Mercè Crosas, Ph.D.
Director of Data Science, Harvard University

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.