Webinar: Being a Computational Social Scientist

Scientific research and teaching is increasingly influenced by computational tools, methods and paradigms. The social sciences are no different, with many new forms of social data only available through computational means (Kitchen, 2014). While to some degree social science research has always been marked by technological approaches, the field of computational social science involves the use of tools, data and methods that require a different skillset and mindset.

This free webinar, organised by the UK Data Service, is part of an ongoing series focusing on new forms of data for social science research. Specifically, this webinar demystifies computational social science, and explores how and why social scientists should embrace computational methods. Presented by [Dr Julia Kasmire]( https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/julia.kasmire.html) and [Dr Diarmuid McDonnell]( https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/diarmuid.mcdonnell.html) of the UK Data Service, this webinar examines five key domains of computational social science:

1. Thinking computationally
2. Writing code
3. Computational environments
4. Manipulating structured and unstructured data
5. Reproducibility of the scientific workflow

We cover key theories and ideas behind each domain, and provide example code – written in the popular Python programming language – that demonstrates some of the key skills computational social scientists need to develop.

**Bibliography**

Kitchen, R. (2014). Big Data, new epistemologies and paradigm shifts. *Big Data & Society*, https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951714528481.