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Symposium

# Rethinking monographs: Academic book publishing and open access

**23 March 2020**

***Organizer:* University of Groningen Library**

***Partner:* Open Science Community Groningen**

**#openaccessUG**

## Programme

Monday, 23 March 2020

Van Swinderen Huys

Oude Boteringestraat 19, 9712 GC Groningen

- 13.15      *Walk-in, coffee*
- 13.30      **Welcome and opening**  
Peter van Laarhoven, University of Groningen Library  
Giulia Trentacosti, University of Groningen Library
- 13.40      **Keynote**  
**Collaboration against a culture of competition**  
Marcel Knöchelmann  
University College London/Yale University
- 14.20      **Keynote**  
**Inside the Open Library of Humanities: the global benefits and local challenges of Open Access publishing**  
Rose Harris-Birtill  
Open Library of Humanities/University of St Andrews
- 15.00      *Coffee*
- 15.30      **Towards an Open Access policy for academic books in the Netherlands**  
Hans de Jonge  
Dutch Research Council, NWO
- 16.00      **The joys and sorrows of publishing books. An author's perspective**  
Lisa Herzog  
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen
- 16.30      **Conclusions**
- 16.45      **Reception**
- 18.00      **Closing**

## Abstracts and speakers

### Collaboration against a culture of competition

Marcel Knöchelmann, marcel.knochelmann.15@ucl.ac.uk

Open access has become an empty idea, devoid of the revolutionary power it once claimed to have. Plan S and the big open access DEALs often treat openness as a competitive advantage that financially well-equipped scholars, institutions, and countries can leverage for their own interest. This well plays into the culture of competition that holds institutionalised academia in firm grip. Open access alone won't change this. The way scholarship is to be communicated must be re-constructed—not technologically, but socially. The value of a monograph must be its communicative achievement in discourse communities, naturally open to all, and written and published to add value to discourses. What matters should be neither the worth of a brand for the author nor a set of metrics. The way to arrive there is to facilitate and use collaborative infrastructures, move away from the established system of branded media, and to rid academia of its competitive bases of formal evaluation and questionable excellence. Scholars themselves, with the help of librarians, must be at the forefront of this transformation since it's their collective action that matters most.



*Marcel Knöchelmann is a sociologist with a focus on scholarly communication, inequities in education, and the production of knowledge. His AHRC-funded doctoral research at University College London is concerned with the publishing imperative in the humanities. Marcel currently investigates epistemic injustice and the open access myth of the democratisation of knowledge during a visiting scholarship at Yale University. Prior to his research, he worked for different publishing houses in the UK and Germany. He is a founding member of the network for higher education/science policy of German Social Democrats (SPD) and continues to work as a consultant on open access publishing projects.*

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### Inside the Open Library of Humanities: the global benefits and local challenges of Open Access publishing

Rose Harris-Birtill, rose.harris-birtill@openlibhums.org

In her talk, Rose Harris-Birtill discusses her experiences of Open Access publishing, highlighting the global benefits and local challenges facing Open Access for academic journals and monographs in the humanities. Giving examples from the Open Library of Humanities publishing model, its suite of Open Access journals and the organization's progress to date, Dr Harris-Birtill demonstrates what can be achieved using innovative approaches in this rapidly-growing field, and gives an overview of recent developments in Open Access monograph publishing with an update on the Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs (COPIM) project.



*Dr Rose Harris-Birtill serves as Managing Editor across the Open Library of Humanities platform of 27 Open Access scholarly journals, and Editor of its flagship journal OLH, based at Birkbeck, University of London. Rose also teaches at the University of St Andrews, and holds the International Society for the Study of Time (ISST) New Scholar Prize, the Frank Muir Prize for Writing, and a McCall MacBain Teaching Excellence Award. She has served as an invited guest editor for special editions of C21 Literature: Journal of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Writings and KronoScope: Journal for the Study of Time, and her recent monograph "David Mitchell's Post-Secular World: Buddhism, Belief and the Urgency of Compassion" was published in 2019.*

## **Towards an open access policy for academic books in the Netherlands**

**Hans de Jonge**, h.dejonge@nwo.nl

In my contribution, I will talk about how Open Access books fits into the activities of the National Program for Open Science in the Netherlands (NPOS). On behalf of NWO I contributed to a recent policy paper for the NPOS: "Towards an Open Access policy for academic books in the Netherlands". I will talk about how NWO intends to follow-up on this report. I will also speak a bit about the way open access to monographs will be dealt with in the context of Plan S.



*Hans de Jonge is head of open science policies at the Dutch Research Council (NWO). Hans is responsible for the open access and open data policies of NWO and is engaged in activities to review reward structures to incentivize open research practices. Hans represents NWO in the various task forces of Coalition S, the consortium of funding councils that have launched Plan S. Hans is also involved in the National Platform Open Science in the Netherlands. Hans joined NWO in 2018. Previously, he worked as a program manager at the academic affairs unit of Utrecht University and at the Dutch Association of Universities (VSNU) where he headed the research policy unit. Hans is a historian by training and specialized in the history of science.*

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## **The joys and sorrows of publishing books. An author's perspective**

**Lisa Herzog**, l.m.herzog@rug.nl

What do authors want when they write books? What do they want from publishers? Given the various structural incentives against writing books, the decision to nonetheless do it can be a difficult one. Nonetheless, for many fields in the humanities and social sciences they remain essential. And there is a whole public attention economy around books that is different from that around articles or contributions in edited volumes. In this brief talk, I reflect on my previous experiences as author of books, and discuss how open access enters these reflections.



*Lisa Herzog is associate professor and Rosalind Franklin Fellow at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen. Before, she has worked at, or visited, the universities of St. Gallen (CH), Leuven (BE), Frankfurt/Main (D), Utrecht (NL), Stanford (US) and Technical University of Munich (D). In 2019, she received the Tractatus-Preis and the German Award for Philosophy and Social Ethics for her German monographs. Herzog has published on the philosophical dimensions of markets (both historically and systemically), liberalism and social justice, ethics in organizations and the future of work. The current focus of her work is workplace democracy, professional ethics, and the role of knowledge in democracies. She is the author of two research monographs, two monographs for a broader public in German, and various (co-)edited volumes.*