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The RSS Data Science Section

EFSPI Statistical Leaders' Meeting

1st July 2021

Introduction

The Data Science Section of the Royal Statistical Society is the membership group representing data scientists in the UK. It was established in 2017 to ensure the long-term success of data science as a profession.

Our organising committee includes Data Science and AI leaders from organisations like Unilever, the Alan Turing Institute, AstraZeneca, the Office for National Statistics, Microsoft and The Economist. We have over 3000 members

About – Royal Statistical Society Data Science Section

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What have we been up to in the last 4 years?

➢ Published report on 2018 workshops on "The Industrialisation & Professionalisation of Data Science"

➢ Produced a "Guide for Ethical Data Science" + Ethics "happy hours"

➢ Conducted surveys of practising data scientists

➢ Run sessions at the RSS conference, e.g. CYOA

➢ Influenced public sector policy – e.g. UK government AI strategy

➢ Worked on professional standards and accreditation for Data Science

➢ Working with core RSS to identify specific Data Science offerings

➢ Hosted numerous in-person & online events & blog posts

  ➢ Including on "Data Science vs Statistics"

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About – Royal Statistical Society Data Science Section

What has changed (or not) in 4 years?

➢ The rise of "AI" – both as a buzzword and a field

➢ A focus on ethics & governance

➢ Emerging regulation

➢ Continued lack of a completely clear definition of data science

➢ More CDO / CDSO / CDS / CDAO roles in companies

➢ My role! Head of Advanced Analytics → VP of Data Science & AI

➢ Data-centric & high performance technology architectures

➢ Huge competition for talent
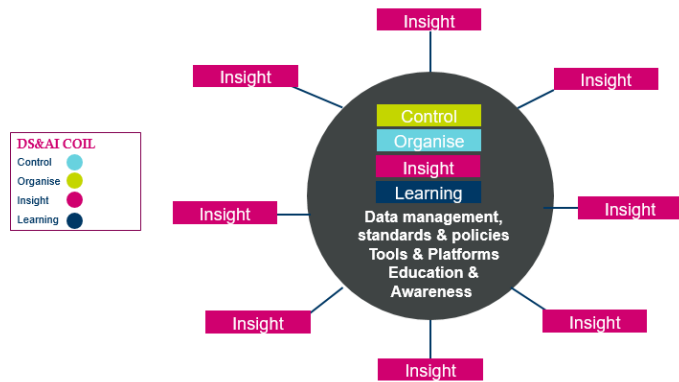
➢ More evidence of genuinely impactful and scaled solutions, as opposed to one-offs

BREAKING NEWS **RSS Data Science Section shortly to be renamed to "Data Science & AI section"**

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Case study: Data Science & AI @ AstraZeneca

Hub and spoke model in R&D

Clear and aligned strategy

Agreed scientific focus areas

Validated projects & impact