SUMMER INSTITUTE IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE (Cape Town, June 18 - 29, 2018)

Sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation, The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation & the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

Overview

- The purpose of the Summer Institute is to introduce graduate students and beginning faculty in the social and data sciences (broadly conceived) to computational social science – the use of digital-age data sources and methods to conduct social research.
- The program will highlight issues about access, privacy, and confidentiality that are raised by the emergence of computational data and methods.
- The institute will also introduce participants to a network of scholars across disciplines with similar interests in these new data and methods.

Planning & Topics

- Date: June 18 - 29, 2018 (application accepted until **May, 21**)
- Place: University of Cape Town (venue to be confirmed)
- Participants: Master students (if place available), Ph.D. students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty from South Africa

  10 from computational science

  15 from social science (Sociology, Demography, political science...)
- Topics to be covered include:
  - Text as data
  - Website scraping
  - Digital field experiments
  - Non-probability sampling
  - Mass collaboration, and Ethics

Schedule: first week (June 18 - 23)

- On site presentation, live streaming from Duke University, and video presentation
- Tentative schedule
  - 9:00-9:15 Logistics (No livestream)
  - 9:15-10:45 Group Exercise on specific topic
  - 10:45-11:00 Coffee Break (freely provided)
  - 11:00-12:00 Local presentation / specific training
  - 12:00-1:00 Lunch (freely provided)
  - 1:00-3:00 Guest Speaker and discussion (Video from Duke)
  - 3:00-4:00 Lecture in specific topic of the day (livestream from Duke)
  - 4:00-4:15 Coffee Break (freely provided)
  - 4:15-6:00 Lecture in specific topic of the day (livestream from Duke)

Schedule: second week (June 25 - 29)

- Morning activity: Intensive training in machine learning
- Afternoon activity: Development of a group project on a topic related to:
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
  - NIDS (National Income Dynamics Study) challenges: predicting children's poverty and well being in South Africa.
- Funds are available to conduct these collaborative projects
- Five groups to be created, each composed of 2 CS and 3 SC
- Possible publication in a special issue on Computational Social Science in Africa

Speakers (more to come)

- Organizer (for more information): Vissého Adjiwanou, Centre for Actuarial Research (CARe), University of Cape Town
- Faculty: Tom Moultrie, Centre for Actuarial Research (CARe), University of Cape Town
- Speakers (livestream): Matthew Salganik (Princeton), Chris Bail (Duke), David Lazer (Harvard), Sendhil Mullainathan (Harvard) Duncan Watts (Microsoft research)

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