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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
OBSERVATION INFORMATION SHEET
Data Science Practice and Culture

Researchers

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Confidentiality cannot be maintained for communication sent via e – mail

Researchers' Statement

We are asking you to be in a research study. The purpose of this information sheet is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether to be in the study or not. Please read the information carefully. You may ask questions about the purpose of the research, what we would ask you to do, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear. When we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called "informed consent." You may keep this information sheet for your records.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

We are studying how researchers work with large and complex datasets, and the institutions, programs, and communities that support data-intensive research. The purpose of this study is to understand challenges, breakdowns, and tensions faced by researchers to produce recommendations for better tools, educational programs, and institutional initiatives, and to understand the role of data science in the production of knowledge.

STUDY PROCEDURES

Participants in this study are people whose work relates in some way to data-intensive research. Our procedures combine interviews and observation. You have been given this information sheet because we would like your permission to observe your work. You will have the opportunity to agree or decline to participate.

Our observations include events and activities such as: individual work, small groups and meetings, and non-public professional and social gatherings. We may schedule multiple or recurring observations for certain activities or events (e.g. regular group meetings), with the permission of the event organizers.

The observer will strive to be minimally disruptive to the activity being observed. When it is not disruptive, the observer will clearly announce their presence at the start of observation. Data collection will cease when the event or activity being observed ends.

Observers will take written or typed notes during observations. The observer may also take photographs or video clips, and may also ask for copies of materials that pertain to your work, such as data files, scripts, slides, or documents. Any such additional materials will be specifically requested and you are free to decline for any reason. In some cases, with your permission, the observer may also take on a more active role in the activity being observed (e.g. helping run an

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event, giving a presentation, or joining a discussion).

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

We know of no risks of harm to you from participating in the research beyond those encountered during your normal work. As with all research, there is risk of breach of confidentiality; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk.

We will retain our observer notes, as well as any additional materials you provide. Selections or quotes from these notes may be presented to other researchers, or included in publications. We will anonymize these selections and quotes, or allow you the opportunity to review these selections if anonymization is not possible.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in the research. This research will lead to recommendations for better tools, educational programs, and institutional initiatives to support research with large datasets.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

The study team and/or the University of Washington is receiving financial support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH INFORMATION

All research data will be confidential.

Government or university staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, your records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your privacy. The study records will not be used to put you at legal risk of harm.

OTHER INFORMATION

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you **do not** wish to participate, please be sure to inform the observer or one of the researchers at the top of this form at any time, including after the end of observation (your information will be removed from the study).

If you have questions later about the research, you can ask one of the researchers listed above. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you can call the Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098.