

Expanding Our Reach: A Recap of KDD 2023



The DSA team ready to welcome attendees

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DSA's efforts to promote Responsible Data Science (RDS) practices are fueled by passionate data scientists and enthusiasts, so what better way to expand our reach than by attending the Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD) Conference in Long Beach?

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The 29th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining took place August 6-10, seeing over 2,000 attendees worldwide.

Our team traveled north to the premier international forum for data mining researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government. With attendees from San Francisco, New York, the United Kingdom, Japan, Spain, and everywhere in between, KDD was the perfect opportunity for us to connect with others and spread the word about DSA's mission.

Each day began with an inspiring keynote speaker. We heard from data science luminaries Ed Chi, a Distinguished Scientist at Google, and Eric Horvitz, Chief Scientific Officer from Microsoft.

Ed shared his insights on various topics, such as the timeline of technological advancements, how to improve Large Language Models (LLMs) to better serve humans and future challenges for LLMs. He also discussed Google's AI principles, touching on the social benefits of AI and what it means to be built and tested for safety. Meanwhile, Eric spoke about how humans and AI can work together in beneficial ways, like diagnosing cancer and other diseases. With our mission to create a world where data helps without harm, DSA felt right at home with these conversations.

We were one of seven exhibitors alongside sponsors like Amazon Science, Apple, Deloitte, and ByteDance. Our booth showcased the RDS Framework, Pledge, and Video Game—all of which led to memorable discussions about the importance of responsibility in the data science field and beyond.



KDD attendees stop by DSA's booth to learn more about our nonprofit

At our booth, attendees had the chance to try out the alpha version of our video game, and some provided invaluable feedback on how it can be used to educate data scientists and other professionals about RDS. We also had insightful conversations about new ways our Framework can evolve, and we gained a lot of support for our Responsible Data Science Pledge. We received multiple applications for our Working Group and internships, connecting us with many new colleagues worldwide .

During the conference, DSA also launched ticket sales for our "Data Science in Sports" Fundraiser on November 9. This crossover of subjects sparked discussions with KDD attendees about how data science is used in many industries and how it's essential to make it accessible to a broader audience. Excitement about the many ways data science can be applied continued to grow, and enthusiasm for DSA's upcoming events spread as well.

It's no wonder KDD came to stand at the epicenter of advancements in data science with its diverse assembly of researchers, practitioners, and thought leaders. Exhibiting at KDD was an incredible opportunity and a responsibility for DSA to inform and equip the community with the tools for fostering a responsible data science ecosystem. It gave us a dynamic platform to showcase our commitment, initiatives, and results in ensuring ethics, transparency, and inclusivity in data science. By engaging with the global community at KDD, DSA generated impactful conversations, forged essential collaborations, and influenced the trajectory of data science toward an innovative, responsible, and equitable future for us all.