Co-designing a data literacy fellows programme to deliver the SDGs: building on Q-Step UK

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Dr Vanessa Higgins: Data Skills and Training Lead
University of Manchester
Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research
Thanks to Jackie’s programme I now travel across continents to present my research and have prepared data for audiences as far reaching as: The World Economic Forum, The United Nations, The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy and the European Parliament.

Anna Kiel, Data Fellow, 2013/4
Outline of presentation

• Our research

• Our data literacy expertise

• Our data literacy fellows programme: Q-Step

• Next steps in Latin America: EmpoderaData
Our research: quantitative social science

Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research (CMI)

About CMI
Leading the Way in quantitative social science

Data, Skills and Training
Focusing on developing a research agenda around data, skills and training, with an emphasis on statistical and data literacy.
Our publications and outreach

• More than 100 presentations in statistical and data conferences and data training events in the UK and internationally

• ‘Internships, work-placements and applied research’ (Carter: forthcoming 2019)

• Statistical and data literacy in practice: a case study from the UK Data-Pop Alliance workshop Nov 2018, Boston US
Our data literacy expertise

- Undergraduate and postgraduate university students and social researchers

- How to
  - Critically evaluate social data
  - Use and analyse
  - Interpret and present
  - ........
What is Q-Step?

• Q-Step is ‘Quantitative Step-change Programme’ in the UK
• Designed to teach social science undergraduate students data literacy and statistical skills
• Students follow courses in introductory statistics
• Then have the opportunity to practice data analysis in an organisation

• See www.manchester.ac.uk/q-step/
Our data literacy fellows programme: Q-Step paid internships

• Now into its 6th year
• 210 students have been interns
• 60+ organisations public, private and voluntary sectors have hosted our interns
• 8-week long data-driven, research-led project hosted by a social research organisation
• Interns are paid
Q-Step interns by degree subject and year

- Other
- Politics & International Relations
- Philosophy, Politics & Economics
- Sociology
- BA in Social Sciences (B.A.S.S.)
- Linguistics/Linguistics & Sociology
- Criminology

Legend:
- Number of interns 2014
- Number of interns 2015
- Number of interns 2016
- Number of interns 2017
- Number of interns 2018
Case study 1: Open Data Watch (based in Washington DC) 2018 and 2019

2019

• BRIDGING THE GENDER DATA GAP
• Find the gaps, identify solutions to the gaps, communicate the gaps to policy audiences

• OPEN DATA FOR THE SDGs
• Create an assessment methodology for the use of open microdata for the SDGs
Case study 2: Department for International Development DFID (UK-based) 2015 to 2019

2015
- MAPPING OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

2016
- UK MULTILATERAL ODA
- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

2017
- FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE
- INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

2018
- QUALITY OF UK AID SPENDING

2019
- DFID NEPAL: VISUALISING SDGs
- DFID SYRIA: VISUALISING HUMANITARIAN DATA
- DFID SYRIA: HUMANITARIAN CODING
ImpowerData: a pilot research project

• April-Sept 2019

• Funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Research Partner Development scheme

• Co-designed and conducted by a University of Manchester and Data-Pop Alliance partnership

• 3 pilot countries: Brazil, Colombia and Mexico
EmpoderaData: aims

To support the delivery of the SDGs

1. Baseline data literacy skills in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico

2. Explore models for data literacy fellowships within the 3 countries, learning from Q-Step UK
1. Baseline data literacy skills

• Interviews (in person or virtual) with 3-4 key people in each country

• Research questions:
  • Current data literacy training?
  • Any gaps?
  • How to address the gaps?
2. Explore models for data literacy fellowships

• We look forward to discussions in the Data Literacy workshops 1 and 2 to explore the models for data literacy fellows

• Interviews will also explore this
Outputs and next steps

- June-August: 3 short reports on data literacy skills and scope for data literacy fellowships (in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico)

- September: workshop (Manchester, UK) with key stakeholders and potential partners to present and discuss research results and future large grant proposal
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• Data-Pop Alliance

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