DATA, EQUITY, and EVALUATION: LEARN MORE

The Stanford Digital Civil Society Lab curated these resources for those interested in learning more about data, equity, and evaluation. They are intended to provide a range of opportunities to learn more. You can suggest resources by contacting us.

Equity and Evaluation

1. Thought Partnership to Forward your Mission: This short blog post by Jili Consulting provides an overview of data equity: the concepts behind it and what they mean for an organization's data life cycle.

2. What's Race Got to Do With It? Equity and Philanthropic Evaluation Practice, by Jara Dean-Coffey, American Journal of Evaluation, 2018. Given the increasing interest in issues of equity in foundation work, this article not only reflects back on the history of evaluation as a practice, but also helps evaluation practitioners who work in this sector frameworks for rethinking their relationship to evaluation with a particular focus on how racial equity shapes practice. The article's Appendix also provides great definitions of key terms in this field, including: diversity, equity, institutional racism, and structural racialization.

3. Indigenous Data Sovereignty chapter from State of Open Data Report, OpenData for Development. This chapter explores the concept of Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDS), how it has emerged as an important topic over the last three years and how it raises fundamental questions about assumptions of ownership, representation, and control in open data communities. It outlines how ideas from IDS provide a challenge to dominant discourses in open data, questioning current approaches to data ownership, licensing, and use in ways that resonate beyond Indigenous contexts, drawing attention to the power and post-colonial dynamics within many data agendas.

4. Decolonizing Data, Urban Indian Health Institute, Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director. The Urban Indian Health Institute website is dedicated to decolonizing health data and improving the quality of care provided American Indian and Alaska Native people by most institutions throughout the United States. The website has webinars,
downloadable resources, and blog posts dedicated to pushing back against the western ways of research, evaluation, and data have excluded traditional practices. Whether they are conducting research and analyzing data or providing support to others through technical assistance and funding opportunities, the UIHI strive to make data accessible, accurate, and fair.

5. **We All Count / Data Equity Framework.** We All Count built the Data Equity Framework as a systematic and organized way of looking at each step of a data project for equity issues. The Data Equity Framework means that you don’t have to start from scratch when trying to map your own organization. You simply follow the Framework’s simple steps, completing their checklists and applying their practical tools at each stage, to effect real and sustainable improvements in your equity.

6. **Why Am I Always Being Researched?** Guidebook from Chicago Beyond. This Guidebook is Chicago Beyond's response to the power dynamic between community organizations, researchers, and funders and how this dynamic blocks information that could drive better decision-making and fuel more investment in communities most in need. The guide walks through an equity-based approach to research that offers one way in which researchers can restore communities as authors and owners.

7. **Measuring Love on the Journey for Justice: A Brown Paper**, by Shiree Teng and Sammy Nuñez. This Brown Paper flips the script of what is acceptable as a “Paper” on its head. It is not a “formal,” research-based, finished product of the traditional type. It is designed to have actual, practical applications. The authors ask how love can be used as a means of breaking binaries, decolonizing, connecting, healing traumas inflicted by institutions and systems, and encouraging new ways of seeing and being in the world. It is meant to spark dialogue and provoke.

8. **Principles for Advancing Equitable Data Practice**, Urban Institute. Researchers and other data experts have tremendous power to use data to shape conversations about policies, programs, and resource allocations. Everyone who works with data should consider how their actions and resulting products affect people and communities. Currently, research organizations use the Belmont Report—which emphasizes three principles: beneficence, respect for persons, and justice—to guide
formal oversight to protect people who are studied. However, people in government, nonprofits, and other sectors also create and use data in ways that may have serious consequences for others' lives. This brief introduces the Belmont Report's principles and provides selected principle-aligned practices and resources to help data experts at all levels integrate the principles into their work and move toward more equitable data practice.

9. Evaluation with a Racial Equity Lens Slides, November 2017, capd.org. This PowerPoint by Sally Leiderman explores how evaluation is both a technical and a political exercise. In 13 slides, she breaks down the power dynamics at play in any evaluation process, between funders, evaluations, the community that is being evaluated, the people running an intervention, and the people being served by an intervention. Her PowerPoint contains useful infographics explaining participatory evaluation as well as a list of additional resources for further understanding systemic racism, participatory evaluation, and power (im)balances in evaluation processes.

10. Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA). This Center is an international community of scholars/practitioners dedicated to promoting culturally responsive stances in evaluation, assessment, policy analysis, applied research and action research. In all its work, CREA recognizes issues of power, privilege, and intersectionality. The Center's website provides a number of blog posts and resources for organizations and individuals seeking to better understand and apply cultural responsiveness.

11. Transforming White Privilege Curriculum, RacialEquityTools.org. The Transforming White Privilege (TWP) curriculum is designed to help current and emerging leaders from a variety of sectors better identify, talk about and intervene to address white privilege and its consequences. The curriculum includes lessons plans, handouts, PowerPoint slides and video clips covering a number of key concepts, tools and strategies for change.

12. Power Moves, NCRP Philamplify indicators. This guide by the NCRP is designed to help organizations self-evaluate their capacity for wielding power, sharing power, and building power. Power Moves can be applied flexibly based on your needs,
available time and resources. You can choose to work on all three dimensions of power or start with one; they can be explored individually and in any order. You can also choose to apply this toolkit to one grantmaking program, several or an entire portfolio. The toolkit includes guidelines, definitions of key terms, helpful tips, a next-steps tool, and sample questions.

13. **Equitable Evaluation Framework, Equitable Evaluation Initiative.** The Equitable Evaluation Framework is designed to help foundations and nonprofits, and the consultants and philanthropy-serving organizations that support them, explore what it means to be about and for equity by considering how all their assets and efforts align. The framework is built around three core principles: 1) evaluations work is in service of and contributes to equity; 2) evaluative work should be designed and implemented in a way that is commensurate with the values underlying equity work; 3) evaluative work can and should answer critical questions about the effect of a strategy on different populations and on the underlying systemic drivers of inequity, and the ways in which history and cultural context are tangled up on the structural conditions and the change initiative itself.

14. **Racial Equity and Data Collection,** Racial Equity Tools. This webpage provides links to resources, tools and tip sheets on many forms of data collection used in evaluation: surveys, focus groups, group data, and community mapping. There are also resources on some other methods, such as ethnography and story-gathering. Some of the resources also detail how particular methods have been adapted for particular issues (e.g. evaluation of advocacy).

**Data Responsibility Tools and Guides**

15. **Oxfam UK’s Responsible Data Practices, Oxfam UK Responsible Data Training Pack.** Oxfam designed this training pack to: 1) help introduce the principles of responsible data management; 2) examine how organizations might handle unexpected issues that arise in different contexts; 3) introduce the planning processes that can be used. Throughout, Oxfam advocates for collecting data with respect and upholding the rights of respondents whose data is collected.
16. **Oxfam UK Responsible Data Policy.** This policy written and adapted by Oxfam is a great example of how an organization can take measures to ensure that data is collected and used responsible at all stages of the data life cycle. To this end, this policy includes definitions and requirements for high-, medium- and low-risk data.

17. **Using the Data Lifecycle to Manage Data Responsibly.** This leaflet will help anyone handling, sharing or accessing program data to properly consider responsible data issues throughout the data lifecycle. It focuses mainly on the responsible management of data in humanitarian crises, from the perspective of data collection. However, the principles, tools and approaches are also more widely applicable. The steps outlined here should be seen as a framework for ensuring that data collectors are responsive, uphold accountability and raise voices.

18. **Privacy and Data Security under GDPR for Quantitative Impact Evaluation.** In this paper, Oxfam discusses privacy and data security from a rights-based perspective, with a focus on quantitative impact evaluation. We situate protocols we have developed within the context of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), sharing relevant debates along the way. This article provides a useful overview for translating principles and regulations into everyday impact evaluation practice.