

Panel: Toward an ICA Code of Conduct

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Keywords: Code of Conduct, Ethics, Next Generation Cartographers Working Group

Abstract:

A code of conduct is an important tool to promote an inclusive, respectful, and safe environment within an organization (United Nations). Although the ICA does not yet have a Code of Conduct, the ICA working group Next Generation Cartographers has drafted an initial Code of Conduct intended to provide common ground among members of the new working group, using Code of Conduct examples from NACIS, Geek Feminism, Brown University, and the Data Visualization Society. NGC's Code of Conduct is a starting point for further conversations to help produce a well-defined Code of Conduct for the ICA.

Given the diverse international membership of the ICA, cultural norms and social dynamics can vary widely. A well-defined Code of Conduct can provide a universal framework that transcends cultural boundaries and helps facilitate effective communication and collaboration among participants from different backgrounds. A Code of Conduct also establishes mechanisms for reporting and addressing misconduct issues, helping provide accountability and resolving issues quickly.

Implementing a Code of Conduct helps provide clear guidelines for expected behaviour to help community members feel safe, valued, and respected. By defining what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable conduct, a Code of Conduct creates a culture of professionalism and discouraging inappropriate behaviour.

Using NGC's Code of Conduct as a starting point, this panel session will discuss elements considered for an ICA Code of Conduct. Potential considerations include but are not limited the following: commitment to ethical principles, compliance with laws and regulations, conflicts of interest, confidentiality, non-discrimination, inclusive and respectful culture, social and environmental responsibilities, reporting mechanisms, consequences of violations, and training and continued improvement as the ICA evolves. The main discussion points of the panel will inform the formation of the ICA Code of Conduct.

Acknowledgements

We thank Juliana Cron and all members of the NGC WG for their contributions to planning this panel session.

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