MAT S20-01 **Data Rights and Data Wrongs: The Impact of Big Data**

Instructor: George Duncan

Wednesday: Mar 25; Apr 1, 8 10AM–Noon 3 sessions: $60

Data are no longer restricted to specialists—scientists, economists, policy analysts. Data, especially Big Data measured in terabytes of terabytes, has become ubiquitous, affecting, even shaping, our personal, professional, and political lives. This course will examine the ethics of Big Data and the search for truth in a media-saturated age. How do we ensure beneficial uses—Data Rights, while avoiding harmful uses—Data Wrongs? Data Rights provide the foundation for evidence-based decision making and encompass issues of data access, open data, and privacy and confidentiality. Data Wrongs subvert ethical decision-making and encompass data practices that are inadequate, faux, biased, and ignore inherent uncertainty. Be not daunted; the course requires no background in mathematics or statistics.

George Duncan is both a mathematician and an artist. He is Emeritus Professor of Statistics and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. His artwork has been shown on Canyon Road and appears in both university and private collections. He earned BS and MS degrees at the University of Chicago and a PhD at the University of Minnesota. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Royal Statistical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Museums of New Mexico Foundation. His last class at RENESAN was “The Birth of Mathematics” in Spring 2019.