June 13, 2023 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: Kira Sullivany Wiley, Charlotte Malmborg, Chris Brown, Jody Peters, Michael Gerst

Agenda

1. Follow-up to the priorities identified for translation needs on: Helping colleagues find collaborators across disciplines (i.e., matchmaking) as well as providing guidance on what makes a fruitful multi-disciplinary collaboration
   a. 3 tasks identified on the April 25 call
      i. Compiling list of funding opportunities for cross-disciplinary work or work requiring end users or stakeholders. **Leaving this link in here as a reference for people to add funding opportunities as they find them**
      ii. Exploring types of databases to use for matchmaking.
         ● Follow up from Chris/Jody's call with Jonathan Mote at NOAA who is with the Weather Program Office - he is trying to make sure that the physical data and social data are integrated. He isn't involved with connecting users with physical scientists, but that the physical and social data are available for people to use
            ○ Center for Social Science at Cornell - has a large list of social scientists
               ■ **Would like if people in the working group have time, to look at this group**
                  ● **If you are looking for a bit of fun, look at https://socialsciences.cornell.edu/affiliates and filter by tattoos, pets, or coffee/tea**
               ■ This group also a good set of papers the group has published going back to the 1980s
               ■ Charlotte is familiar with this group because she had worked at Cornell and this group is included in the Natural Resources Department
            ○ Jonathan pushed us to get specific when considering why to connect with social scientists: What are some specific questions to look at? Is it user experience for a forecasting tool? Decision support? What info do you need and on what basis? How are people receiving the message and how can we change it?
            ○ Another way for people to approach social scientists is to go through the literature and looking for topics you are interested in
            ○ Another point from Jonathan was that he had found social scientists did not have experience with open access data

analytics tools like python and R - brought up an issue with terminology

- ■ Mike has found that people with Stata experience is is okay and is pretty easy to port over to R. Issues have come up for people who have used SPSS which doesn't translate over well
- ■ Thinking about a common language - at what point has been a block to collaboration for people using different data analytics tool
- ■ Mike's example of this - working with someone with social psychology background. Spent tons of time talking about interaction analysis and mediation terms are actually the same thing. They are the same thing, but they are call different things!

- ● Jonathan connected us to Lori Peek, Natural Hazards Center Director. The following are resources shared by Lori
  - ○ The NSF has invested in several research coordination networks in the disaster space. You can learn more here: https://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/
  - ○ In addition to leading the Natural Hazards Center and the CONVERGE project, I also am the PI for the Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) network, which I think is most relevant, it sounds like, to your conversation you had with Jon. You can learn much more about SSEER here: https://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer/
    - ■ Including visiting our map: https://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer/researchers-map/
    - ■ Reading annual Census reports: https://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer/sseer-census/
    - ■ And other publications: https://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer/sseer-publications/
  - ○ **Next step with Lori for the group**
    - ■ Chris and Jody will set up a follow-up call with Lori. Need to send her an Agenda for that follow-up call about a) things you want to share and b) things you want to ask!
    - ■ If anyone is willing to read through the CONVERGE/SSEER information from Lori to help Chris and Jody develop an Agenda to get follow

- - - - ■ Here is a Google doc to add Agenda items for the call
        - What is the database that underpins Thriving Earth Exchange?
            - ○ We had a representative from TEE share with the Partners group previously. Would be useful to reach out to see what their system is. **Jody can look up who that person was and check in about their system.**
        - Kumo.io update - Jody had previously talked to two people from the [Colorado Stem Ecosystem](#) (CSE) coalition to hear about how that group is using Kumo.io to make connections across their community. There was a recent update that the group is making their kumo.io template available for others to check out. Jody will follow up with the CSE contacts to check in about this.
    - iii. Hosting a virtual event (target for first event is this fall, but thinking to host 2 calls a year). This virtual event will allow people to share half baked ideas and explore people who may be interested in fully cooking/proposing ideas.
        - ***Action Item for the group*** - continue to discuss details about purpose and structure, who will facilitate, advertising/inviting participants, and connecting with the work on the tutorial about decision making. We didn't get to this on the June call

2. Follow-up to the priorities identified for translation needs on: How to understand stakeholder decision making processes?
    a. Notes from today's call
        i. Have a tutorial about how to collaborate and communicate across disciplines.
            - Understanding the difference in language across disciplines
            - We have had the kernels of this topic with the previous SciComm panel
    b. Notes from previous calls: Developing a stakeholder decision-making process tutorial. Needs from this group - what would this tutorial look like? What all goes into understanding decision making? What is a common set of terms and concepts, as well as a common understanding of how much effort is involved?
        i. For June call - following the May call discussion, can we decide that the main archetype for this tutorial are modelers/physical scientists looking to connect with social scientists, decision makers, stakeholders, end users? Or is more discussion needed?
            - **June notes: Yes. This is still correct. Focus on physical scientist**
        ii. What do you think would be most useful for the community to know about the decision making process?
            - June notes: **Mike and Jody to use the Unconference to explore what people in the community want**

- You can see the full list of projects that have been proposed for the Unconference here:
- **Idea from Chris to add to the Unconference GitHub repo (this may not be discussed during the Unconference, but the repo provides**
    - Which ecological forecast should be transitioned to operations. What is the decision process for having forecasts move forward from research to a sustainable, reliable forecast that goes to the user. There are a lot of forecasts that are created, but not all of them are qualified to be made operational.
    - Would be good to have a list of criteria required to have a forecast go operational
        - Funding availability would be included in this list of criteria
        - Another criteria - there has to be a user for forecasts. Need to identify potential users
        - Federal agencies cannot fund/generate all the forecasts. So need to have a discussion about this
    - Could include this in the R2X portion of the workshop proposal that Chris and Jody are working on with Jake Zwart (USGS) and Jessica Burnett (NASA)
    - How to make the forecast live on as cheaply and effectively as possible? And how to choose which forecasts should be prioritized.
- Discussion sparked from Kira:What would be most useful for you, personally, as you are preparing to work with decision makers?
    - What their constraints are,
    - What their current decision making flow looks like (information and timing)
    - Internal capacity, resources, interest in making better decisions
    - How 'good' their current decisions are (room for improvement)
        iii. Third question we didn't get to during the June call: What would be most useful for you, personally, as you are preparing to work with decision makers?
    c. Jody is including the following notes from previous calls as a reference
        i. Could record the tutorial and post on YouTube and then have people view that prior to the virtual event where people pitch half baked ideas
        ii. Note from Kira from the April call that will be good to include in the tutorial: Why it is important to engage with decision making? Because it helps you understand the limits to making a decision. How good does your science need to be to make decisions and change the decision?

How much effort needs to be put in? If you aren't changing the decision, then you don't need to put in extra effort to make something actionable

d. Want to compliment the matchmaking process.
e. Could be making sure people are speaking the same language when they reach out. Or having a similar conceptual model
f. Making sure priorities align with multiple partners needs and understanding limits of the partners (e.g., Tribal partners legal needs and data sovereignty)
g. Standard practice for working across types of partners/organizations
h. Being aware of the timescale that different organizations work on
i. Do we know what we think people will get out of the tutorial?
j. Who is the average user (or 3-4 archetype member) for this tutorial?
    i.   Modeler who hasn't engaged with social scientist and a desire to learn
    ii.   Social scientist who haven't worked with a modeler
    iii. Demand has been from the modeler side - we think what we have is relevant to decision makers, but how do we make it usable
    iv.   How to go about engaging?
    v.   2 needs: Co-production/engagement piece and aspect on decision making
    vi.   Show examples of successful co-production from the literature to point to
    vii. Are we going to give people enough info so they can bootstrap their own project or help them set up engagement with social scientists
        ● Kira's example - deep dive with end users. When do you not need to do a deep dive with local users vs when do you need to do a deep dive with local users?
        ● Put on the guardrails - under what conditions or at what levels is it important to connect?
        ● Do your homework piece and then from your homework where will that take you?
        ● People who do evaluation on co-production, the science has evolved so we have a better handle on when you should do it and when you shouldn't
k. Are modelers looking more for social scientists and looking for co-production or vice versa?
    i.   From EFI impression is that it is the modeling side that is looking for social science input
    ii.   Social scientists aren't looking for stakeholders
    iii. Identify a gap and then social science is happy to work with that
    iv.   Kira and Michael both have had the experience where people have searched them out to get social science input
    v.   Jonathan - In my experience w/ marine fisheries and federal wildlife conservation it is mostly modelers recognizing they need assistance with the decision and management process aspect of a project and/or decision scientists selling management agencies on the importance of the tool that leads to co-production

3. Another resources from previous calls: Compilation of notes from the Social Science and Partners working group calls where matchmaking was discussed