

GeoData Bootcamp 2020 Community Norms

General

We at MGGG are committed to creating a welcoming, supportive, and inspiring event. At the same time, we are living through a pandemic and during a time in which racism and xenophobia are endorsed by national leadership and many public institutions. We understand that we are all physically, mentally, and emotionally impacted by these circumstances. In light of current events and in memory of George Floyd, our first community norm is that Black Lives Matter. Though this event is being held remotely, it is organized through Tufts University, which is located on Wôpanâak (Wampanoag) and Massachusetts traditional territory. We acknowledge this history and honor the displaced communities.

As an organization, a fundamental part of our mission centers on challenging structural and political forces that combine to dilute the power of communities of color and other marginalized groups. We hope that this commitment comes through in this session and that you will join us and our partners in multiplying and magnifying this work in the future.

GDBC community norms:

- You are expected to attend all Zoom sessions synchronously, to use Slack daily, and to use our Daily Update Form to log your progress each day. If you think you need to miss any part of the event, please let us know as much in advance as possible! We would like to support your wellbeing while maintaining full participation to the extent that we can.
- We will record many of the large-group sessions and plan to use some of the recordings for trainings in the future. But we hope to create an environment where people are free to speak their minds without worrying about public attribution of their comments. We ask that you honor the confidentiality of this space as a learning environment. (This extends to written communications, such as Slack, as well as spoken comments on Zoom sessions.)
- Ask and answer questions! We chose this group because there is a wide range of experience -- everyone has relevant interests and something to contribute. Use your educational background to support others.
- Add your pronouns (e.g., “she/her/hers”; “they/them/theirs”; “he/him/his”) to your Slack name if that feels good to you.
- Treat your cohort as a research team: your cohort is where you should first turn when you have a question. MGGG staff are quite happy to step in and offer additional support, but we have created the cohort structure both so that you can support one

another and to build community given the online format. Compliment people when they do something well!

- Recognize your own limits: breaks are built into the schedule for many reasons (e.g., “Zoom fatigue”). The curriculum is packed and we hope you’ll learn a lot, but please also take breaks as you need them.
- Please reach out to us if there is something that we could do to better support your participation in this event.
- Finally, please try to be patient with mistakes on our end. A lot of preparation has gone into this event, but it’s MGGG’s first big online event -- there will be snafus and awkwardness. Please stick with us and help us get better!

MGGG staff are planning to be available by email and Slack during the working hours of the event. Outside of working hours, we’ll still try to respond as soon as possible.

Zoom

The Zoom class sessions are the core of Geodata Bootcamp. Given the constraints and opportunities of the medium, all participants in the Zoom class sessions are expected to adhere to the following rules in order to ensure the best possible learning environment.

- *Arrive two minutes early for each session.* Given that we are planning to do a synchronous event online and that we have a packed schedule, getting a clean, timely start is crucial.
- For large-group sessions, it’s good practice to *mute yourself* when you’re not speaking.
- Each session will have a moderator to assist presenters with answering questions. During lectures, we encourage you to pass your questions to the moderator by typing in the chat, or to “raise your hand” electronically. Some speakers will encourage you to interrupt them as they speak -- read the room to see if that will work well with the flow of the lecture.

Slack

In addition to Zoom sessions, Slack will be our main way of communicating throughout the event. Slack is a for-profit company that retains complete logs of all channels and direct messages.

Respectful atmosphere

Our team is dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone. While we are optimistic that this is not something we will need to worry about in our group, we have a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, interpreted broadly.

As anti-Black violence persists, it is important to call special attention to race and racism. Racist comments and actions fall under the category of harassment.

Liz Kopecky has made herself available as a contact over Slack or at liz@mggg.org to discuss any incidents that make you uncomfortable in any way. If you prefer to speak to another MGGG staff member instead, we are all available.