

2:15 p.m. BU 120 - Sean Stein Auditorium

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Digital Identity, Data Sovereignty and the Coming Data Science Renaissance

Abstract: As we move into the 2020's our data science capabilities have reached new highs through advances in machine learning and AI. However, most data sits segregated in the hands of a few big tech companies, governments, or academic institutions. This data centralization has not only led to global privacy concerns but also serves as a bottle-neck for growth in the data science field. Through this redundancy we waste resources on collecting, storing, and transforming the same sets of data, making current processes not just inefficient but also too resource heavy for small and medium sized businesses to compete. With the rise of DLT and public-key cryptographic systems, a new door has opened to create a global decentralized data layer that allows the sovereign/consensual exchange of data at the user level. What could such a layer look like? Could it spark a new renaissance in data science? As various nation-states are exploring the creation of digital identity blockchains, what must we as leaders in this space look out for?