***RDA Interest Group Draft Charter Template***

***Name of Proposed Interest Group: International Indigenous Data Sovereignty***

***Introduction*** *(A brief articulation of what issues the IG will address, how this IG is aligned with the RDA mission, and how this IG would be a value-added contribution to the RDA community):*

The call for Indigenous data sovereignty (ID-Sov) —the right of a nation to govern the collection, ownership, and application of its own data—has grown in intensity and scope over the past five years. To date three national-level Indigenous data sovereignty networks exist: Te Mana Raraunga - Maori Data Sovereignty Network, the United States Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network (USIDSN), and the Maiam nayri Wingara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty Group in Australia. Similar initiatives are underway in Hawaii and Sweden. Currently, these networks are engaging informally to share information and strategies, hold joint events, and collaborate on research. Despite the lack of substantial funding, the networks have independently and collaboratively held a wide range of events in the last two years involving indigenous researchers, data professionals, communities, tribes, NGOs,and inter-tribal organizations, along with Government officials and employees (see Table 1 below). The profile of ID-Sov has also been raised internationally with the recent publication of *Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Toward an Agenda*, co-edited by one of the proposed IG co-Chairs. Freely available online, the book had about 2,000 downloads within a month of publication, reflecting the very high level of interest in ID-Sov.

These efforts notwithstanding, there are resource and infrastructure constraints to advancing the shared goals and aspirations of these ID-Sov stakeholders and to achieve impactful outcomes at the intersection of Indigenous data sovereignty, Indigenous data governance, and research. The *International Indigenous Data Sovereignty Interest Group* (*International ID-Sov IG*) seeks to address these needs through more robust and coherent international collaboration among ID-Sov networks *and* collaboration among RDA Interest Groups (IG), Working Groups (WG), and member data scientists and scholars.

Table 1. Evidence of ID-Sov Network Collaborations

1. Joint panel ‘Indigenous Data Governance and Open Data Futures’ at the 3rd International Open Data Conference, Ottawa, May 2015
2. ‘International Workshop on Data Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples: Current Practice and Futures Needs,’ hosted by John Taylor and Tahu Kukutai, sponsored by Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Canberra, July 2015
3. Joint panel ‘In pursuit of Indigenous data sovereignty: Directions and challenges’ at the Native American Indigenous Studies Association conference, Hawaii, May 2016
4. Collaborative workshop ‘Indigenous Data and Information Sovereignty: Making Open Data work for Indigenous Peoples’ at the RDA Eighth Plenary, Denver, September 2016
5. ‘Indigenous open data summit,’ hosted by USIDSN, sponsored by the Native Nations Institute and the International Open Data Conference, Madrid, October 2016
6. Joint panel ‘Indigenous + Data’ at the 4th International Open Data Conference, Madrid, October, 201;
7. ‘Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit,’ hosted by Te Mana Raraunga - the Māori Data Sovereignty Network, sponsored by Swedish Research Council, Wallenberg Academy Fellows, and Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Māori Centre of Research Excellence, Auckland, November 2016
8. ‘Masterclass on Indigenous Data Sovereignty,’ at the Common Roots Indigenous Governance conference, Brisbane, March 2017
9. Workshop, “Indigenous Data Governance,” hosted by USIDSN, sponsored by the Native Nations Institute and the University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, May 2017
10. Joint panel “Indigenous Nation Data Governance: Data for Nation Rebuilding” at the National Congress of American Indians mid-year Policy Research Center data pre-conference, Uncasville, CT, June 2017
11. Workshop ‘Indigenous Data Sovereignty: What Works?,’ to be hosted by Te Mana Raraunga at the Waikato Tainui [Tribal] College for Research and Development, September 2017

The goals of the *International ID-Sov IG* are clearly aligned with the RDA mission of creating a global community to develop and adopt infrastructure that promotes data-sharing, data-driven research, and data use. The IG chairs are co-founders of their respective national-level ID-Sov networks in the United States (Rainie), Aotearoa/New Zealand (Kukutai), Australia (Walter), and and an emerging network in Sweden (Axelsson). These national networks have diverse memberships that include Indigenous researchers, data and ICT professionals, entrepreneurs and policymakers. While relatively new, these networks have also developed relationships with Indigenous communities and tribes; local, state and federal Government; Non Governmental Organisations, and policy institutes.

The *International ID-Sov IG* will effectively operate as a ‘network of networks’, leveraging the existing connections that each Chair brings through involvement in their own networks, while creating new opportunities for research and outreach beyond our current networks. We see three clear opportunities for the *International ID-Sov IG*: 1) to connect with RDA Working Groups and Interest Groups to raise the profile of ID-Sov and inform RDA groups and members; 2) coordinate outreach activities and the dissemination of information nationally and internationally; and 3) provide a platform for the formation of one of more working groups that can work collaboratively on an international framework and broad principles for the governance and stewardship of Indigenous data that align with ID-Sov.

***User scenario(s) or use case(s) the IG wishes to address*** *(what triggered the desire for this IG in the first place):*

Like other nation states, Indigenous nations need data about their citizens and communities to make informed decisions. However, the information that Indigenous nations have access to is often unreliable, inaccurate, and irrelevant. Federal, state, and local governments as well as researchers have primarily collected these data with limited input from the indigenous nations, communities, and individuals described. Indigenous nations’ reliance on external data that do not reflect community needs, priorities, and self-conceptions is a threat to self-determination, limits informed policy decisions, and restricts progress toward Indigenous aspirations for healthy, sustainable communities.

Likewise, researcher and other governments’ reliance on these data limit the robustness of data-driven research and the validity of policy decisions. At the same time, researchers, data repositories, and data service operations are increasingly aware of the need to understand ID-Sov in order to choose data governance and stewardship mechanisms that align with Indigenous rights and aspirations and improve data. Yet these individuals and organizations do not always know the appropriate processes.

For example, there is urgency on the topics of climate, food, and health, as well as many other opportunities. In response to this urgency, *International ID-Sov IG* chair Rainie and members Strawhacker and Yarmey, recently collaborated with Indigenous nations, communities and organizations in the Arctic and US Southwest to submit a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network proposal. Committed to the creation of such a network, proposal partners have already identified other funding opportunities should they not receive the NSF funds. The *International ID-Sov IG* will support this and other efforts to bring together those living in Indigenous communities, researchers, and others to meeting today’s challenges.

***Objectives*** *(A specific set of focus areas for discussion, including use cases that pointed to the need for the IG in the first place. Articulate how this group is different from other current activities inside or outside of RDA.):*

Neither an IG nor a WG exists within or external to RDA that focuses on international collaborations on ID-Sov. The *International ID-Sov IG* objectives include:

1. ***Connecting RDA Working Groups/Interest Groups with respect to ID-Sov***. During the first year we will build an awareness of the *International ID-Sov IG* with RDA IG/WGs and members in order to identify areas of mutual interest; disseminate information on ID-Sov and related data governance concepts; and establish WG1 to create RDA recommendations for principles of and best practices in ID-Sov.
2. ***Communicating and coordinating the efforts of the national-level ID-Sov networks.*** During the first year we will establish regular communication among existing ID-sov networks; support emerging ID-Sov networks with network mentoring and content such as books, papers, presentations; and communicate *International ID-Sov IG* and national-level ID-Sov network strategies, RDA recommendations, and other statements to international organizations such as the International Open Data Charter, the United Nations, and research specific entities such as the NSF, National Institutes of Health, and other relevant groups.
3. ***Serving as a platform that leads to the formation of one or more Working Groups***. During the first year, at related international and national-level ID-Sov network events and RDA plenaries, launch WG1 for RDA recommendations for principles of and best practices in ID-Sov; prioritize 1-3 new WG topics; develop one-page descriptions; identify funding sources; present WG update at spring 2018 plenary. The WG1 topic aligns with and parallels similar projects being undertaken by each of th the three existing national-level networks.

Much of the effort toward objectives 1 and 2 requires coordination of efforts intended to educate and show the relevance of ID-Sov concepts. The objectives require both reaching into RDA while simultaneously reaching out to the ID-Sov and research communities. The Chairs bring to the *International ID-Sov IG* dedication and experience in growing networks and achieving voice domestically.

***Participation*** *(Address which communities will be involved, what skills or knowledge should they have, and how will you engage these communities. Also address how this group proposes to coordinate its activity with relevant related groups.):*

 The *International ID-Sov IG* will link research, policy, and government together to provide a highly visible international platform for ID-Sov. The *International ID-Sov IG* will leverage and grow connections both internal and external to RDA. The *International ID-Sov IG* will integrate existing ID-sov networks with RDA IG and WGs, researchers and data users to create new opportunities for advancing ID-Sov, research, and outreach. Note that IG members need not be Indigenous, so long as they are interested in furthering the aims of ID-Sov, data governance toward ID-Sov, and data-driven research.​

Internal to RDA

The *International ID-Sov IG* will establish relationships with relevant RDA groups, such as the Digital Practices in History and Ethnography IG, Ethics and Social Aspects of Data IG, RDA/NISO Privacy Implications of Research Data Sets IG, Data Security and Trust WG, as well as other groups identified during the establishment and growth of the *International ID-Sov IG*. Initial reach out and connections will occur via two mechanisms: 1) online reach out and contact by *International ID-Sov IG* chairs with IG/WG chairs and 2) in person contact at the RDA Plenary as an opportunity to establish relationships with other IG/WG. We expect that the processes of collaboration will be defined by the collaborating individuals and groups and may include joint panels at the RDA Plenary and research and policy initiatives.

External to RDA - Leveraging existing networks.

Existing ID-Sov networks. Three of the four *International ID-Sov IG* chairs (Rainie, Kukutai, Walter) co-founded ID-Sov networks. As such, they will be the primary links between the *International ID-Sov IG* and the national-level networks in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. Through these networks, the chairs have developed strong relationships with Indigenous stakeholders including tribes, Non Governmental Organisations, Indigenous policy institutes, and researchers. The networks also have a sphere of influence that impact those beyond their Indigenous stakeholders and partners. In Aoteroa/New Zealand, for example, Te Mana Raraunga has been invited to engage with a number of key central Government agencies (e.g, Statistics New Zealand; Treasury; Ministry of Māori Development), and research networks (e.g., National Science Challenges). While Rainie, Kukutai, and Walter will remain the primary liaisons between the *International ID-Sov IG* and the national-level networks, other national-level network members will engage with the IG and WGs based on specific expertise and interest. For example, Maui Hudson and Kukutai from the Te Mana Raraunga - Maori Data Sovereignty Network participated in a US Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network (USIDSN) workshop in May 2017. The workshop focused on principles of ID-Sov in the US, shared experiences and insights from Te Mana Raraunga, and allowed the USIDSN and Te Mana Raraunga to strategize broadly for international impact. The Chairs will continue to bring other ID-Sov colleagues to the *International ID-Sov IG* for collaboration, outreach, and research in the international sphere.

Emerging ID-Sov and other Indigenous data networks. Chair Axelsson leads from Sweden, where an ID-Sov network has begun to emerge as a result of domestic as well as international research in the areas of health and demography. Axelsson is committed to engaging with the *International ID-Sov IG* as a chair toward creating an international community to support domestic endeavors. All four chairs have existing relationships with an emerging ID-Sov network in Hawaii. Additionally, relationships include formal entities such entities as the First Nations Information Governance Centre (co-authorship and other projects) and the British Columbia First Nations Data Governance Initiative in Canada (presentation, research, and outreach collaborations). While these Canadian groups do not specifically focus on ID-Sov, their principles and practices overlap with existing ID-Sov networks.

External to RDA - Forming new relationships.

We also seek to attract new stakeholders beyond our current networks, including research, policy, and government. Currently, core ID-Sov expertise and experience reside in the CANZUS (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United State) countries and Sweden due to existing relationships between Indigenous peoples and the governments in those countries. The Chairs are committed to including stakeholders from elsewhere, including Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and the Arctic. However, we note that inclusion of Indigenous peoples and stakeholders from these countries must come about in a noncoercive, responsible, and ethical manner so as not to re-inflict and perpetuate colonialism. In addition, without resourcing to establish relationships in these new regions, the *International ID-Sov IG* outreach can only occur via existing relationships. As such the global reach of the *International ID-Sov IG* will build organically and will be based on the value that the IG can add to those communities.

The national-level networks have developed their own processes for outreach, engagement, and recruitment of members. We expect to leverage these connections through our involvement in the IG to gain membership. This is typically how Indigenous peoples network. In addition, the national-level networks partner and collaborate with tribes to ensure that our activities are aligned with their strategic interests and goal. However, it would be inappropriate to see tribes as membership recruitment due to their unique status as sovereign nations.

Initial relationships have begun as a result of chairs and other members’ participation in international data and Indigenous conferences such as the International Open Data Conference in 2015 and 2016, as well as the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association annual meeting. The Chairs envision leveraging these initial contacts to grow the *International ID-Sov IG* through respectful outreach. Finally, via the NSF proposal mentioned above and other ongoing projects, Chair Rainie has emerging research and network connection in the Arctic.

***Outcomes*** *(Discuss what the IG intends to accomplish. Include examples of WG topics or supporting IG-level outputs that might lead to WGs later on.):*

The *International ID-Sov IG* envisions outcomes based on the objectives:

1. ***Communication and coordination across different RDA*** ***Working Groups/Interest Groups***.
   1. Attend RDA plenaries, host IG/WG meetings, provide panels and presentations to educate and identify emerging topics related to ID-Sov.
   2. Reach out to related IG/WGs and members and establish collaborative relationships where appropriate.
2. ***Communication and coordination of the national-level ID-Sov networks***.
   1. Foster synergies among three existing national-level networks to identify international ID-Sov research, education, and advocacy priorities.
   2. Support emerging ID-Sov networks via sharing of ideas and mechanisms for networking, strategies for engaging, research findings, etc.
   3. Bring new groups/members to RDA from national-level ID-Sov networks, emerging networks, and elsewhere.
   4. Share the IG/WGs activities with national-level networks, emerging networks, and others.
3. ***Working Groups***.
   1. Establish WG1 to generate RDA recommendations for principles of and best practices in ID-Sov.
   2. Identify 1-3 other potential WGs, write one page descriptions, and seek funding.

***Mechanism*** *(Describe how often your group will meet and how will you maintain momentum between Plenaries.):*

The *International ID-Sov IG* will use the following mechanisms for communication and collaboration.

* Monthly virtual meetings via video conference, shared documents, etc.
* Informal and frequent email contact among chairs and workgroups, informal and formal contact/collaborations with other IG/WG.
* Monthly listserv messages to IG members from the chairs about IG updates, WG efforts, etc.; update RDA IG web site; archive and share IG/WG notes on the RDA web site.
* Biannual RDA Plenaries - host IG and WG meetings, panel presentations and workshops, report on WG activities.
* Listserv and Facebook group where members may post about Indigenous data sovereignty and data governance resources, current events, and conferences.

***Timeline*** *(Describe draft milestones and goals for the first 12 months):*

The *International ID-Sov IG* will commence via virtual chair meetings. In addition, varying combinations of IG co-chairs and members had collaborative events1 and panels2 planned in March, April, and May 2017, and Kukutai, Rainie, Hudson, and Rodriguez-Lonebear will present and strategize in June 2017 at the US National Congress of American Indians Mid-year meeting. These events will launch the IG planning and strategize to launch the first WG.

Monthly. Over the next year the Chairs will convene virtually via video conference, email, and Google Docs (to prepare materials simultaneously). Meeting dialogue will include RDA plenary and WG updates and planning, listserv message content and drafting, and web updates. Chairs will parse out the work and report in on ID-Sov network activities, WGs, and plenary plans.

Bi-annual Plenaries. At least one and up to four Chairs, depending on schedules and funding available from RDA, will attend each plenary and participate, as the agenda allows, in panels and sessions. An IG meeting will occur at each plenary, including a launch meeting at the fall 2017 plenary in Montreal. In addition, WG updates will be provided at the plenaries. The Spring 2018 plenary will see the first WG update.

June 2017.

* Strategize for IG launch.
  + Propose Plenary panel, pre-session, and IG/WG kick off meeting.
  + Establish listserv and web update workflows.
  + Identify content for first listserv message.
  + Recruit new RDA members to RDA and the IG.
  + Define and confirm priorities for WGs.
  + Create timeline and workplan for WG1: RDA Recommendations on ID-Sov.

July/August 2017.

* Send first listserv message.
* Write one-page description for WG1.
* Create one-page descriptions for each proposed WG.
* Contact other IG/WG and introduce the *International ID-Sov IG.* Initial groups to contact include Digital Practices in History and Ethnography IG, Ethics and Social Aspects of Data IG, RDA/NISO Privacy Implications of Research Data Sets IG, Data Security and Trust WG, as well as other groups identified by RDA leaders and members. Chairs will contact the listed IG/WGs via email, and follow up via email, videoconference, and/or phone as indicated.

September 2017.

* Collaborate, present, and strategize at Te Mana Raraunga-hosted meeting at tribal college in Hamilton, Aotearoa/New Zealand. (Axelsson, Kukutai, Rainie, Walter, as well as a handful of IG members)
  + Introduce IG. Recruit RDA/IG members. Present WG1 and other initial WG topics. Receive feedback on interest in participating in WG and priorities for WG. Identify potential funding.
* Attend Plenary, Montreal. (Rainie; tentatively Kukutai, Axelsson, Walter (pending RDA funding), as well as IG members)
  + Co-host pre-Plenary event focused on the IG and potential WG projects.
    - Introduce IG. Recruit RDA/IG members. Present initial WG topics. Receive feedback on interest in participating in WG and priorities for WG. Identify potential funding.
  + Host panel. Application pending.
    - Preliminary ideas include introduction of ID-Sov and related data governance topics; First Nation initiatives in Canada; global initiatives to influence international policy.
  + Host IG meeting.

October 2017 – April 2018.

* Develop WG1 membership. Enact workplan.
* Develop other WG membership, work and funding plans. Enact.

May 2018.

* Attend Plenary. (Tentatively Rainie, Kukutai, Axelsson, Walter (pending RDA funding), as well as IG members)
  + Present WG1: RDA Recommendations. Present other WG progress as applicable.
  + Host panel on ID-Sov, potentially in collaboration with other RDA IG./WGs. Topics pending.
  + Host IG meeting.

***Potential Group Members*** *(Include proposed chairs/initial leadership and all members who have expressed interest):*

The *International ID-Sov IG* co-chairs include representation from three continents (Europe, North America, Oceana), four countries (Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, United States) and four disciplines (demography, history, public health, sociology).

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| FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | EMAIL | TITLE |
| Co-chairs | | | |
| Stephanie Carroll | Rainie | scrainie@email.arizona.edu | Assistant Professor, Public Health |
| Tahu | Kukutai | tahu.kukutai@waikato.ac.nz | Professor, Demography |
| Maggie | Walter | Margaret.Walter@utas.edu.au | Professor, Sociology |
| Per | Axelsson | per.axelsson@umu.se | Associate Professor, History |
| Members | | | |
| Maui | Hudson | maui.hudson@waikato.ac.nz | Associate Professor, Māori and Indigenous Studies |
| Andrew | Martinez | andrew.martinez@email.arizona.edu | Research Specialist, Native Nations Institute, business administration |
| Andrew | Sporle |  |  |
| Christina | Wasson |  |  |
| Colleen | Strawhacker |  |  |
| Leonard | Smith |  |  |
| Lynn | Yarmey |  |  |
| Paul | Uhlir |  |  |
| Ruth | Duerr |  |  |
| John | Taylor | tayljo53@gmail.com | Emeritus Professor |