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How to make your data FAIR - and what gets in the way

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In the era of international collaborations and data-driven decision-making, particularly within fields like environmental sciences, sharing data is crucial to foster collaborations, generating comprehensive insights, and nurturing trust among peers and the public. Providing a framework on how to do so, the FAIR principles offer an instruction on how to make research data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable. However, for many researchers, the prospect of adhering to these principles may appear daunting, confusing, or even unnecessary.

In this talk, we aim to demystify the FAIR principles, elucidating their components and offering practical guidance on their implementation. We will explore the essential steps required to ensure that research data meets the criteria of being findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable. This entails understanding the significance of metadata, standardized vocabularies, data formats, licenses, and the role of data repositories, amongst others.

By embracing best practices in research data management, our discussion will highlight that following the FAIR principles not only benefits fellow researchers but also enhances the researcher's own work. Ultimately, embracing the FAIR principles unlocks the full potential of data for driving research, fostering innovation, and serving societal needs. The journey towards FAIRness is not merely a technical endeavor but a cultural shift towards responsible data management and sharing, ensuring that data remains a valuable resource for generations to come.

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