance.



Esperanza Magpantay is the Senior Statistician of the ICT Data and Analytics division of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), where she has been working since 2000. She is responsible for the collection, harmonization and dissemination of ICT statistics.

Ms Magpantay coordinates the work of the ITU Expert Groups on ICT indicators, the ITU's representative to the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and its Steering Committee, the UN Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators and the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD) where she currently leads the Task Team on mobile phone big data. She has represented ITU in international meetings including the UN Statistical Commission, the UN Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) and other international and regional events giving presentations and trainings on ICT statistics. Before joining ITU, she worked for 7 years at the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva as a statistical officer. Ms Magpantay holds a Master's degree in Business Analytics and Big Data from IE University in Madrid, Spain, and Bachelor of Science in Statistics from the University of the Philippines.



Lorraine Porciuncula is the Executive Director of the Datasphere Initiative (NGO). Her professional and academic experience focuses on issues related to data, Internet governance, infrastructure regulation and communication policies.

Between 2014-2020, she worked at the OECD as Strategic Policy Advisor for the Digital Economy, leading the production of several technical reports and regional and national studies. She also acted as the OECD focal point and speaker at high-level international meetings and fora such as the IGF, UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (UN-BBCom), APT, UN-ESCAP, ECLAC, and EQUALS.

She has been affiliated with the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University since 2018, where she develops research related to data for development, analysing aspects related to data as infrastructure, data in developing countries and the relationship between data and economic growth. She holds a master's degree in development economics from the Institute for Higher International and Development Studies (IHEID), in Switzerland, a master's degree in business administration from the Quantic School of Business and Technology, and a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Brasília (UnB).



Moinul Zaber is a Senior Academic Fellow at the United Nations University (UNU-EGOV). He is also a data and computational social scientist. His research focus is technology and public policy. He uses machine learning, statistical inference, econometrics, technoeconomic analysis and design thinking to harness data for policy insights and intervention design.

Dr. Zaber holds a PhD in Engineering and Public Policy from the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. He is currently on leave from his position as an Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Previously he worked as a Research Fellow at Economics and Management Department of Chalmers University, Sweden and LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka. He has also served as a visiting Associate Professor at CSIS, Tokyo University, Tokyo. His recent research was on using Big Data to understand energy usage, use of GPS data traffic pattern recognition, network analysis for communication pattern recognition digital inclusion at educational hubs, use of Satellite data on land use land cover, Spectrum Management policy, voice over IP regulation, regulatory governance, usable privacy and usable security.



Jonghwi Park is an Academic Programme Officer and the Head of Innovation and Education at UNU-IAS. Since joining in October 2020, Dr Park leads a new thematic programme that promotes the innovative and inclusive use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide lifelong learning opportunities for sustainable development.

Prior to joining UNU-IAS, Dr Park was a team leader and programme specialist of ICT in Education at UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education and UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in 2011-2020. She has led various policy research projects on equitable digital technologies for learning within and beyond formal schooling for underserved populations, such as girls and women, migrants and refugees, people with disabilities and learners from geographically challenging areas. Notable outputs include a regional assessment framework for digital citizenship (Digital Kids Asia Pacific), ICT competency standards for teachers, and national ICT in education strategies and policies.

Onsite moderator:



Alexandre Barbosa is the head of the Center of Studies for the Development of the Information Society (Cetic.br | NIC.br), responsible for nationwide stand-alone ICT survey projects for the production of ICT-related statistics on the access to and use of ICTs in several segments of society and for capacity building programs in survey methodologies in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

He is also Chair of the Expert Group on ICT Households indicators (EGH) from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and member of the International Advisory Group of Experts on the Global Kids Online project.

He holds a PhD in Business Administration from Getulio Vargas Foundation (Brazil), a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Bradford University (UK), a MSc Degree in Computer Science from Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil) and a BSc Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Catholic University (Brazil). He has also conducted postdoctoral research at HEC Montreal (Canada) in the area of electronic government.