Transparency Practices for Empirical Social Science Research

Summer Institute

June 2-6, 2014
University of California, Berkeley

David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

OVERVIEW

Over the past years, an inspiring number of bottom-up innovations across social science disciplines have sought to advance the reliability, reproducibility, and validity of empirical social studies, realigning scholarly incentives with scholarly values. Examples include systematic disclosure of methods and results, registration and pre-analysis plans, and open data and materials. Meanwhile, multiple organizations have been developing tools to make it easier to archive and share research design, plans and data.

This workshop will inform participants about the latest trends in the shift towards increased transparency, providing an overview of the different tools and techniques that are available and appropriate for social science research. Participants will be chosen through a competitive selection process, and will be expected to devote substantial time to preparatory work in advance of the institute. Each attendee will finish the weeklong program with a specific work product based on his/her own research interests.

This workshop is sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, in partnership with the Center for Effective Global Action, the UC Berkeley D-Lab, and the Center for Open Science.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Monday, June 2	
9.00 AM – 9.30 AM	**Introduction & Welcome** Ted Miguel (UC Berkeley, Economics)
9.30 AM – 10.30 AM	**Emerging Issues in the Practice of Empirical Social Science** Ted Miguel (UC Berkeley, Economics)
10.45 AM – 12.00 PM	**Ethics in Experimental Research** Scott Desposato (UC San Diego, Political Science)
1.00 PM – 3.00 PM	**False-positives, P-hacking, P-curve, Power Analysis & Disclosure** Uri Simonsohn (University of Pennsylvania, Psychology) Leif Nelson (UC Berkeley, Psychology)
3.15 PM – 4.30 PM	**A Checklist of Reporting Standards for Social Scientists** Kevin Esterling (UC Riverside, Political Science)
Tuesday, June 3	
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	**Pre-registration: Lessons from Medical Trials & Biostatistics** Maya Petersen (UC Berkeley, Biostatistics)
10.45 AM – 12.15 PM	**Meta-analyses: Emerging Tools & Techniques** Solomon Hsiang (UC Berkeley, Economics)
1.15 PM – 2.45 PM	**Pre-specification across Research Projects** Thad Dunning (UC Berkeley, Political Science)
3.00 PM – 4.30 PM	**Theory and Implementation of Pre-analysis Plans** Kate Casey (Stanford, Economics)

Wednesday, June 4	
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	**Tools & Resources for Organizing Data Workflow (I)** Mercè Crosas (Harvard University - IQSS, Data Science)
10.45 AM – 12.00 PM	**Tools & Resources for Organizing Data Workflow (II)** Staff from California Digital Library
PM	Free time
Thursday, June 5	
9.00 AM – 10.15 AM	**Reproducible and Collaborative Statistical Data Science** Philip Stark (UC Berkeley, Statistics)
10.30 AM – 12.00 PM	**A Student-Oriented Protocol for Research Documentation and Replicability** Richard Ball & Norm Medeiros (Haverford College, Economics)
1.00 PM – 5.00 PM	**Computing for Data-intensive Social Science (I)** ➤ Track 1: Intermediate ➤ Track 2: Advanced* Instructors: Staff from UC Berkeley D-Lab & Center for Open Science
6.00 PM – 7.30 PM	**Data Science Meets Social Science (Optional Evening Seminar)**
Friday, June 6	
9.00 AM – 12.00 PM	**Computing for Data-intensive Social Science (II)** ➤ Track 1: Intermediate ➤ Track 2: Advanced* Instructors: Staff from UC Berkeley D-Lab & Center for Open Science
1.00 PM – 1.20 PM	**Moving the Needle on Openness and Transparency** Cathryn Carson (UC Berkeley, Associate Dean of Social Science)
1.20 PM – 2.30 PM	**Participant Presentations**
2.45 PM – 4.15 PM	**Open Discussion, Next Steps & Participant Feedback**

This session will be held at the UC Berkeley D-Lab ([356 Barrows Hall](#))

The Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) is a new effort to promote transparency in empirical social science research. The program is fostering an active network of social science researchers and institutions committed to strengthening scientific integrity in economics, political science, behavioral science, and related disciplines. Central to BITSS efforts is the identification of useful strategies and tools for maintaining research transparency, including the use of study registries, pre-analysis plans, data sharing, and replication. Go to http://bitss.org/ to learn more, read and comment on opinion blog posts, find useful tools and resources, and contribute to the discussion by adding your voice.