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Navigating Openness: Exploring Perspectives from Social Sciences and Humanities

PUBMET2026, 9–11 September 2026, Zadar

Thursday 8 September, Session 4: Perspectives on Openness

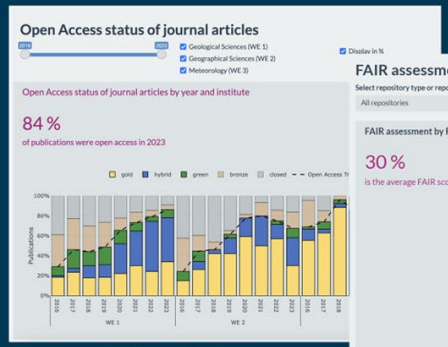
Dr. Maike Neufend and Maaike Duine

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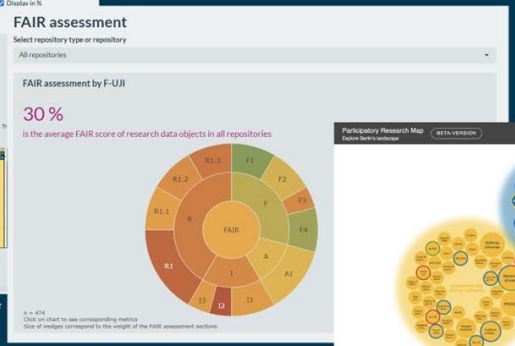
BUA: Open Science Magnifiers project (2024-2026)

Goal: To monitor and promote Open Science practices across different research fields and communities

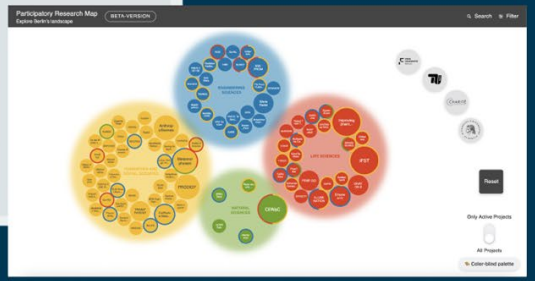
Magnifiers' dashboards & tools



Open Science Dashboard for the Department of Earth Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin
https://quest-open-earthsciences.charite.de/



Data Reusability (FAIR data)
https://quest-dashboard.charite.de/#tabFAIR



Participatory Research Map: Explore Berlin's landscape
https://quest-participatory-research-map.charite.de/

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution for Open Science Monitoring!

Project partners:

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

BIH Berlin Institute of Health at Charité

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Funded by: Berlin University Alliance

Open Science and Open Research

Or good qualitative methodology?

“When qualitative methods are done properly, you have to document everything in advance: who you are, what you're studying, what you expect, and exactly how you plan to proceed […]. Genuine qualitative research already embodies many Open Science practices; it just doesn't call them that – they're simply part of good qualitative methodology.”

Interview 02: March 02, 2026

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Open Science and Open Research

Or good qualitative methodology?

Narrative-Generating Question

„Perhaps you could begin by looking back over your professional biography and telling us how you came to your research field or fields, and at what point Open Science began to play a role for you.“



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Narratives for the Practice of Openness

From crisis to renewed commitment

Crisis during publishing one's own research at career defining stage of PhD:
"My PhD was finished — what next? At first I had to find my bearings again, but I was also struck by the realization that the result of years of work was reduced to a mere checkbox: it was published and then everything moved on. That made me question the whole idea of doing research, and I even considered leaving academia."

Crisis in research during career defining stage of PhD:
"That's what I expected. I made a mistake, they didn't share it with me and they didn't help. I wrote again – still no answer. That was a critical moment in my dissertation. I kind of lost two years, and that was really hard. Everyone who has done a dissertation knows how personal it is: you tie your identity to it. For me it was psychologically very difficult – I wasn't doing well – and it was a really tough experience. That was my first step, and probably my most important one."

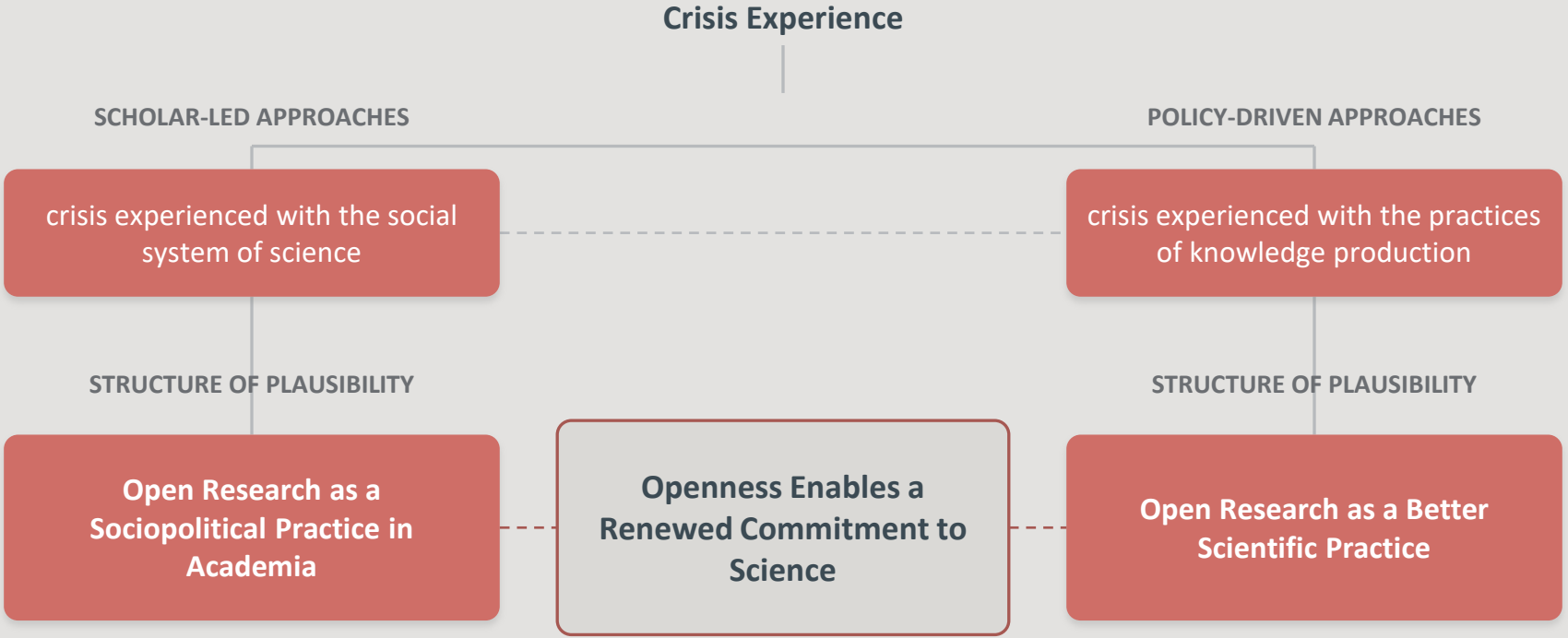
Open Research as a *socio-political practice* in science

Open Research as *good scientific practice*

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Narratives for the Practice of Openness

From crisis to renewed commitment



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Knoblauch, H. (2025). Empirical Theory of Science – A Research Program. Historical Social Research, 50(2), 32-52. https://doi.org/10.12759/hsr.50.2025.15

Qualitative Indicators

The Enactment of Openness

1. Process orientation instead of output orientation: *The relevant question is not simply whether a dataset was published, but at what stage of the research process sharing occurred, which actors were involved, and what negotiations shaped that process.*

Opening

"But then she said, yes, but unfortunately we can't make that Open Access, and it'll also be published with [Elsevier]. And then I said, I'll think about it again, but then I said, no, I'm not doing that, because it's not actually important to me. And I'm not going to put myself through the hassle of working with [Elsevier] for something that would just be nice to have. And if it's not even freely accessible on top of that, then definitely not."

Closing

"[...] if I want to submit to the very top journals, I won't post a preprint because I want to avoid any risk that reviewers might find it — and some reviewers are old-school and think that's just not done — and therefore assess my paper more harshly. You can't be sure everyone will appreciate it, and these decisions are so important that you'd rather not take the risk."

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Qualitative Indicators

Forms of Recognition

2. Motivations: Peer- and community-based recognition mechanisms: *Why researchers engage in open practices (out of conviction, informal recognition, institutional pressure, or habit) is a question that requires interview-based, observational, or open-ended methods of inquiry.*

Just Trying Things Out
"And I also quite enjoyed trying all of that out. So I'd say that it worked for me, and that people also perceived me from the outside, so to speak, as this person who does everything with openness — but there are no institutionalized forms of recognition [...]."

Ticking a Box
"People do it because funders basically expect it — it's a box for knowledge transfer you have to tick. So you sign up and go. Any recognition would have to come from the academic community, and be academic in nature, for it to actually benefit me."

Qualitative Indicators

Forms of Collaboration

3. Context sensitivity: *The meaning of "openness" emerges through lived experience and practice, often shaped by the aim of cohesion and collectivity. This raises the question of whether infrastructures and funding requirements actually incentivize open practices in ways that serve this aim.*

Daily interaction with colleagues

“And so when I think about making my research open, this has also shifted quite strongly toward, well, basically power structures within science. So that means, very concretely in my research […] there's the question of who should become a member of this research group. How can we, on the one hand, compose the research group, and then also, how can I, in turn, share the knowledge and experience I've gathered with my colleagues?”

Early interaction with strangers

"It could also be that I simply work on these things [data} in public, and if someone happens to come across them, that immediately leads to interaction. So there's definitely already some recognition for opening things up relatively early, which also has the advantage that you get feedback relatively early and perhaps even — and this has happened not infrequently — that interest is expressed right away in maybe working together on certain aspects."

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Motivations and Decision Criteria in Practice

Practices

Academic/Scholarly podcasts
Applying the CARE principles to data from marginalised communities
Authorship (Collective, Collaborative or Communal)
Co-production
Collaborative translation
Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
Digital enumerative bibliographies
Documenting and disseminating failure
Linked open data
Open documentation of creative methods

23 of 30 described AHSS Open Research Practices (MORPHSS project) identified in our interview study:

Open documentation of methods
Open longform scholarship
Open materials
Open peer review
Participatory Action Research
Pre-registering qualitative research
Preprints and working papers
Public scholarship
Reflexivity
Research-Practice Partnerships (RPPs) (form of co-production)
Sharing creative practice outputs
Sharing qualitative data
Virtual exhibitions

Adams, J., Barnes, M., Moore, S., Pinfield, S., & Soni, S. (2026). Openness in the arts, humanities and social sciences: Documenting open research practices beyond STEM (A MORPHSS Project Report) (S. 51). MORPHSS Project. https://doi.org/10.17613/h10rz-qk035

Kramer, Bianca; Bosman, Jeroen (2017). Open Science practices. figshare. Collection. https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.3685048.v1

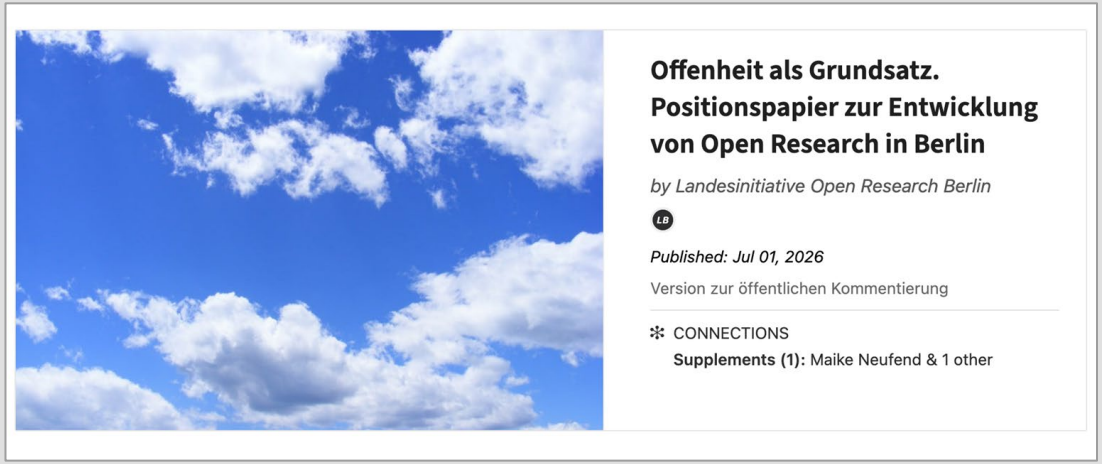
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Berlin state monitoring

open for comment!

8. Observing and Documenting Open Research

To enhance the visibility of open research, the network of actors, resources, and processes is observed as a diverse knowledge ecosystem.



Landesinitiative Open Research Berlin. 2026. 'Offenheit Als Grundsatz. Positionspapier Zur Entwicklung von Open Research in Berlin'. Open Research Office Berlin, July 1. https://doi.org/10.21428/986c5d43.0a4300d5.

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Thank you for your attention! Any questions?

Open Research Office Berlin
https://www.open-research-berlin.de/

Open Research Blog Berlin
https://blogs.fu-berlin.de/open-research-berlin/

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