

# Big Data and data science approaches in the public sector

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## Abstract

Professor Dr. Ines Mergel, University of Konstanz – Germany, will talk about the opportunities and barriers of big data and data science approaches in the public sector. She will first compare and contrast the different types of data that can be summarized under the umbrella term big data, derive forms of data analyses based, and review current uses of big data in a variety of organizational units applying data science approaches in the public sector. Finally, she will outline challenges public administrations are facing when they are aiming to make use of big data for evidence-based decision making and will conclude with a set of recommendations for governments.

Professor Innar Liiv, Tallinn University of Technology, will explore the use of data science and Big Data in the public sector as seen from the perspective of a Data Scientist. The discussion will introduce conceptual frameworks that help to make sense of the emerging field of "Data for Policy". Further, it will discuss current opportunities and challenges, trending technologies, Big data Sources, research domains (computational social science and political bots), as well as de-anonymization and privacy issues.

## Short bio of Ines Mergel

Professor Dr. Ines Mergel is a full professor of Public Administration in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz, Germany. Professor Mergel has spent six years as a doctoral and postdoctoral fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, received a Doctor of Business Administration from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, and an MA- and BA-equivalent in Business Economics from the University of Kassel, Germany. Professor Mergel studies the adoption and diffusion of innovative social technologies for knowledge sharing and online collaboration. Current projects include digital transformation, open innovation, big data, and the use of inhouse social networking technologies in the public sector.

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### **Short bio of Innar Liiv**

Innar Liiv is an Associate Professor of Data Science at Tallinn University of Technology. He also belongs to the Future of Public e-Governance expert group at the Foresight Centre at the Parliament of Estonia. He was previously a Cyber Studies Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford (2016–2017), a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University (2015) and a Postdoctoral Visiting Researcher at the Georgia Institute of Technology (2009). His research interests include e-government and data science, social network analysis, computational social science, information visualization, and big data technology transfer to industrial and governmental applications. He is currently working on an interdisciplinary research question "How to use data science to improve governments innovatively and successfully?".