



The Blueprint: Paradigm Project Updates

At a Glance...

- The Design Teams continue to modify their prototypes based on solicited feedback from members of the Reactor Panel and Learning Community.
- In other news:
 - Interactive online workshops on how to use data science for equity are starting on October 16- great for funders, program managers, and foundations!
 - Did you miss Peer Review Week? An editorial in the Lancet considers the pandemic's effects on peer review and offers additional resources.
 - Recent articles consider social media as an effective facilitator of dissemination, while also considering its role perpetuating the spread of harmful disinformation during the COVID-19 "infodemic."
 - The Sociology and Anthropology Department at Lehigh University compiled videos that recount personal experiences of racism on behalf of students and staff- a program that offers potential lessons to the Paradigm team currently testing a similar storytelling effort.



Latest Paradigm Project Updates

Testing

Over the last month, four of the active Design Teams continued to test their innovations with input from a number of fellow Learning Community and Reactor Panel testers. These short, prototype tests are incredibly valuable, allowing the team to refine their ideas

and explanations, and synthesize feedback as a team to determine their next prototype revisions. Meanwhile, the merged team focusing on community engagement began prototyping a funding model in which people within communities and community-based organizations receive grants to recruit researchers with whom they co-design and implement a research project.

Our next convening

Our virtual January 2021 convening will take place over two half-days, Thursday and **Friday, January 28-29**. Members of the Steering Council and Learning Community should have received a calendar invitation from Caitlin Otter. We hope to “see” you there! Paradigm Project at the 2020 ARM

Lastly, we are pleased to share the video recording of a Paradigm Project session, [Revolutionizing Health Services Research through Design Thinking](#), at AcademyHealth’s Annual Research Meeting. In the session, several members of the project’s Steering Council and Learning Community discuss their experience and insights gained so far, as well as adjustments we have made to the project this year in light of COVID-19 and the urgent need to address structural racism in public health and health systems.



In Other News...

Below are recent articles that touch on some of the Paradigm Project’s six challenges. We hope you find these useful as you work to make a difference in your own communities and institutions.

NOTE: In keeping with the Paradigm Project’s work to foster creative thinking by engaging with uncommon and new perspectives, articles may include provocative or non-traditional points of view. Inclusion of these articles doesn’t imply endorsement, and all opinions are the authors’ own.



On Data...

Here are two resources on democratizing data: the first is a workshop that provides participants with the tools to use data science for equity, and the second is a review of Julia Lane’s recent book that examines the lack of innovation in the United States’ statistical agencies and the need for a complete overhaul of its systems. We also included a fascinating report that details how data science can close the health equity gap.

[We All Count](#) is a project for equity in data science that demystifies data practices, democratizes access to data science tools and knowledge, and demonstrates how data science can be used to prepare the world for a more equitable future. They’re hosting a series of live, interactive online workshops called “Foundations of Data Equity” beginning on October 16. The workshop series will teach participants a “seven-step systemic strategic process for embedding equity into data products.” Learn more [here](#).

Beth Simone Noveck describes Julia Lane's recent book, [Democratizing Our Data: A Manifesto](#), as "an illuminating and powerfully argued case that the United States must change the system it uses to produce public statistics. Written pre-pandemic, its lessons are now the stuff of daily headlines — as crumbling systems stymie crisis management from epidemiology to unemployment to the logistics of the upcoming election." Read more about Lane's book in this [review](#) in *Nature*.

How can the field of public health wield data science to advance health equity? PATH's [Digital Square initiative](#), a "digital health marketplace," recently launched a [report](#) to "accelerate the use of data science in public health." The authors offer the value proposition of a Health Data Science Exchange, as well as three use cases: Information Communication Technology (ICT) for frontline workers in Bihar, India, data-driven decision support with THINKMD in Nigeria, and data analytics for Visualize No Malaria in Zambia.



On Peer Review...

Did you miss Peer Review Week? The Lancet's "annual celebration of the importance of peer review" ran from September 21-25, 2020. Their [editorial](#) highlights "trust in peer review, a particularly appropriate focus during the COVID-19 pandemic." Note the additional resources that are linked throughout, including self-reflection from the Lancet editors on article retraction, an illustrated journey of a paper, and a table of the different types of content in the Lancet.

The highlighted concern of trust also dominates conversations about open-access and preprints. While the Lancet celebrated peer review, they also acknowledged that "preprints are an important part of the move to open science." During the ongoing testing of an open-access preprint server with visual abstracts, the Design Team responsible for this idea determined that they must address this central theme of trust. To increase the scientific community's receptibility to preprints, here are [five ways](#) to improve the quality and credibility of preprints.



On Innovations in Science Communication...

Speaking of trust and rapid scientific publication, social media's (current and potential) role in science dissemination is a double-edged sword. On one hand, social media can reach untapped audiences at unprecedented speeds.

This *Washington Post* [article](#) describes how social media activism led to an influx of viral PowerPoint-style infographics about topics such as "apoliticism, medical racism or the psychology of Trump voters." While this article isn't specifically about the dissemination of health services research, it potentially offers an exciting and novel platform to consider as an avenue for dissemination.

A [collection](#) of articles, under the research topic of "Harnessing Social Media and Digital Technologies to Improve Health Communication," serves as a repository of six examples

of how technology, diverse theoretical approaches, and multidisciplinary methodologies may converge in advancing effective health dissemination. Indeed, “advancements in information and communication technologies offer a variety of opportunities for public health researchers and practitioners, from rapidly disseminating health information and engaging patients and the public for health promotion, to reaching out to underserved populations for health interventions and education.”

However, the double-edged sword of social media’s ability to quickly spread information means that the tool can also foster the spread of harmful, even life-threatening, disinformation. This [synthesis](#) of research on how to best battle the COVID-19 “infodemic” provides useful action steps in combatting disinformation.

On another science communication-related note, to build a workforce of researchers who are competent in dissemination and implementation sciences, a “Mentored Training for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Cancer (MT-DIRC) program” may be effective. Read about the [ways](#) in which a “mentored training of scholars is an important approach... to better applying the vast amount of available intervention evidence to benefit cancer control.”



On Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in HSR...

One of the Design Teams is making progress on their idea to address underrepresentation in the health services research workforce with an experience that sparks a fundamental shift in perspective. The idea involves several components, including a storytelling component, a list of action steps, and group activities. The Sociology and Anthropology Department at Lehigh University has initiated an awareness campaign similar to the storytelling component of this Design Team’s idea: they asked “students and staff to share stories of racism at [their] own institution.” The Department will be posting a video each week for seven weeks. Find the first week’s video [here](#).



On Community Engagement in Research...

This recent [article](#) in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *How Higher Education Can Support Local Ecosystems of Innovation*, examines how administrators in higher education have a unique opportunity to collaborate in local economic and community development efforts by structuring projects to directly involve community residents. The three core themes of knowledge sharing, developing a community of practice, and capacity building can be applied to research projects at universities across the United States.

Lastly, we’d like to remind all Learning Community members that you are invited to participate in testing conversations with any of the five Design Teams that are currently engaged in this process. If you are interested, please reach out to caitlin.otter@academyhealth.org so that she may match you to a Design Team and schedule a testing conversation with you.