

FAIR Data? Not without PEOPLE

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Focus on Open Science

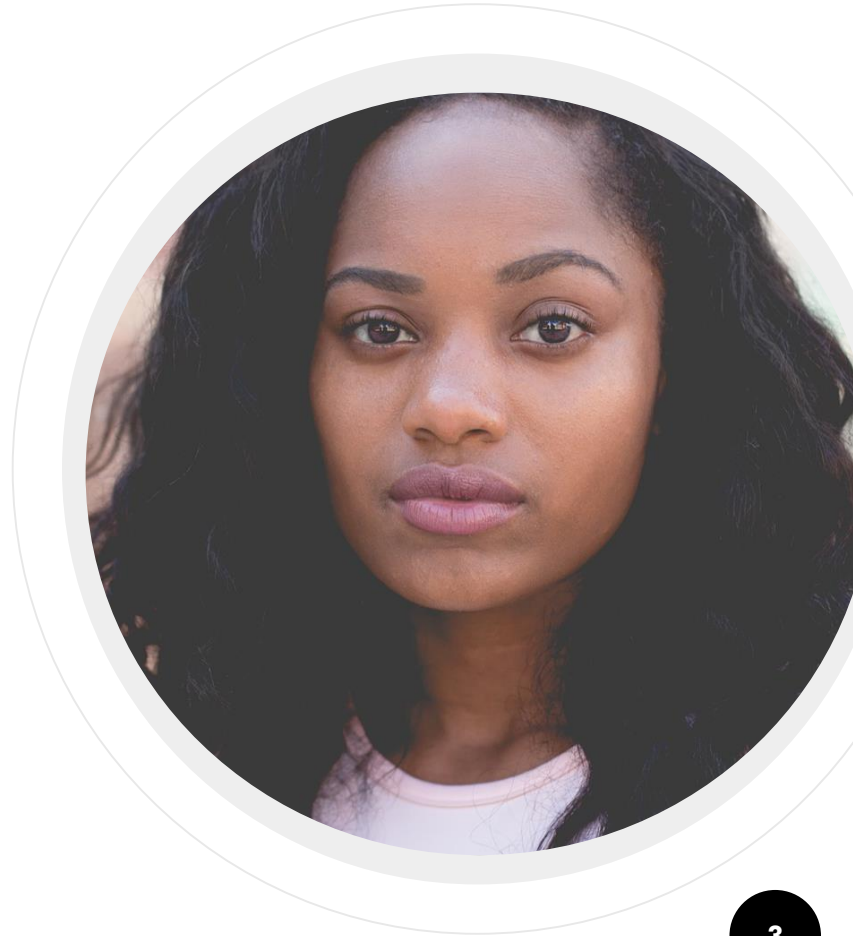
Graz, 2019/11/07

Slides

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3530915>

Meet Barbara

Professor in Coastal Engineering
Approves of Open Science
Publishes in Open Access journals
Has lots of data, but not really reusable

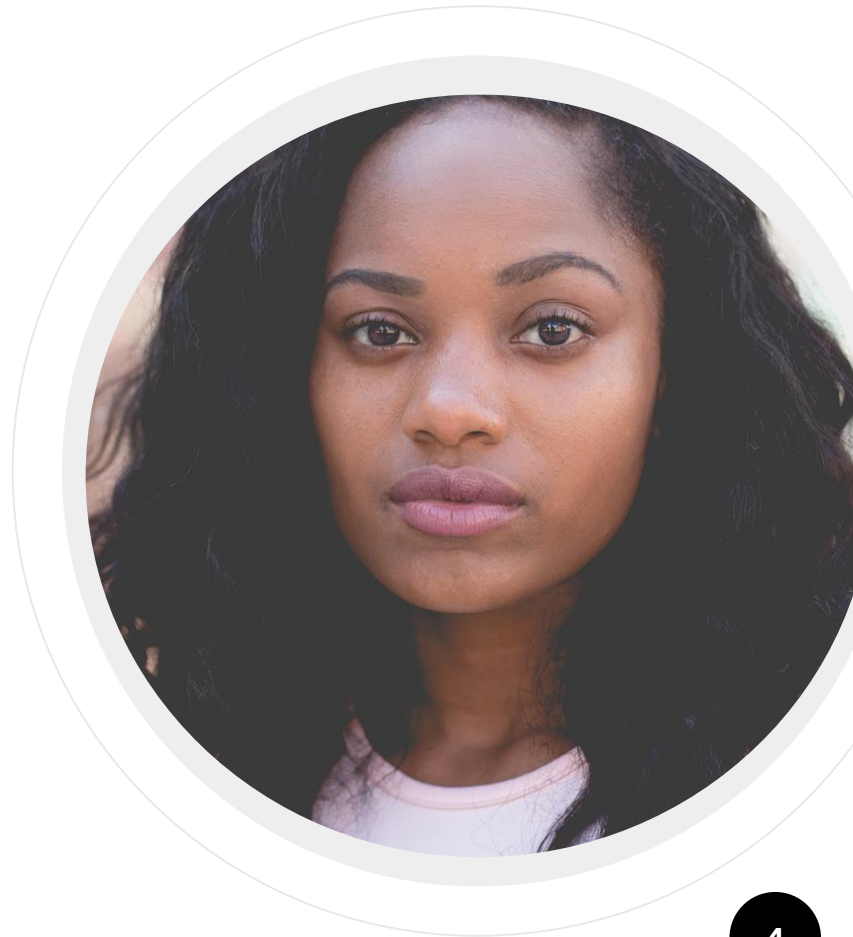


Barbara feels a bit guilty

Open Science sounds good, but publishing FAIR data does not really help her career and she is not sure what FAIR means in practice

Not standards or tools in her community she can easily apply

Wants to be a better example for her PhDs



Meet Susan

Susan is a clinician who just started a post-doctoral fellowship in a research lab

She wants to use genomic data to study ovarian cancer



Susan is sort of stuck

She never worked with genomic data before nor did any coding

Colleagues are busy with their own stuff and she doesn't want to come across as incompetent

She knows there is lots of training, but the choice is overwhelming



Meet Dirk

PhD student at TU Delft

Finishing second year

Studying (car) transport flows in
Dutch and Belgian cities



Dirk is worried

Everyone asks him how the writing of the thesis is going. But he needs results before he can write

And to get results he is highly dependent on the software he uses to simulate traffic

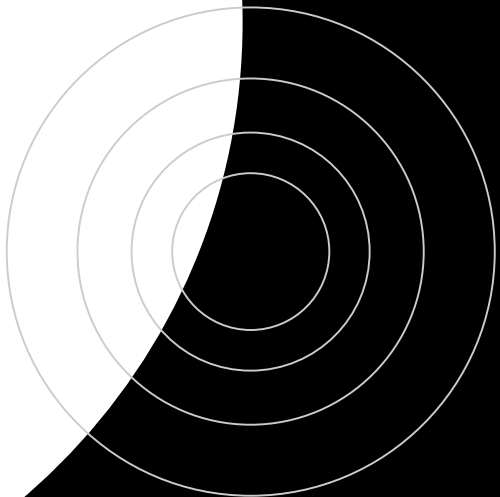
It's created by a past group member, and is buggy & poorly documented.

Dirk spends his time figuring stuff out instead of analysing data



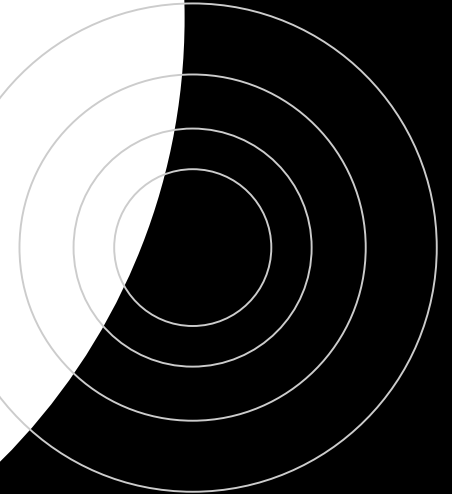


**How to help
Barbara, Dirk,
Susan and
other
researchers
make their
data FAIR?**





5 key ingredients of research data support





1

Data Stewards

Meet Kees

Data Steward at Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences

He did his Master and PhD here

He is advising researchers on data management needs



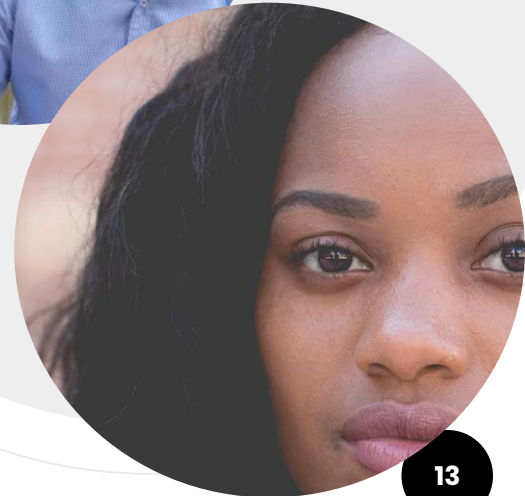
Kees understands Barbara and puts her & her research central

Kees knows faculty research, which helps him understand things better

He likes meeting with researchers and talking about their research

He often suggests small changes to research workflows which make substantial improvements

He helped Barbara and her team get started with version control





2

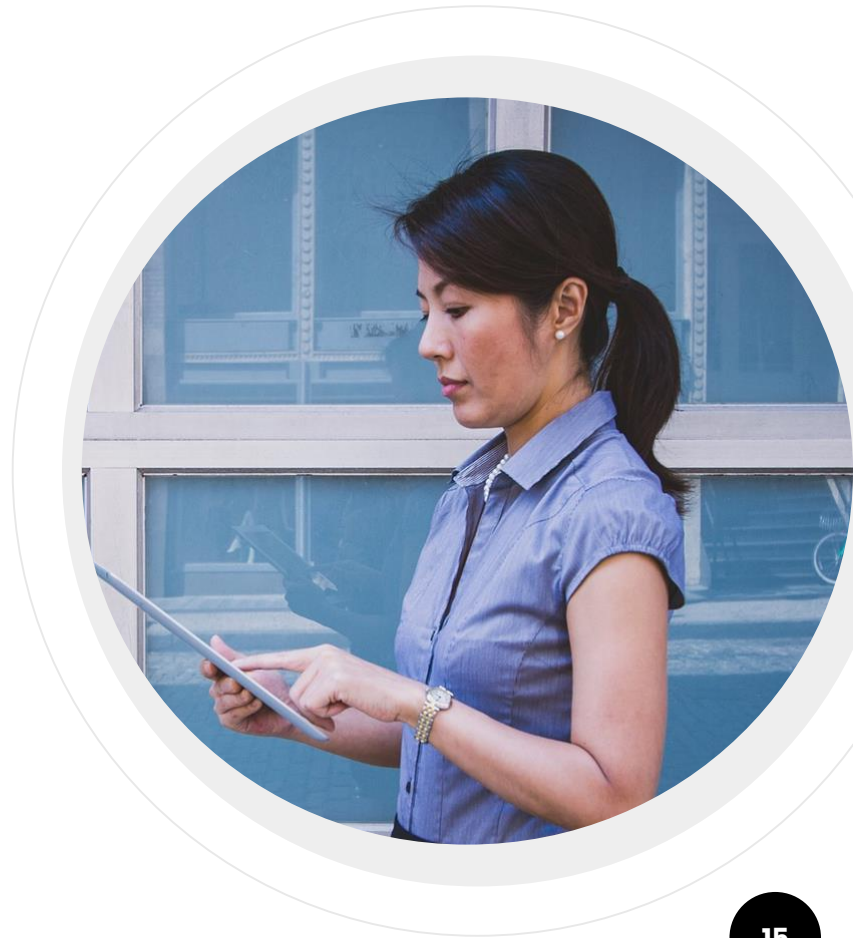
Data Managers

Meet Jia

Expert data manager

She has a PhD in Bioinformatics

She is employed by the Library but is subcontracted to work with various research groups



Jia works with Susan one day a week

Jia finds Susan's cancer research really interesting and is helping Susan analyse the data

She appreciates Susan's eagerness to learn a bit of programming and version control and flags up useful training for her

Jia sees this as a rewarding teamwork



(Disclaimer: Jia is fake. We hope to hire a Jia - or two - soon)



3

Coding Assistants

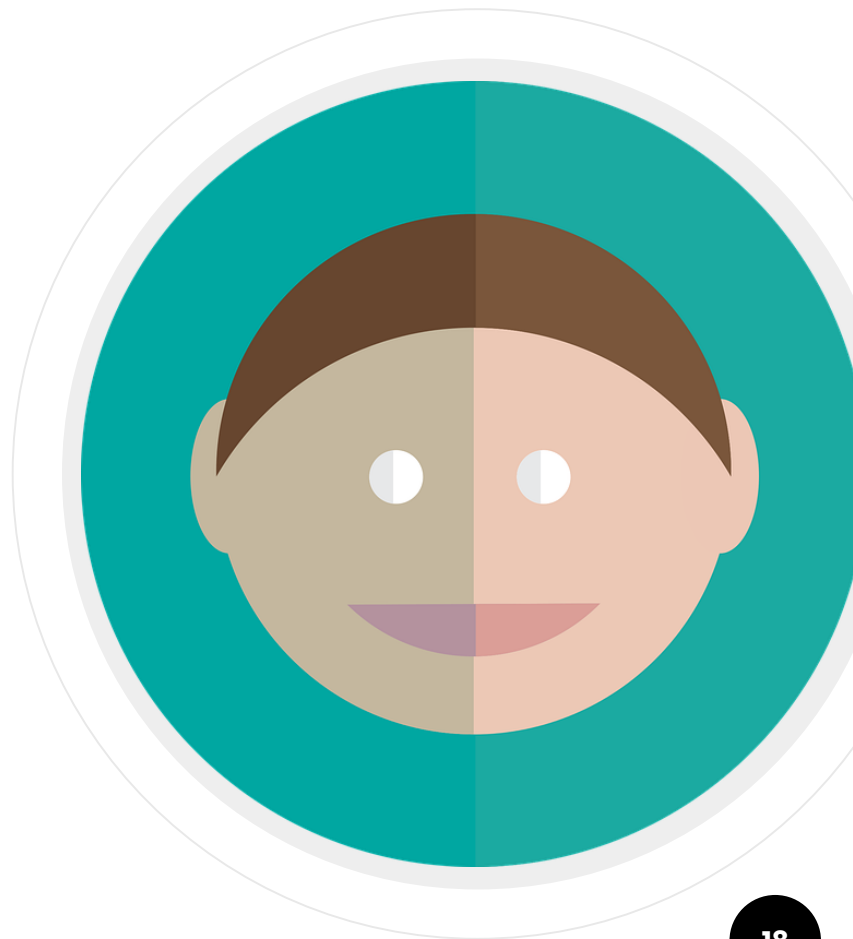
Meet Andre

**Coding Assistant and an
experienced software developer**

**Enjoys working on concrete
problems**

**Employed by the Library, but now
offering coding consultations at
faculties**

He doesn't like to be photographed

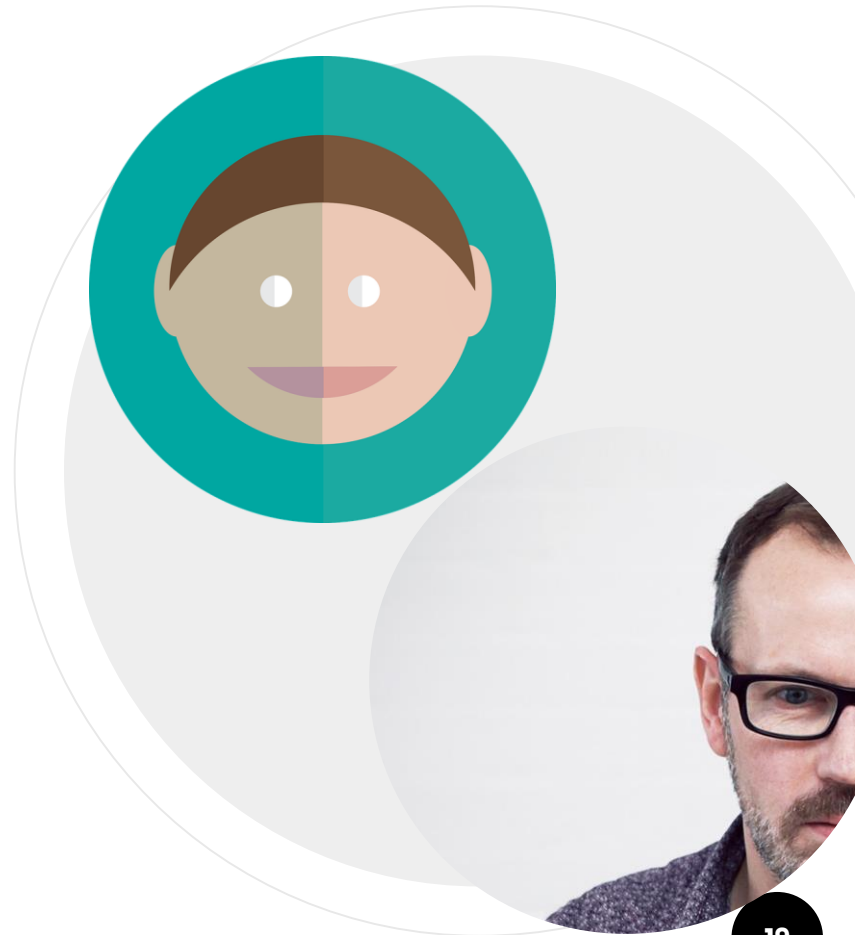


Andre regularly helps Dirk with small coding issues

Andre is there to help when Dirk gets stuck with his code

Andre knows C++ well, which allows him to structure Dirk's software a little bit better

Andre also knows various tips and tricks which are handy with debugging and save Dirk a lot of time





4

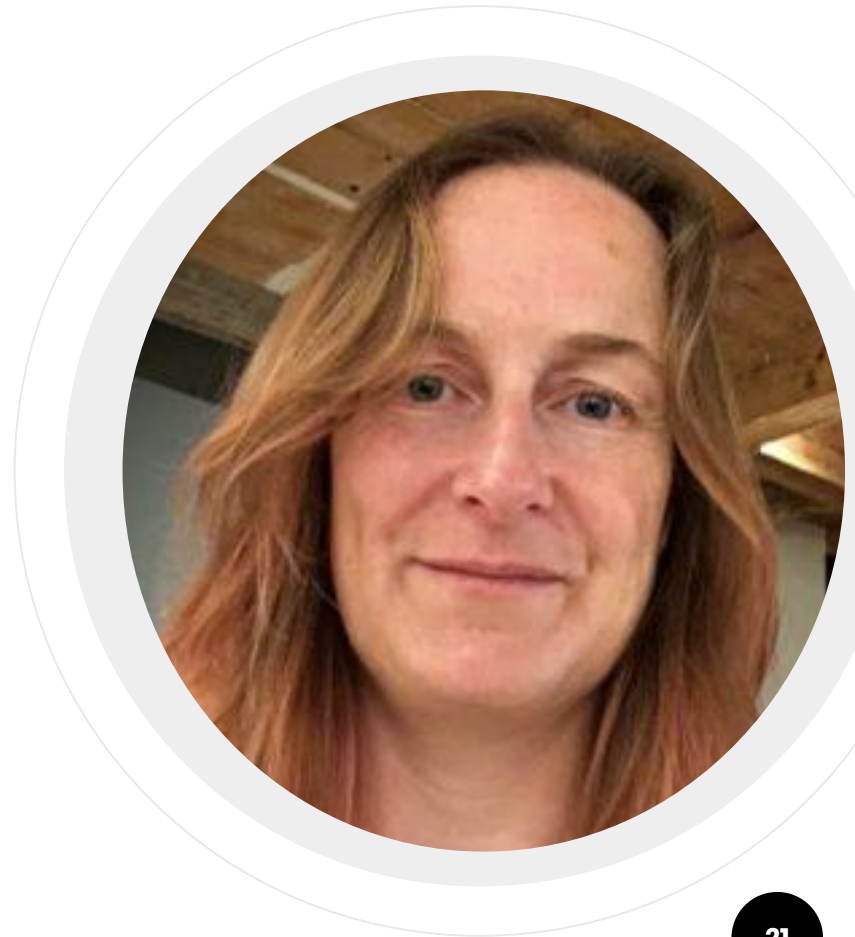
Data Champions

Meet Siân

**PostDoc in Petroleum Engineering
and a Data Champion**

**She's been doing research in various
places all over the world and is tired
of poor data management practices**

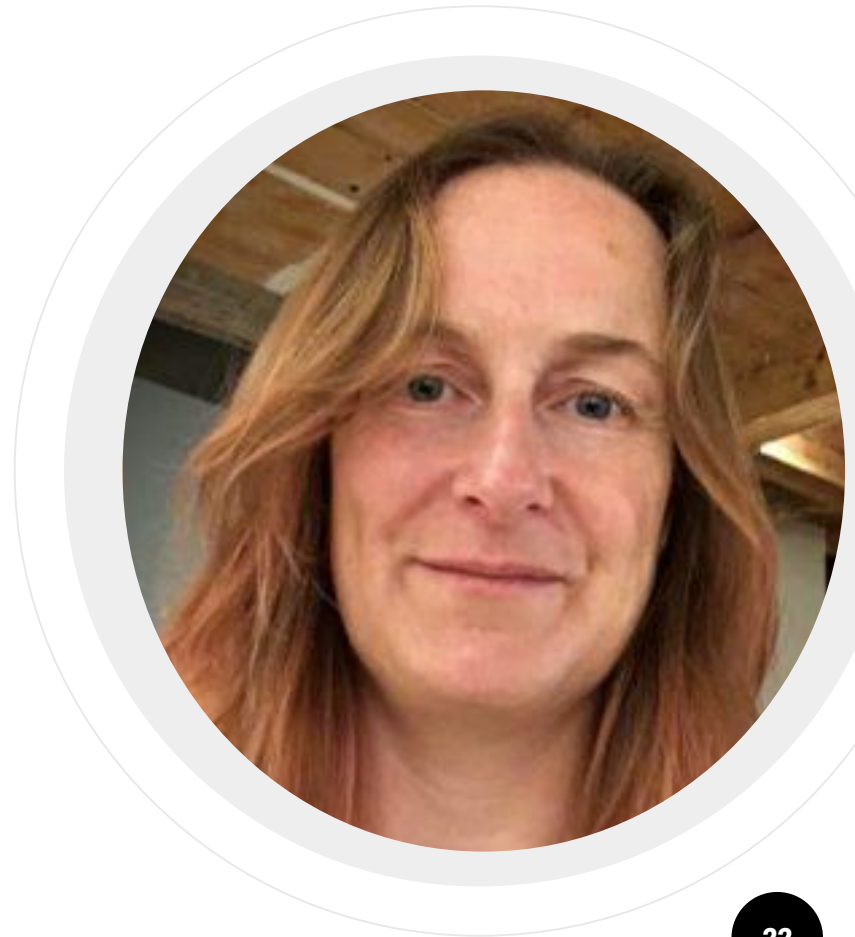
**She wants to go paperless and is
piloting Electronic Lab Notebooks at
her department**

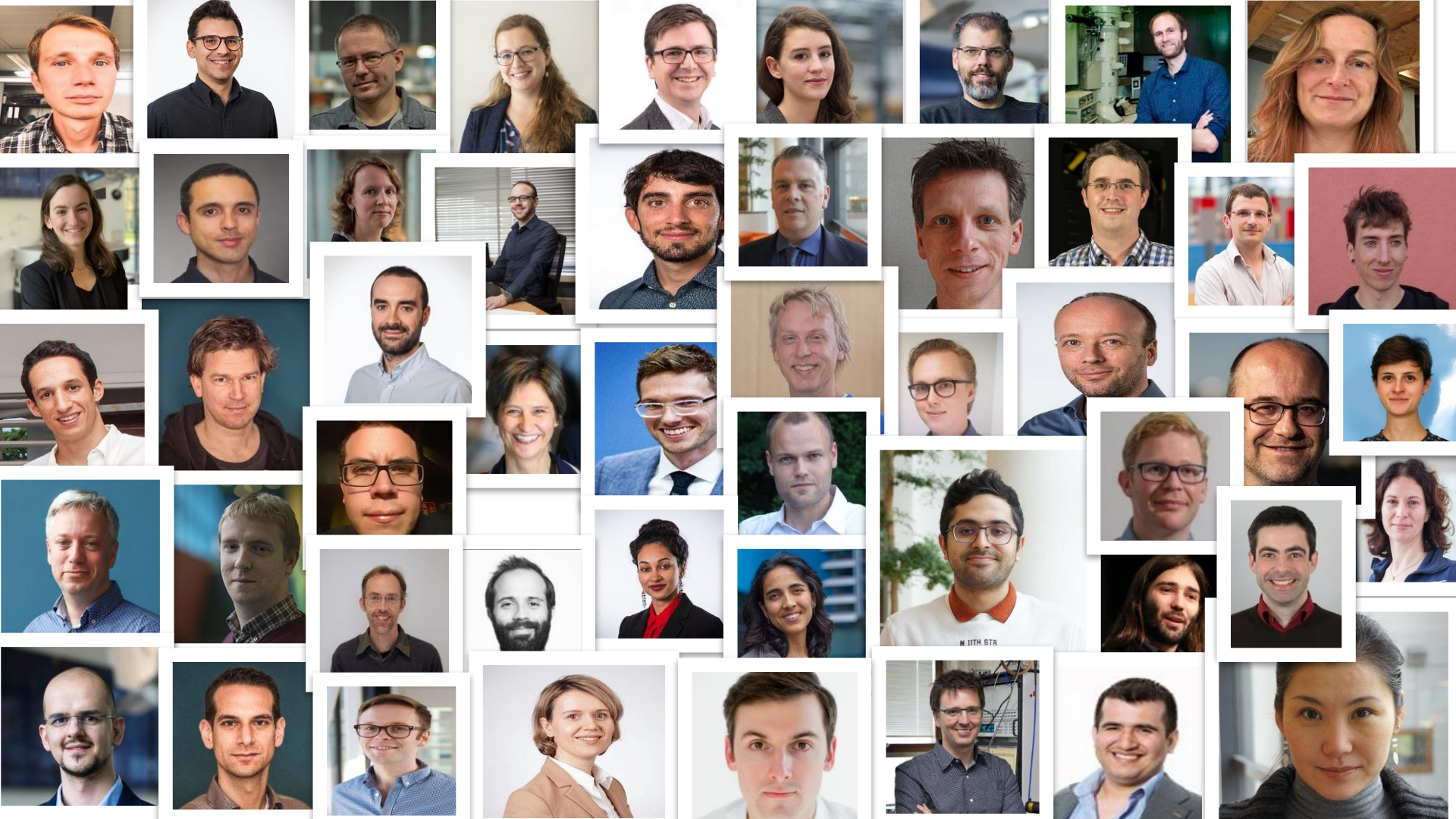


Meet Siân

She volunteers her free time to be part of researcher-led, bottom-up community of Data Champions

Data champions not only teach and support each other, but also inspire other researchers who haven't yet heard about Open Science or FAIR data





A large white circle is centered on a black background. To its left, a smaller grey circle overlaps it, containing the number '5'. To its right, several thin white concentric circles are visible. The text 'People who believe in people' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font inside the white circle.

5

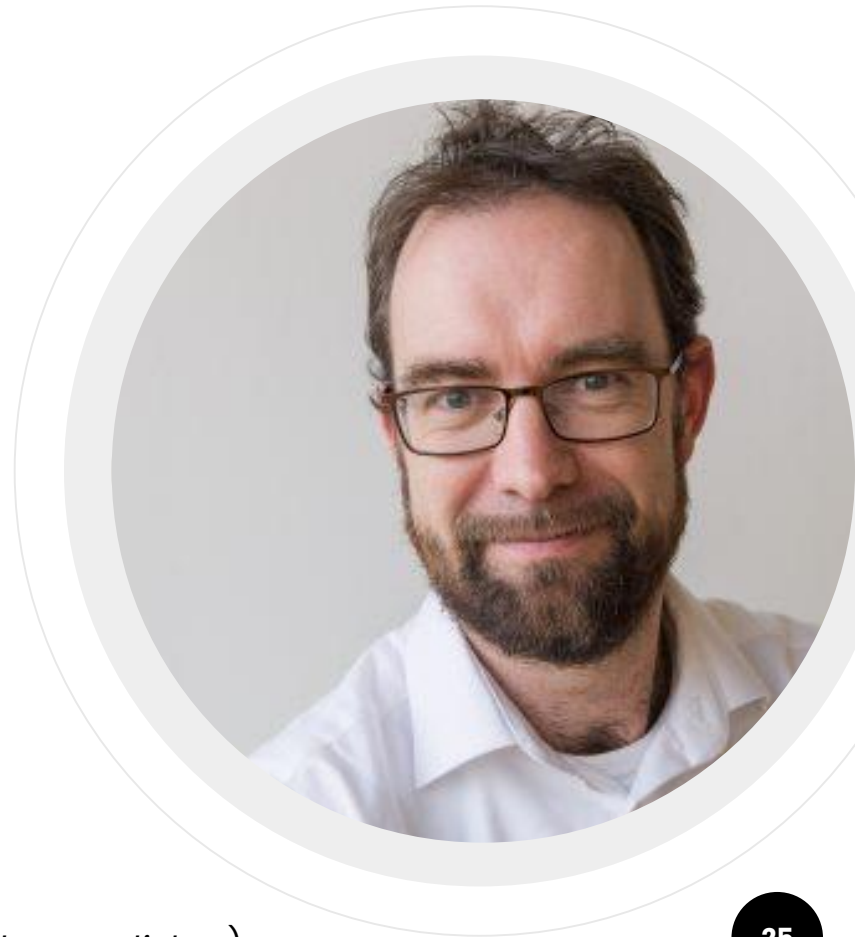
**People
who
believe in
people**

Meet Alastair

**Head of Research Data Services at
TU Delft and Head of 4TU.Research
Data**

**He has research background in the
Humanities and he brings human-
centric approach to Delft University
of Technology**

**He has a big team to manage, but he
always smiles**

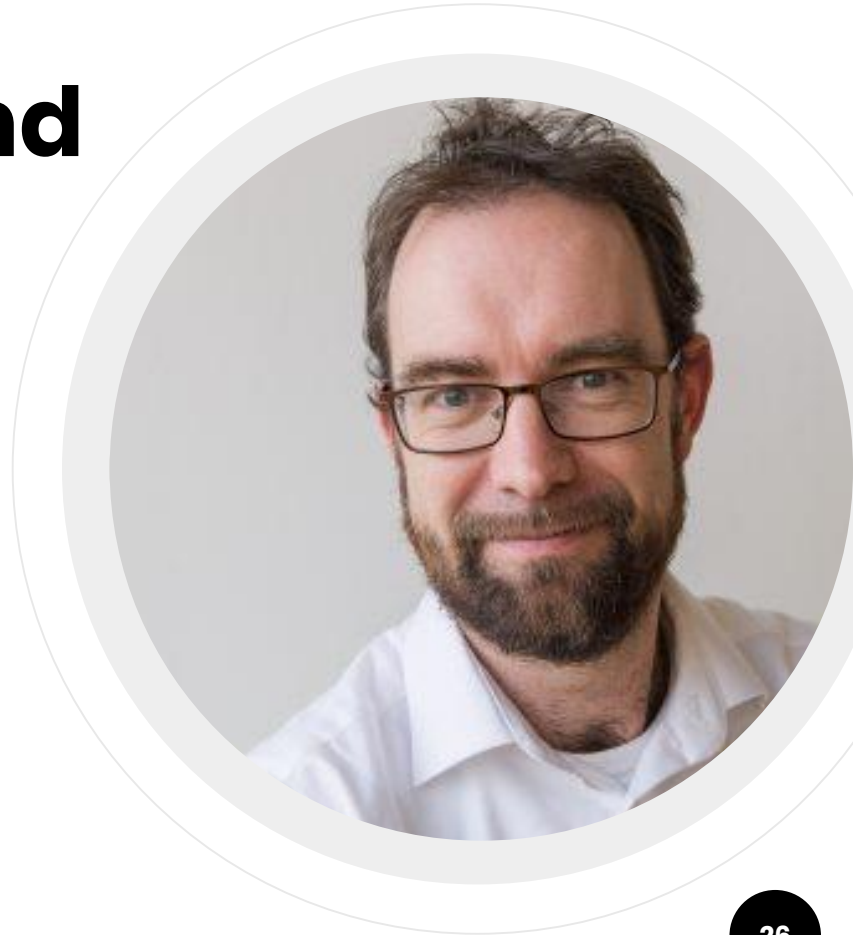


(Disclaimer: Alastair is my boss and he didn't see these slides)

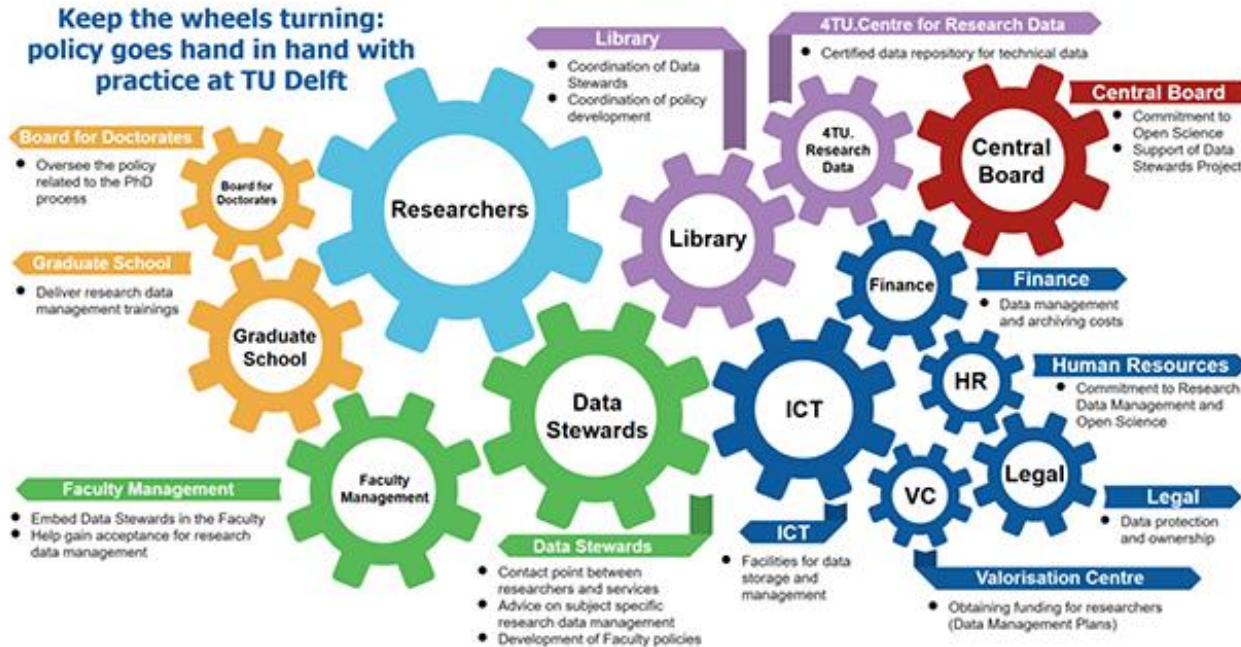
Alastair believes and invests in people

Alastair thinks that we should not focus too much on “do we have the right infrastructure” but on “do we have the right people?”

He trusts people, encourages them and appreciates them for their contributions



Alastair keeps the wheels turning



Summary - 5 key ingredients of research data support

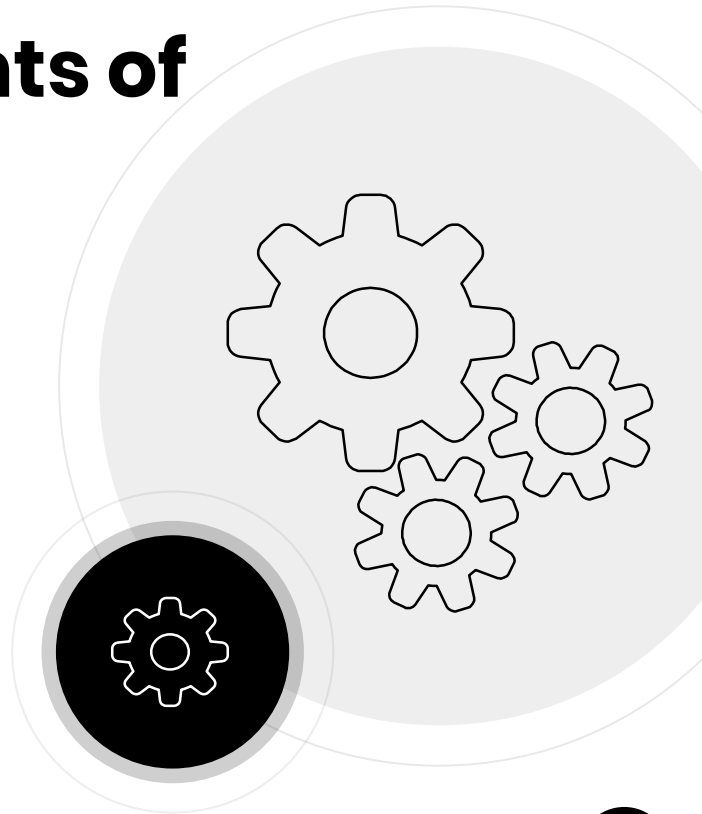
1. Data Stewards
(PEOPLE)

2. Data Managers
(PEOPLE)

3. Coding Assistants
(PEOPLE)

4. Data Champions
(PEOPLE)

5. PEOPLE who believe in PEOPLE
(and keep the wheels turning)





Read more

Cultural obstacles to research data management and sharing at TU Delft

Authors: Esther Plomp , Nicolas Dintzner,
Marta Teperek, Alastair Dunning

<http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.484>



Thank you

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- Data Stewards
- Research Data Services team
- Data Champions
- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)