Changing Assessment Culture in the Humanities and Social Sciences: the HuMetricsHSS initiative

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For too long, humanists and social scientists have been allergic to metrics. This has prevented researchers from engaging in a serious and sustained conversation about what practices of scholarship should be cultivated and incentivized both through the activities that are measured and those that are celebrated. As a result, a large and growing battery of metrics have been developed based on the practices of science scholars or simply on what it was possible to use our technologies to measure.

The HuMetricsHSS initiative calls for a holistic, values-based evaluation framework that uses metrics only to measure a scholar's progress towards embodying values that initial research suggests are central to all humanistic and social science disciplines. These values will have been critiqued, torn apart, and re-established at a workshop to be held two weeks prior to FORCE2017, but their initial iteration is as follows: Collegiality, Quality, Equity, Openness, and Community.

All too often we hear that scholarly communication would be different if incentive structures such as tenure and promotion recognized a different way of doing things—openness, reproducibility, diversity, to take but a few examples—as indicators of quality work. In this interactive session, we invite attendees to imagine, through "world cafe" style group discussions, how the HuMetricsHSS values as determined by the early October workshop might apply or be applied to scholarly communications products and processes at their institutions. What would a values-based approach to conference panel organization look like, for example? Or to the authoring of a monograph, or the teaching of an introductory-level class? This session invites attendees and presenters alike to challenge dominant paradigms of evaluation and assessment and consider what might happen if we were to approach things differently.