

OSC-W Newsletter November 2024



New Community Manager OSC-W/OSE



Ben Excell: Community Manager OSC-W/OSE

Hello Open Science Community,

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new author of this newsletter and your new Community Manager. I'm Ben Excell, and I am very happy to join you on the journey to make science in and around Wageningen more open, accessible and useable. In this and the upcoming newsletters, I look forward to sharing news, stories, events and updates on all things Open Science.

Alongside my role in the OSC-W, I'm also part of the WUR Open Science & Education (OSE) program, where my focus is on helping WUR understand and support the needs and goals of researchers engaging in open science practices.

I look forward to meeting you over the course of my time here at the

OSC/WUR and helping to grow interest and community around Open Science.

Dutch Government Cuts Open Science NL Budget

As I am sure many of you are aware, starting in 2025 the Open Science NL programme will have its budget halved. In a statement, Open Science NL shared that all projects that have already been awarded and calls that have been opened and published will be unaffected by the cuts. However, all future activities for 2025 are uncertain. More will be shared by Open Science NL once the government finalises its budget.

[Read more](#)

Course: Open Hardware in the lab: DIY using 3D printers, laser cutters and CNC

OSC-W's Vittorio Saggiomo is running a course on the practical methods behind Open Hardware together with the VLAG Graduate School.

The course will teach you how to use 3D printing, laser cutting, and CNC milling to aid your research. There will be a lecture about each of the three techniques, focusing on how the methods work, and pros and cons of each one of them. This will be followed by tutorials on how to use the required software for 3D design, making sketches, and slicing programs, and how to optimize a design for the relevant manufacturing method. You will get to design and produce a custom object for all three techniques to take you through the entire process.

[Read more](#)

A Copyright Problem and an Open Solution

More than 9,000 studies published in open-access journals may contain figures with incorrect copyright licensing due to the use of the commercial scientific illustration service BioRender. These open-access studies are

published under a CC-BY license, which allows anyone to reuse content freely with proper credit. However, BioRender's policy restricts the reuse of its images even when used in CC-BY publications, creating confusion over copyright. More information [here](#).

Those looking for scientific graphics that are able to be used without issue in open access publications might be interested in the new "NIH BioArt source" [repository](#).

WUR Open Science Story: Julia Höhler

In case you missed it; Julia Höhler, Assistant professor Agricultural Economics, Social Sciences group and OSC-W member was recently featured in the WUR Open Science Stories video series.

You can also view the video, and more in the series [here](#).



Are you interested in sharing your open science story or know of someone that might? You can send your suggestions [here](#).

2025 OSC-W Event: How Not to Fool Yourself in Science

In research, one of our biggest challenges isn't just mastering methods or interpreting data—it's maintaining objectivity in the face of our own biases. From confirmation bias to the temptation of HARKing (Hypothesizing After Results are Known), researchers are susceptible to subtle forces that can compromise the neutrality essential for credible findings.

HARKing, in particular, is a common bias-related pitfall. It occurs when researchers shape their hypotheses after viewing the data, which may unconsciously lead to results that feel compelling but lack scientific rigor. While it's tempting to adjust our hypotheses to "fit" the outcomes, this practice increases the risk of overfitting and reduces the reliability of findings. Not only does HARKing skew results, but it also undermines the integrity of scientific inquiry, blurring the line between true prediction and post-hoc rationalization.

To safeguard against bias—especially HARKing—one effective strategy is preregistering hypotheses before analysis begins. Preregistration promotes accountability, ensuring that research is driven by genuine inquiry rather than influenced by initial data patterns. Yet, while preregistration is a powerful tool, it's often easier in theory than in practice, particularly with exploratory questions where researchers don't know what to expect and need flexibility to follow emerging insights.

Our first event of 2025, titled "How Not to Fool Yourself in Science", will dive into practical strategies for staying neutral, producing high-quality research, and upholding the integrity of our field. Join us to discuss how we can foster trust, embrace transparency, and contribute genuine insights to our collective understanding of science.

More information coming soon.

Further Reading

Here are some papers released in the last couple of months relevant to Open Science:

First up, an interesting read and a critical look at how the traditions of the

scientific publishing system may be hindering our ability to produce high-quality science:

Five problems plaguing publishing in the life sciences—and one common cause.

Next, a reminder that even good intentions need careful execution:

Preregistration is not a panacea, but why? A rejoinder to Chen & Li's (2024) "infusing preregistration into tourism research"

And finally, can we meet the demands of scientific productivity while still conducting research as openly as possible?

Fixing science means an end to gaming the system.

Upcoming Events

12/11/24 - WUR Library essentials: open access publishing [\[Webinar\]](#)

14/11/24 - Protest against cuts to Dutch Science & Edu. budget [\[Event\]](#)

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.

Ben Excell

Your Open Science Community Manager

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