

# Grand Challenges



University of  
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## Wilczek Introduction

### **Overview**

Heather Soyka

### **Organizational, Corporate and Democratic Accountability and Transparency**

Michael Wartenbe

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Joanne Evans and Ricky Punzalan

### **Human Rights & Social Justice**

Marika Cifor and Mario Ramirez

### **Peace & Security**

Heather Soyka

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## Definitions

### *Societal Grand Challenges*

Complex, multifaceted and widely recognized fundamental problems with broad applicability and interdependencies that require extraordinary breakthroughs and the engagement of multiple areas of expertise to address

### *Recordkeeping*

A fundamental infrastructural component of administrative, economic, scientific, technical, clinical, educational, governance, community and personal systems and evidentiary functions.

## Soyka Overview

### Contributors

*Initial background research prepared by*

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### Contributors

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## Soyka Overview

### Project Aims

- Detailed examination of four selected grand challenge areas
  - Organizational transparency and accountability
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Human rights and social justice
  - Peace and security
- Each area includes definitional work, sample use cases, suggested research questions, key stakeholders, and recent related research in recordkeeping and archival studies

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### Report Goals

1. To identify ways in which recordkeeping is an integral consideration in grand challenges that have been identified by other communities;
2. To suggest some specific aspects of grand challenges that might be addressed through research in recordkeeping and archival studies;
3. To draw attention to complex, interdependent and persistent problems that might be characterized as grand challenges facing the field of recordkeeping and archival studies itself; and
4. To identify necessary infrastructure that needs to be developed within the field to support such research.

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### Archival Grand Challenges

1. The Archival Multiverse
2. Archival responsibility and ethics
3. The complex, networked archive
4. Memory and evidence frameworks and infrastructures
5. Archival and evidence literacy
6. Data as evidence
7. The archives as data
8. Archival design, tools and technologies
9. Representation, access and use
10. Archival economics and a twenty-first century business model for archives

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## Soyka Overview

### **AERI Feedback**

Tuesday 12:30 – 1:15pm  
iSchool 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### **Organizational, Corporate and Democratic Accountability and Transparency**

Sue McKemmish, Michael Wartenbe, Stacy Wood

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## Wartenbe Transparency & Accountability

### Accountability and Transparency in Contemporary Discourse

***Global Reporting Initiative*** (established 1997)  
<https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/reporting-framework-overview/Pages/default.aspx>

***Transparency International*** (established 1993)  
<http://www.transparency.org>

***Sunlight Foundation*** (established 2006)  
Increasing transparency and accountability of US Congress.

<http://www.sunlightfoundation.com>

***ISO 26000: 2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility***

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## Wartenbe Transparency & Accountability

### For our purposes...

***Organizational accountability (government/ corporate) involves***

accounting for actions, decisions and their impact to stakeholders/people impacted

***Transparency involves***

openness about decisions and activities affecting society and the environment access to or disclosure of information concerning the impact of decisions and activities on the environment, human rights, public health, public safety and society in general.

***Transparency as a human right***

pro-active disclosure of information as a regulatory instrument supporting good governance and corporate social responsibility.

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### **Case 1** WikiLeaks

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### **Case 2**

## Australian Royal Commission on the Sexual Abuse of Children in Institutional Care

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### **Case 3** Deepwater Horizon

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### **Possible Research Axes**

1. Governance
2. Infrastructure
3. Archival

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## Wartenbe Transparency & Accountability

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## Governance

### *Compliance*

- External vs. Internal Compliance
- Professional Communities
- Compliance communities that span organizational and national boundaries

### *Good Governance*

- Open Government
- E-Government
- Recordkeeping as supportive of governance structures
- Corruption

## Wartenbe Transparency & Accountability

### Governance

#### *Standards*

- Recordkeeping Standards
- Global Standards
- Integration of Recordkeeping Standards with other transparency and accountability standards
- Metadata
- Whistleblower protection

#### *Ethics*

- Business ethics
- Professional ethics codes
- Reflexivity
- Democratic accountability
- Corporate social responsibility

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## Wartenbe Transparency & Accountability

### Governance

#### *Regulations*

- Sarbanes-Oxley, etc.

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### Infrastructure

#### *Technical*

- System Design
- Metadata
- Cloud Environments

#### *Organizational*

- Management
- Stakeholder mapping, typologies, structural relationships
- Openness

#### *Recordkeeping*

- Personal records
- Informal Records
- Outsourced Recordkeeping

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### Archival

#### *Concepts*

- Trust
- Evidences
- Integrity
- Context

#### *Practices*

- Evidence vs. Migration – Good recordkeeping to support accountability in advance, rather than correct after the fact.
- Personal Recordkeeping
- Archival Transparency

## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### Potential Research Questions

- What role should archives play in accountability regimes?
- What is the archival agency within the external/ internal compliance cultures?
- How might we empower professionals to activate archival agency across compliance cultures? What tools, practices and structures are necessary?
- What is the role of evidence in transparency?
- How do archival concerns differ from or converge with transparency standards?

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### Potential Research Questions

- Who are the stakeholders involved in the production of accountability and transparency? What barriers exist within this framework? What are the system requirements that would accommodate the interests of the diverse range of stakeholders in producing accountability?
- How can compliance cultures account for the expansion of personal, informal, outsourced and cloud-based recordkeeping and storage? How can compliance communities ensure the integrity, accessibility and long-term preservation of records in such environments?
- What are the jurisdictional limits of records insofar as they concern compliance communities?

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### Potential Research Questions

- How can compliance communities promote active disclosure/publicity of records rather than passive disclosure? I.e. How can the public be most informed of records with minimal previous expertise?
- What is evidence literacy? How do different entities or organizations understand it? How can it be promoted to and across compliance communities?
- What would an archival accountability and compliance structure look like? What are its unique features?

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### Overarching Questions

- What are the limits to disclosure and transparency with regard to the legal, ethical, risk management and preservation concerns specific to archives?
- What structures mediate the relations between archives, people and evidentiary objects? What codes of ethics, laws, and standards govern them? How do they relate to other professional codes of ethics etc.
- What benefits and dangers are attendant to the establishment of a formal “archival oath?”

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## Wartenbe **Transparency & Accountability**

### **Addendum on Limits and Additional Research Avenues**

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### Archival and Recordkeeping Infrastructure

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### Some Examples

- Pribilof Islands (Alaska) Project at NOAA
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Digital Curation at the U.S. National Agricultural Library
- Corporate sustainability reporting

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### Strategic Issues

- How do we connect these seemingly disconnected projects (and many others) in order to reflect our contributions to sustainability issues?
- How do we break into the already established multidisciplinary projects in the area of sustainability? (Not only as recordkeepers)

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### Human Rights Archives & Human Rights

How do we contend with the practical challenges and possibilities of archival work with respect to meeting the global societal challenge of protecting human rights? By advocating for accountability and transparency retroactively with respect to human rights violations and to build those values into existing systems of documentation.

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### Human Rights Archives & Human Rights

#### *Research Questions*

- What role do archivists play in documenting human rights abuse during and after conflict?
- How can archival infrastructures be built to best support needs of survivors of human rights abuse, victims' families, and their communities?

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### Social Justice

How should the archival field critically address and document diverse sets of social and cultural concerns, including race, class, gender and sexuality? Archives are clearly implicated in key aspects of social justice activism, such as representation, identity, accountability, collective memory, and community empowerment.

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### Social Justice

#### *Research Questions*

- What role do politics play in determining how archives shape collective memory? What is the relationship between politics, power, and the allocation of resources in regard to how collective memory is shaped, configured and transformed?
- What are the practical and theoretical implications of centering social justice perspectives within archival studies and archives?
- What are our ethical imperatives within a social justice framework for access?

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### Case Studies

- Khmer Rouge records in Cambodia
- Archives of the National Police in Guatemala
- Tuskegee Syphilis Study records in the United States
- Archival systems to serve and reflect concerns and cultures of Indigenous Australians

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## Soyka **Peace & Security**

### Questions

How can we relate archival and recordkeeping expertise to challenges in peace & security?

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## Soyka Peace & Security

### Questions

#### *Conceptual*

- What are the responsibilities to people who live in the battlespace?
- Developing metrics for assessing violence and its impacts. Could we make archives easier to analyze to get to this objective?
- How might the tools that we are building or employing fuel conflict?

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## Soyka Peace & Security

### Questions

#### *Applied*

- Central database for survey data on conflict and post-conflict situations?
- Data integration across different disciplines and organizations?
- How and where to keep records safe in conflicts of different kinds and duration?

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## Soyka Peace & Security

### Connection with Grand Archival Challenges

What questions/issues arise from working with peace & security that could also potentially challenge/change archival work?

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- Naming is labeling. Are there meaningful differences between how we describe/ascribe roles and conditions to people?
- Recordkeeping systems as culturally embedded/informed by cultural assumptions. How to translate?

### Archival Questions Emerging from Peace & Security Grand Challenges

- Incommensurability as an archival grand challenge—holding a multiverse of values, meanings, perspectives, and motivations
- How to move beyond individual archives/ records systems supporting only one point of view? Ability to see landscape of archives, records, records discourse?

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## Soyka **Peace & Security**

### **Case Study**

Women Economic Development and Productivity  
Research Organization (WeDpro)

Sudan

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## Questions & Answers

### **Transparency & Accountability**

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