

Exercise: Barriers to open research

**What are the difficulties of fostering openness in your research context? What may help to overcome these?**

For a more detailed discussion and answers to the most common misconceptions about sharing research data, see the LSE impact blog post by Carly Strasser. This points to several community resources: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2013/05/06/answers-to-common misconceptions-about-data-sharing

| **Competitive advantage** | |
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| I’m afraid I’ll be scooped - other  researchers will use my data to publish ahead of me. |  |
| I can’t share my methods – that’s my intellectual capital. This is what gives us an edge on other research groups when competing for grants. |
| I intend to mine my dataset for a long time to produce several papers. It’s not done yet. |
| I need my data to get ahead in my career. |
| My funder does not require me to share data and there’s no reward for all that effort. |

| **Issues with publication** | |
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| My dataset is dynamic  (e.g. longitudinal dataset) |  |
| My data is too large to share |
| My data is not in digital form |
| I can’t afford to share my data |
| I have no data |



| **Issues with reuse** | |
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| Others might misuse my data |  |
| Others might misinterpret it and damage my reputation |
| My data is impossible to understand without my input |
| My data is not in English |
| My data is too niche to be of interest |

| **Sensitive data and confidentiality** | |
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| My research is highly sensitive |  |
| There is personally identifiable information |
| I combine datasets which, taken together, contain enough information to disclose participant identities |
| My dataset contains audio-visual data which reveals identity |
| My dataset must be destroyed at the end of the project |
| Research participants have been given complete assurances of confidentiality |
| My data might be the basis of a police prosecution |

| **Legal issues and IPR protection** | |
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| My data is subject to IPR |  |
| I have reused other datasets in my research which I don’t have permission to publish |
| My data might have a  commercial application |