COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER - JULY 2023

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

This month, with much excitement, we launch the 2024 edition of the Data for Policy conference. We hope that you will spread the news of our call for special tracks far and wide! We also report on a meeting of our editorial community, and our new model for handling full papers at the conference. Our regular community spotlight features Dr Omar Asensio, the lead member of our Data for Policy focus area 2 committee. The news round-up from our partner journal Data & Policycompletes this month's edition.

We wish those of you enjoying a summer break a relaxing and refreshing time.

2024 Conference Launched

We are delighted to launch Data for Policy 2024, in collaboration with Imperial College London and Cambridge University Press with a call for special track proposals. The general chairs Dr Zeynep Engin (Data for Policy), Professor Jon Crowcroft (University of Cambridge) and Professor Stefaan Verhulst (New York University) are pleased to be working with local chairs from our host institution, Imperial College, Professors Mark Kennedy and Rosella Arcucci.

In this latest conference edition, we are focusing on the future of governance and decision making *with* AI. We have posed the overarching theme, "Trustworthy Governance *with* AI?", as a question to provide room for two conversations. Firstly, what are the emerging capabilities, use cases, and best practices enabling innovation that could contribute to improved governance with AI?

Secondly, what concerns are being raised regarding these advancements in areas such as data, algorithms, privacy, security, fairness, and potential risks? For both, we welcome proposals that delve into the role and capacity of governance in preventing AI-related harms and explore the potential for governance to generate added value through responsible AI deployment.

Researchers, practitioners, and policymakers are invited to join us in charting a path towards more trustworthy decision-making and governance with the transformative potential of AI. We are seeking conference submissions that go beyond conventional boundaries, from cutting-edge generative AI technologies re-shaping government-citizen interactions to enhanced surveillance capabilities that influence centralised power dynamics. In a world where AI-powered technologies are becoming integral to critical decision-making processes, it is time to chart a new course.

We welcome submissions covering a wide range of topics, including:

- AI applications for policy formulation and implementation
- Impact of Generative AI on public service delivery and citizen engagement
- Machine agency in governance and decision-making
- Human-AI collaboration and decision-making in governance
- AI-driven decision support systems for public administration
- Legal and regulatory frameworks for AI in governance
- Safety, transparency, fairness, accountability, and trust in AI-driven decision-making
- Data and infrastructure technologies working in tandem with AI to transform decision-making in governance (chatbots, platforms, distributed ledger systems, digital twins, augmented reality, etc.)
- Governance models and frameworks for effective utilisation of AI options in decision-making processes to enhance good governance practices

Accepted special tracks will complement our standard tracks expanding the specific theme focus of this edition, and will aim to generate a set of peer-reviewed papers to be simultaneously considered for publication in the open-access journal *Data & Policy* (Cambridge University Press).

For more information on the call, please visit our 2024 conference webpage, and please share the news with your network!

We hope our stunning conference banner image has caught your eye - we think it is a vibrant testament to the limitless power of synergy and human-AI collaboration. It is the result of Data for Policy's visionary concepts, brought to life by founder Zeynep Engin, combined with the extraordinary AI ingenuity of MidJourney and the artistic brilliance of ClickDuo Creative!

STOP PRESS! Learn more about the Data for Policy 2024 conference theme Trustworthy Governance with AI in this <u>just-published blog</u> authored by the conference chairs.

Editorial Community Town Hall Meeting

We were pleased to welcome our extended editorial community to a recent town hall meeting. Members of Data & Policy's editorial board, and the six area committees joined editors in chief Zeynep Engin and Jon Crowcroft, commissioning editor Andrew Hyde (CUP) and community manager Emily Gardner to learn more about next year's Data for Policy conference. This edition looks to strengthen links between the conference and the journal, with an increased focus on full paper submissions. Our new model for integrated review and publication of these couples the review and revision process to our conference timetable. Our aim is to publish accepted full papers as conference proceedings immediately after Data for Policy 2024.

Community Spotlight

This month we are pleased to feature Omar I. Asensio who is associate professor and director of the Data Science & Policy lab at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Business in Global Society (BiGS) climate fellow at Harvard Business School. Professor Asensio's research focuses on applications of data science and field experiments to pressing resource conservation and sustainability challenges at the intersection of technology and policy. He is currently studying innovation strategies to build an equitable electric vehicle charging grid capable of serving diverse communities and markets.

Professor Asensio was one of 10 U.S. contributing authors of the zero emission vehicles (ZEV) policy guidance for COP26 and the Glasgow Climate Pact. He is a recipient of the U.S. National Science Foundation CAREER Award and is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) New Voices 2021 cohort.

Omar joined the Data for Policy community in 2021 and has been engaged in convening activities for the conference and the journal. He is an Area Editor and leads Data for Policy focus Area 2 on "Data Technologies & Analytics for Governance." Bringing the AI and social science communities together, he is particularly interested in manuscripts that clarify the nature and limitations of generative AI and large language models in an increasing number of social and policy domains.

Omar and his co-authors have contributed papers to Data for Policy Conference special tracks on mobility-as-a-service in 2021 (watch on Youtube here), and citizen-generated intelligence in 2022 (watch on YouTube here). To reach him and for more information, go here.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SUMMER - JULY 2023

Data & Policy News

We're pleased to announce that our partner journal *Data & Policy* (published by Cambridge University Press) has been awarded an impact factor of 2.6 in the latest edition of the Journal Citation Reports. *Data & Policy* is indexed in Web of Science, Scopus and the Directory of Open Access Journals.

We're very proud of what the journal has achieved since its launch in 2019, and would like to thank the many people in the extended Data for Policy network who have helped make it so successful.

In addition to indexing in Web of Science, Scopus and Directory of Open Access Journals, here are other reasons to publish in *Data & Policy*:

- ✔ developed for and expanding the community working at the data science for governance interface, established by the Data for Policy Conference.
- ✔ welcomes research, translational articles, commentaries and data papers, plus the *Data & Policy* blog for more immediate reflections.
- ✔ #OpenAccess with support for authors who do not have access to funding to pay publishing charges.
- ✔ Promotes open sharing of data and code through Open Science Badges.

Read the latest articles by visiting this page

Calls for Papers:
- NEW! Anticipating Migration for Policymaking: Forecasting, Foresight, and Other Forward-Looking Methods To Inform Migration Policy
- NEW! Generative AI for Sound Decision-Making: Challenges and Opportunities
- Emerging Data and Policy-driven Approaches for African Cities Challenges
- Data for Peace: How Can Novel Data Sources and Technology Enhance Peace?

Please see the individual webpages for full details.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SUMMER - JULY 2023

This quarter's blogs offer the usual diverse mix of content related to data and policy-making:

- Can Arms and Ammunition Flows Data Inform Conflict Early Warning and Early Response? by Joshua Bata and Erica Mumford
- Anticipating Migration for Policymaking: Insights from Forecasting, Foresight, and Forward-Looking Methods by Stefaan Verhulst et al.
- Conceptualizing the Data Republic as a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Governance Model by Stefano Calzati
- Context Matters for AI Impact: Lessons from the Big Data Revolution by Wilson Wong and Charles Hinnant

Submissions to journal and blog are welcome, as are special collection proposals.

Keep up to date with further publications via eTOC alerts and @data_and_policy.

Thank you for reading; we hope you found the content useful and interesting. If you have any feedback for the newsletter or think there's an interesting piece of research, event or development we've missed, please do let us know via team@dataforpolicy.org

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SUMMER - JULY 2023

Did you know there are six ways to join our community ?

Become an institutional partner

Host our international conference in your institution

Contribute to our conference with a panel, full paper or extended abstract

Submit your work or a blog entry to Data & Policy

Join us as a reviewer

Follow us on YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook