Dear instructors,

Last email from me for a bit, I hope. I’m including Fidy and Liz on this one, as well. I’ve broken it down into a few different sections. Please reply all to let us know your thoughts.

**2021 Schedule**

I went ahead and made a tentative schedule for E2M2 2021 though I didn’t include assignments for who will teach what. Please let us know what you think about (a) the dates and (b) the material. I’d like to get a sense of who will be there next year.

I know that some of the students would like the course to be a week later from the new year, but it really works best for me to have it as close to the holiday as possible so that, if I need to get back to the US for teaching, I will be able to do so. I also think these dates give us the best shot at getting Onja or Mialy to teach (see below), so I am inclined to keep them as is.

**Follow-up workshop**

We talked a bunch this year about the need for students to have a follow up workshop that was more loose form mentoring where they just analyzed their own data and could ask questions as needed. Only Christian and Sarah were there on Monday at IPM, but that’s how that day went, and it was really excellent.

I don’t think I have funds or time to support a second workshop this year, however, but here is my proposed compromise. Once Fidy and Liz are back and rested and settled into life (so like might not happen at all in 2020 which would be fine), I think it’d be super cool to have monthly “data days” at Mahaliana, maybe on a Sunday where students can come and work on their data. I know Fidy has talked about having a seminar series too, so this could be a great time for that as a break at mid-day. Those of us in country and available on a given data day could show up and take turns to offer help, and there could be an advance sign-up for a limited number of slots. E2M2 and Mahaliana grads could all be invited and come as needed. More could attend the seminar as desired.

For the time being, though, I propose that next year we bring the following to CVB: 30 students + 5 mentors + 12-15 students enrolled in an independent ‘research academy.’ The research academy students will have to apply to demonstrate they have their own data which they can work on independently throughout the workshop, and they can seek help from instructors as time allows. Mentors will also need to apply and need to understand that they will be primarily focused on teaching, though they can also develop their own work simultaneously if they accept the pressure of needing to balance the two. Mentors will need to be E2M2 grads, but research academy students can be repeats from previous years or can come from outside the network, too.

That is will mean reserving 50 slots at CVB and hosting instructors in town. We’ll max out at ~10 instructors because there are only 60 slots on the buses.

**New Instructors**

Who all can make it next year, and who should we recruit? I don’t think Jess or Amy will ever come back, to be honest. If okay with you all, I will formally invite Mialy and Onja as soon as we decide on dates for next year. We invited them both this year but neither could attend.

I am also interested in inviting Cédrique to teach (not mentor). What do you all think of that?

Jean Marius is also an option, though I don’t think he is that into teaching—I think he’d rather use the time for his own work, and we should support him in that rather than distract him. But we could have him come along as part of the research academy (Soa Fy too), and I think he’d be a great program evaluator for all the years to come.

There are also vazaha who could be helpful if they can and want to make it on their own—Amy Dunham, James Herrera, Tim Treuer…None are really ‘modelers’ per se but they are quantitative and capable.

**New Mentors**

I think we should have mentors apply this year and make it open to students from past years who have not mentored before (I fell badly that we did not invite Vero, for instance). Any suggestions for who would be a great mentor that we might want to encourage to apply? From this year, I think that Miary, Fandresana, Santatra, Finaritra, and Sylviane Miharisoa would be all be great.

Broadly, for a timeline, if this looks good, I will :

(a) reserve CVB for 50 slots now,

(b) reach out to any new instructor invites now,

(c) email the students to let them know what the future schedule will look like, and

(d) plan to release mentor and ‘research academy’ applications in ~June. Should student applications go out at the same time or come later?

Also, we turn 5 next year! I think IPM will throw us a party (that we will have to pay for, of course).

Thanks to you all for another wonderful year!

Cara