Data Donation Symposium 2025

"Interdisciplinary Approaches to Data Donation Studies"

Call for Papers for the 4th Data Donation Symposium
October 9th to 10th, 2025, Munich

Digital trace data are the "new gold" – and data donation studies, where researchers ask participants to download their data from platforms as Data Download Packages (DDP) and donate it to research via DDTs (Data Donation Tools), are one way of collecting such data. Data donation studies rely on participants' informed consent, offering a user-centric approach to collecting digital traces. They enable access to longitudinal, fine-grained data, such as social media use, search histories, health records, mobile messaging, geospatial patterns, or shopping behavior.

However, data donation studies are currently faced with a range of challenges, including but not limited to a) difficulties with low participation rates and measurement errors, b) the as-of-yet limited use of data donations to answer substantial theoretical questions, and c) the need for advanced tools, for example, to collect audio-visual data.

The Data Donation Symposium 2025 is part of an annual series (2024 in Amsterdam, 2023 in Zurich, and 2022 in Utrecht) to improve interdisciplinary awareness of data donation studies and to bring together researchers and practitioners. The 2025 Symposium (October 9th–10th) in Munich addresses these questions in the context of data donation, with a focus on…

- Tier 1: **How can we define, quantify, and improve the quality of data donation studies?** (e.g., addressing participant willingness and drop-out; aligning DDP data with theoretical constructs; combining data donations with other data sources; statistical error correction methods; open-science practices such as preregistration and data management)
- Tier 2: **How can we use data donation studies to answer theoretical questions in research and/or to improve the common good?** (e.g., using donated data to understand and explain, for example, social media use, health-related behavior, and shopping behavior; using donated data in applied settings from a practitioner perspective, such as NGOs or public administration)
- Tier 3: **What are the tools for collecting data donations?** (e.g., advancing multi-modal data collection via Data Donation Tools; integration in survey infrastructure; collecting para-data, etc.)
- Tier 4: **What are the ethical, legal, and technical challenges for data donation studies moving forward?** (e.g., discussing ethical challenges surrounding data sharing; exploring how new developments, such as the DSA, hinder or advance data donation studies)

Submissions

Via email, please submit two separate PDF files to the organizing team (symposium.datenspende@ifkw.lmu.de) by **May 31st, 2025**:

- **abstract without identifying information** (max. 500 words, excluding references, tables, and figures). The abstract should clarify the research goal, key questions, and the research design (if applicable). Authors can but do not have to include results in the abstract. If authors do not include results, they need to clearly state the status of the project and the anticipated timeline for finalizing results.
- **title page** (including author names, affiliations, and a proposed tier for your project, i.e., "Tier 1", "Tier 2", "Tier 3", or "Tier 4").

Timetable

Please note that the conference is limited to a total of 50 participants. If the number of registrations exceeds the number of available places, we reserve the right to make a selection. In this case, preference will be given to participants who *participate actively* (presentation). Participants who hold a talk are thus *guaranteed* a place at the symposium.

Deadline for submissions	May 31st, 2025
Notification about acceptance & registration opens	July 15th, 2025
Registration closes	August 15th, 2025
Notification about a confirmed place for the symposium (for passive participation without talk)	By the end of August 2025

Organizing Team

Dr. Valerie Hase (LMU Munich), *Elisabeth Schmidbauer* (LMU Munich), *Prof. Dr. Mario Haim* (LMU Munich), *Dr. Jörg Haßler* (LMU Munich), *Prof. Dr. Florian Keusch* (University of Mannheim), *Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter* (LMU Munich), & *Prof. Dr. Mark Trappmann* (IAB)

For questions, please contact us via symposium.datenspende@ifkw.lmu.de.