

**Everyone is Invited!**

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**

**4:00 pm**

**306 Snow Hall**

## **Data Science as a Liberal Art**

**Ann E. Cudd**

Professor of Philosophy and  
Dean of Arts and Sciences, Boston University

**Abstract:** The term “data science” is everywhere, and to some it sounds like it is the triumph of technical over liberal education. Its omnipresence sends a message about the ascendancy of innovation, technology, engineering, business analytics, and, it is tempting to conclude, the demise of liberal arts. I propose that we think about computational thinking and data science as integral and essential to the liberal arts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this talk I will discuss how studying data science – its promise and peril – is a critical element of contemporary liberal education.



Ann Cudd served on the faculty at the University of Kansas for 27 years before becoming Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Boston University in August 2015. As a philosopher, her work has focused on oppression, capitalism and the nature of freedom under conditions of social inequality, especially for women. An award-winning teacher and researcher, she was named University Distinguished Professor in 2012, and led the transition to the KU Core as the first Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate

Studies at KU. In her work as an administrator she is committed to making the academy an accessible and inclusive community. She earned a BA in Mathematics and Philosophy at Swarthmore College, and an MA in Economics and PhD in Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh.

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**Pizza will be served!**