

**Meet the editors/ Open Access session  
at the 4<sup>th</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies  
from 1-3 July 2013 in Groningen, the Netherlands**

The Fourth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies, held 1-3 July 2013 at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, is hosted by the Faculty of Spatial Sciences. The aim of this conference then was to provide a forum for a variety of people from different disciplinary backgrounds as well as societal partners and artists to creatively explore the role of emotion in thinking about and experiencing space and society. The conference therefore facilitated the development of international and interdisciplinary research collaborations and networks. The interdisciplinary character of the conference is intended to lead to the sharing and defining of (new) scientific and societal insights that will likely be disseminated in scientific journals as well as other, more publicly accessible outlets.

The conference is connected to the international, peer-reviewed journal 'Emotion, Space and Society' and the 'Society for Study of Emotion, Affect and Space'.

The 'meet the editors' session on Tuesday July 2nd was dedicated to Open Access. In spite of several competing sessions, three options for city walks and a session/ performance, the open access session attracted about fifty participants. The editors of the following journals gave a short introduction on their journal and shared their perspectives on the Open Access discussion.

Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg: Acme- and international E-journal for Critical Geographers

Liz Bondi and Joyce Davidson: Emotion, Space and Society

Avril Maddrell: Gender, Place and Culture

Phil Hubbard: Social and Cultural Geography

Huib Ernste and Virginie Mamadouh: Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie

This was followed by a general introduction on roads to Open Access by Esther Hoorn, copyright librarian of the University of Groningen. The slides are available on Slideshare<sup>1</sup>.

This fired a lively discussion. In the beginning the discussion focused on the uncertainty about the present policy in the UK. It seemed that institutions were now sending mixed signals about the policy. Although the participants in general were in favor of a shift to Open Access, some felt overwhelmed by the complexity of the issue. At the same time the participant understood that self-archiving of the pre-print version is permitted in the policy of most publishers.

One of the editors brought up that there are technical and organizational barriers to retain your copyright. She mentioned that uploading the article and transferring copyright is done

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.slideshare.net/EstherHoorn/oads-to-open-access>

within a digital environment which excludes the possibility to adhere an author addendum for rights retention, like the SPARC addendum. Moreover she perceives this process as part of the limited and highly valued conversation with the journal. So she imagines that the author does not want to be perceived as a trouble-maker by requiring rights retention.

Finally the global dimension of the shift towards Open Access was discussed. Availability of toll-access journals is still limited in Africa and Asia. Awareness on Open Access policies in those regions is lacking. Participants from European countries, like Poland and Tszechoslovakia, mentioned that institutional policies on funding research are based on publications in high impact journals and that there is a lack of incentives to publish in blogs or upcoming Open Access journals.