Data management and use: Governance in the 21st century - a British Academy and Royal Society project

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The Royal Society and the British Academy have conducted a review on the needs of a 21st century data governance system.

The amount of data generated from the world around us has reached levels that were previously unimaginable. Meanwhile, uses of data-enabled technologies promise benefits, from improving healthcare and treatment discovery, to better managing critical infrastructure such as transport and energy.

These new applications can make a great contribution to human flourishing but to realise these benefits, societies must navigate significant choices and dilemmas: they must consider who reaps the most benefit from capturing, analysing and acting on different types of data, and who bears the most risk.

In this fast-moving landscape, governance challenges need to be addressed in a timely manner if the overall system of governance for data management and data use is to maintain public trust.

Two responses are required:

Firstly, a set of high-level principles to help visibly shape all forms of data governance and ensure trustworthiness and trust in the management and use of data as a whole.

Second, it is necessary to create a body to steward the evolution of the governance landscape as a whole. Such stewardship body be expected to conduct expert investigation into novel questions and issues, and to enable new ways to anticipate the future consequences of today's decisions.

Over the past year the British Academy and the Royal Society have brought together leading academics, industry leaders, civil society and data and technology specialists to better understand the needs of a 21st century data governance system:

In July 2016 the British Academy and Royal Society held a seminar to connect existing sectoral and disciplinary debates

The Academies have hosted roundtables engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including civil societies, multinationals, SMEs and start-ups, historians and governance leaders as well as held an open Call for evidence

Alongside the main report, the project conducted a range of evidence reviews:
Data Governance: Landscape Review (PDF)
Data Governance: Case Studies (PDF)
Data Governance: Public Engagement Literature Review (PDF)

In October 2017, the British Academy and Royal Society held a one-year on seminar to review priorities for the governance of data management and use.
Data management and use: governance in the 21st century - October 2017 seminar report

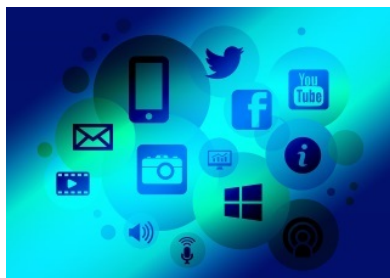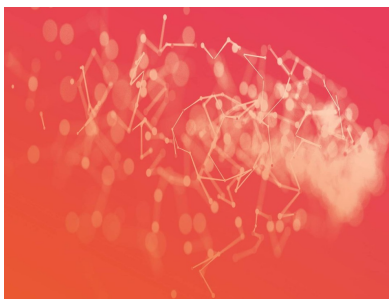| Blog: Data management and use	Blog: Connecting debates on the governance of data and its uses	Data Governance - British Academy
By Professor Genevra Richardson	by Louise Pakseresht	Project information

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