Open Science & Research Assessment: How can they go together?



Dr Birgit Schmidt University of Göttingen ENLIGHT Webinar, 21 May 2024

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Open Science = diverse practices & workflows

- Publishing a paper in an OA journal or book (or other peer-reviewed media) ("OA publishing")
- Deposit of a preprint* or final author manuscript in a repository ("OA via repositories")
- Making data available via a repository (FAIR data and open data)
- Making own research (more) reproducible
- Engaging societal actors and citizens in research

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But this may also involve some **challenges**: e.g. additional effort to make data and software FAIR, costs of publishing, trust in the quality of the journal, intellectual property rights, etc.

* **Preprint** = final author manuscript (before peer review), submitted or ready for submission to a publisher



Open Science requires cultural change

- Open science/scholarship targets a broad cultural change in research, education & communication
- Bottom-up and top-down efforts are combined
- A range of benefits can be achieved, e.g. broader access to and (re)use of research outcomes (publications, data, code, etc.)
- However, incentives and rewards are still rather limited



Open Science: Strategy for Cultural Change (Nosek, 2019, <u>https://www.cos.io/blog/strategy-for-culture-change</u>)

Research careers, a publish or perish trap

THE EVOLUTION OF ACADEMIA



Facebook.com/pedromics

Researcher role realities

19th century scientist

I must find the explanation for this phenomenon in order to truly understand Nature...

21st century scientist academic I must get the result that fits my

narrative so I can get my paper into Nature..





Source: https://pandelisperakakis.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/scientist_vs_academic.png

... and a constant need to secure grants



Adapted from: Polyp cartoons, http://www.polyp.org.uk/cartoons/consumerism/polyp cartoon Rat Race.jpg

Scholarly communication attitudes of early career researchers

I make an effort to embrace open science principles in my research work				5 9	23		36		28	3.73
I utilize social media to disseminate less formal/ interim			_	5 5	23	_	50		20	
outputs	41			21	18	14	6			2.22
I don't share research data/results before their publication for fear of losing my competitive edge		1	7	12	19	2	6	25		3.30
I post the peer-reviewed version of my publications on socia		26		16	14	20	24			3.00
I share links to and news about my publications on social	media	30		20	18	18	14			2.68
I use social media to promote my research		31		21	19	16	14			2.60
I rely on quantifiable metrics (e.g. JIF) when deciding which journal to publish in				5 8	16		37		33	3.84
I look to publish in journals perceived to be highly ranked for career-advancing				2 5	11	37			46	4.20
I share my work in subject or institutional repositories 39 before publication in a journal			19	16	15	11			2.39	
Not at all 📃 Very little 🔲 A little 📃 Somewhat 👘 To a great extent					nt					

FIGURE 3 Percentages and mean value for 'To what extent are the following statements true about your current practices concerning publishing?' (N = 1,533).

Source: Nicholas, D., Jamali, H. R., Herman, E., Watkinson, A., Abrizah, A., Rodríguez-Bravo, B., Boukacem-Zeghmouri, C., Xu, J., Świgoń, M., & Polezhaeva, T. (2020). A global questionnaire survey of the scholarly communication attitudes and behaviours of early career researchers. *Learned Publishing*, *33*(3), 198–211. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1286</u>

Mismatch between promotion criteria and



Source: Ross-Hellauer, T., Klebel, T., Knoth, P., & Pontika, N. (2023). Value dissonance in research(er) assessment: individual and perceived institutional priorities in review, promotion, and tenure. *Science and Public Policy*. <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scad073</u>

Reform movements

- From evaluative bibliometrics to responsible metrics (DORA, 2013; Leiden Manifesto, 2015; Metric Tide report, 2016; Hong Kong Principles, 2020)
- From a narrow focus on publications and grants to a broader set of activities, principles and values
 - Diversity, equity, inclusiveness, collaboration (in terms of activities and practices, outputs, skills, roles, disciplines, career stages, etc.)
 - Openness, reproducibility
 - Research integrity
 - Expected impacts (e.g. contributions to SDGs)
- However, there is a gap between positive views on the potential of reforms and their actual implementation.

Towards Reforming Research Assessment



Comparison of approaches

Table 1: Elements of international recommendations for responsible assessment²

	RECOMMENDATIONS	DORA	LEIDEN	METRIC	HONG
	 Journal-metrics as surrogate measure of quality 	7		IIDE	KUNG
METHOD	Quantitative evaluation support qualitative assessment		v	✓	
	 Qualitative judgment based on portfolios 		✓		
	 Misplaced concreteness and false precision 	:	✓		
	Explicit criteria used in evaluating	✓			
CRITERIA	 Systemic effects of assessment and indicators 		✓	✓	
	 Scrutiny and regular updating of indicators 	:	✓	\checkmark	
	Open and transparent data and methods	✓	✓	✓	
DATA	 Licence allowing unrestricted reuse 	✓			
	 Allowing those evaluated to verify data and analysis 	<u>.</u>	✓	✓	
	 Best possible data in terms of accuracy and scope 			✓	
	All research outputs and broad range of impacts	✓	✓	✓	✓
VALUE	 Missions of the institution, group or researcher 	<u>.</u>	✓		
DIVERSITY	 Excellence in locally relevant research 	<u>;</u>	✓		
	 Variation by field in publication and citation practices 	<u>.</u>	✓	✓	
	 Plurality of research and career paths 	<u>.</u>		✓	✓
	Responsible practices, complete reporting, open science				✓
	 Research activities and contributions 	<u>.</u>			✓
	 Multilingualism and outputs in all languages 				

Source: EUTOPIA-TRAIN. (2022). *Open Science in research assessment. An overview of quantitative and qualitative approaches*. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7097264

What if, RRA does not take OS into account?

- Reinforces the status quo of evaluation and ignores the changes in research workflows and communication
- Conflicts with research policies: Open availability to research outputs and additional open practices are increasingly mandated / encouraged by research funders
- Missed opportunities to incentivize and reward good practices, e.g. enable reproducibility, data sharing and reuse, make research accessible for different audiences

Funder requirements: European Commission

Mandatory vs. recommended Open Science practices

- Proposers have to provide concrete information on how they plan to comply with the mandatory OS practices
- OS practices will be evaluated under the 'Excellence' criterion (in particular under methodology) and under 'Quality and efficiency of implementation'
- A clear explanation on how recommended OS practices are adopted will result in a higher evaluation score.

Mandatory open science practices

- Some open science practices are **mandatory for all beneficiaries per the grant agreement.** They concern:
 - open access to scientific publications under the conditions required by the grant agreement;
 - responsible management of research data in line with the FAIR principles of 'Findability', 'Accessibility', 'Interoperability' and 'Reusability', notably through the generalised use of data management plans, and open access to research data under the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary', under the conditions required by the grant agreement;
 - information about the research outputs/tools/instruments needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications or to validate/re-use research data;
 - digital or physical access to the results needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications, unless exceptions apply;
 - in cases of public emergency, if requested by the granting authority, immediate open access to all research outputs under open licenses or, if exceptions apply, access under fair and reasonable conditions to legal entities that need the research outputs to address the public emergency¹⁹.

These obligations are described in the Model Grant Agreement (Article 17) and detailed guidelines on complying with them are provided in the Annotated Grant Agreement (Article 17).

Source: European Commission. Horizon Europe Programme Guide, 19 July 2021, <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf</u>

Example: Netherlands

Position paper published in 2018 by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU), Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centers (NFU), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Dutch Research Council (NWO), and Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)

Main aims:

- 1. Enable the diversification and vitalization of career paths
- 2. Acknowledge the independence and individual qualities and ambitions of academics as well as recognizing team performances
- 3. Emphasize quality of work over quantitative results (such as number of publications)
- 4. Encourage all aspects of open science
- 5. Encourage high quality academic leadership



Example: Norwegian Career Assessment Matrix (NOR-CAM)

- Developed by a working group commissioned by Universities Norway ٠ (32 universities and university colleges), published in Nov 2021
- 6 principles + 4 recommendations ٠
- Principles
 - #1 Balancing quantitative and qualitative measures
 - #2 Everybody should not do everything
 - **#3** Open Science as a fundamental principle
 - #4 Transparency in assessment and identifying what earns merit
 - #5 Promoting gender balance and diversity
 - #6 Assist in the concrete practice of job vacancy announcements and assessment processes locally
- Six competence areas: A. Research output, B. Research process, C. Pedagogical competence, D. Impact and innovation, E. Leadership, and F. Other experience



Countries

Disiplines

Journals



Examples from CoARA Action Plans

- Reference to institutional guidelines and policies on OS, publication metrics, principles include that data and methods used, and the results are as open and transparent as possible
- Reference to national frameworks (e.g. NOR-CAM, FIN-CAM) and initiatives (e.g. UKRN OR4 project)
- Evaluate practices, criteria and tools based on solid evidence and state-of-the-art research on research and make data openly available for evidence (Commitment 10)
- Active monitoring of the development of **open data sources** (e.g. OpenAlex) and analysis tools related to publication metrics alongside the commercial ones (WoS, Scopus)
- Raise awareness, training and monitoring of open research and responsible research assessment

https://zenodo.org/communities/coara_action_plans/



ENLIGHT joint actions on Open Science

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

- Identify and spell out your values and goals: ENLIGHT Open Science Principles (Nov 2023)
- Make your values known: OS Ambassadors (launched in Sept 2022), supported by the OS Experts Network
- Recognize and reward accordingly: Implementation of an OS Award (Spring 2023)

ENLIGHT OPEN SCIENCE PRINCIPLES



Endorsed by the ENLIGHT Rectors on 23 Nov 2023, Uppsala.

https://enlight-eu.org/index.php/university-about-us/news-events/158news/1043-enlight-rectors-endorse-joint-open-sciences-principles

ENLIGHT Open Science principles:

1. Promotion of Open Science

The ENLIGHT alliance recognizes that Open Science is a key component of their scholarly processes. Therefore we

- Enhance the sharing of knowledge and good practices at the institutional level and across the ENLIGHT alliance.
- Aim to support Open Science broadly, including via training and skills development.
- Support the development and realization of an Open Science agenda and policy.

2. FAIR and Open Data

The ENLIGHT alliance stresses the importance of the FAIR data principles (**F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable and **R**eusable) and will

- Support the implementation of FAIR, for example by developing or contributing to FAIRenabling infrastructures, and/or by guiding researchers towards such existing infrastructures.
- Optimize access to research data and the use of such digital research data wherever possible ("as open as possible as close as necessary").
- Work towards using and contributing to a distributed and open infrastructure for research data, including integration with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

3. Open Access

The ENLIGHT alliance underlines the value and benefits of unrestricted and immediate open access to scholarly publications and thus will

- Encourage and support researchers in providing free and unrestricted online access to all
 research publications, ideally immediately after publication.
- Promote bibliodiversity and increase awareness of various open access routes available as an alternative to author-pays models of open access.
- Support researchers in retaining their original rights to share and publish their works and other research outputs under an open license.

4. Open Education

The ENLIGHT alliance supports Open Education as a valuable part of a diverse and inclusive environment and will

- Encourage their research and teaching staff to create, share and use open educational materials and methodologies.
- Strive to support training and development opportunities for the research community that facilitate an understanding of open educational tools and methodologies.

5. Responsible Research Assessment

The ENLIGHT alliance promotes the inclusion of Open Science principles in research assessment and will

- Raise awareness for the different aspects of research assessment reform and commit to high quality standards in their own research assessment procedures.
- Align with the <u>Declaration on Research Assessment</u> (DORA) or the <u>Agreement on Reforming</u> <u>Research Assessment</u> (CoARA), wherever possible.
- Incentivize Open Science practices as means for enhancing the quality and impact of research.

ENLIGHT OS Survey: Engagement with CoARA



Status of CoARA membership of ENLIGHT partner universities

ENLIGHT Update on OS Survey, March 2024, notebook and data, https://github.com/gitti1/ENLIGHT_OS

Has OS arrived in recognition and reward approaches? (institutional perspective)



ENLIGHT Update on OS Survey, March 2024, notebook and data, https://github.com/gitti1/ENLIGHT_OS

Examples at ENLIGHT universities

University of Groningen: Open Science Award, annual, in place since 5 years

- Case studies on open research and/or open education practices
- E.g. making research outputs freely accessible, online tools and services, alternative models of publication and peer review, open collaborative methods
- Submissions are screened for eligibility
- 3 prizes are drawn randomly from all submissions

https://www.rug.nl/research/openscience/open-research-award/submission-guidelines

University of Gent: Since 5 years full professors can report on Open Science activities in research evaluations. This is voluntary and it remains unclear how often this actually happens.

University of Göttingen: Some academic hiring comittees for professorships have used a clause that requests the candidates to indicate past and future plans in engagement for open, transparent and reproducible research (e.g. Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, Scientific Information Analytics).

A brief look at OS-RRA frameworks

• Generic frameworks and data infrastructure under development, e.g.

- <u>PathOS</u> Open Science Impact Pathways: Evaluates and develops indicators to measure academic, societal and economic impacts of OS (<u>handbook</u> under development).
- <u>OPUS</u> Open Universal Science: has developed the **OPUS Researcher Assessment Framework** (building on OS-CAM, European Commission 2017) and pilot implementations.
- <u>GraspOS</u> Next Generation Research Assessment to Promote Open Science: Develops an **Open Science** Assessment Framework (OSAF), builds an infrastructure for metrics (data-tools-services, not published yet) and conducts <u>pilot studies</u>.
- <u>SciLake</u> Democratising and making sense out of heterogeneous scholarly content: With focus on Knowledge Graphs the project creates open data infrastructures and services in support of discovery and research assessment.

• Disciplinary and institutional implementation approaches, e.g.

- psychology research community
- institutional approach in the medical sciences

Projects: OPUS

OPUS Researcher Assessment Framework



Source: O'Neill, G. (2024). Graphical Representation of the OPUS Researcher Assessment Framework. Zenodo. <u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10670853</u> Related report: O'Neill, G. (2024). OPUS Deliverable 3.1: Indicators and Metrics to Test in the Pilots. Zenodo. <u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10670779</u>

Example indicator: Research data

Table 21: Open Science Indicators and Metrics for Category Research Subcategory Data

Indicator Group	Indicator Type	Quantitative Metric			
Data Planning	Process	# of (FAIR) Developing Data Management Plans Openly Available			
	Output	# of (FAIR) Finalised Data Management Plans Openly Available			
	Outcome	# of (FAIR) Implemented Data Management Plans Openly Available			
Data Management	Process	# of Developing (FAIR) Data Sets Openly Availab			
	Output # of Finalised (FAIR) Data Sets Openly Availab				
		# of Archived (FAIR) Data Sets Openly Available			
	Outcome	# of Openly Available (FAIR) Data Sets Accessed			
		# of Openly Available (FAIR) Data Sets Cited			
Data Review	Process	# of Draft (FAIR) Data Set Peer Reviews Openly Available			
	Output	# of Submitted (FAIR) Data Set Peer Reviews Openly Available			
	Outcome	# of Accepted (FAIR) Data Set Peer Reviews Openly Available			

Source: O'Neill, G. (2024). OPUS Deliverable 3.1: Indicators and Metrics to Test in the Pilots. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10670779

Disciplinary approaches: Psychology – I

Academic contributions are multifaceted



Schönbrodt, F., Gärtner, A., Frank, M., Gollwitzer, M., Ihle, M., Mischkowski, D., Phan, L. V., Schmitt, M., Scheel, A. M., Schubert, A.-L., Steinberg, U., & Leising, D. (2022). *Responsible Research Assessment I: Implementing DORA for hiring and promotion in psychology*. PsyArXiv. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/rgh5b

Disciplinary approaches: Psychology – II

Efficiency in hiring committees Can it handle 100+ applicants?



Schönbrodt, F., Gärtner, A., Frank, M., Gollwitzer, M., Ihle, M., Mischkowski, D., Phan, L. V., Schmitt, M., Scheel, A. M., Schubert, A.-L., Steinberg, U., & Leising, D. (2022). *Responsible Research Assessment I: Implementing DORA for hiring and promotion in psychology*. PsyArXiv. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/rgh5b

Institutional approaches: Open data incentive

Example: Charité, Berlin Institutes of Health

Criteria for datasets to qualify as open data for performanceoriented funding at the Charité and indicator-oriented funding at BIH 2024

Data have to be shared in the context of an article publication; i.e. stand-alone data are not considered.

Source:

https://www.bihealth.org/en/translation/innovatio n-enabler/questcenter/projects/project/einfuehrung-von-opendata-als-zusaetzlicher-indikator-fuer-die-interneleistungsorientierte-mittelvergabe-lom-forschung

The criteria for the open data incentive as of 2024 are as follows:

Research data have been made freely accessible by researchers of the Charité/BIH **OR** the data have been shared with restricted access and meet the following requirements:

- Data is stored in an external repository (or archive, database, registry)
- A standardized access route is named, i.e. the access requirements, the procedure for a request and the responsible persons or offices are described
- The reason for the restricted access is stated or is directly evident from the data being subject to data protection
- Access is possible for all academic researchers at least from the European Economic Area
- · Co-authorship of articles is not a condition for the provision of the data
- The access to the data is free of charge or maximally requiring compensation of expenses

Institutional approaches: Responsible **Research Dashboard**

0%

Charité Dashboard on Responsible Research

Charité has committed itself to establish, promote and maintain a research environment which enhances the robustness of research and the reproducibility of results (Ret Health - Charité 2030).



https://quest-dashboard.charite.de

28

2019 2020 2021 2022

2017

Conclusions on how RRA can integrate OS at the institutional level

#1 Review assessment methodologies, data and indicators

- Transparency of methods and indicators, reproducibility of quantitative analysis
- Collect information on OS activities and outputs (via quantitative and qualitative methods)
- Support the move towards open research information & open infrastructures (Barcelona Declaration)

#2 Enable interventions, interlink policies, create incentives and rewards

- Review and revise evaluation criteria in grant selection, hiring and promotion
- Implement and promote what is expected (e.g. job announcements, CV template, guidance)
- Share the status of achievements (e.g. via dashboards, case studies)

#3 Take into account frameworks under development

- National frameworks, e.g. The Netherlands, Norway, Finland
- Disciplinary approaches, e.g. Psychology
- EU projects: GraspOS, OPUS, PathOS, SciLake

Thank you for listening. Your comments or questions?

Contact: Birgit Schmidt, Göttingen State and University Library, <u>bschmidt@sub.uni-goettingen.de</u>

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Researchers opinion on how important promotion criteria should be



Source: Ross-Hellauer, T., Klebel, T., Knoth, P., & Pontika, N. (2023). Value dissonance in research(er) assessment: individual and perceived institutional priorities in review, promotion, and tenure. *Science and Public Policy*. <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scad073</u>

Open Science Career Assessment Matrix (OS-CAM) – I

Open Science Career Assessment Matrix (OS-CAM)					
Open Science activities	Possible evaluation criteria				
R ESEARCH OUTPUT					
Research activity	Pushing forward the boundaries of open science as a research topic				
Publications	Publishing in open access journals				
	Self-archiving in open access repositories				
Datasets and research	Using the FAIR data principles				
results	Adopting quality standards in open data management and open datasets				
	Making use of open data from other researchers				
Open source	Using open source software and other open tools				
	Developing new software and tools that are open to other users Securing funding for open science activities				
Funding	Securing funding for open science activities				
RESEARCH PROCESS					
Stakeholder engagement	Actively engaging society and research users in the research process				
/ citizen science	Sharing provisional research results with stakeholders through open				
	platforms (e.g. Arxiv, Figshare)				
	Involving stakeholders in peer review processes				
Collaboration and	Widening participation in research through open collaborative projects				
Interdisciplinarity	Engaging in team science through diverse cross-disciplinary teams				
Research integrity	Being aware of the ethical and legal issues relating to data sharing,				
	confidentiality, attribution and environmental impact of open science				
	activities				
	Fully recognizing the contribution of others in research projects,				
Disk was a second	Including collaborators, co-authors, citizens, open data providers				
Risk management	Taking account of the risks involved in open science				
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP	Developing a state and state as a how to take such 00 and there is the				
Leadership	Developing a vision and strategy on now to integrate OS practices in the				
	Driving policy and practice in open science				
	Driving policy and practice in open science				
Acadomic standing	Developing on international or national profile for open science				
Academic standing	Contributing an international of national profile for open science activities				
Boor roviow	Contributing as editor of advisor for open science journals of bodies				
Feel leview	Contributing to open peer review processes				
Networking	Darticipating in national and international networks relating to energy				
Networking	scionco				
	science				

Source: European Commission. Directorate General for Research and Innovation. (2017). *Evaluation of research careers fully acknowledging Open Science practices: Rewards, incentives and/or recognition for researchers practicing Open Science*. Publications Office. <u>https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/75255</u>

OS-CAM - II

RESEARCH IMPACT						
Communication and	Participating in public engagement activities					
Dissemination	Sharing research results through non-academic dissemination channels					
	Translating research into a language suitable for public understanding					
IP (patents, licenses)	Being knowledgeable on the legal and ethical issues relating to IPR					
	Transferring IP to the wider economy					
Societal impact	Evidence of use of research by societal groups					
	Recognition from societal groups or for societal activities					
Knowledge exchange	Engaging in open innovation with partners beyond academia					
TEACHING AND SUPERVISION						
Teaching	Training other researchers in open science principles and methods					
	Developing curricula and programs in open science methods, including					
	open science data management					
	Raising awareness and understanding in open science in undergraduate					
	and masters' programs					
Mentoring	Mentoring and encouraging others in developing their open science					
	capabilities					
Supervision	Supporting early stage researchers to adopt an open science approach					
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE						
Continuing professional	Investing in own professional development to build open science					
development	capabilities					
Project management	Successfully delivering open science projects involving diverse research					
	teams					
Personal qualities	Demonstrating the personal qualities to engage society and research					
	users with open science					
	Showing the flexibility and perseverance to respond to the challenges of					
	conducting open science					

Source: European Commission. Directorate General for Research and Innovation. (2017). *Evaluation of research careers fully acknowledging Open Science practices: Rewards, incentives and/or recognition for researchers practicing Open Science*. Publications Office. <u>https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/75255</u>

Example: Norwegian Career Assessment Matrix (NOR-CAM)

6 assessment areas, results and competences, documentation, reflection

Source: https://www.uhr.no/en/resour ces/nor-cam/

1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
A. Research output	-Published works -Datasets -Software -Methodologies -Artistic results -Research reports	CRIS systems (e.g. Cristin) and other databases	Reflection on the relevance and quality of the results. Emphasis is placed on open access to published works and other results, as well as whether the data adhere to the FAIR principles.
B. Research process	 Leadership and participation in research groups Working across disciplines Research integrity/RRI Editorial activity Peer reviews Building consortia External funding Development of research infrastructure Leadership and participation in clinical trials 	CRIS systems and other databases. Narrative CV system with links to source data.	Reflection on roles and relevance. How and why various actors within and outside academia have been involved in the research process. Emphasis is placed on transparency in the research process.