**NOTES from Skype 7 June**

**Big Data and an Ethic of Care Before Social Intelligence**

Is the EoC those instituted practices and infrastructures that came into being with the HGP – Bermuda Principles, community data repositories, INSDC, community ontologies and data standards?

No. These belong to an older dream of total knowledge. Communitarian. An epistemic fantasy. Future oriented. Promissory. Oriented towards the future of knowledge production out of the data.

The above EOC are about caring for the data. Curating. BD is the object of care.

The practices and infrastructures mentioned above are underpinned by principles – analogous to the Principles that Evelyn refers to in national statistics. In genomics, these are principles of open data and data sharing and deposition.

And there are tensions between BD and this EoC. Too much data to care for. Cochrane and Birney. Not all data are equal. Some data are more valuable than others. The EoC has to have a principled way to decide between them.

The above are the ethics of care for Big Data BSI – Before Social Intelligence. They are ethical practices that are vital for the data to realise its future promise. The promise that underpins big projects like HGP.

**But BD is not the same as SI**

BD and SI are not the same thing.

The data from the HGP was BD. But SI was not there to begin with. SI emerged with GWAS studies and other forms of knowing through differences and likenesses.

SI is the work done to bring new classes and categories into being. It is a way of Clustering.

This is what we mean by socialising BD. Moving the focus on from BD itself and onto the practices through which SI is achieved (and the entities it brings into being).

**Social Intelligence and an Ethic of Care**

With SI, the question for an EoC then becomes – who or what is the subject of ethics? *Who is ethics for*? SI brings forth new entities – which of these entities are ethical subjects?

Two options: and EoC could reproduce existing power relations, existing inequalities; or and EoC could choose to care for new ways of living and being.

An EoC would attempt to maintain openness to newly emergent forms.

**SI requires a Post-Normal Ethic of Care**

Former practices of governmentality classify entities in relation to the norm.

However, with SI, the statistical mean is not longer a useful parameter. SI displaces the key measures of statistics – the mean, variance – as ways of knowing the population and meaningful entities within it.

These are replaced by knowing through machine learning and patterns and clusters. This way of knowing splits existing aggregates. E.g. breast cancer paper.

An example would be rare diseases.