

## Findable and reusable?

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# Propositions

Belonging to the doctoral dissertation

*Findable and Reusable? Data discovery practices in research*

Kathleen Gregory

- 1) Data discovery and reuse are deeply sociotechnical practices which rely on dynamic relationships between people, technologies, materials and policies.
- 2) Researchers can belong to multiple data communities. Data communities are not defined by discipline alone, but can form around shared data, common data needs, shared methodologies, or common data uses.
- 3) Both data re-use and the use of data discovery systems should be conceptualized as existing on a continuum, rather than as being binary practices of use or non-use.
- 4) Data discovery practices are interwoven with other research and search practices. At times data discovery is an independent practice; at others, it is seamlessly integrated into other practices of literature search, data management, communication or research.
- 5) Data discovery systems, repositories and metadata should be designed to *support* rather than *ignore* social interactions and collaborative work.
- 6) FAIR data are not (just) about machines. Finding, accessing, integrating and reusing data are all sociotechnical practices which need to be accounted for in data management and research evaluation policies.
- 7) Data visualizations and representations can obscure the work and contexts of their creation. The messages communicated by visualizations are shaped not only by the intent of their creators, but also by community norms, technological conventions and the (visual) literacies of audiences “receiving” them.
- 8) Quantitative and qualitative methods should be used in STS to augment and complement each other, to surface new perspectives and communicate with diverse audiences.
- 9) Practices need to be established and studied before metrics for these practices are developed.