Using Data Science to Promote Genocide Resilience to Policymakers

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Abstract: Social scientists use data science algorithms to forecast and predict genocide. For example, the "Early Warning Project" uses a modified logistic regression to identify at-risk countries that are put on a watch-list. We propose to use data science to invite policymakers to strengthen their resilience to genocide. We proceed from the assumption that policymakers act in their self-interest. To that end, given an at-risk country or region, we seek to find previous genocide events that data suggests have similar profiles (which we call "nearest neighbors") and use data-storytelling to tell a story about the impact of the event on those nearest neighbors. In this talk, we will share our progress toward such a program.

Victor Piercey holds a JD from Columbia Law School and a Ph.D in Mathematics from the University of Arizona. He is a Professor of Mathematics as well as the Director of the Honors Program at Ferris State University. He is passionate about combining his legal and mathematical experience to both provide students with unexpected mathematical applications as well as promoting social justice. His teaching includes quantitative reasoning and actuarial science. His scholarship includes the scholarship of teaching and learning, ethics in mathematics, and genocide prevention.