

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Data Sharing in the Social Sciences

The Social Sciences is a broad field of research, encompassing “any branch of academic study or science that deals with human behaviour in its social and cultural aspects” ([Britannica](#)). A recent report for the RDA on the current Interest and Working Groups of relevance to this field considered the definition to broadly include the fields of sociology, anthropology, communication sciences, psychology, educational sciences, pedagogics and economics ([RDA Overview for the Social Sciences, 2022](#)).

Social Sciences researchers may work with either or both quantitative and qualitative data. Most researchers will work with sensitive data at some point in their careers which presents ethical and legal issues for data management. Not all sensitive data is alike, with significant variation across the domain in terms of how sensitive data is defined, linked, managed, stored, and reused. Guidance and tools for acquiring and sharing this data in compliance with legal and ethical obligations is the focus of many of the resources listed below.

Where can I find resources and tools for...

Finding and Depositing Data

- [CESSDA Data Catalogue](#)
- [CIS Data Bank](#)
- [DANS](#)
- [Ethmig Survey Data Hub](#)
- [European Commission Joint ResearchCentre Data Catalogue](#)
- [European Data Portal](#)
- [Eurostat](#)
- [FAIRsharing](#)
- [Harvard Dataverse](#)
- [ICPSR](#)
- [Open Science Observatory](#)
- [SSHOC](#)
- [UK Data Archive](#)

EOSC Portal

The EOSC Portal is a gateway to many of the innovative services, tools, publications and data listed here, and it is constantly growing with additions from the community of Social Sciences researchers and research-supporting organisations. Do you have a resource that you want to share with others? Consider [onboarding](#) into EOSC.



Methods and Documentation

- [DataCite](#)
- [DDI Profiles](#)
- [European Language Social Science Thesaurus \(ELSST\)](#)
- [FORS Methodological Research Guidance](#)
- [ICPSR Publications on Data Stewardship](#)
- [LinkHub](#)

Community and Professional Supports

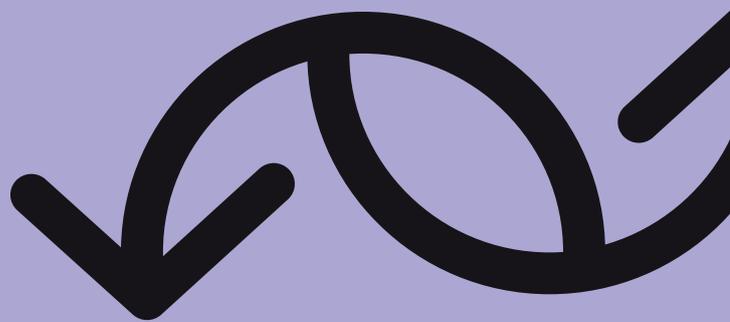
- [ARL Advocacy & Public Policy](#)
- [IASSIST](#)
- [SSH Training Community](#)

Learn more about the Research Data Alliance (RDA)

- [Social Science Research Data IG](#)
- [Sensitive Data IG](#)
- [Ethics and Social Aspects of Data IG](#)
- [RDA/CODATA Legal Interoperability IG](#)
- [RDA/NISO Privacy Implications of Research Data Sets IG](#)

How to do FAIR and Open Science

- [What is FAIR?](#)
- [FAIR Community Support](#)
- [What is the goal of Open Science?](#)



What are the challenges for social science data in Open Science?

“There are challenges to publishing internationally when research questions and participants may be nation-specific – with global science, you need to make everything comparable. Lack of information and funding to support Open Access opportunities is also a barrier, particularly for the ‘citizen scientists’ contributing to our knowledge of sociology and social work. The people actually doing that work are not always academics in the traditional sense, and we need to educate them and provide opportunities to help them report and analyse what they observe in the field.”

How can EOSC help researchers working with social science data?

“It’s so much easier to collect participant data with access to digital tools. An online survey reaches a much wider audience than someone going door-to-door. EOSC can help researchers to leverage FAIR supporting survey and data collection tools that ensure participant data is managed ethically and responsibly. It’s also an equalising platform, as it exposes information about data and publications across Europe.”

— [Geta Mitrea](#)

RDA/EOSC Future Domain Ambassador
for the Social Sciences

