Data as Development

A Collaborative Workshop - 23 May 2019 at the Kennedy School at Harvard
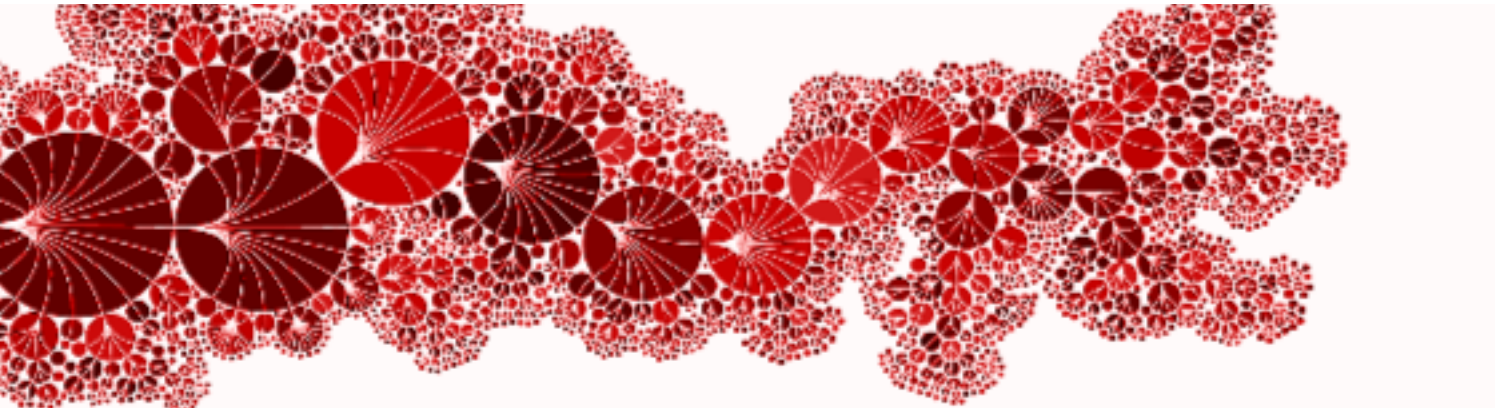
This event follows an earlier workshop held in 2018 titled *Big Data, Meager Returns?*

Much has been discussed about the new technologies that underlie digital transformation, notably artificial intelligence (AI) and big data. The changes catalyzed by these technologies are already in place not just in industries and institutions, but also in ongoing conversations on urgent social and economic issues, such as labor markets, global warming, and inequality. It is also clear, at the same time, that despite some risks, automation can bring about productivity and efficiency gains, thus leading to dynamic growth trends in companies and countries.

There are a number of questions for developing countries on whether and how these gains can be leveraged in ways that are equitable. In the first workshop (**Big Data, Meager Returns?**), we explored typologies and governance frameworks related to big data, investigating how the principles of fairness and sustainability can be used to advance growth and well-being through the use of big data. The workshop highlighted the need to distinguish between personal and non-personal data while designing governance frameworks. It concluded with a consensus that while governance frameworks and new technology architectures abound on the Internet, developing countries seem to be lagging behind. The first step toward a solution would be to ensure that principles of accountability, participation, social fairness, and sustainability are incorporated from the start in any data governance framework, at the local, regional or international level.
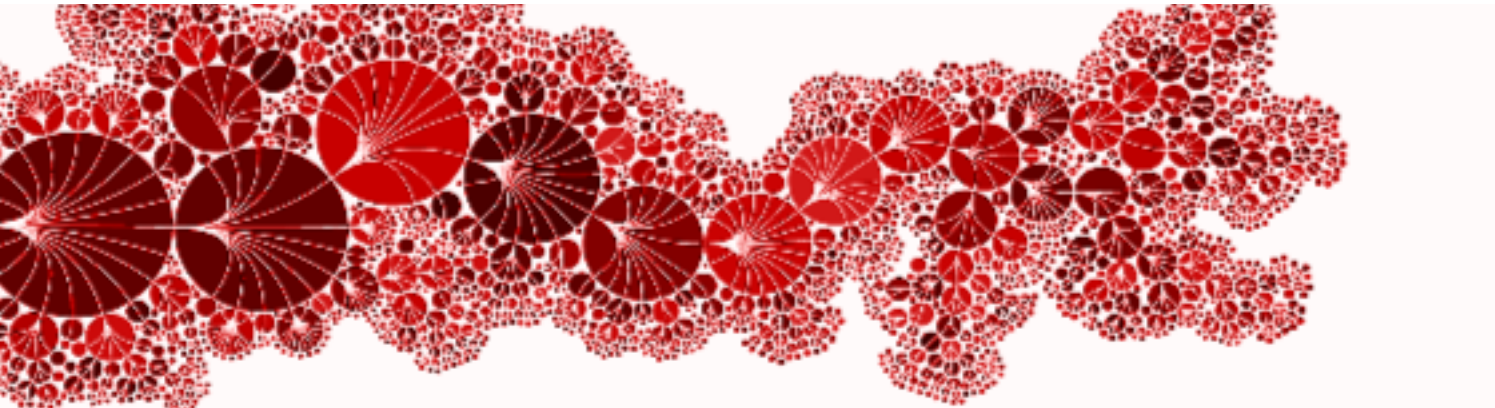
This second workshop builds on these findings and seeks to move further on a number of outstanding issues. We focus particularly on questions of data typologies for developing countries, with a view to understanding how to create data markets and governance frameworks that are more beneficial to the needs of local businesses, societal participation and overall welfare in developing countries. The discussions and deliberations will focus on exploring the particular positive effects of digital transformation in developing countries and the role of public policy in harnessing it.

The workshop will have four main sessions [*4 speakers each with 12 min interventions and a 40-minute Q&A time*] followed by a closing plenary.
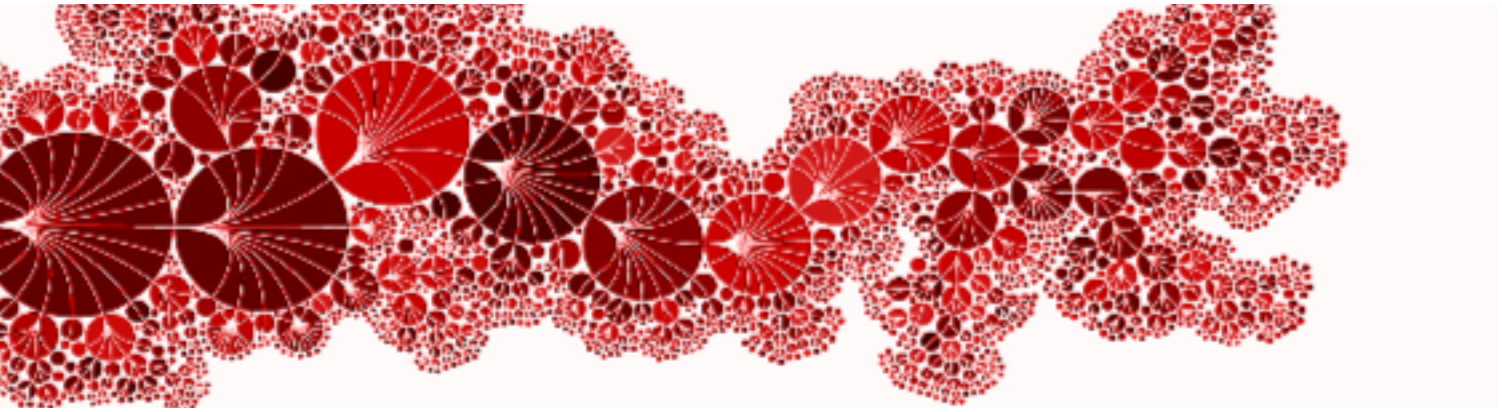
Workshop Program

8:00-8:30	**Registration and Welcome Breakfast**
8:30-9:00	**Opening Remarks by Organisers** Yasodara Córdova, Padmashree Gehl Sampath and Lorrayne Porciuncula
9:00-10:30	**Data Typologies**

For developing countries, strategic areas where non-personal data is collected, such as those related, for example, to infrastructure and agriculture, are crucial to achieving their public policy objectives of development, sustainability, and poverty reduction. To contemplate these policy objectives, one option is to tailor new data markets by promoting innovative regulations that prioritize ownership, local business creation, data sharing, and re-use, in order to unlock the opportunities of data for their own private and public sectors. This panel will focus on these issues, prioritizing the experiences of entrepreneurs who are currently engaged in developing new data markets for a conversation on their experiences in the areas of agriculture, sustainability, energy, transportation and decentralized applications (running on top of mesh networks). The panel will also focus on how better data typologies can be created based on the practical considerations raised by the panelists.

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15	**Collaborative Data Models for Developing Countries**

How to remodel our vision of data? Drawing on the results of our first workshop on this topic, we know that the effective regulation of data in develotive debate on the definitions of data. Frameworks should push for data access and the use and re-use of data, avoiding silos and predatory models that facilitate data extraction. In this new construct, data should become an enabler of new models of cooperative growth in these countries. This session will push the boundaries of existing debates on this question and explore how we can design and facilitate more collaborative data models in developing countries? The interventions will promote a discussion of new ideas, approaches, and examples in this highly complex, but a necessary area of policy.
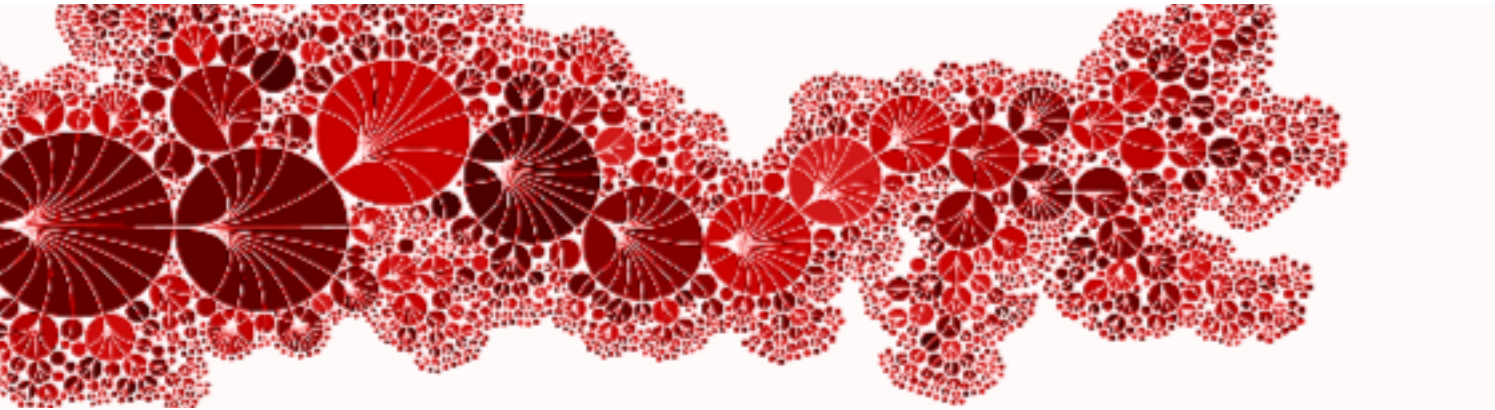
12:15-1:15 - Lunch	
1:15-2:45	**Enabling Comprehensive Data Policy for Development**

Decentralizing data ownership will expand the potential uses of data and development of new business models, from small and medium businesses, and advances multiple public policies objectives. However, the institutional capability to control and the perception of what privacy entails for example, differs by country. The debate over regulatory consistency ignores this currently. This panel will address the following questions: What guiding principles can be elaborated to enable developing countries to have a comprehensive data policy that can guide their development. Are there data regulation(s) principles should be set for developing countries? And what is the role of privacy regulations in this context?

2.45-3.00 - Coffee Break	
3:00-4:30	**Global Agreements, Local Interests**

A number of global rules and agreements enable data privatization and limit the potential of national governments and groups to devise solutions that promote local interests. A case in point is the role of intellectual property creating/ expanding existing data monopolies at the cost of local knowledge, as is evident in the area of traditional knowledge and protection of data in genetic resources. This session addresses the question whether technological solutions can promote autonomy and protection of local interests in this context, and if not, what actions can be taken by developing countries to preserve their autonomy and choice in such areas.

4:30- 5:30	**Preserving Developmental Space**

As developing countries struggle for space to design their own digital visions, the economic and political reality of the global economy is changing. This final session will tackle the question: How best to factor in the EU, Europe, and China in the equation? How to remodel our vision of data, for example by developing extra-territorial data commons, so as to enable cooperation in the developing countries?

5:30 - 5:45	**Closing Remarks**

Workshop Organizers

Yasodara Córdova is a Senior Fellow at the [Digital Kennedy School](), a [Belfer Center]() project, at Harvard and an affiliate at the [Berkman Klein Center](). Her research comprises Citizenship, Digital Democracy, and Participation. She is an activist, software developer, and Industrial Designer that is part of several Civil Society organizations, as she is on the Director's board of the [Ciudadania Inteligente,]() and is a former Director of the "[Serenata de Amor Operation]()", an anti-corruption A.I. platform that uses machine learning and open data to facilitate social control of the public representatives in Brazil. Yasodara was invited to present this successful project in the Brazilian Congress in 2017. She was selected as a Fellow of the Berkman Klein Center in 2016, but before that, Yasodara worked as a Web Specialist at the [World Wide Web Consortium](), as the chair of the [Data on the Web Working Group](). For more than eight years, working closely with several ministries in Brazil and the Brazilian presidency, she developed platforms for citizen participation as a technical innovation consultant for the United Nations. Earlier, she worked with data visualization and was awarded twice the biggest Brazilian prize in Journalism and Human Rights, the [Vladimir Herzog Award](). She collaborated with the [Coding Rights](), an awarded Brazilian think-tank, part of the Privacy International Network. In the same way, she worked with several organizations, like the [InternetLab](), [Tactical Tech Collective](), [Avaaz](), in several roles. She is one of the first female Hackerspace founders in Brazil and was part of the advisory board of the [Open Knowledge Foundation]() Brazil until 2017. Finally, Yasodara is recognized internationally for her multidisciplinary vision over the digital changes happening systemically on the Internet.

Padmashree Gehl Sampath is a leading expert on trade policy, innovation policy, and economic development. She is a Fellow at the [Berkman Klein Center](), Harvard University; a [Visiting Fellow at GDAE Tufts University](). She is an [Adjunct Professor at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Aalborg, Denmark]() and a [Professorial Fellow at the United nations University-MERIT](). Padmashree's research interests focus on the economic and social implications of technology in different contexts. She works extensively on technology and industrialization, technology and inequality, technology and market power issues in the digital economy. She focuses particularly on how changes in the fields of Big Data, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things have differential social and economic impacts in different regions and communities worldwide. In her work, she analyses how questions of data infrastructure,

architecture and design impact stewardship, exercise of rights and exclusion, and offers potential solutions from a governance perspective looking at industrial policy, intellectual property, and technology policy. She has authored numerous books, journal publications, and books on these issues. Padmashree works at the United Nations in Geneva and has previously been on a professorship for innovation and development at the Open University in the UK and worked as a Staff Member of the United Nations University's Institute for New Technologies (now UNU-MERIT) for several years.

Lorrayne Porciuncula is an Economist/ Policy Analyst on Communications Infrastructure and Services at the Digital Economy and Policy Division (STI/CDEP) in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Her work is focused on telecommunications regulation and policy, including issues related to bridging rural digital divides, connecting SMEs, convergence, and digitalization of the economy and society. Previous to her current position, Lorrayne worked, at the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (ITU). She holds a Master degree on Development Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland, and an International Relations bachelor degree from the University of Brasilia, Brazil. Lorrayne is currently an affiliate at Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. At the Center, she will be working on issues related to Internet Health, Data Governance Fairness, Infrastructure Regulation, and the relationship between the Internet and economic growth.

Research Assistance

Henri Brebant - MPA Student at Harvard Kennedy School — Digital / AI / Policy / Democracy

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