



GLOBAL DATA ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE SYMPOSIUM

18-19 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Riverside Hotel, Durban, SOUTH AFRICA

PROGRAMME

SYMPOSIUM DAY 1: 18 September 2025	
08h:00 – 09h00: ARRIVALS & REGISTRATION	
0900 – 9:15 am: OPENING REMARKS - Johannes John-Langba : Co-Chair, Data Ethics Task Group (DETG) of CODATA; Professor of Social Work & Director, College Humanities Doctoral Academy, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	
09:15 – 9:30 am: WELCOME MESSAGE - Neil Koorbanally , University Dean of Research & Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	
09:30– 10:15: KEYNOTE LECTURE 1 - Keeping Data Sovereignty in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Open Science Era: Safeguards for Each AI Risk Level - Joseph M. Wafula , Professor of Information Technology, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya	
10h00-11h00: SESSION 1 - DATA ETHICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Chair: Johannes John-Langba , University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	
▪	ReCre-Auth: A Reflexive Framework for Ethical AI-Human Co-authorship Renier Le Roux, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa
▪	Surveillance, Consent, and Control: Rethinking Data Ethics in Artificial Intelligence -Driven Societies Puspa Mondal & Khalisani Mahavidyalaya, University of Burdwan, West-Bengal, India
▪	Beyond Malicious Compliance: Toward Ethical AI Rooted in African Law, Culture, and Justice Lufuno T Tshikalange, Orizur Consulting Enterprise, South Africa
▪	A Universal Framework for the Responsible Adoption of AI in Open and Distance Learning Vivian O. Nwaocha, National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria

11h00 – 11h15 : Tea /Coffee Break
11h15 -12h15: SESSION 2 - ETHICS OF INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE, Chair: Ritasha Sookdew, <i>University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Vote Buying: An Ethico-sociological Critique of African Humanistic Culture of Sharing Oyebade O. Oyewole, <i>University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa</i> Ethics of Indigenous Data Governance in the African Context Pascal Mwakio, <i>AMREF International University, Kenya</i> Ethical Pathways in Indigenous Data Governance: Building Trust and Protection for Sustainable Development Andiswa Pamella Bottoman-Mdlankomo, <i>University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa</i> Silent suffering: Exploring the impacts of underreporting chronic pain among older adults in residential care facilities Stanley Makuvaza, <i>University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa</i>
12h15 – 13h00 : Prof FRASER TAYLOR MEMORIAL LECTURE Romola V. Thumbadoo , <i>Carleton University, Canada</i>
13h00 – 14h00: Networking LUNCH
14h00 – 14h45: KEYNOTE LECTURE 2 - The ENVISAGE Principles Applied to Data Visitation Framing Digital Sovereignty Jacintha Toohey , <i>School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa</i> Francis P. Crawley , <i>CODATA International Data Policy Committee (IDPC), Leuven, Belgium</i>
14h45 – 15h45: SESSION 3 - DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION Chair: Rania Elsayed Ibrahim, <i>National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences, Egypt</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging Cloud Governance to Advance Digital Sovereignty: A Hybrid Framework for Modernizing National Identity Services in South Africa Phumelela Mjoli, <i>University of Pretoria, South Africa</i> Jan Eloff, <i>University of Pretoria, South Africa</i> Moses Dlamni, <i>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa</i> Positioning Data Ethics within the Wits Graduate Online Learning and Development (GOLD) RDM Strategy at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa Lazarus Matizirofa, <i>University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</i> Daisy Selematsela, <i>University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</i> Data Sovereignty and Intellectual Property Protection: Navigating CRI Challenges in India Mamta Bhardwaj, <i>Neuron-STPI Mohali, MeitY, India</i> Shalini Arora, <i>LUVAS Haryana, India</i> Radhika Trikha, <i>IIT Ropar, Punjab, India</i> Saurabh Arora, <i>IIT Ropar, Punjab, India</i> Data Ethics and AI in South Africa: To be Heard and To Be Seen ? Gauri Harish Varma, <i>Christ University, India</i>

15h45 – 15h55 : TEA/COFFEE BREAK
15h55 – 16h55: SESSION 4 - PANEL DISCUSSION: Data Governance and Data ethics: Strategy, evidence and solutions from China. Moderator: Guan Jian, National Population and Health Scientific Data Center, CHINA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical AI and health data governance Calvin Ho, Monash University, Australia Ping Ji, Peking University Clinical Research Institute Shenzhen, China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical Consideration of AI application for Research and Publishing Bing Liu, Chinese Medical Journals Publishing House, China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An incomplete ingredient List: Do AI datasheets Deliver True Transparency? Hubert Hui Kang, BGI-Research, Shenzhen, China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data ethics and AI ethics: Scope and Ethical review Strategy of China Jian Guan, National Population and Health Scientific Data Center, CHINA Lianglin Hu, Chinese Academy of Science, China, Linda Wong, China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
16h55 -17h00 : SUMMARY of SYMPOSIUM DAY 1 Sukhdeep Kaur, Panjab University, India & CODATA DETG Secretary
Notes:
SYMPOSIUM DAY 2: 19 September 2025
08h00 – 09h00: ARRIVALS & REGISTRATION
09h00 – 09h15: Recap of Day 1- Sukhdeep Kaur, Panjab University, India & CODATA DETG Secretary
09h15– 10h00: KEYNOTE LECTURE 3 - A Big Data Analytics Framework for Equitable Open Science in Africa Gabriel Kabanda, Professor of Computer Science, Graduate School of Business and Leadership, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

10h00 – 11h00: SESSION 5 - DATA ETHICS AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY**Chair:** Hubert Hui Kang, BGI-Research, Shenzhen, China

- Leveraging Digital Tools for Ethical Community-Based Surveillance of Maternal Deaths and Stillbirths: Insights from Lagos State Verbal and Social Autopsy Sample Registration System of Maternal Deaths and Stillbirths (LVASA-SRS) Project, Nigeria
Monsuru Badmus, Center for Clinical Trial, research and Implementation Science, University of Lagos, Nigeria
- Embedding Ethics into the Global Data Ecosystem: A Framework for Scientific Integrity & Trust
Ranjeet Kumar Singh, Delhi University Library System, India
- The importance of understanding moral rights in relation to open science
Carina Keskitalo, Umeå university, Sweden

11h00 – 11h15: Tea /Coffee**11h15 -12h15: SESSION 6 - ETHICAL DATA STEWARDSHIP AND DATA COLONIALISM****Chair:** Suchith Anand, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

- Transforming Africa's Hidden Education Evidence into a Force for Change
Kennedy Kamau, African Population and Health Research Center, Ken
- Operational Excellence Tools for Data Governance Business Units: Identifying Key performance areas and indicators
Kagiso Mabe, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Kelvin Joseph Bwalya, University of Johannesburg, South Africa & Sohar University, Sultanate of Oman
- Development of Strategic Framework for Open Knowledge
Rania Elsayed Ibrahim, National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences, Egypt
- Determining the scope of relevant laws and policies for health data justice
Jay Shaw, University of Toronto, Canada
Amelia Fiske, Technical University of Munich, Germany
Sharifah Sekalala, University of Warwick, United Kingdom
Paula Hepp, Technical University of Munich, Germany
Jemal Demeke, University of Toronto, Canada
Angela Daly, University of Dundee, United Kingdom

12h15 – 13h15: SESSION 7: DATA ETHICS AND STRUCTURAL INEQUITIES IN SCIENCE**Chair :** Nitin Bayal, University of Turku, Finland

- Earth Observation Data Ethics
Suchith Anand, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
- Relational ethics and Critical Data Practice: Machine Learning for Media Researchers
Marion Walton, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Understanding the Impact of Decentralized, Adaptive AI Standardization Across Industries for Fostering an Innovation Ecosystem
Sukhdeep Kaur, Panjab University, India

13h15 – 14h00: Networking LUNCH
14h00 -15h00: Session 8 - DATA PRIVACY Chair : Masanori Arita, National Institute of Genetics, Mishima, Japan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A New Platform for Achieving Ethical and Context-Sensitive Data Anonymization in Resource-Constrained Settings Silas Ooko African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya Daniel M. Mwanga, African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya Ethics in Global Data Governance: Safeguarding Integrity, Privacy, and Fairness in the Era of AI-Driven Societies Anurag Sharma, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, India Data Privacy, a key pillar in realizing Open Science: Balancing Privacy, Protection and Accessibility Bonface Ingumba, African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya
15h00 – 15h30: TEA/ COFFEE OFFICIAL LAUNCH: CODATA DATA ETHICS TASK GROUP (DETG) BRIEFING NOTES Briefing Note - Data Ethics and Structural Inequities in Science: https://zenodo.org/records/17079604 Briefing Note – Privacy https://zenodo.org/records/17079378 Chairs: Johannes John-Langba & Ritasha Sookdew, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
16h30 – 17h00: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CALL TO ACTION The Data Ethics Task Group, Committee on Data (CODATA), International Science Council (ISC)
16h30 – 17h00: SYMPOSIUM CLOSING REMARKS: Simon Hodson, Executive Director, CODATA
NOTES https://zenodo.org/records/17079604

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Johannes John-Langba, PhD., MPH serves as co-Chair of the Data Ethics Task Group (DETG) of the Committee on Data (CODATA), International Science Council (ISC). He is a Professor of Social Work and Director of the College of Humanities Doctoral Academy at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa. A social and behavioral health scientist, he earned PhD and Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees from the University of Pittsburgh (United States) and a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Howard University in Washington DC (United States). In addition to his professional work experience as an academic, Prof John-Langba has extensive international development work experience, having worked for UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as well as various other international non-governmental organizations including, mothers2mothers (m2m), Africa Health Placements (AHP), and Africa Population and Health Research Center (APHRC). He is Vice President for Program Development at the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) and the WFMH Representative to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna. Prof John-Langba was honored in the Top 100 List of Most Influential people of African Descent (MIPAD) in 2023 and was inducted into the United States Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health in 2024.



Neil Koorbanally, PhD is a Professor of Organic Chemistry with over 25 years of experience in the fields of Natural Products and Synthetic Organic Chemistry. He works on the synthesis of hybrid organic molecules for the pharmaceutical industry, with a specific interest in quinolines, benzimidazoles and quinoxalines. His current interest is on the design, synthesis, antibacterial, antitubercular and anticancer activity of conjugate molecules, combining two or more organic frameworks or classes of compounds into a single small molecule. In recent years, he has concentrated on quinolines, quinoxalines and benzimidazoles, supervising the synthesis and bioactivity of various libraries of compounds, several of which were seen to have better activity than known drugs. Beside Organic Synthesis, he still enjoys isolating natural products from plant sources and working out their structures. "This is one of the more challenging aspects of Organic Chemistry." Prof. Koorbanally is currently the Acting University Dean of Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.



Gabriel Kabanda, PhD stands as a preeminent scholar and a transformative leader who epitomizes academic excellence and innovative research. He is currently the Head of Doctoral Programmes at the Graduate School of Business & Leadership, College of Law and Management Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa/ Professor Kabanda is the Most Notable and Top Distinguished Full Professor of Computer Science, Information Systems, Cybersecurity, AI/Machine Learning and Big Data Science. [UNESCO/International Chartered World Learned Society] with more than 150 research publications in internationally refereed journals/books. He is a Fellow of the African Scientific Institute (USA) and a member of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) of the African Union. Prof Kabanda holds a Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) in Computer Science from Atlantic International University (USA) as well as a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Pacific Western University, California (USA), and an M.Sc. in Computer Science from Swansea University (United Kingdom).



Romola V. Thumbadoo, PhD., has worked in the federal government (criminal, social and Indigenous justice) in Canada (20 years), and at the grass roots level with the Circle of All Nations global eco peace community founded by Late Indigenous Elder William Commanda (20 years). In January 2018, she completed her thesis entitled "*Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations: The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda*" and thereafter postdoctoral research on William Commanda's discourse and legacy (2021), both under the supervision of later Professor D.R. Fraser Taylor, Cartographer and Director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC), at Carleton University. Her research examined the ongoing relevance of the Circle of All Nations work of late Algonquin Elder Commanda and his contested vision for an eco-peace centre at the Asinabka Sacred Chaudiere site, in Ottawa, Canada. She serves as Coordinator of the Circle of All Nations, is Research Associate at the GCRC, and served as Executive Assistant to late Professor Taylor for eight years.



Jacintha Toohey, PhD is a legal scholar in the School of Law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), with a PhD in Law, Masters in Medical Law, LLB, and Diplomas in Project Management and Information Systems. Her research focuses on the intersection of law, ethics, and human rights in the health research environment. She currently contributes to research ethics reviews as well as capacity-building in research ethics and research management. Lecturing at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Jacintha is passionate about promoting equitable and responsible research in all spheres, including in her partnerships with CSIR-SA, UKZN HSSREC/BREC, and CODATA-IDPC.



Francis P. Crawley, MA is a philosopher working in policy, ethics, and research methodology in Leuven, Belgium. He is Chair of the CODATA IDPC; Co-chair & Principal Investigator of the EOSC-Future/RDA AIDV-WG; and a member of the ELSI Working Group of the Human Genome Project II (HGP2).



Joseph Muliari Wafula, PhD is currently an Associate Professor of Information Technology at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. He holds a BSc. Science (Hons) (Kenyatta University), MSc. Physics (University of Nairobi), M.Phil. Microelectronic Engineering and Semiconductor Physics (University of Cambridge -UK), Summer Doctoral Program (Berkman Centre for Internet & Society/Oxford Internet Institute's -Harvard University Law School), and PhD Information Technology (JKUAT). He is certified by IBM as a Mobile Application Developer, Cyber Security expert and Data Engineer. Prof Wafula is Director of Data Trace International Ltd, a member of the Bungoma Chapter of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI). He is currently a mentor on the 2025 UNEP Hackathon for the Environment - Digital Innovation for Climate, Nature, and Pollution (July-August) to mobilize and empower youth in Kenya to develop using including geospatial information tools, digital and data solutions for pressing local and global environmental challenges. Prof Wafula is the Lead Scientist on the Africa Open Science Platform (AOSP) Eastern Africa Node and Coordinator and Lead

expert implementor of the Global Open Science Cloud. He is the Chair of CODATA Kenya and immediate past Executive Committee Member of CODATA International (2017-2023).



Simon Hodson, PhD, has been Executive Director of CODATA since August 2013. He is an expert on data policy issues and research data management. Most recently, he was coordinator of the groundbreaking WorldFAIR project, which is now being extended as an international collaborative initiative, WorldFAIR+, to advance the development and implementation of the Cross-Domain Interoperability Framework (CDIF). Simon has contributed to a number of landmark reports and policy documents: he chaired the European Commission's Expert Group on FAIR Data which produced the Turning FAIR into Reality report. He was also vice-chair of the UNESCO Open Science Advisory Committee, with an influential role in drafting the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, which

was adopted in November 2021.

Symposium International Scientific Review Committee

Johannes John-Langba, *University of KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA* (Chair)

Jian Guan, *National Population and Health Scientific Data Centre, CHINA* (Vice Chair)

Ashlin Lee, *Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, AUSTRALIA* (Vice Chair)

Lilit Hakobyan, *Aston University, UNITED KINGDOM*

Ritasha Sookdew, *University of KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA*

Masanori Arita, *National Institute of Genetics, JAPAN*

Tolbert Mucheri, *University of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA*

Linda Wong, *Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, CHINA*

Rania Elsayed, *National Authority for Remote Sensing & Space Sciences, EGYPT*

Sukdeep Kaur, *Punjab University, INDIA*

Angela Daly, *University of Dundee, UNITED KINGDOM*

Suchith Anand, *University of Exeter, UNITED KINGDOM*

The symposium is organized by the Data Ethics Task Group (DETG), Committee on Data (CODATA) of the International Science Council (ISC)

<https://codata.org/initiatives/task-groups/data-ethics/>

Notes: