Professor Timothy De Ver Dye

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics,
Public Health Sciences, and Medical Informatics

University of Rochester School of Medicine

DATA DIPLOMACY: At the New Intersection of Technology, Policy, and International Relations

Abstract:
Data diplomacy enables the use of "big data" for societal benefit. Data Diplomacy creates, supports, or maintains technical or social relationships to mitigate barriers to action among stakeholders by enabling the use of data for societal benefit. The contemporary ability to amass large amounts of data – and the methods to manage and analyze it – increasingly creates need to 1) develop new methods for managing the relationships between data generators, processors, analyzers, and users, 2) curate such data as a resource, and 3) enable use of data for public good. The transformation of data from externally-collected data processes toward data which is directly generated by consumers and citizens, for example as a consequence of service consumption (like browsing using Google) or the "internet of things" (smart appliances) – challenges paradigms of ownership, agency, and sharing. When institutions and organizations facilitate exchange of data, diplomatic strategies (e.g., negotiated data use agreements, data contracts) for data sharing and cooperation (between individuals and organizations) are frequently necessary to achieve aims; the national use and exchange of data across boundaries becomes an issue of international Diplomacy, historically governed by treaties and agreements between and among nations. Contemporary scholarly attention to "science diplomacy" has generated new theoretical questions, practical strategies, and frameworks for interpretation of global science. Similar attention has not heretofore been generated around data, per se, which increasingly emerges on the both the local and global landscape as an independent actor in relationships that facilitate collection, analysis, and use of data.

About the speaker:
Timothy De Ver Dye, PhD is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Public Health Sciences, and Medical Informatics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, where he also directs Biomedical Informatics at the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Professor Dye is a social scientist and epidemiologist, frequently working in marginalized, indigenous, and isolated communities in the USA and around the world. With undergraduate and graduate degrees in International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, Professor Dye often encounters the political, social, and cultural aspects of data, data diplomacy, and frameworks for community ownership and sharing of data. His work includes substantial time in Appalachia, Antarctica, Himalayas, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands, where he explores the social determinants of health in marginalized, remote, and isolated populations, frequently though applications of technology. Professor Dye is Principal Investigator of CDC's Global and Territorial Health Research Network's Coordinating Center, Co-Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded project MundoComm: ICT for Maternal Health in Costa Rica and Latin America, and is PI of a World University Network project, Data Diplomacy: Political & Social Dimensions of Data Collection & Sharing. Dr Dye is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and is a Chartered Geographer and Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society. He is currently at the United Nations University's Institute on Computing and Society in Macau on a Fulbright award.

Date: 29 January 2016 (Friday)
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Venue: Room 1147, Cheng Yu Tung Building, CUHK

* * ALL ARE WELCOME * *

Host: Professor Helen Meng
       Director, Stanley Ho Big Data Decision Analytics Research Centre