

OSC-W Newsletter April 2025



Hello Open Science Community,

We're hard at work preparing the next OSC-W event on Open Hardware, which we hope to hold on **June 3rd**, so save a slot in your calendar between **12:30** and **13:30** and stay tuned for the full announcement! If you are involved in Open Hardware, either making or using, we would love to hear from you.

In this newsletter, we take a closer look at the evolving landscape of Open Science. We start with a look back at our last event, "How Not to Fool Yourself in Science", and some insights we gained from the discussions that took place. Next, we have some critical perspective from Ismael Ràfols, who challenges us to rethink how openness in research can genuinely serve equity and inclusion. Building on this, we highlight an upcoming event that invites the research community to actively shape the future of Open Access in the Netherlands, as well as an opportunity to share your work at the 2025 Open Science Festival. Lastly, we share an opportunity to celebrate impactful initiatives through the 2025 Leo Waaijers Open Science Award.

P.S. As always, this newsletter looks much better if you click the orange "Online version" link in the top right

Balancing Scientific Integrity and Progress: Reflections from the OSC-W Lunch Event

How can we, as researchers, uphold scientific integrity while navigating the pressures of academic performance and innovation? This question took centre stage at last month's OSC-W event, "How Not to Fool Yourself in Science".

The event prompted a thoughtful discussion on the practicalities of ensuring reproducibility and replicability in research. Speakers and audience members highlighted how replicability remains challenging—or even impractical—in some cases due to the nature of the studies themselves. How can research on the influence of climate on plant growth, for instance, be fully replicable in a changing climate?

The discussions also offered practical strategies to increase the number of replication studies, such as integrating replication studies into PhD output requirements.

Rather than proposing a one-size-fits-all solution, the event's conclusions encouraged a shift in mindset: toward doing what is meaningful, and context-appropriate whilst ensuring rigour. That might mean slowing our science down in places where it matters most and prioritising quality over speed and quantity.

Thank you to everyone who attended, especially Ana Coiciu, Socrates Schouten, and Jose Lozano Torres for their contributions as speakers, and Harm Veling for hosting and moderating the session.

Rethinking Open Science: Towards Care for Equity and Inclusion

In this article, Ismael Ràfols, UNESCO Chair in Diversity and Inclusion in Global Science at Leiden University, explores the growing pains of Open Science, highlighting how current models—especially pay-to-publish and tech-driven approaches—can unintentionally reinforce global research inequalities. While Open Science holds promise for wider access and

societal benefit, the author argues that real progress depends on rethinking openness through equity, inclusion, and context-driven knowledge sharing. It's a thought-provoking piece that challenges us to consider how our own research practices and institutional choices shape who science is really open for.

[Read the article](#)

Event: Shaping a New Open Access Strategy - May 8th

If the article above has left you wanting to help ensure a more equitable Open Science, then this event might be a perfect opportunity to contribute.

During this event organised by University Libraries & National Library - UKB and the Universities of the Netherlands - UNL, you will be challenged to envision a new strategy for Open Access in the Netherlands.

There will be a structured discussion amongst participants during the event, to inspire a broader dialogue within and between knowledge institutions, funders and service providers on the future of Open Access in the Netherlands.

Where: Domstad, Utrecht

When: **May 8th 2025**, from **10:30-18:00**

More information chantal.hukkelhoven@wur.nl

[Register Here](#)

Pre-announcement: call for contributions to the National Open Science Festival 2025

The Open Science Festival will take place this year on the **24th of October** in Groningen. Whether you're engaged in FAIR data, Citizen Science, Open Access, Open Education, Open Hardware, Open Research Software, or any other aspect of Open Science, this is an opportunity to

connect, get inspired and inspire others with your work.

You are invited to submit proposals for workshops, poster presentations, and stands at the information market. If you have ideas or know researchers or teachers who might be interested, spread the word.

Details about the submission process will be announced soon, so check opensciencefestival.nl for more details.

Nominate an Open Science initiative for the Leo Waaijers Open Science Award 2025

At the Open Science Festival the second Leo Waaijers Open Science Award will be presented. The Award is for an individual or group that has taken a bold, inspiring, innovative, mobilising or impactful initiative in the field of Open Science in recent years. You can nominate yourself or someone else using the link below.

Click [here](#) for more information

Nominate here

That's all for now

Thank you for reading this issue of the OSC-W newsletter.
I hope you found the articles interesting and good starting points for discussion.

I would love to hear your feedback on the OSC-W newsletter and your desires for the OSC-W as a whole. If you would like to share your (anonymous) opinion there is a form [here](#), or you can contact me directly at ben.excell@wur.nl.

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Your Open Science Community Manager

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