

DATA ETHICS TOOLKIT

A Toolkit for Data Ethics in
the Participatory Sciences

Editors

Caren Cooper
Lisa M. Rasmussen
Elizabeth Jones



Students from many disciplines
from many countries

Generated a long list of ethical questions

- participant privacy and confidentiality
- location privacy
- commercial exploitation
- academic exploitation
- safety and liability
- open-access data
- intellectual property
- data ownership and stewardship
- data quality
- fraud
- gamification and persuasion

Caren Cooper



Created the Ethics Working Group
Association for Advancing Participatory Sciences



Citizen Science discipline	Ethical framework
Medicine	Traditional Human Subjects
Public health	Community-engaged Scholarship
Biodiversity conservation	Contributory design / traditional volunteering
Geography & Astronomy	Data-intensive principles
Biochemistry	Game design principles

Caren Cooper



Ornithologist and
Social Scientist

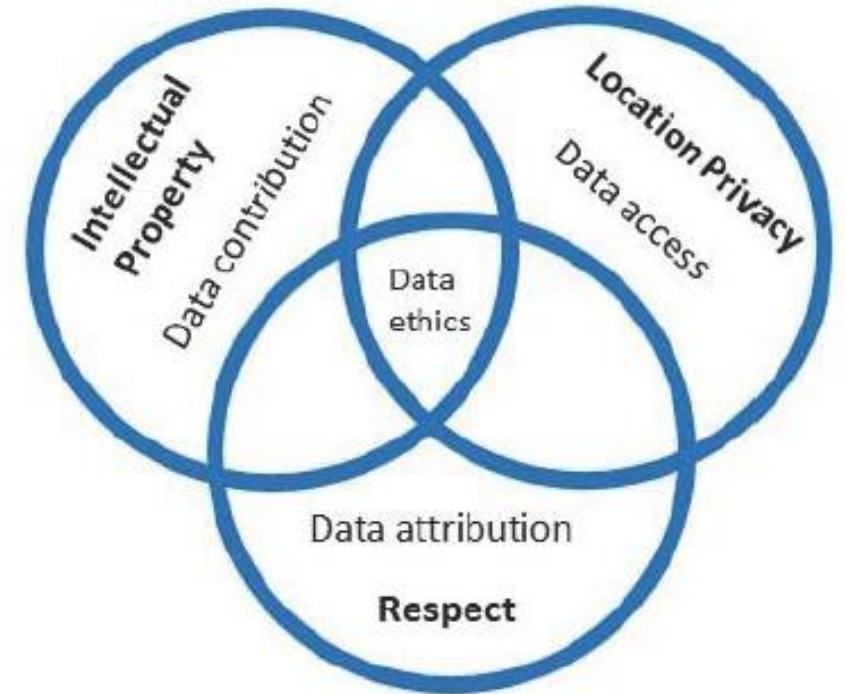
Lisa Rasmussen



Philosopher

‘Ethics gap’ due to (1) no regulatory oversight and (2) lack of unity across multiple disciplines.

Aim: fill the gap with ethical norms and culture supported by a professional association.



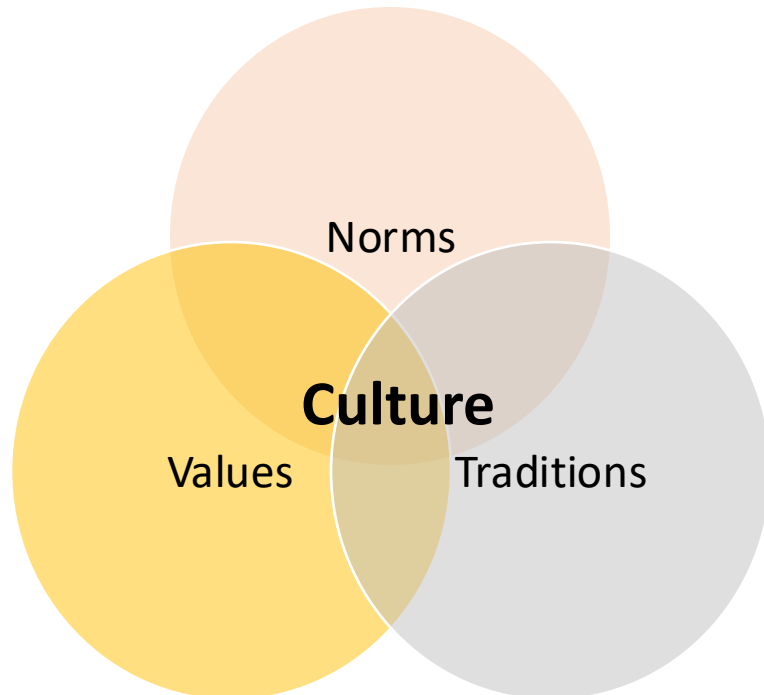
NSF - Cultivating Cultures of Ethical STEM (CCE-STEM)

Training ----- > Education



THINK LIKE
AN
ETHICISTS

+ = Ethical conduct —> Trustworthy Field



Elizabeth Jones



Science Historian

Acknowledgments

The Editors would like to acknowledge, with our deepest gratitude, the many members of the participatory sciences community who made this project possible. Individuals mentioned below, in addition to approximately fifty individuals who contributed but wish to remain anonymous, have been integral to the project. Thanks to their input, the Toolkit reflects both areas of broad agreement and areas of divergent priorities and values. The Editors have endeavored to avoid, but take responsibility for errors, oversights, and omissions.

Advisors

Anne Bowser
Jean Goodwin
Alison Parker
Toby Schonfeld
Jennifer Shirk
Sacoby Wilson
Michael Zimmer

Consultant-Collaborators

Amy Freitag
Vincent Martin
Omega Wilson

Co-Facilitation Team

Omar Muhammad
Nayyirah Shariff

Community

Engagement Partner
The Citizen Science Association

Support & Design

Reanna Putnam

Original Artwork

Lila Higgins

Trustworthy Data Practices Team (plus 70 who remain anonymous)

Guillermina Actis	Craig Hood	Jack Nunn
Lauren Anderson	Barb Horn	Sean O'Connor
Maria-Antonietta Buccheri	Pen-Yuan Hsing	Shane Orchard
Brandon Budnicki	Michael Jabot	Alison Parker
Lydia Collins	Devanshu Jha	Pammi Price
Alexandra Czegledi	Xeni Kechagioglou	Turam Purty
Veronica Del Bianco	Skye Kelty	Rosemary Race
Ursula Ellis	Ankit Khanal	Lea Shanley
Jennifer Epstein	Holli Kohl	Nancy Sheehan
Justin W. Flory	Jackie Lindsey	Anne Simonis
Alexis Garretson	Jaxson Mack	Ted Smith
Carlos Goller	Rachael Mady	Rob Stevenson
Yaela Golumbic	Lauren Marino Perez	Gefion Thuerner
Debbie Gonzalez Canada	Karen Martin	Hossein Vahidi
Bastian Greshake Tzovaras	Charmel Menzel	Mariana Varese
Muki Halkas	Peder Nelson	Kristen Weaver
Barbara Heinisch	Noah Newman	Adam Woods

Environmental Justice Practitioners Team Members

Deborah Stewart Anderson	Erin Proven
Chris Canaly	Eloise Thomas
Sala Faruq	Lucas K Thornton
Christopher Gross	Ayo Wilson
Valerie Ann Johnson	Brenda Wilson
Gloria J Lowe	Omega Wilson
Vincent Martin	



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There are multiple ways to engage with the Toolkit:



Download the Toolkit

Download a printable PDF of the toolkit and accompanying worksheets and work through the worksheets by hand.

[Download the Toolkit >](#)



Earn an Ethics Badge

Work through the interactive tutorial version of the Toolkit and earn an ethics badge for completion. The tutorial, available through SciStarter, is divided into short lessons, which you can navigate sequentially or in the order of your choice.

[Access the Tutorial >](#)



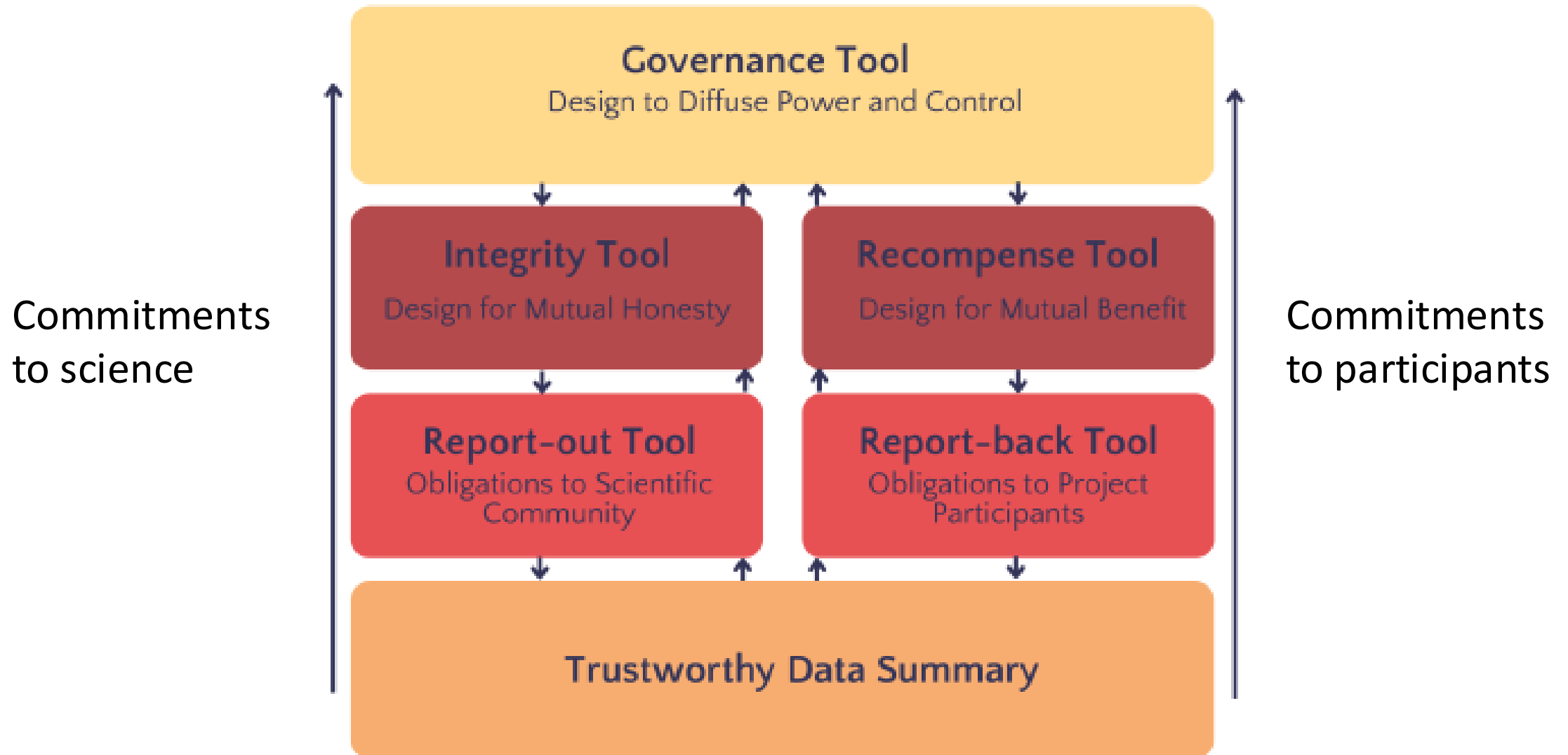
Build an Ethical Community of Practice

By taking part in discussions, whether to get feedback and/or offer suggestions, you will become a valuable part of building an ethical community of practice together.

[Join the Community of Practice >](#)



Toolkit organization and interrelationships



PERSPECTIVE article

Front. Clim., 06 July 2021

Sec. Climate Risk Management

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2021.637037>

This article is part of the Research Topic

Open Citizen Science Data and Methods

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Perspective: The Power (Dynamics) of Open Data in Citizen Science

Caren B. Cooper^{1*}

Lisa M. Rasmussen² and

Elizabeth D. Jones¹

¹ Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, United States

² Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC, United States

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*Author affiliations can be found in the back matter of this article

Community Science



COMMENTARY
10.1029/2022CSJ000025

Key Points:

- Common structure for data governance in participatory science is to centralize data and centralize decisions about data use/re-use
- Equitable structures for data governance in participatory science can centralize data while decentralizing decision-making

Equitable Data Governance Models for the Participatory Sciences

Caren Cooper^{1,2} , Vincent Martin³, Omega Wilson⁴, and Lisa Rasmussen⁵

¹Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA, ²Leadership in Public Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA, ³V Martin Environmental Justice LLC, and United Citizen of Southwest Detroit, Sterling Heights, MI, USA, ⁴West End Revitalization Association, Mebane, NC, USA, ⁵Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, USA

Equitable payments for research participation: A successful case of exceptionalism

Lisa M. Rasmussen¹ , Elizabeth D. Jones², Vincent Martin³, Omega R. Wilson⁴, and Caren B. Cooper⁵

Research Ethics
1–5
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“

Making decisions for the data within one's control requires acknowledging the ethical commitments and interests guiding your project.

”

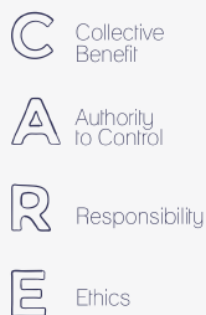
Addressing Privacy

There are several techniques that can help decrease or remove privacy risks that could harm people and/or the environment. These techniques vary, but include minimization (collecting only the data absolutely necessary for the conduct of the research), obfuscation (blurring of collected data to prevent privacy risks), and security (ensuring that access to information is controlled)



FAIR Principles

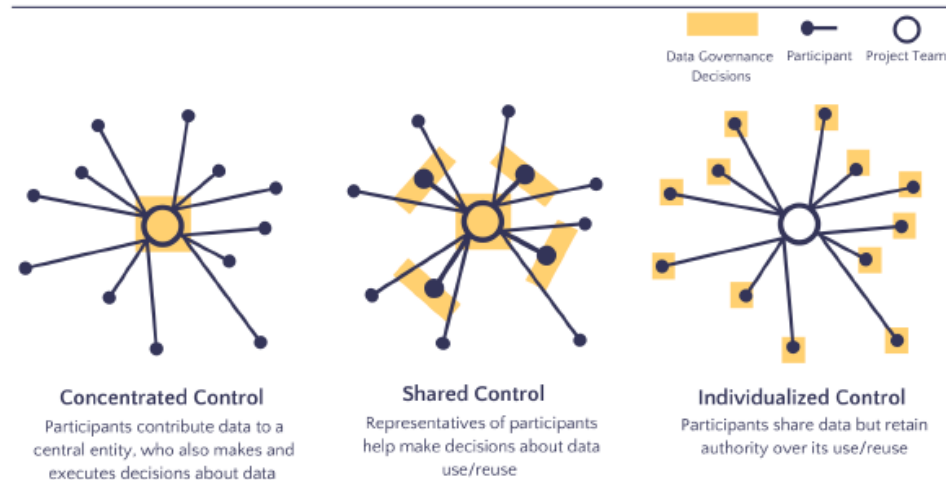
The FAIR Principles refer to data that are “Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.” These are intended to promote open science and wide sharing of data through standardization of data sets. They may also be useful for purposes other than open science.



CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance

The CARE Principles are “Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics.” These principles arose in response to the FAIR principles, to acknowledge that open science practices as codified in the FAIR principles “does not fully engage with Indigenous Peoples rights and interests” (<https://www.gida-global.org/care>). For example, in some cases, the need for increased control, especially to enable community benefit or limit how the data are used, is balanced with open science.

Data Governance Decision Making Structures



In the worksheet accompanying this tool, project leaders are invited to decide what general data governance structure is appropriate for their project. Projects may require different governance structures at different decision points, so supporting tools in this toolkit will revisit and build on this foundation.

Bottom Line

Project leaders are data stewards accountable for executing data governance decisions. To identify and address ethical issues in data governance, project leaders should establish governance structures to diffuse the concentration of power and control.



Pause and Think

Can you think of ways in which a project leader's positionality might differ from the positionality of participants and partners?

Tips:

- The project leader might come from a high-biodiversity area, while participants' environment may lack biodiversity.
- The project leader may be able-bodied while participants may have impairments.
- The project leader may prioritize insights from quantitative data while participants value insights from stories and other qualitative data.



Pause and Think

How can projects be structured so that participants retain some control of their data?

Next Steps

Uke' Contracting System

Uke' Contracting System

"Uke'," Uma for "water," is a two-part contracting system created by the Houma Language Project and Ripple Effect which ensures interviewees maintain full copyright of their media's future s and profits, while providing their collaborators with limited, project-specific licenses.



1. WORK FOR HIRE AGREEMENT

This contract confirms that the Knowledge Holder maintains full copyright to the media.

2. COPYRIGHT LICENSE AGREEMENT

This contract gives limited use to the Interviewer to use the media within a specific project scope.



Watch a Demo

<https://youtu.be/k3HRys3nQ0o>

- Developed in context of Oral Histories
- Adapting it to participatory sciences

Caren Cooper

