Eclipsing Equity: Indigenous Peoples Sovereignty, Data, and Research

NAM CoPH – 8 December 2020

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Located on the unceded homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation, and the lands of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

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Indigenous Peoples and Data

1. Sovereignty matters.
2. Data are our relations.
3. Data are critical to the exercise of tribal sovereignty.
4. Only Indigenous Peoples/nations can exercise Indigenous data sovereignty.
5. Enacting Indigenous data sovereignty includes both data for governance and the governance of data.
6. Tribally-driven data work requires relationships with other data actors and experts for both stewardship and expertise.
7. Assertions of Indigenous data sovereignty spur innovation and design in data and research policy and practice.
OUR PEOPLES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DATA EXPERTS
WHAT ARE INDIGENOUS DATA?

Data, information and knowledge, in any format, that impacts Indigenous peoples, nations, and communities at the collective and individual levels:

DATA ABOUT OUR RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTS

Land, water, geology, titles, air, soil, sacred sites, territories, plants, animals, etc.

DATA ABOUT US AS INDIVIDUALS

Administrative, legal, health, social, commercial, corporate, services, etc.

DATA ABOUT US AS NATIONS

Traditional and cultural information, archives, oral histories, literature, ancestral and clan knowledge, stories, belongings, etc.

Informed by British Columbia First Nations Data Governance Institute - BCFNDGI.COM

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INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY

The right of Indigenous Peoples and nations to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data.

1. Derives from inherent rights to govern their peoples, lands, and resources.
2. Genesis in traditions, roles, and responsibilities for the use of community held information.
3. Positioned within a human rights framework and court cases, treaties, and/or recognition.
4. Knowledge belongs to the collective and is fundamental to who we are as peoples.

THE DATA PARADIGM:
The Hierarchy of Indigenous Data

BY THEM FOR THEM
BY US FOR THEM
BY US FOR US
BY THEM WITH US
BY THEM FOR US
BY THEM FOR THEM

DATA DEPENDENCY: Data Indigenous Peoples Need

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Adapted from Kukatai and Walter presentation 2016.
DATA AND GOVERNANCE: THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATION REBUILDING AND DATA REBUILDING


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GOVERNING INDIGENOUS DATA

Data stewards managing by tribal standards

Enhancing data relationships

Tribes governing tribal data

Social Media
Low Control

Tribal Enrollment
High Control

A COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY SPANS THE GLOBE

NATION-STATE BASED, INDIGENOUS LED COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

• TE MANA RARAUNGA MAORI DATA SOVEREIGNTY NETWORK in Aotearoa/New Zealand temanararaunga.maori.nz
• UNITED STATES INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY NETWORK usindigenousdata.org
• MAIAM NAYRI WINGARA INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY COLLECTIVE in Australia miaimnayriwingara.org
• FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION GOVERNANCE CENTRE in Canada fnigc.ca

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS OF NETWORKS

• GIDA Global Indigenous Data Alliance gida-global.org
• Research Data Alliance hosted INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY INTEREST GROUP https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/international-indigenous-data-sovereignty-ig
Indigenous Frameworks

CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance

FAIR and CARE

Findable  Accessible  Interoperable  Reusable

Collective Benefit  Authority to Control  Responsibility  Ethics
In the Absence of FAIR & CARE: Data & information infrastructure challenges in an era of Open Data, Big Data, Open Science

Every Indigenous community has enormous collections of tangible and intangible cultural material, knowledge, and data, held in archives, museums, libraries, repositories, and other online databases.

Significant information about these collections, including individual and community names and proper provenance information, is missing.

Indigenous peoples and communities are largely not the legal rights holders.

Issues of responsibility & ownership, as well as the incomplete and significant mistakes in the metadata, continue into the digital lives of this material.

There are more researchers working and collecting data and samples from Indigenous communities than ever before.
Where can Indigenous Data Governance be put into practice?

- **Law**, e.g., UNDRIP, US Common Rule, tribal regulations
- **Policy**, e.g., institutional guidelines
- **Ethics**, e.g., training, labels & notices
- **Infrastructures**, e.g., meta/data standards
Mechanisms can address multiple principles

- **C**ollective Benefit
- **A**uthority to Control
- **R**esponsibility
- **E**thics

INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE

INSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINES

NOTICES

LABELS

DATA ACCESS PROTOCOLS

TRIBAL CODES

TRIBAL GUIDELINES

TRIBAL IRB’S
THE DATA LIFE CYCLE

Adapted from L.Liggins@massey.ac.nz www.massey.ac.nz/IRamoana
Empowering Indigenous Sovereignty and Data Governance

- Recognize and promote sovereignty.
- Dialogue with multiple ways of knowing.
- Lead with Indigenous ingenuity and core values.
- Conduct science in service to community and community-driven research that builds capacity within communities.
- Engage and promote Indigenous scholarship.
- Use and support existing tribal and Indigenous data governance protocols and procedures.
- Fund infrastructure, capacity, and capability.
- Be humble and be a good relative.