

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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**Abstract** This message introduces the inaugural issue of the journal. It provides a definition of data science and highlights the role of data and science in social and political discourse.

**Keywords** Data provenance · Data science · Editorial priorities · Scientific method

### 1 Introducing *Data Science Quarterly*

*Data Science Quarterly* promotes data science as a discipline, showing its relevance to social and political discourse. *Data Science Quarterly* combines the best attributes of academic journals and popular news magazines. Its articles draw on high-quality empirical research written in clear, concise language that anyone can understand.

**What is data science?** We see data science as an emerging, eclectic discipline that draws from several other academic traditions. Data science relies on mathematics, statistics, and computer science. It is a practical, applied science, more in tune with engineering than physics, more in the style of business than economics. Most recently, driven by the pace of technology, data science has become identified with machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI).

**What is the role of data science?** How people come to data science matters less than where they take it. Data scientists can play an important role in ensuring well-informed public policy by insisting on data integrity, data and research methods transparency, and data privacy to protect individual rights. *Data Science Quarterly* publishes articles that are socially and politically relevant. *Data Science Quarterly* is nonpartisan.

**Trust in data and science.** Data science takes on added significance in the throes of a pandemic, amidst ethnic, social, and political divides. Data science affirms faith in the scientific method, providing real, meaningful solutions to challenging problems. We value rational decision-making guided by science, reliable and valid measures, relevant data, and trustworthy models.

To trust the news, we want to see the data behind it. Show us the research. Show us the science. To trust an argument, we want to see evidentiary support and correct logic. These values are reflected in the journal's tagline: *Following the data, leading with science.*

**Print and online versions.** The print version of *Data Science Quarterly* will be available beginning January 2021, with printed paperbound copies available for distribution in the United States and with electronic file downloads available worldwide. The print version will be published each January, April, July, and October. Articles in the print version of *Data Science Quarterly* will be organized under four major sections:

- The **Opinions** section comprises op-eds;
- The **Research** section presents research studies much like we see in peer-reviewed academic journals;
- The **Cases** section describes practical problems, setting the stage for subsequent research; and
- The **Reviews** section includes commentary on technical books and data sources.

The Cases and Reviews sections should prove especially useful to teachers and students.

The online version of *Data Science Quarterly* became active August 20, 2020 with the publication of *The Virtual Tout*® column, providing prediction-market-based forecasts for the U.S. presidential election on November 3, 2020. The plan for the online version is to include short articles and commentary about current events, as well as summaries of selected articles from past and future issues of the print version of the journal. The online version at <https://www.data-science-quarterly.com> is free for all Internet users.

## 2 About the Author

Thomas W. Miller is faculty director of the data science program at Northwestern University, author of six books about data science, and owner of Research Publishers LLC.