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NOVEMBER 6
TO DECEMBER 4
VIRTUALLY
EVERY FRIDAY

Big Data Challenge

The BigSurv20 Big Data Challenge (BDC), sponsored by Statistics Netherlands, is on! The BDC will run between November 6th and December 4th. At the BigSurv20 opening event (on November 6th), we will pitch the four challenges. The challenge owners will coach the teams during the whole conference. And at the closing event (on December 4th), the winning solutions will be presented.

The four challenges are:

- Household consumption
- Travel motive
- Labor force skills & job vacancies
- Consequences of COVID-19 for students' field of study choice

Participants can register for the challenge through October 23. To learn more about the BDC and to register, visit the [BDC webpage](#).

BigSurv20 – Virtually Every Friday

BigSurv20 will take place online this year. Attendance is free. That's right, we said it's free! Registration is open, so sign up now.

As you have likely seen in other announcements, BigSurv20 will take place online this year! The conference will occur on Fridays during the month of November and the first week of December – The dates are November 6, 13, 20, 27 and December 4. Call the neighbors and wake the kids – this is an extravaganza you will not want to miss!

Attendance at all BigSurv20 conference events is **free of charge**, however you will need to register to access the virtual conference. To register, go to the [BigSurv20 webpage](#) and click on login/register

[Login/Register for the BigSurv20 Conference](#)

After you click on login/register, you will be asked to create an account. Once you've created your account, you are automatically registered. It's that easy!

Now you may be thinking to yourself, *"I understand why the conference is going to be online. But I wonder if it will be good."* Let's erase that doubt right now. The BigSurv20 program is shaping up to be FANTASTIC. Here are some examples of the wonderfulness:

- There will be both live and prerecorded sessions.
- We have created slack channels for each session to allow attendees to engage with each other and the presenters.
- We'll have a BigSurv20 poster competition including a "People's Choice Poster Award" for your favorite BigSurv20 poster.

It's going to be fun, so you should definitely plan to join us. Oh, did I mention that it's free? To learn more about what we have in store for you, check out the "BigSurv20 Program at a Glance" article.



Sneak Peek

Announcing Details of the BigSurv20 Opening Event

On Friday, November 6th, the BigSurv20 Scientific Committee will excitedly welcome attendees to the first of five “BigSurv20 Fridays.” The first Friday is our opening event and will include opening remarks, the BigSurv20 keynote presentation, and six parallel sessions.

The BigSurv20 keynote speaker is Dr. Albert Ali Salah. Dr. Salah is a professor of Social and Affective Computing at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Dr. Salah’s research comprises technologies that enable systems to analyze and use the rich social and affective signals emitted by humans and other intelligent systems. This involves the perception, representation, and modeling of social and affective signals in their proper context. In his BigSurv20 keynote, he will talk about how signals that humans emit can be captured with the help of modern IT systems, and how these signals can be processed and analyzed to better understand humans in their social context.

After the keynote, we will have parallel sessions on the following topics:

- Big Data Challenge Kickoff
- [Coding open-ended responses using machine learning](#)
- [Improving survey questions using machine learning and AI](#)
- [Properties of organic data and their integration with traditional surveys](#)
- [I’m sensing there’s an APP for that](#)
- [Privacy in the era of big data](#)

BigSurv20 Program at a Glance

Are you ready to be wowed five Fridays in a row beginning in November? If so, please read on my friend!

Thanks to many amazing researchers and practitioners willing to share their work with all of us, we have five tremendous “BigSurv20 Fridays” lined up for you. This article provides a general overview of what will occur during the five Fridays in November and early December. The information included here provides a high-level look at each Friday of BigSurv20 and the sessions that will be presented. If you’re interested in learning more about any of the BigSurv20 Fridays, please review the full program available on the BigSurv20 [online program](#). The BigSurv20 conference will have the following format:

- BigSurv20 will **kickoff with a virtual live event** on **Friday, November 6th**. Expect an exciting [keynote address](#) by Dr. Albert Ali Salah (see the article to your left for details about Dr. Salah and his keynote topic). The keynote will be followed by [six parallel sessions](#) (also discussed in the article to your left. It’s a good article; I highly recommend it.)
- On **Fridays, November 13, 20, and 27**, we will present parallel sessions focusing on special topics that are at the intersection of big data and survey science. On each of these three Fridays, there will be two sets of parallel sessions.
- On **Friday** (do you notice the “Friday” theme here?), **December 4th**, we will close the conference with another **virtual live closing event** that includes a [plenary session](#) on the topic of data and privacy, and a BigSurv20 Wrap-Up Show hosted by uber-discussant, Dr. Craig A. Hill. The [BigSurv20 Wrap-Up Show](#) will be a fast-paced event that will provide an opportunity to reminisce about the highlights of the conference and the not-to-be-soon forgotten moments.

All BigSurv20 Fridays will begin at 10am U.S. Eastern Time (or for those in Central Europe, 4pm Central European Time) and will last approximately three hours. For the Fridays with parallel sessions, each parallel session will last approximately 90 minutes. In the coming weeks, we plan to share more information about the program and ways to interact throughout the conference. Stay tuned!

BigSurv20 Frequently Asked Question

Q: Why is BigSurv20 using a combination of live and prerecorded sessions?

A: Since BigSurv20 is an international conference, there is a tremendous time difference among some of our eastern-most and western-most participants. As a result, the program includes live sessions on November 6th and December 4th, and prerecorded sessions with live Q&A on November 13, 20, and 27. The hope is that this combination provides flexibility to all our participants in terms of how they view the conference.