



RDAP

ASSOCIATION

RDAP Happenings

Hi RDAP members,

Welcome to fall, with the crisp cooler air and the buzz of return-to-campus activity. Research data is always in season!

RDAP has been busy keeping up with education support and advocacy, affirming its commitment to an equitable and just research data infrastructure. The RDAP Board has prepared vital public commentary related to proposed changes to federal agency practices around research ethics. See the Executive Board update below for further details and links.

The Conference Committee has opened the Call for Proposals for the fully virtual RDAP Summit 2022, our primary community event. While we will miss the chance to be together again in person, many of us have discovered benefits to the online conference experience, such as improved affordability and accessibility, in the past two years. Information and submission details are below.

Additional RDAP updates follow, but we are always happy to hear from you as well. Contact us at publications@rdapassociation.org with feedback about the newsletter or suggestions for what future editions might include.

Updates from the Board

Moving into the fall, we wanted to point out a few of the Board's activities so far this fiscal year and a few new opportunities for RDAP member involvement on the horizon.

With the help of the RDAP community, we have drafted and submitted responses to both the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [Request for Information To Improve Federal Scientific Integrity Policies \(RDAP Response\)](#) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [Request for Information: Developing Consent Language for Future Use of Data and Biospecimens \(RDAP Response\)](#). Advocacy in the field is a core value of RDAP, and responding as an organization allows us to speak from our collective power and experience across institutions. The process for [requesting an organizational response](#) is on our website, and we welcome and encourage RDAP members to help draft responses.

The Board and Leadership are also engaged in developing our internal budgetary processes, preparing to transition our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Task Force to a permanent action committee, and defining opportunities for partnering with groups such as the [Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology](#). More information on these opportunities will be forthcoming!

The RDAP Board,

- Jonathan Petters (President)
- Amy Koshoffer (President-elect)
- Rachel Woodbrook (Secretary)
- Patti Condon (Treasurer)
- Jen Darragh (Past President)

RDAP Feature Article

Book Review by Tina Griffin, MLIS, University of Illinois Chicago

Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men

by Caroline Criado Perez. Abrams Press, New York. 2019 ISBN 978419729072 | eISBN 9781683353140. 432 pages. \$27 USD Hardcover. Other formats available.

Caroline Criado Perez begins her book by getting straight to the point: “Most of recorded history is one big data gap.” Educated in the UK at Oxford, Perez is an author, broadcaster, and activist who centers feminist topics. *Invisible Women*, her second book, has garnered several awards, been translated into thirty languages, and was a Sunday Times (UK) #1 best seller.

While most of us have seen statistics on gender-based disparities, Perez’s book tidily brings together data on this subject across multiple domains. The book organizes this data into six chapters: daily life, the workplace, design, “going to the doctor”, public life, and “when it goes wrong”. Within each, she identifies multiple examples from cultures and societies across the globe of instances where the “lives of men have been taken to represent those of humans overall”. These examples come from historical and current events and cover such topics as economics, transportation, language, anthropology, archaeology, cultural representation (as seen in monuments and currency), education, history, art, politics, media and entertainment, and many more. She does note that her work is presented in terms of gender, not sex, because the “social meaning ascribed to [the female body]” is the problem, and also that “sex-disaggregated” data are almost non-existent (for example, female ethnic minorities are subsumed into larger groups rather than presented on their own).

Relaying this much information could make for dense reading, but Perez counteracts the heavy data context with a conversational tone and humorous touches. She has a not-quite-breathless enthusiasm for the subject which balances her extensive references and endnotes. Data are presented in small chunks meant to show the breadth of the data gap rather than the depth. Anyone who wishes to explore further will be able to do so by following the references.

Perez explains that on an individual level, this data gap is not likely malicious or deliberate, but on a systemic level the collective effects have consequences for half the world’s population that range from inconvenient to lethal. Perez closes her book with an afterword that posits the solution to the data gap is female representation; when “women are involved in decision-making, in research, in knowledge production, women do not get forgotten.” This doesn’t just benefit women. It benefits

everyone.

Even those of us who already know of the gender data gap or experience it directly will still benefit from reading this book. The data presented improves understanding of how wide and significant the gap remains and gives us tools to participate in both advocacy and self-directed learning, in our work and personal lives. In turn, this positions us to make decisions that increase female representation, incrementally closing the gap and making the world better along the way.

RDAP Summit Updates

The [Call for Proposals](#) for the [Research Data Access and Preservation \(RDAP\) Summit 2022: Envisioning an Inclusive Data Future](#) is now open. The Summit will be held virtually on March 14, 2022. [Proposals](#) can be submitted for presentations, lightning talks, posters, discussions, and workshops until November 4, 2021. Decisions regarding proposals will be sent to applicants on November 22, 2021, with acceptances due by December 10, 2021. Questions can be emailed to the [RDAP Conference Chairs](#).

Action Committee Updates

Education and Resources

The Education and Resources Committee has a couple of announcements this month. First, the Journal Club is back starting October 21. It will meet on the third Thursday of every month at 2 PM EST. Bring an article or book you'd like to share—we ask only that you can relate it to data work and that it not be your own research. Introduce the work in three minutes or less and tell us what was great or what needs more investigation. Don't have a book or an article? No worries! Come, listen, and engage with others in the discussion.

[Register to attend Journal Clubs](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom information for the meeting. Registration is for all monthly sessions through June 2022, but attendance is optional. After registering once, you will receive a reminder email each month.

Second, we are sending out a [Call for Proposals](#) for Spring 2022 webinars. Last year, we held three town hall-style webinars: "Final NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing", "Writing More Equitable Job Postings", and "Using Social Media Research Data Responsibly: Considerations for Librarians and Researchers".

This year, we hope to host three or four webinars and are seeking community input on the topics. These webinars can take the form of lectures or workshops, town hall Q&A, or new formats suggested by the community. Our events will take place on the RDAP sponsored Zoom account, with live transcription, and we plan to provide recordings to RDAP members.

Do you have a topic you would like to present? Propose it! Want a webinar on a specific topic? Suggest potential speakers we might invite. We particularly welcome topics with a DEI focus.

The Education and Resources Committee will begin to review ideas after Friday, November 19, although we will leave the CFP open until slots have been filled for Spring 2022. If you have questions or would like to discuss an idea, please reach out to one of the co-chairs: Courtney Kearney ckearney@tulane.edu or Shannon Sheridan Shannon.sheridan@pnnl.gov

Marketing

No updates at this time.

Membership

The Membership Committee is currently working on a number of projects including scholarships for the RDAP Summit 2022, an informal conference buddies program, and a few awards. Keep your eye out for news and calls for applications in the coming months.

Also, a friendly reminder to [renew your membership](#) as soon as possible if you

haven't already done so.

Publishing

Do you have an interesting project that you would like to share with the RDAP community? Is there a useful resource or service that others might benefit from knowing about? Have you participated in a training event and would like to share your experience? Then consider writing a Feature Article for the newsletter! The Publishing Committee accepts submissions on a rolling basis. See the [Call for Submissions](#) to learn more and access the link to the submission form.

Sponsorship

No updates at this time.

Website

The Website Committee has been working with other committees to put more events on display on the [website calendar](#). We are proud to feature RDAP events to increase awareness and participation in all Association-hosted activities. This includes the upcoming Summit and, shortly, meetings of the Journal Club.

To support engagement, the [Get Involved](#) tab on the home page now includes information about joining committees and task forces. Check this section out if you want to learn more about what our committees do or join one yourself!

Finally, we have developed intake forms and test group workflows within the website for the development and management of events. This will ensure all our events, both those within the RDAP committee ecosystem and those of external groups whose activities we help support, run more smoothly.

STAY CONNECTED!

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