

# Data Frictions: Inclusion and Data Skills in Arts, Humanities, and Culture

May 14, 2026

University of the Arts London, 272 High Holborn, HH203/202

14:00-17:00, plus 1 hour of networking 17:00-18:00



**Welcome**



# Data Frictions: Agenda for the day

## 14:00-15:20 Data Frictions

- Welcome
- Dr Zoetanya Sujon, Data Frictions and Inclusive Data Skills in Arts, Humanities, and Culture
- Dr Bea Wohl, “I do not think that word means what you think it means”: Why we learn digital and data skills as arts and humanities researchers
- Dr Richard Nevell, Wikimedia UK and Inclusive Collaboration
- Dr Syeda Sana Batool, Decolonising Data Research

## 15:40-16:55 Inclusive Data Futures Roundtable

- Dr Pheonix Parry, Reader in Games and Creative Technologies, Creative Computing Institute, University of the Arts London
- Dr Nessa Keddo, Senior Lecturer in Media, Diversity and Technology, King’s College London
- Dr Lexi Webster, Associate Professor of Digital Culture, University of Southampton
- Dr Eamonn Bell, Assistant Professor in Computer Science, and Musicologist, Durham University

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of communication



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*College*  
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**Principal Investigator:** Dr Zoetanya Sujon  
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**Co-Investigator:** Dr Anna Troisi  
Creative Computing Institute, UAL



**Co-Investigator:** Dr Maitrayee Basu  
University of Leeds



**Co-Investigator:** Dr Nessa Keddo  
King's College London



**Co-Investigator:** Dr Gauti Sigthorsson  
Roehampton University



**Post-doctoral Research Fellow:** Dr Bea Wohl  
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**Wikimedia UK, Project partner**  
Dr Richard Nevell,  
Wikimedia UK



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**DISKAH**

Digital Skills in  
Arts and Humanities  
**Network**

2024-2027

We are an interdisciplinary network involving several universities and researchers co-designing a training programme to support the Arts and Humanities (A&H) community in leveraging UK Digital Research Infrastructures (DRI), to further unlock research potential.

<https://www.diskah.org/>

# The DAREs project

Iterative inclusive co-design methodology over 3 phases

- 1) co-designing 'inclusion',
- 2) delivering a data school with reflective sessions on inclusion throughout skills training, and a
- 3) public Hackathon co-designed and delivered with Wikimedia UK and co-designers on themes emerging from the earlier project phases.

Goal was to focus on data skills *environments* rather than individuals

# The DAREs project and the Data School

## Shift from data skills

- Data wrangling
- Social media analysis
- Social network analysis
- Computational analysis
- Data visualisation

# The DAREs project and the Data School pivot 1

## Shift from data skills and reflection

- Data wrangling
- Social media analysis
- Social network analysis
- Computational analysis
- Data visualisation
- Decolonising data
- Flipping the unit guide
- Equitable assessment
- Inclusive principles (accessibility, time, relevance, belonging, and compassion)

# The DAREs project and the Data School pivot 2

## Shift from data skills

- Data wrangling
- Social media analysis
- Social network analysis
- Computational analysis
- Data visualisation

## and reflection

- Decolonising data
- Flipping the unit guide
- Equitable assessment
- Inclusive principles (accessibility, time, relevance, belonging, and compassion)

## to new directions

- What counts as data?
- Data agencies, epistemologies and inequalities
- Research journeys

# Data Frictions

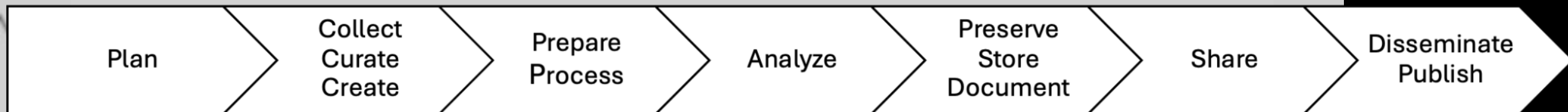
- A heuristic for making sense of points of slippage, traction, and wear
- Movement
  - Data given, taken, extracted from one domain to another – always moving
  - Learners – taking on new perspectives and shifting perspectives
- Data skills, tools, methods can move in different directions than learners causing *frictions*

# Data: meaning and practice

- 'Data' = Latin roots, meaning 'to give'
- Data are *capta*, meaning 'to take' or to extract 'through observations, computations, experiments, and record-keeping' (Kitchen 2014: 2).
- Data can be 'given, traced and 'inferred' via data subjects on the web and social media (Livingstone et al. 2019: 16, DCMS 2022).
- Define data in relation to *process* and suggests relationality between data and its context or origin

# Data life cycles

- A heuristic for making sense of points of slippage, traction, and wear
- Maps to stages of research design (e.g. project design and management, data collection, data analysis, dissemination)
- Each stage an entry point (or non-entry point)



*Figure 1: The data life cycle, adapted from Prouchard (2016), Kowalczyk (2017), and Data2X's 'data value chain' (no date), by Sujon and Wohl.*

# Data icebergs: systems and structures

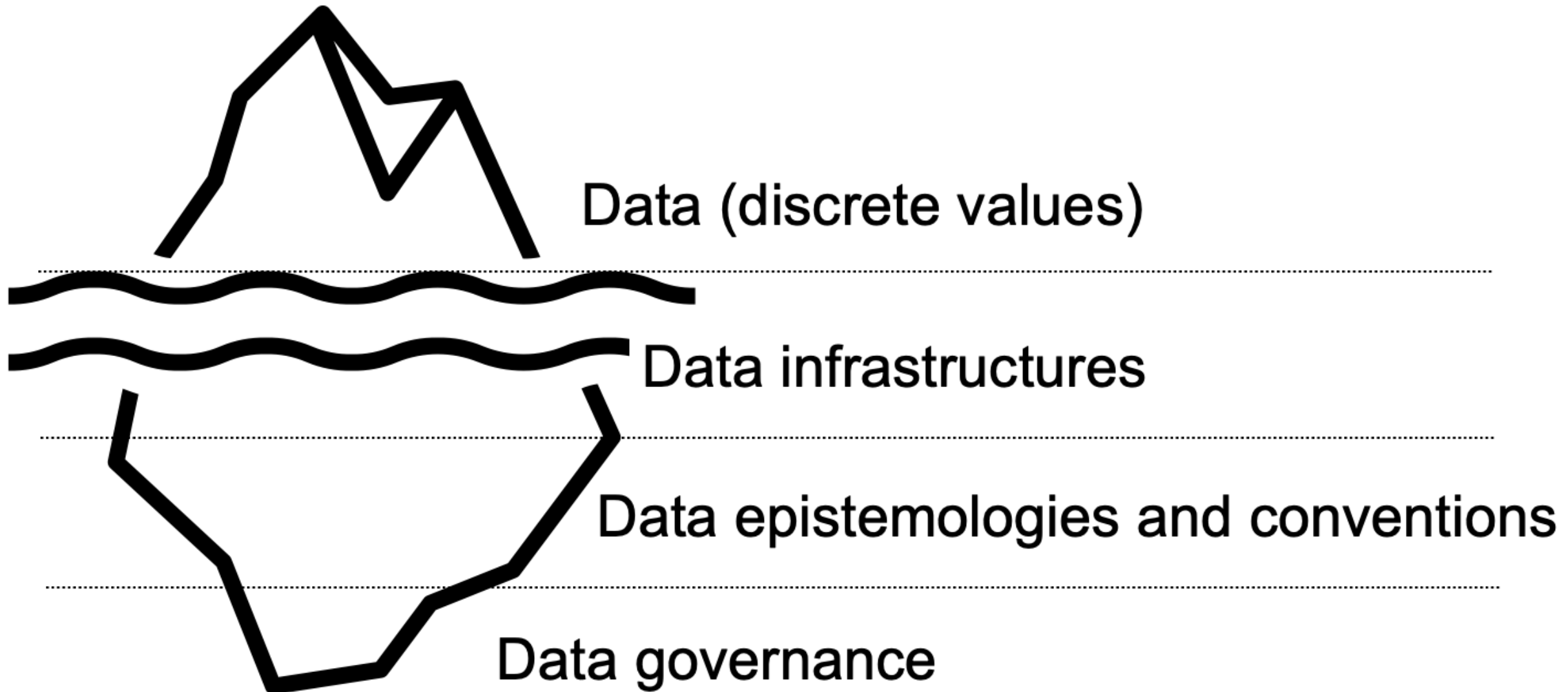
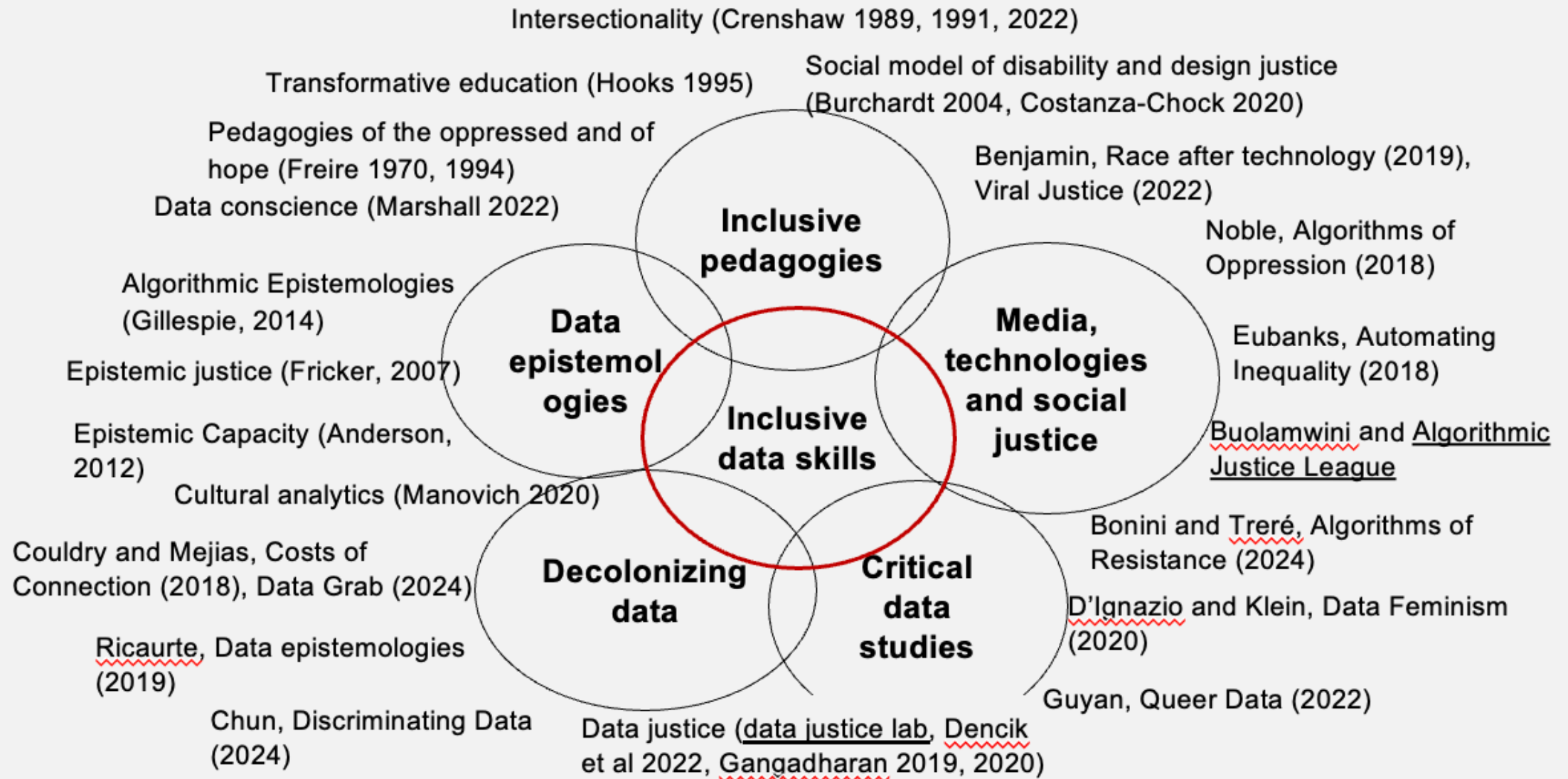


Figure 2: The 'data iceberg': adapted from Bates 2018 and conceptualized by Sujon 2026.

# Data harms and exclusions



# Data frictions:

- Dual movements come into contact causing friction – not just data loss or inefficiency – but genuine wear and conflict around infrastructures, epistemologies, and governance
- More than ever, hope and resistance, important
- Frictions illustrate how data environments can close down entry points and repel ‘inclusion’ at every stage of the data life cycle.



**Thank-you**



# INCLUSIVE DATA FUTURES ROUNDTABLE

Phoenix Perry – Federated Data Commons for Creative Communities

Nessa Keddo – Race, racism and Data

Lexi Webster – Queer Joy as a Digital Good

Eamonn Beall – Collaborative Computational Project for Arts, Humanities, and Culture (CCP-AHC)

1. In terms of data, skills and inclusion, what does your work contribute and why is this important.

2. What do you think the core challenges are in this space, and how does your work address them?

3. What do you think is the most viable way forward to promote and sustain inclusive data futures. Why?

4. Closing: What's one headline insight or action you're taking away from tonight's discussion?