What is a data scientist’s responsibility to wider society?

Presented by the Royal Statistical Society’s South Wales Group and Data Science Section, hosted by the Office for National Statistics

**24th January, 2017**

# Overview

Emerging data science techniques offer the possibility to collect and analyse data on a scale never before seen. This growth in the scale, breadth, and complexity of data, combined with new techniques for retrieving and treating data, is a boon for data professionals. However, in parallel with this expansion in technical ability there has been growing unease amongst the general public at the vast amount of personal data available, the ways in which it is possible to collect this data, and the ways in which such vast volumes of data are stored.

The aim of this event is to explore some of the opportunities and responsibilities associated with working in the data science arena. Specifically, we ask; what responsibility do data scientists have to wider society? How can data scientists utilise new techniques whilst addressing the public’s practical and ethical concerns?

By bringing together practitioners from all sectors across South Wales this event is one of a series that aims to build data skills, discuss practical issues surrounding the use and dissemination of data, and to build a professional network. The event will aim to highlight and tackle day-to-day issues that data scientist face.

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# Key themes of the event

The event will bring together data science professionals from all sectors to debate best practice, discuss the practical considerations of data science techniques, and to discuss future visions of the data science world. It specifically aims to bring to the fore ethical and practical considerations surrounding the need to balance data practitioners’ need for detailed data with the responsibility to maintain data security, privacy, and informed consent.

This unconference style of event will provide a platform to get insight into a day in the life of a data scientist and the practical issues they face with regards to responsible and ethical data processing and algorithm implementation. Real life examples brought to the table for discussion will help participants come up with ideas for the governance and management of issues related to data ethics within data science.

Participants will be asked to come up with a list of practices for the provided principles, linked into each stage of the data science work flow. Ideas will be gathered into a single shared document which will be presented back to the audience and discussed by a panel of experts in the field of ethics in data collection and analysis. This kind of dialogue will promote the need for a more structured and practical code of practice around data ethics for data science. Time permitting there will be general Q&A with the panel to close.

# Provisional agenda

## 13:45- 14:15 Registration/Tea and Coffee

## 14:15- 14:45 Keynote Speaker (DataKind)

## 14:45- 15:45 Table Brainstorm on practical steps for Data Security and Ethics

## 15:45- 16:30 Presentation of ideas to Panel, Q&A and Closing remarks

## 16:30- 17:30 Tour de Campus! (Data Science Campus tour and Canapés)

# Logistics

**Venue:** R101, The Office for National Statistics, Government buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

**Room Number:** R101 (Cabaret style capacity: 60 persons)

**Date:** 24th January 2017 **Time:** 14:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs

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| **Item** | **Cost** | **Sponsor** |
| Canapés | - | Data Science, ONS (Dave Johnson) |
| Tea/Coffee/Cakes | £197.5 (£3.95 x50) | RSS Local group budget |

**Sponsors/Finance:**