Mercè Crosas is Director of Data Science at Harvard University’s 
Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS). Her group includes 
the Dataverse Network project to share, cite and archive scientific 
data, a data acquisition and curation team, the Murray Research 
Archive, a statistical programming and data analysis team (Zelig and 
other R statistical packages), and the Consilience project on text analysis. The research tools 
developed and supported by her group are open-source and widely used by researchers from 
across disciplines around the world, including researchers in social science, health and 
biomedical sciences, physics and astronomy. The current projects of the Data Science team are 
partially funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the National Science Foundation and 
Microsoft Research.

Her interests in data science are to apply computer science, software engineering, statistics, 
mathematics and cross-disciplinary expertise to develop research tools that facilitate the access, 
reuse and analysis of data, and help validate and reproduce scientific discoveries. She is 
currently collaborating with: 1) the Data Privacy Lab to address concerns about sharing sensitive 
data for research, 2) PKP’s Open Journal System to establish a permanent link between OJS 
publications and their accompanying data, 3) the DataBridge project to develop sociometric tools 
applied to data and data usage, 4) the Seamless Astronomy group to publish, archive and 
explore astronomy datasets, and link them to literature, 5) the Collaborative for Historical 
Information and Archive (CHIA) to search and visualize world historical data with the Dataverse 
and WorldMap, 6) the Gates Foundation to archive and share data from the Foundation’s 
research projects, and 7) the Harvard Library at Harvard to provide technology solutions for 
research data management and preservation.

Mercè Crosas joined IQSS in 2004 (then referred to as the Harvard-MIT Data Center) as software 
development lead of a data sharing project, which later became the Dataverse Network. Before 
joining IQSS, she worked for six years in the educational software and biotech industries, initially 
as a software developer, and subsequently as director of the software development and 
informatics team. She contributed to the development of lab information management systems 
(LIMS) for SNP discovery and genotyping and for mass spectrometry. Prior to that, she spent six 
years at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, first completing work for her Ph.D. in 
Astrophysics from Rice University at the Atomic and Molecular Physics division, and later as a 
post-doctoral fellow, researcher and software engineer with the Radioastronomy division. There 
she worked on Monte Carlo simulations of radiative transfer in evolved stars and contributed to 
the software for the Submillimeter Array interferometer at Mauna Kea, Hawaii. Mercè also earned 
a B.S. in Physics from the Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.