

Introduction to Data Ethics

TBD

Type Short course, full-time

Duration TBD

Certificate Attendance certificate

Target audience Industry, students and other stakeholders in data science who need to broaden their knowledge of data ethics

1. Overview:

It has become clear that the practicing of data science cannot be divorced from the ethical considerations. This short course provides an introduction to the ethics of data science. Participants will be given an overview of foundational ethical theory, which will then be applied to practical ethical concerns that arise in the context of data science, with the help of topical case studies. There will be specific focus on the South African and African contexts.

2. Outcomes:

Participants will gain competency in the following:

- Familiarity with introductory ethical theory
- Familiarity with introductory data ethics
- Familiarity with prominent ethical concerns relating to data practices, for example, ownership of data, the governance of data practices, data and privacy, algorithmic bias, artificial moral decision making, best practice and the like.
- The ability to apply ethical theory to practical ethical problems that stem from data-related practices

3. Syllabus and Schedule:

Topic	Day
1. Introduction: Why Data Ethics?	1
2. Introduction to Ethics	1 & 2
3. Data Ethics in Three Themes:	3
3.1 Ethics of Data	
3.2 Ethics of Algorithms	4
3.3 Ethics of Practice	5
4. The future of Data Ethics	5

4. Format:

A combination of pre-recorded and live online lectures and discussions.

5. Assessment:

The course will not be formally assessed. Attendance of all sessions and completion of all quizzes and/or small assignments will ensure a certificate of attendance.

6. Presenters:

- Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha

- Prof. Louise du Toit
- Dr Susan Hall
- Prof. Johan Hattingh
- Dr Andrea Palk
- Prof. Vasti Roodt
- Prof. JP Smit
- Prof. Anton van Niekerk
- Prof. Minka Woermann