



## News Release



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### **WDS WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE 2024-2027 WDS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**OAK RIDGE, TN – 3 July 2024** – The World Data System is pleased to announce the appointment of two new WDS Scientific Committee (SC) members, Drs. Johnathan Kool and Devika Madalli as their terms began 1 July 2024.

Based in Australia, Dr. Johnathan Kool graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from McGill University; was awarded a Master of Environmental Management (MEM) in Coastal Environmental Management from Duke University; and completed his Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami. Dr. Kool is currently the Director of the Australian Antarctic Data Centre. He has also been employed by Geoscience Australia; jointly by James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science; the World Resources Institute (as their GIS Lab manager), and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Dr. Kool has a keen interest in complexity and complex systems, and how data and information systems can be used in making decisions and finding solutions. Over the course of his career, he has found interesting parallels between genetics, diseases, languages, intra-organizational communications, and cat memes. He has had a lifelong interest in international travel and engagement, and he values how it forces him to break preconceived notions and think in broader terms.

“Within the data community, I am constantly inspired by everyone’s willingness to work together to try to deliver better global outcomes, and I look forward to continuing to do that with the World Data System,” said Dr. Johnathan Kool on joining the Scientific Committee.

The next newly elected SC member is Professor Devika Madalli. Dr. Madalli is the Director of the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), UGC-Inter University Centre in Gandhinagar, India. Prior to joining INFLIBNET, Dr. Madalli served as a Professor of the Documentation Research and Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, for 27 years and as an adjunct faculty at the Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science (DISI), University of Trento, Italy. An advocate of Open Science practices, Dr. Madalli has extensive experience in teaching, research, and capacity building. Her interest lies in Data and Knowledge Management, Knowledge Organization and Semantics, and Open Data Repositories.

Dr. Madalli has served as a member of the Technical Advisory Board of the Research Data Alliance (RDA). She also serves as co-chair for RDA interest groups on Research Evaluation, Global Research Commons (until April 2024), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Additionally, she is a member of the governance board of DRYAD and has served as an expert/consultant to [UNESCO](#), [UNFAO](#), [OECD](#), [Commonwealth of Learning](#), and the [European Commission](#). She is a recipient of Fulbright and Erasmus Mundus fellowships.



Dr. Madalli is on the advisory board of Universal Decimal Classification. She serves as the chair of OpenAccessIndia Working Group. She served on the advisory panel and scientific committees of several international conferences such as [SWIB](#), [ICADL](#), [MTSR](#), [SciDataCon](#), [LODLAM](#), and [ICSD](#). She has been a member of editorial panels of prestigious journals such as Knowledge Organization (ISKO), Data Science Journal, Library Hi-Tech among several others and has published widely.

“WDS is delighted to bring such expertise to our Scientific Committee,” said David Castle, Scientific Committee Chair. “Both Dr. Kool and Dr. Madalli bring a different lens to the governing body with unique areas of expertise, and representation from the Global South and Asia-Oceania regions,” continued Castle. “We are grateful to the WDS members for their willingness to share their voice in both nominating potential SC candidates and voting during the election process.”

### **About the World Data System**

Per the WDS Constitution, WDS is governed by the Scientific Committee which is elected by the WDS regular and network members ([WDS membership directory](#)) and then reviewed and approved by the International Science Council, The WDS SC is made up of leading scientists and experts who are actively involved with data.

The World Data System (WDS) is an affiliated body of the International Science Council (ISC), the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world, and has the mission to enhance the capabilities, impact, and sustainability of its member repositories and data services by creating trusted communities of scientific data repositories, strengthening the scientific enterprise throughout the entire lifecycle of data to create first-class data that feeds first-class research output and by advocating for accessible data and transparent and reproducible science. WDS’s International Program Office is hosted by the University of Tennessee’s Oak Ridge Innovation Institute and is located on the campus of Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, United States. This work is supported by a cooperative agreement (DE-SC0021915) with the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science. WDS’s International Technology Office is hosted by Oceans Network Canada and is located on the campus of University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. This work is supported by the Digital Research Alliance of Canada and Ocean Networks Canada.

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