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# Open Science?

## Conceptualizing Openness as an Emerging Moral Economy of Science

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## ... how this paper came together

- Interested in OS from different angles (national policy vs. research-funding agency vs. research practice / social sciences vs. life sciences)
- Several conference panels on OS
- “Scoping paper” – to get a more coherent understanding

## Budget

2011: ~ € 25.000;

- ~ € 16.000 print & retail
- ~ € 5.000 layout
- ~ € 4.000 editorial work

2015: ~ € 10.000

- ~ € 3.000 layout
- ~€ 7.000 editorial work

Summary: under limited resources,  
Open Access allows for more focus on  
editorial work

## Independence

2011:

- Publisher dictates legalities
- Journal indexed in SSCI – but by chance

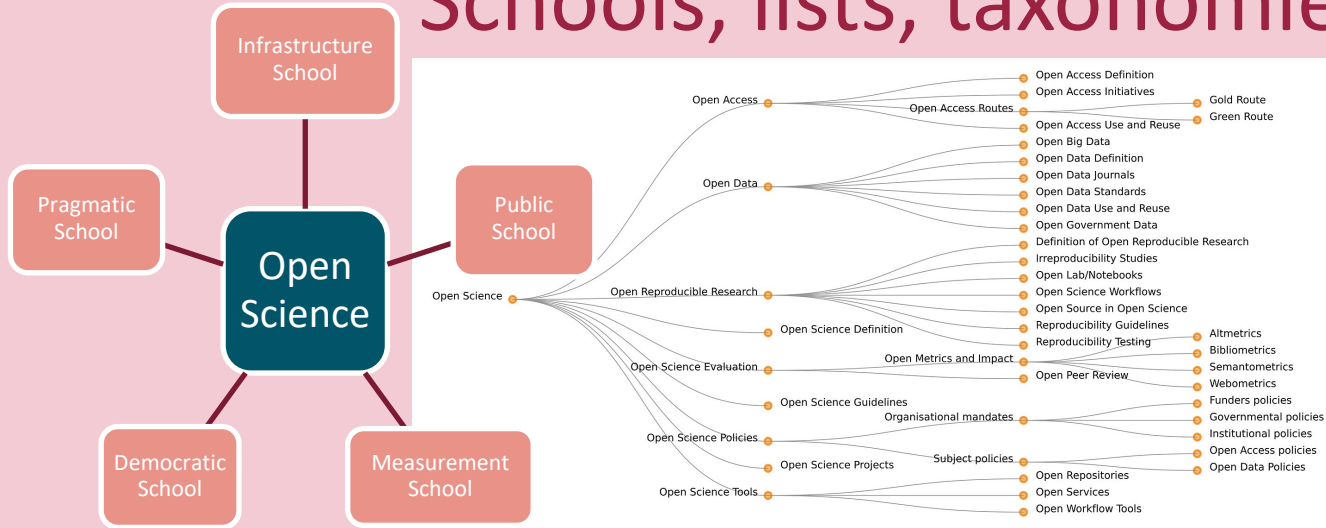
2015:

Publisher sets articles, CC-BY-nc licence

Indexed in SSCI but also in DOAD

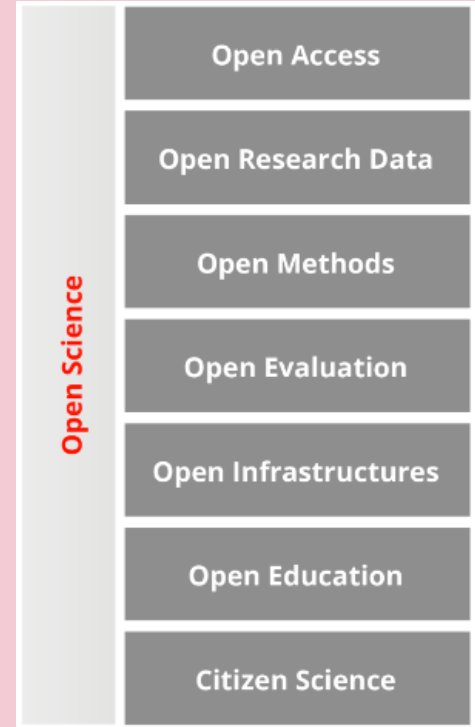
Summary: Open Access provides more  
leeway to editors and authors

# Schools, lists, taxonomies ...



(Fecher/Friesike 2014)

([https://figshare.com/articles/figure/Open\\_Science\\_Taxonomy/1508606](https://figshare.com/articles/figure/Open_Science_Taxonomy/1508606))



(OANA 2020)

sciences, natural and social sciences and the humanities, and it builds on the following key pillars: open scientific knowledge, open science infrastructures, science communication, open engagement of societal actors and open dialogue with other knowledge systems.

(UNESCO 2021)

# The Puzzle

Observation 1: “to be open” is integral to science. Why all the fuzz?

Observation 2: “better science” – Is science *kaputt*, or broken?

Observation 3: “OS advocates” of different shades, but is there a common denominator?

## State of the art

- Fecher/Friesike (2014) – schools of thought
- Mirowski (2018) – capitalism
- Bacevich/Muellerleile (2018) – OA, knowledge as a good
- Hosseini et al. (2022) – Mertonian norms

# What is our ambition?

Acknowledging that OS is a loaded term in science policy

Build an analytical foundation

- „Distancing“
- Historizing
- Conceptualizing

Concept of „moral economy“ by Lorraine Daston:

To understand collective norms in science as something that has been developed, and negotiated, and eventually became shared understanding

## “Openness” as moral economy

“A moral economy is a balanced system of emotional forces, with equilibrium points and constraints.” (Daston 1995, 4) – it refers to the ethical and values-based considerations that underpin and shape the practices, norms, and governance of a particular domain or field.

The questions then are:

- What is “open”? And what shall be “opened (up)”? (question 2)
- Why does this phenomenon of “openness” occur in the first place? (question 1)



# 1. Why does it occur?

- Trend 1: science becoming policy preference
- Trend 2: science expanding, becoming an enterprise
- Trend 3: digitalization, turning scientific practices upside down

These trends warrant the claim that „openness“ can be seen as an emerging moral economy in its own right

# Differences to traditional moral economies / norms

Openness is not only about science but also about the link btw science and society

Legitimacy: There is an increasingly common understanding of “knowledge as a public good” (Bacevich/Müllerleile 2018)

External actors: governments, agencies, ...

## 2. What does it mean?

How does the emerging moral economy of openness impact science?

Close examination along case studies

Approaches:

- Policy
- Meaning (ambiguity)
- Interests

# Policies

## Agenda-Setting

- Mandate, reform project
- Realm: regional, national, transnational, global?

## Example UNESCO:

“... an **inclusive construct** that combines **various movements and practices** aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly **available, accessible** and **reusable** for everyone, to **increase** scientific collaborations and **sharing** of information for the benefits of science and society, and to **open** the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community”

## Policy Instruments

### Example EOSC:

- neither “European” (instead: global)
- nor “open” (instead: FAIR)
- nor “Science” (instead: data)
- nor “Cloud” (instead: a standard)



**EUROPEAN OPEN  
SCIENCE CLOUD**

# Ambiguity of Openness

... different meanings about “openness”:

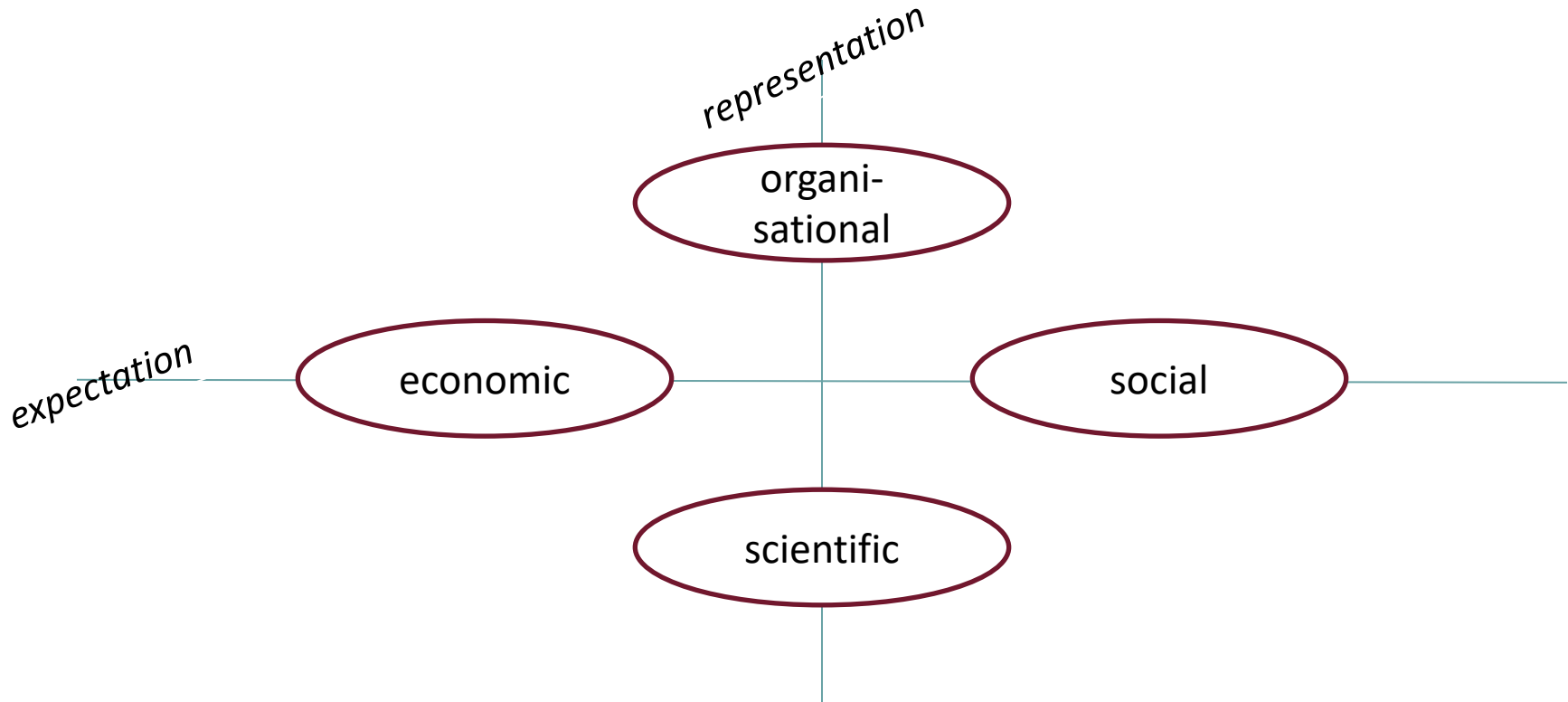
**Frankness** being open about something that has actually been achieved

**Inclusiveness** being open to society to participate in research

**Transparency** that decision-making processes are laid open

**Accessibility** that results, but also methods are free for use.

# Field of interests



# Open Science is here to stay!

... but  
what  
will it  
look  
like?

