



SEEKCommons

Community Call

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FRIDAY, June 6 | 12:00 PM EST Via Zoom

What does flourishing look like for scientific communities and discoveries? Commons, Salons and Flourishing Studies

FEATURING RYAN McGRANAGHAN

What does flourishing look like for scientists, science communities, and society at large? Flourishing certainly involves pushing the frontiers of scientific discovery – frontiers that increasingly lie at the intersections of disciplines, communities, and worldviews. Meeting these challenges demands not only new technical approaches from data science and open science, but also new modes of collaboration, stewardship, and care. These are fundamentally socio-technical questions, and they require us to rethink how we build science together. The idea of the commons offers a powerful lens through which to understand – and reimagine – our current struggles around data, knowledge, and collaboration. While the theory and practice of “knowledge commons” is still emerging, it provides language and structure to ask key questions: Who participates in knowledge creation? What values underlie our infrastructures? How do we govern and steward these shared spaces? In this talk, the speaker will share how they are attempting to build knowledge commons within NASA science, through efforts in knowledge representation and community interactions, altogether in an ethos of open science. So, it will, in part, be about the nuanced, messy, ongoing work of building knowledge infrastructure and knowledge communities. But the commons is more than infrastructure – it also prompts a deeper, collective question: What are we to and for each other, as scientists for, co-creators of, and participants in society? In the second half of the talk, the speaker will invite us to explore the emerging terrain of flourishing as a dimension of science. We will explore the landscape of what flourishing looks like in the realm of scholarship and spark conversation towards a (new) field of flourishing studies. This is an immense topic, worth holding in many hands. So, this talk will ultimately be a call toward collaboration and collectivity and the speaker will close by sharing structures they have created to explore flourishing.



Ryan McGranaghan is a Data Scientist and Research Scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he works with the Machine Learning and Instrument Autonomy group to apply data science techniques for breakthrough discovery in the Earth and Space Sciences. In all of his work, Ryan takes a multi-disciplinary approach, bringing together traditional scientific inquiry with innovation from the fields of data science and sociology. Ryan's belief in transdisciplinarity extends beyond science and into society as the creator of [The Origins Podcast](#) and the founder of [The Flourishing Salons](#), gatherings that embrace plurality of thought and give rise to new connections for flourishing systems. Ryan's transdisciplinary passions have led to involvement across many remarkable groups filtered mostly by those that adopt an ethos of radical openness and transdisciplinarity. In another life, he gave a TED talk on space weather. If he were to give one today, it would be about flourishing and knowledge commons.

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