

Futures Dialogues

Open Science and the Futures of Research Assessment

Date and time: Wednesday 21 October 2026 (14:00-15:30 Paris time)

Languages: English and French

Format: Zoom meeting - Please [click here](#) to register

Taking as a starting point the principle that scientific knowledge should remain a public good, the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#)¹, adopted in 2021, launched an ambitious agenda with a stress on values: Open Science is not only about open access to scientific outputs and data, but it is essentially about ensuring that the benefits of science are shared across the world and that all communities can contribute to scientific development. While digital tools and infrastructure can greatly facilitate access to scientific knowledge, open science also includes broad stakeholders and society's engagement and dialogue with other knowledge systems².

How researchers are assessed shapes what they do and so shapes how far this agenda reaches everyday practice. Evaluation systems built on publication counts, citation metrics and journal prestige reward competitive and individualistic behavior, and give little credit for sharing knowledge and data, engaging with society or publishing in community-led venues. Reform of research assessment is therefore increasingly framed as a condition for open science rather than a parallel agenda, and this perspective is reflected in the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#)³ the [Leiden Manifesto](#)⁴ and the [Bogotá Manifesto](#)⁵.

The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science makes the link explicit. Under its area of action on fostering a culture of open science and aligning incentives, it asks that barriers to open science are removed, particularly those arising from research and career evaluation and award systems, and states that assessment rewarding good open science practices is “needed for operationalization of open science”.

In the last five years, a variety of initiatives have blossomed to reform research assessment across all regions of the world, such as the [Latin American Forum on Scientific Evaluation \(FOLEC-CLACSO\)](#), the [ISC Forum on Publishing and Research Assessment](#)⁶ or the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#)⁷, which proposes new ways and methods of evaluating scientific institutions and researchers and strongly supports open science.

¹ UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021). <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about>

² Chan, L., Okune, A., Hillyer, B., Albornoz, D., & Posada, A. (2020). Contextualizing Openness: Situating Open Science. University of Ottawa Press. <https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/books/contextualizing-openness-situating-open-science>

³ San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment. Resources Library: <https://sfdora.org/resource-library/>

⁴ Hicks, D., Wouters, P., Waltman, L., de Rijcke, S., & Rafols, I. (2015). Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics. *Nature*, 520(7548), 429–431. <https://doi.org/10.1038/520429a>

⁵ FOLEC-CLACSO (2025). The Bogotá Manifesto. <https://www.clacso.org/en/manifiesto-de-bogota-hacia-una-ciencia-abierta-democratica-y-socialmente-relevante-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

⁶ International Social Council. Forum on publishing and research assessment. <https://council.science/our-work/forum-science-publishing-assessment/>

⁷ Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment. <https://www.coara.org/>

This [Futures Dialogue](#) focuses on how research assessment reform can enable open science, and what it would take to move from commitment to practice.

Panel experts and members of UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN Networks, National Commissions, and other experts will address the following questions:

Q1. Which contributions to research go unrecognized in assessment today, and what place should they have in the future of research assessment and science policies?

Where new forms of assessment have been introduced, do they avoid the problems of the metrics they replace, or give rise to new concerns?

Q2. How do current assessment practices influence what researchers publish, and with what consequences for researchers in different science systems?

Where have assessment reform and publishing reform moved together or pulled apart, and what could that mean for their future?

Q3. Whose research, and what kinds of knowledge, do current assessment systems leave out?

How could extended peer review, participatory assessment and regional and national indicators value the social contributions of research across territories, languages and social groups, including outputs in local languages and journals?

Q4. Which reforms have changed practices, and which have stayed on paper? How would we know whether research assessment reforms are enabling open science?

In a recent survey, more than seven in ten responding Member States report initiatives to review research assessment, but fewer than five in ten report criteria that recognize open science practices⁸. What explains this gap, and what could close it?

*** [Register here](#) ***

⁸ UNESCO First consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 2021 Recommendation on Open Science. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000395366>

Provisional Agenda

Open Science and the Future of Research Assessment

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14:00-14:05	Opening remarks Ezra Clark , Chief of Section on Research, Governance and Diplomacy, Sciences Sector, UNESCO
14:05-14:15	Keynote Ismael Ràfols , Senior Researcher and Co-Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Diversity and Global Science, INGENIO, CSIC-Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain, and Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University, Kingdom of the Netherlands
14:15-14:50	Panel discussion Moderator: Rania Sabo , Associate Programme Specialist, Section on Research, Governance and Diplomacy, Sciences Sector, UNESCO • Adrian Curaj, Professor of Research Management, National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA and Head of the UNESCO Chair on Science and Innovation Policies, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania • Daniela Perrotta, Researcher, the National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET), Institute for Research in Education Sciences (IICE), Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina • Eurico Wongo Gungula, Rector, Óscar Ribas University, UNESCO Focal Point for Open Science and Chairholder, UNESCO Chair in Open Science, Responsible Digitalization and Social Impact, Luanda, Angola • Ginny Barbour, Co-Chair, Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), Editor-in-Chief, Medical Journal of Australia, and Adjunct Professor, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia • Vincent Larivière, Professor of the School of Library and Information Science and Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Open Science, Université de Montréal, Canada (TBC) • Nosisa Dube, Director, Evaluation and Impact Assessment, National Research Foundation (NRF) and Co-Chair of the Responsible Research Assessment Working Group of the Global Research Council (GRC), South Africa (TBC)
14:50-15:20	Open discussion

15:20-15:25	Key takeaways Kornelia Tzinova , Programme Specialist, Section on Research, Governance and Diplomacy, Sciences Sector, UNESCO
15:25-15:30	Closing remarks and next steps Keith Holmes , Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

*** [Register here](#) ***