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SPEAKERS

SUMMIT

Wednesday - 11th December 2024

Keynote speaker

Prof. Linda Tuhiwai Te Rina Smith

Thursday - 12th December 2024

Friday - 13th December 2024

Prof. Kasturi Behari-Leak
Prof. Esther Juliana Vargas Arbeláez
Prof. Mari Sundli Tveit
Dr Alwaleed Alkhaja
Dr Madhan Muthukumaraswamy
Prof. Arianna Becerril García
Dr Sylvie Rousset
Prof. Mary Oyiela Abukutsa-Onyango
Dr Moumita Koley
Dr Emily Choynowski
Prof. Liu Xiwen
Prof. Madara Ogot
Prof. Saray Córdoba-González
Ms Kathleen Shearer
Dr Arbain Arbain

Ms Andrea Mora Campos
Prof Lucy Montgomery
Dr Karl Huang
Dr Eurico Wongo Gungula
Ms Jill Claassen
Prof. Ana María Cetto
Dr Judith Naidorf
Mr. Janne Pölönen
Prof. Mosa Moshabela
Dr Bianca Kramer
Dr Eduardo Aguado-López
Prof. Luciana Balboa
Dr Nokuthula Mchunu
Ms Heather Joseph
Dr Lidia Borrell-Damian
Dr Bhanu Neupane
Mr Nick Shockey



PROF LINDA TUHIWAI TE RINA SMITH

Professor Linda Tuhiwai Te Rina Smith is a leading figure in Indigenous education and research. With a PhD, Master of Arts (Hons), and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, Professor Smith has made significant contributions to the field through her innovative work on decolonizing methodologies and Indigenous knowledge systems.

In her distinguished career, Professor Smith has held several prominent positions, including Pro-Vice Chancellor Māori, Dean of the School of Māori and Pacific Development, and Director of Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato. She is currently a Professor of Māori and Indigenous Studies at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi.

Smith is renowned for her seminal book, "Decolonising Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples (1998)", which has become a foundational text in critiquing and reshaping research practices to better align with Indigenous perspectives. Her extensive research focuses on Indigenous education, Māori epistemologies, and the decolonization of research methods.

Her achievements have been widely recognized, including being appointed Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in 2013 for her services to Māori and education. Smith was honored as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2016 and received the Prime Minister's Award for Lifetime Achievement in Education in 2017.

Her advocacy and influence were highlighted in 2020 when the hashtag #BecauseOfLindaTuhiwaiSmith went viral, reflecting her role in addressing racism in education. In 2021, she made history as the first Māori scholar elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and joined Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi as a Distinguished Professor.

Her groundbreaking work earned her the Rutherford Medal in 2023 from the Royal Society Te Apārangi, recognizing her transformative impact on research for Indigenous Peoples and her pioneering scholarship in decolonizing research methodologies.



ASSOC PROF KASTURI BEHARI-LEAK

Associate Professor Kasturi Behari-Leak serves as the Dean of the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) and the Director of Academic and Professional Staff Development (ASPD) at the University of Cape Town. She is a highly respected scholar in the field of higher education, holding a PhD in Education with a specialization in curriculum development, academic staff development, and the transformation of higher education systems.

Associate Professor Behari-Leak's research is deeply rooted in the principles of social justice and equity, with a particular focus on decolonizing higher education, enhancing academic leadership, and fostering the professional development of educators. Her work critically examines how higher education institutions can evolve to better represent diverse cultural and intellectual traditions, and how they can address the historical and systemic inequities that have long been entrenched in academia. Additionally, Behari-Leak's work examines the interplay between national, institutional, and disciplinary structures in higher education and how these influence academics' critical agency.

As Dean, Behari-Leak has led significant initiatives aimed at transforming curricula within South African universities to ensure that academic programs are inclusive, culturally relevant, and responsive to the needs of a diverse and globalized student population. She served as co-chair of the Curriculum Change Working Group at UCT (2016-2018), facilitating crucial discussions on decolonising pedagogies and curricula. Her leadership extends to her role as Director of Academic and Professional Staff Development, where she has been instrumental in creating and implementing programs that empower educators to adopt innovative and transformative teaching practices. These programs are designed to enhance the quality of education and ensure that staff are well-equipped to navigate and contribute to a rapidly changing educational landscape.

Behari-Leak's influence goes beyond the University of Cape Town. She is actively engaged in national and international efforts to advance the decolonization of education, working with scholars, educators, and policymakers to promote equitable access to knowledge and to create educational environments that are more inclusive and socially just. Her contributions are widely recognized, and she continues to play a critical role in shaping the future of higher education in South Africa and beyond.



PROF ESTHER JULIANA VARGAS ARBELÁEZ

Professor Esther Juliana Vargas Arbeláez is a distinguished academic and scholar, currently serving as a professor at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Colombia. She is also the Coordinadora Editorial at Editorial Aula de Humanidades, where she plays a key role in shaping the academic discourse on philosophy and education.

With a strong academic foundation, Professor Vargas Arbeláez holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, a Master's degree in Book and Digital Media Studies, and a PhD in Philosophy.

Her research interests focus on the production and evaluation of scientific publications, the philosophy of the university, and the philosophy of education—areas that inform her teaching and scholarly output.

Professor Vargas Arbeláez's PhD thesis, titled "The Idea of University and Cognitive Capitalism", was awarded Magna Cum Laude honors by the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia. This work reflects her deep engagement with the intersection of education, knowledge production, and economic systems in the contemporary world.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Professor Vargas Arbeláez's intellectual contributions have been recognized internationally. In 2014, she won the prestigious Latin American Essay Contest, Knowledge as a Commons: The Elinor Ostrom Essay Prize, awarded by CLACSO (Latin American Council of Social Sciences), further highlighting her expertise and influence in philosophical and educational thought.

Professor Vargas Arbeláez continues to inspire students and colleagues alike through her ongoing research, writing, and teaching. Her work is central to the contemporary discourse on higher education, the role of the university in society, and the complexities of knowledge in the digital age.



PROF MARI SUNDLI TVEIT

Professor Mari Sundli Tveit is the Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway and the President of Science Europe, where she plays a pivotal role in shaping European and Norwegian research policies.

Her leadership is distinguished by a commitment to advancing research excellence, fostering international collaboration, and driving innovation through strategic research funding.

Professor Tveit holds a PhD in Landscape Ecology from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), with academic expertise in ecology and environmental sciences.

Her research focuses on landscape ecology, biodiversity, and environmental management, contributing significantly to the understanding of human impacts on ecosystems and developing sustainable solutions that balance environmental and societal needs.

One of Tveit's notable achievements is the successful restructuring of the Research Council of Norway, where she created a more agile and responsive organization capable of addressing contemporary scientific and societal challenges. Her leadership has ensured that Norwegian research remains at the forefront of addressing global issues such as climate change, technological innovation, and public health, while upholding principles of open science and research integrity.

In her role as President of Science Europe, Tveit has been a strong advocate for collaboration in research and innovation. She promotes the importance of international partnerships to tackle complex global challenges, helping to elevate the role of science in policy-making and enhancing its impact on society.



DR ALWALEED ALKHAJA

Dr Alwaleed Alkhaja is the Head of Open and Copyright at Qatar National Library, where he leads the Library's Open Access Program and manages its Open Access fund.

Dr Alkhaja is a passionate advocate for Open Access and plays a key role in advancing initiatives that make scholarly research freely available to the global academic community.

His expertise in copyright management, combined with his experience in scientific publishing, positions him as a leader in the realm of open-access policy and implementation.

Alkhaja holds a PhD in Molecular Biology from the Göttingen International Max Planck Research School and an MBA from the Alliance Manchester Business School. Prior to his current role, he gained extensive experience in open-access publishing while working with QScience.com and Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press). Alkhaja's work has been pivotal in bridging the gap between scientific research and open-access platforms, ensuring that groundbreaking research is accessible to all.

In addition to his work at Qatar National Library, Alkhaja serves as the Library's representative on the SCOSS Board (Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services), contributing to global efforts that support sustainable open-access infrastructures. His scientific background, combined with his management expertise, has equipped him with the unique ability to navigate the intersection of academic research, publishing, and copyright law.

Through his dedication to Open Access and his leadership in library services, Alkhaja has made significant contributions to enhancing the accessibility of scholarly content, thereby promoting global knowledge equity.



DR MADHAN MUTHUKUMARASWAMY

Dr Madhan Muthukumaraswamy is a librarian with over 25 years of experience in research and academic librarianship

He currently serves as the Director of the Global Library at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India, and is a Visiting Scholar at the DST Centre for Policy Research, IISc, Bengaluru.

His research interests lie at the intersection of scientometrics and science policy, and open access to scholarly information.

Dr Madhan work focuses primarily on analyzing the quantitative aspects of scholarly publications, and enhancing access to digital resources, and developing strategies for effective information dissemination in academic settings.

A passionate advocate for open access, he emphasizes the importance of free and equitable access to scholarly publications and educational resources, particularly for advancing research and learning in developing countries.

His efforts highlight the critical role of institutional repositories, preprint servers and diamond open access journals, and encourage institutions to adopt open access policies to facilitate knowledge sharing without financial barriers. Madhan has also played a key role in policy-making at institutional and national levels, collaborating with policymakers and stakeholders to advance open access initiatives.

He has conducted numerous workshops and seminars to raise awareness about open access and its potential to democratize knowledge. In addition to his advocacy, Madhan actively contributes to the scholarly discourse by publishing on topics related to open access.



PROF ARIANNA BECERRIL GARCÍA

Professor Arianna Becerril García is a distinguished scholar and a leading advocate for open access to scientific knowledge. She holds a PhD in Computer Science and serves as a professor at the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico.

Professor Becerril García's academic journey is marked by a strong commitment to democratizing access to scientific information, particularly in Latin America.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of information science, digital libraries, and open access publishing. As the executive director of the Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal (Redalyc), she has played a pivotal role in transforming the landscape of academic publishing.

Redalyc has grown into a major open-access repository, providing free access to a vast collection of peer-reviewed journals and articles.

One of Becerril García's most notable achievements is the creation of the AmeliCA initiative. This groundbreaking project promotes a sustainable and non-commercial model for open access publishing, emphasizing the importance of maintaining academic sovereignty and reducing the dependence on commercial publishers.

AmeliCA's innovative approach has been widely recognized for its potential to create a more equitable and inclusive global academic community.

Through her tireless efforts, Becerril García has challenged traditional publishing paradigms, advocating for greater inclusivity and accessibility in scholarly communication.

Her work continues to inspire and drive the open access movement, making significant strides towards a more open and connected world of academic research.



DR MEGHA SUD

BioDr Megha Sud is a Senior Science Officer at the International Science Council (ISC), where she has been instrumental in advancing evidence synthesis and knowledge brokerage at the science-policy interface since 2019.

She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Cologne, Germany, an MA in Development Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and a BA in History from the University of Delhi.

Dr Sud's interdisciplinary research focuses on climate change, biodiversity, and urban development, with a particular interest in how science informs policy decisions. Her notable career includes roles as a policy analyst and programme officer at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Energy Agency, and WWF India.

At WWF, she managed the Climate Savers programme, helping multinational corporations set and achieve carbon reduction goals, and led consulting projects on carbon and waste footprint mapping.

Her doctoral research explored the political ecology of urban forest conservation in Delhi, highlighting her expertise in environmental politics, development interlinkages, and international relations.

Based in Paris, Sud continues to build networks and facilitate collaborations that bridge the gap between science and policy, contributing to global efforts in addressing pressing environmental challenges.



DR SYLVIE ROUSSET

Dr Sylvie Rousset is the Director of the Open Research Data Department (DDOR) at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), where she leads initiatives to advance open science and enhance the sharing and management of research data.

With a PhD in Information Science, Dr Rousset has dedicated her career to improving data accessibility, transparency, and reuse across scientific disciplines, positioning CNRS at the forefront of the open science movement.

Under her leadership, the DDOR has been instrumental in developing national and European frameworks for open research data, enabling researchers to align with the principles of the European Union's open science agenda.

Rousset has played a key role in promoting the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles, which aim to make research data more accessible and reusable for the global scientific community.

One of Rousset's major achievements has been her contribution to the development of France's national open access policies. She has worked closely with governmental bodies, research institutions, and funding agencies to integrate open data and open access practices into research funding programs, advocating for policies that ensure long-term preservation and easy access to data. Her work has contributed to creating a more open and collaborative research environment, where data sharing is seen as a fundamental part of scientific discovery.

Rousset is also an active contributor to various international open access and open science initiatives, collaborating with European and global networks to shape the future of research data management. Her efforts continue to drive the adoption of best practices in open data and to foster a culture of data stewardship and transparency within the scientific community.

Through her leadership and expertise, Rousset is shaping the future of open research, ensuring that data is not only shared but actively used to accelerate scientific progress.

A photograph of Professor Mary Oyie Abukutsa-Onyango standing in a field of green leafy vegetables. She is wearing a colorful, patterned dress. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees.

PROF MARY OYIELA ABUKUTSA- ONYANGO

Professor Mary Oyie Abukutsa-Onyango is a distinguished agricultural scientist and humanitarian from Kenya, specializing in olericulture, agronomy, and plant physiology. She holds a PhD in Olericulture, Plant Physiology, and Nutrition from Wye College, University of London, as well as an MSc and BSc in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi.

As a professor of horticulture at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Abukutsa-Onyango has dedicated over 20 years to researching African indigenous vegetables. Her pioneering work has demonstrated the nutritional value of these vegetables, highlighting their potential to combat malnutrition in Africa and provide a sustainable source of income even in challenging climates. Her research has shown that vegetables such as amaranth greens, spider plant, and African nightshade are rich in protein, iron, calcium, folate, and essential vitamins, offering a nutritious alternative to meat for those unable to afford it.

Abukutsa-Onyango's influence extends beyond academia. She has led over 20 multidisciplinary research projects on agrobiodiversity and has been instrumental in shaping agricultural policies in Kenya. Her advocacy has led to the incorporation of indigenous vegetables into diets recommended by Kenya's Health Ministry, particularly for HIV patients. She has published nearly 100 scientific articles and served in key leadership roles at JKUAT, including a recent five-year term as Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

A passionate promoter of open science, open access publishing, and institutional repositories, Abukutsa-Onyango has actively worked to make scientific knowledge more accessible and impactful. In August 2024, she received the National Outstanding Research Award (NORA) from the National Research Fund (Kenya) during the first National Research Festival in Nairobi, Kenya.

Her contributions to science and society have earned her numerous accolades, including the 2009 CTA Woman Scientist award and the 2010 African Union 1st Prize for Women Scientists in Earth and Life Sciences. In addition to her research, she has played a significant role in the conservation of indigenous food and medicinal plants, notably through her work on the Maseno University Botanic Garden. Abukutsa-Onyango is a passionate promoter of agrobiodiversity and a dynamic leader in the African scientific community, with a commitment to excellence, integrity, and sustainable development.



DR MOUMITA KOLEY

Dr Moumita Koley is a distinguished scientist and scholar whose expertise spans synthetic organic chemistry and science policy. She is a senior research analyst at the DST-Centre for Policy Research, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India, and a Research Fellow at the Research on Research Institute (RoRI), United Kingdom.

Dr Koley worked as a consultant for the International Science Council's Future of Scientific Publishing project between March 2023 and June 2024.

Koley's academic journey began with a Doctor of Philosophy in Organic Chemistry from the Vienna University of Technology in Austria, where she focused on synthesizing small molecules to direct the differentiation of pluripotent stem cells into heart muscle cells.

Her subsequent interest in the structure and evolution of science led her to explore key areas of Open Science, including open access, open research data, and research evaluation. She has authored 16 research papers, book chapters, and numerous articles on these subjects and is a recognized voice in the global conversation on making science more open and accessible.

In addition to her academic work, Koley is deeply involved in science policy. She is a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU) Open Science Expert Group and serves on the steering committee of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), where she represents Asia. Her work in science policy also extends to Open Innovation, Open Source Drug Discovery, and leveraging science diplomacy to enhance global cooperation in Open Science initiatives.

Koley has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious Hannspeter Winter Prize for the best Ph.D. dissertation in 2010. She has also worked as a consultant for the International Science Council's Future of Scientific Publishing project, where she contributed to shaping strategies for more inclusive, efficient, and responsible scientific publishing.

Her passion for transforming scientific research to better meet the needs of society drives her continued work in these vital areas.



DR EMILY CHOYNOWSKI

Dr Emily Choynowski is the Chief Academic Officer at Knowledge E, where she leads the Research Development and Dissemination division.

Her work involves providing scholarly content, academic publishing solutions, manuscript preparation support, and capacity-building services to various academic bodies and organizations globally.

With a PhD in Literature and Religion, she seamlessly integrates her academic expertise into her professional roles.

Dr Choynowski also serves as the Director of Operations for the Forum for Open Research in MENA, a non-profit initiative aimed at promoting open science policies across the Arab region.

As an independent scholar, she continues to contribute to the field of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature and culture, frequently lecturing at schools, museums, and universities worldwide.

In addition, Choynowski sits on the editorial boards of prominent literature journals and university presses, as well as various international scholarly associations, furthering research development and fostering equitable research practices.

Her leadership at Knowledge E combines academic integrity with a commitment to advancing open access and scholarly communication across the globe.



PROF LIU XIWEN

Professor Liu Xiwen is a leading expert in scientific and technological strategic intelligence, information policy, and competitive intelligence.

Professor Liu currently serves as the Director of the National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC), where he has played a pivotal role in research and development in the fields of information services, technology evaluation, and industry development strategy. His work has influenced national policy decisions and shaped the trajectory of China's science and technology landscape.

Professor Liu graduated from School of Information Management of Wuhan University (SIM-WU) and Economic Management School of University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), PhD in management science. His research area includes the S&T information analysis, scientometrics and innovation policy, S&T strategy and policy services, open access and open science, data mining and knowledge discovery, library information system, information policy. Also, Professor Liu's research and leadership roles, who is the Editor-in-Chief of Think Tank: Theory and Practices and Science Focus. As the supervisor of PhD candidate and professor of UCAS, who mentoring the next generation of scholars in information science, technology policy, and competitive intelligence.

Professor Liu holds key leadership roles in professional organizations, including as a standing member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA-LIS) and Vice Secretary General of the Library Society of China. These roles allow him to contribute to global discussions on library and information science and help shape the development of information infrastructure in China and beyond.

With Professor Liu's extensive experience at the intersection of research, policy, and industry, his work continues to influence China's scientific and academic communities. He remains an active contributor to national and regional innovation strategies, leveraging his expertise to drive forward-thinking solutions in the evolving landscape of science and technology.



PROF MADARA OGOT

Professor Madara Ogot was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Enterprise at the University of Nairobi and the CEO of the UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networks. With 28 years of experience across the United States and Kenya, he has held key leadership roles, including Managing Director at the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Ltd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Maseno University, and Director of Research at the University of Nairobi.

Professor Ogot holds a BSE in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University, a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University, an MBA in Strategic Management from Rutgers University, and a second PhD in Business Administration from the University of Nairobi.

His research interests span mechanical engineering, focusing on stochastic design optimization and transportation, and strategic management, particularly in small and medium enterprises. He is committed to advancing engineering education and integrating technology into curricula, ensuring graduates are equipped to address modern challenges. Additionally, he investigates the role of science and technology in promoting socio-economic development in Africa.

Ogot has significantly contributed to the development of Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) policy in Kenya. He has been involved in creating key legislation, including the Universities Act (2012), the Technical, Industrial, and Vocational Training Act (2013), and the Science and Technology Act (2013), which established the Kenya National Innovation Agency, the National Research Fund, and the National Commission for Science and Technology. He has also led the development of Kenya's Policy on Research Training and Innovation (2015) and the Ten-Year Master Plan for Science and Technology Parks (2017). A notable achievement in his career is establishing collaborative research initiatives that bridge academia and industry, driving innovation and addressing societal challenges.

Throughout his career, Ogot has mentored and supervised postgraduate students in mechanical engineering and strategic management and published extensively in these fields. His leadership has guided the University of Nairobi in research and collaboration, contributing to development goals in Kenya and the region. His work with the UbuntuNet Alliance has also improved internet access for research and educational institutions, enhancing knowledge sharing and collaboration. Ogot's vision continues to inspire advancements in research, innovation, and enterprise development, making a lasting impact on Africa's educational landscape.



PROF SARAY CORDOBA- GONZÁLEZ

Saray Córdoba-González, a retired professor from the Universidad de Costa Rica, is a distinguished figure in the field of education, known for her transformative contributions to curriculum development and educational innovation.

With a Master's, and Bachelor's in Information Sciences and Education, her academic and research focus spanned teaching methodologies, inclusive education, and the enhancement of learning environments.

Professor Córdoba-González's research focuses on the areas of Scientific Communication, Open Science, and Open Access and teaches about journals' scientific quality for scholars both in Costa Rica and Central America. Her work particularly emphasized the importance of scientific information in academic framework.

Throughout her career, Córdoba-González has played a pivotal role in reshaping the educational landscape at the Universidad de Costa Rica. She has worked in educating information professionals to understand the role of open science in their field, to include modern approaches that foster collaboration, transparency, and leveraging available resources. Her efforts to introduce innovative teaching methods led to significant improvements in both the quality and effectiveness of teaching, benefiting educators and learners alike.

One of her most notable achievements was her leadership in creating open repositories and journal portals, as well as initiating and promoting of Latindex in Costa Rica.

Córdoba-González's influence extended beyond the university, impacting national policies aimed at improving information standards across the country. Her work continues to be recognized for its lasting impact on the educational practices in Costa Rica, where she remains a respected figure in both academic and policy circles.



MS KATHLEEN SHEARER

Kathleen Shearer is the Executive Director of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories, an influential international association that is dedicated to advancing the transformational role of repositories in scholarly communications.

Shearer has been a prominent figure in open access, open science, scholarly communications, and research data management for close to 20 years.

Over the past 15 years, she has worked through COAR to build a truly global coalition of repositories and repository networks, ensuring that repositories are recognized as critical infrastructure for open science in national and continental policies; and that repositories innovate and adopt good practices.

Based in Montreal, Canada, she actively contributes to numerous organizations working to advance open science at a global scale including the Research Data Alliance, UNESCO Open Science Working Groups as well as numerous regional organizations such as the LIBSENSE Africa and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

One of Shearer's major achievements has been leading COAR's Next Generation Repositories and the COAR Notify initiatives, which have set new standards and practices to enhance repositories' functionality to meet the needs of the open science in the future, including repositories playing a more prominent role in the diamond OA ecosystem via the "Publish, Review, Curate" model of scholarly publishing.



DR ARBAIN ARBAIN

Dr Arbain Arbain is a lecturer at Widya Gama Mahakam Samarinda University and the Head of Relawan Jurnal Indonesia (RJI), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing scientific publications in Indonesia and globally.

Since 2016, Dr Arbain has been deeply involved in volunteer work, leading journal training and workshops across Indonesia with a vision of “Sharing to Foster Publications.” His work is focused on building a robust Open Access Journal ecosystem that enhances the accessibility and quality of scholarly publications in the country.

Relawan Jurnal Indonesia (RJI) was founded with two primary objectives: first, to support the management of journals in Indonesia, and second, to serve as a valuable resource for journal managers across the nation.

As a volunteer-driven initiative, RJI provides expertise, guidance, and training in electronic journal management to university journal managers, research institutions, and other academic organizations throughout Indonesia, regardless of institutional affiliation or location. RJI’s work is rooted in the belief that collaboration and knowledge-sharing can elevate the quality of scientific publishing and foster greater access to knowledge.

Under Arbain’s leadership, RJI has grown into a significant force in the Indonesian academic landscape, empowering journal managers and editors to enhance their skills and develop high-quality, open-access journals. His commitment to the development of scientific publications aligns with his broader mission of contributing to the global scholarly community and ensuring that Indonesian research is widely disseminated and accessible.

Arbain’s dedication to fostering a sustainable and inclusive publishing ecosystem has earned him recognition as a key figure in the Open Access movement in Indonesia, where his vision continues to inspire and shape the future of scholarly communication.



MS ANDREA MORA CAMPOS

Andrea Mora Campos serves as the Academic Advisor in Open Science at the Vice-Rector's Office for Research at the National University of Costa Rica (UNA), as well as the National Council of Rectors of Costa Rica (CONARE) and the Central American University Superior Council (CSUCA). Her role is essential to fostering an open and collaborative research environment, advocating for Open Science to make scientific knowledge more accessible to researchers, practitioners, and the public.

With a background in human movement sciences, Mora Campos brings technical expertise and research experience to her role, focusing on integrating open science principles into UNA's research ecosystem. Her main research interests include open science, open access, scientific journals, repositories, open research data, human movement, and pedagogy. She emphasizes that freely sharing knowledge across borders is essential for scientific progress and societal benefit.

One of her notable achievements is founding the CSUCA Central American Open Science group, representing 28 public universities from nine Central American and Caribbean countries. In 2023, these universities jointly declared their commitment to Open Science aligned with UNESCO recommendations. Mora Campos has since supported the development of models for managing diamond route journals and strategic Open Science frameworks within these institutions. She also serves as a representative of Costa Rica and an ex-president of the Latin American Open Science Network (LA Referencia), where she has facilitated Open Science training in Spanish and Portuguese across Latin America.

In Costa Rica, Mora Campos has been part of the Open Science Subcommittee for nine years, collaborating on national Open Science initiatives across public and private institutions. At UNA, she led the development of the Open Science Strategy, establishing a structured framework that promotes open access to research results and encourages data sharing. She is also a founding member of the Research Data Alliance node in Costa Rica, promoting RDA activities across Latin America.

She currently advises the Open Science group of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Costa Rica in constructing the National Open Science Strategy. Additionally, Mora Campos collaborates with international Open Science organizations to align university policies with global standards. Beyond her advisory and leadership roles, she actively organizes training programs and workshops to educate researchers on best practices in open access, research data management, and scientific communication.



PROF LUCY MONTGOMERY

Professor Lucy Montgomery is a Professor at the School of media, creative arts and social injury at the Curtin University, Australia.

Professor Montgomery holds a PhD in Media and Communications and is a leading expert in open knowledge, digital scholarship, and university performance. She is the co-lead of the Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative (COKI), a groundbreaking research project that combines big data, cloud computing, and critical humanities perspectives to explore how universities can enhance their roles as Open Knowledge Institutions. COKI has developed a comprehensive database that draws from over 12 trillion data points to map the evolving landscape of open access, scholarly communication, diversity, and inclusion.

Montgomery's research focuses on how open knowledge practices are transforming knowledge production, sharing, and use across academic and broader societal contexts. A pioneer in the open access movement, she has been involved in the scholarly book space since 2012. She also serves as the Research Director of COARD, a not-for-profit consultancy specializing in open access books and initiatives.

*In 2021, Montgomery published *Open Knowledge Institutions: Reinventing Universities* (MIT Press, 2021), co-authored with leading experts. The work explores the future of universities in the digital age and the transformation of scholarly communication. Montgomery has received several accolades for her contributions to open access, including the IFLA Brill Award for Open Access in 2014 for Knowledge Unlatched's Best Open Access Initiative and the Curtin Commercial Innovation Award in 2015 for Knowledge Unlatched's Best Innovation in Education.*

She serves on multiple editorial and advisory boards, including the Directory of Open Access Books, Open Scholarship Press, the University of Western Australia Publishing Advisory Board, and the OA Books Toolkit Editorial Advisory Board. Montgomery's work continues to shape the future of academic publishing and open knowledge practices worldwide.



DR KARL HUANG

Dr. Chun-Kai (Karl) Huang is the Director of Centre for Culture and Technology at the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University and is a member of the Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative

Dr Huang is a statistical analyst and data scientist with a PhD and Master's degree in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science. He has held academic positions as a lecturer at both the University of Cape Town in the Department of Statistical Sciences and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science. His academic career has been marked by a deep expertise in statistical modeling, applied mathematics, and data science.

Huang's current research focuses on developing advanced statistical models to analyze differences, patterns, and correlations in bibliometric and bibliographic data sources. His work seeks to leverage large-scale data science techniques to explore the open knowledge landscape, with an emphasis on how academic research and scholarly communication shape global knowledge systems. He is particularly interested in the intersection of statistical methods and the mapping of research impact in the 21st century.

As a trained mathematical statistician, Huang has a strong publication record in the fields of probability, statistics, and financial risk modeling. His contributions have addressed complex challenges in risk assessment and uncertainty modeling across various domains.

Currently, Huang is a statistical analyst and data scientist with the Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative (COKI). COKI has developed the world's most comprehensive database of open knowledge indicators, analyzing over 12 trillion data elements to offer new insights into the role of universities in global research and innovation. His work at COKI is central to advancing our understanding of how open knowledge is reshaping academic research and its broader societal impact.

Huang combines cutting-edge statistical methods with large-scale data analytics to provide novel insights into the evolving landscape of academic publishing and open knowledge.



DR EURICO WONGO GUNGULA

Eurico Wongo Gungula has served as the Rector of Oscar Ribas University in Luanda, Angola, since 2016. He coordinates the Multidisciplinary Research Group on Open Science in Angola and is the UNESCO focal point for Open Science in the country..

In 2017, Gungula co-authored the work recognized by the annual Cuban Academy of Sciences award. Since 2018, he has been a guest professor in the Doctorate in Educational Sciences at the University of Ciego de Ávila, Cuba.

He also leads the Technical Group composed of representatives from national Higher Education Institutions, tasked with creating and promoting the Angolan Network of Scientific Journals and advancing Open Access to scientific information across Angola (Diário da República de Angola, II Série – N.º 202, Despacho n.º 6428/23 de 24 de Outubro).

In October 2023, he represented Angola as the official delegate on the Organizing Committee of the first Global Summit on Diamond Open Access in Toluca, Mexico, where Angola served as the co-organizing African nation (Global Diamond Open Access).

He is also a member of the Board of Advisors for the Scientific Information System at Redalyc, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (Redalyc). Additionally, he is a member of the International Scientific Council for scientific journals in Costa Rica, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba and Angola.

*With 57 digital publications, including scientific articles and books, Gungula's work significantly contributes to advancing open access in Angola and beyond. His notable article, "Open Access in Angola: A Survey Among Higher Education Institutions," published in *Scientometrics*, Springer Nature, (2022) provides valuable perspectives on the state of Open Access among Angolan Higher Education Institutions, underscoring his commitment to fostering greater access to scientific information.*



MS JILL CLAASSEN

Jill Claassen is the Scholarly Communications Manager at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Libraries, where she plays a pivotal role in shaping the university's approach to academic publishing, open access, and the dissemination of research.

With extensive experience in Library and Information Science, Claassen is at the forefront of advancing scholarly communication practices within the academic community, advocating for equitable access to knowledge and promoting the visibility of African research on a global stage. Claassen's qualifications include a master's degree in Library and Information Science, with a specialised focus on digital libraries, open access, and scholarly communication frameworks. She is registered as a PhD candidate and her research is on developing an open access publishing model for Africa.

Claassen has contributed significantly to UCT Libraries' efforts to modernise academic publishing processes, through library publishing with a social justice lens, ensuring that faculty, researchers, and students have access to cutting-edge platforms for sharing their work. Her research interests include open access, digital preservation, and the evolving landscape of scholarly publishing. She is particularly focused on advancing institutional repository systems and supporting academics in navigating the complexities of copyright and intellectual property in the digital age. A notable achievement of Claassen's career has been her leadership in the implementation of UCT's open access policies.

She spearheaded initiatives to expand the university's institutional repository, making research outputs more accessible to both local and global audiences. This effort not only enhances the reach and impact of African scholarship but also contributes to closing the gap in access to information between the Global North and South.

Claassen's work has positioned UCT Libraries as a leader in the open access movement across Africa. Her leadership in scholarly communications ensures that research produced by African academics gains visibility and is preserved for future generations. She remains a key advocate for open knowledge, digital equity, and ensuring that African voices are well-represented in the global academic discourse.



PROF ANA MARÍA CETTO

Professor Ana María Cetto is a distinguished physicist, researcher, and advocate for science communication. She is a full-time Research Professor at the Institute of Physics and a lecturer at the Faculty of Sciences, UNAM. She earned her M.A. in Biophysics from Harvard University, as well as M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Physics from UNAM.

Her primary research focus lies in theoretical physics, particularly the foundations of quantum mechanics, where she has made significant contributions to stochastic electrodynamics. Her work explores the interaction between light and matter, deepening the understanding of quantum phenomena with applications in fields like optical technologies and energy.

Throughout her illustrious career, Professor Cetto has held numerous prestigious roles, including serving as Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 2003 to 2010. During her tenure, the IAEA was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 for efforts to prevent the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. Cetto also played a leading role in the founding of LATINDEX, a pioneering online information system for Ibero-American and Caribbean scholarly journals, aimed at enhancing the visibility of regional research outputs.

Cetto is deeply committed to promoting the participation of women in science, co-founding the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS), and serving in various capacities across international organizations, including the International Council for Science (ICSU), United Nations University (UNU), and the Pugwash Conferences, which were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995.

Her work extends to scientific dissemination, notably through her leadership of the Museum of Light in Mexico City and her involvement in the International Year of Light initiative. Cetto's contributions to science and society have been recognized with numerous honors, including being named Mexico's Woman of the Year in 2003, receiving the UNESCO Kalinga Prize in 2023, and the creation of the "Ana María Cetto Chair for the Diffusion of Scientific Culture" at the University of Guadalajara. Cetto's legacy is marked by her unwavering dedication to advancing scientific knowledge, advocating for open access, and empowering women in physics, making her a prominent figure in both the scientific and broader academic communities.



DR JUDITH NAIDORF

Judith Naidorf holds a degree in Educational Sciences (1999) from the University of Buenos Aires and a PhD in Educational Sciences from the same institution (2005).

She is a Principal Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) based at the Institute for Research in Educational Sciences of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters at the University of Buenos Aires (IICE-UBA) and a Professor in the Educational Sciences Program at the same university.

Currently, she serves as the coordinator of the Latin American Forum on Scientific Evaluation (FOLEC) of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO).

She has trained at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto in Canada and has delivered lectures and postgraduate courses in countries such as Belgium, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Portugal, Spain, Japan, Cuba, Israel, France, Mexico, among others.

She leads national and international research projects on science policies and higher education in Latin America and is the author of over 100 publications on these topics. In recent years, she has focused on issues related to the mobilization, transfer, and circulation of scientific knowledge.

She has supervised ten completed doctoral dissertations and twenty postgraduate fellowships, coordinated education committees at CONICET, and advised student and teacher unions in their fight against scienticide, the privatization of knowledge and universities, and for critical pedagogies.



MR JANNE PÖLÖNEN

Janne Pölönen is the Secretary General of the Publication Forum at the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV), a role he has held since 2010.

In this role, he has played a central part in the development and ongoing refinement of Finland's national classification system for peer-reviewed journals and book publishers.

The Publication Forum aims to improve the transparency, quality, and impact of academic publishing in Finland, and Pölönen has been at the forefront of its evolution, shaping policies around scholarly communication, bibliometrics, research assessment, and open science.

Pölönen holds a Licentiate of Philosophy in history, with a specialization in ancient Roman law and society. While his early academic work focused on historical research, his scholarly interests have since expanded to include issues of research evaluation and publishing policy. In particular, Pölönen is a strong advocate for inclusive, equitable, and transparent research assessment practices. His recent research addresses the challenges of multilingualism and language biases in scholarly communication—issues he argues are critical for ensuring the fair and impartial evaluation of research across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Beyond his work with TSV, Pölönen serves as a member of the Steering Board of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), where he coordinates the CoARA Working Group on Multilingualism and Language Biases. He is also a leading advocate for the Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication, a movement aimed at promoting linguistic diversity and inclusivity in academic publishing.

Pölönen's contributions reflect a broader commitment to fostering more open, fair, and globally accessible research systems that support cultural and linguistic diversity in the academic world. With extensive experience in both the theoretical and practical dimensions of scholarly publishing, Pölönen is dedicated to advancing the future of academic communication through more equitable and transparent practices.



PROF MOSA MOSHABELA

Professor Mosa Moshabela is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town (UCT) and a distinguished Professor of Public Health. With a medical degree (MBChB) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, a Master's in Family Medicine from the University of Limpopo, a PhD in Public Health from the University of the Witwatersrand, and an MSc in Demography & Health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Professor Moshabela is one of South Africa's leading clinician-scientists.

His research primarily focuses on the improvement of healthcare access, quality, and equity, with a particular interest in HIV, TB, and infectious diseases in low- and middle-income countries. He is an expert in implementation science, health systems, services, and policy research. Moshabela has held several leadership roles, including serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he managed research development, ethics, innovation, and technology transfer.

Moshabela's work has been recognized through numerous awards, including the PHILA Annual Award from the Public Health Association of South Africa (2022) and the Ministerial Special Covid-19 Award (2020-2021) for his contributions to science communication and public engagement during the pandemic. He also chairs the Governing Board of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and serves as a Health Commissioner for KwaZulu-Natal. His contributions to public health extend globally through his leadership of the Quality Health Systems and Transformation (QuEST) Center in South Africa, a collaboration with Harvard University, and his involvement with international advisory boards such as the Lancet Healthy Longevity and commissions under the US National Academies for Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

Moshabela's career is marked by his commitment to advancing public health and transforming healthcare delivery in underserved regions through impactful research and leadership. Beyond his many accomplishments, roles, and research, Moshabela is recognized for his mentorship of emerging scholars and his contributions to global health networks. He continues to drive impactful health research that addresses critical challenges in low-resource settings, making him an invaluable voice in the field of global health.



DR BIANCA KRAMER

Dr Bianca Kramer is an advisor, research analyst, facilitator Sesame Open Science: Utrecht, NL

After having worked as a scholarly communication/open science librarian at Utrecht University Library for 15 years, in 2022 Dr Kramer moved to independent consulting/research analyst role at Sesame Open Science, with a focus on open science, open metadata and open infrastructure.

She has investigated trends in innovations in scholarly communication across the research cycle in the project 'Innovations in Scholarly Communication'. She has organized many interactive workshops on open science, including the course 'Scientometrics using Open Data' in collaboration with CWTS Leiden and Curtin Open Knowledge Institute (COKI).

Kramer has (co)authored commissioned reports on a quantitative analysis of publication types in Dutch research outputs, a gap analysis of Plan S-compliant publication venues, the diamond OA landscape, and the comparison of coverage and quality of metadata for Dutch research output in OpenAlex and OpenAIRE. She has also been involved in developing Open Access monitoring using open data sources in the Netherland and the UK.

Kramer is founding member of the Initiative for Open Abstracts (I4OA) and part of the organizing team of the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information.

She is currently a member of the Preprint Advisory Group of Crossref, and has been on the Europe PMC and Literature Services Scientific Advisory Board of EMBL-EBI, the board of FORCE11, and the EC Expert Group on the Future of Scholarly Communication and Scholarly Publishing.



DR EDUARDO AGUADO- LÓPEZ

Dr Eduardo Aguado-López is a prominent figure in the field of academic publishing and open access to scientific information. He is the Founder and General Director of Redalyc (Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal), a pioneering open-access initiative aimed at disseminating Latin American science.

Dr Aguado-López is also a Founder and member of the steering committee of AmeliCA, an open infrastructure designed to strengthen the visibility of scientific knowledge from the Global South.

Aguado-López holds a Doctorate in Higher Education from the Center for Research and Teaching in Humanities of the State of Morelos (CIDHEM), a Master's degree in Sociology from the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM), and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM). He is currently a Professor-Researcher at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at UAEM, where he contributes to academic development and mentors emerging scholars.

His research interests span several crucial areas, including bibliometrics, open access, alternative metrics, and epistemology, where he has published numerous papers. Aguado-López is a leading advocate for open science in Latin America and has significantly contributed to global conversations on knowledge equity and the democratization of science.

In recognition of his contributions to the dissemination of Latin American scientific knowledge, Aguado-López was awarded the prestigious "Doctor Caracciolo Parra y Olmedo, Heroic Rector" distinction by the University of the Andes, Venezuela, in 2011. He is also a member of the National System of Researchers (SNI-CONACYT), further solidifying his status as a distinguished scholar and thought leader in the academic community.

Through his leadership at Redalyc and AmeliCA, Aguado-López continues to champion open access to research, advancing the cause of scientific knowledge dissemination, particularly in underrepresented regions like Latin America.



PROF DERESH RAMJUGERNATH (VC SUN)

Professor Deresh Ramjugernath is a distinguished academic leader and chemical engineer who will become the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University on 1 April 2025

He is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching at Stellenbosch University, a role he has held since January 2021.

Professor Ramjugernath earned his BScEng (Chemical), MSc, and PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), where he became a full professor at the age of 31. His research focuses on thermodynamics and separation technologies, including high-pressure vapor-liquid equilibria, gas hydrate separation, and plasma reactor technologies.

He has published over 350 peer-reviewed journal articles, 345+ conference papers, and numerous book chapters, holds seven patents, and has supervised more than 90 master's students, 40 PhD students, and 22 postdoctoral fellows.

Ramjugernath's work has earned global recognition, including being listed among Thomson Reuters' Highly Cited Researchers in 2013.

Previously, he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Pro Vice-Chancellor: Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship at UKZN, working extensively with the chemical industry on innovative projects locally and internationally.

Ramjugernath has received numerous awards, including the NRF President's Award, NSTF Awards, and the South African Institute of Chemical Engineers Gold Medal. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, the African Academy of Sciences, and the South African Academy of Engineering.

As Vice-Chancellor Designate, he brings a transformative vision to elevate Stellenbosch University as a globally recognized research-intensive institution dedicated to societal impact.



PROF LUCIANA BALBOA

Professor Luciana Balboa is a distinguished Biomedical Researcher at the Institute for Biomedical Research on Retroviruses and AIDS (INBIRS), affiliated with the University of Buenos Aires — CONICET in Argentina.

*With a PhD in Biomedical Research, she has dedicated her career to enhancing our understanding of infectious diseases, particularly focusing on the immune response to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and its immunometabolic aspects, especially in the context of HIV co-infection.*

In her pursuit of scientific excellence, Professor Balboa established the first French-Argentine International Associated Laboratory devoted to tuberculosis research, fostering collaboration between international partners.

She is an advocate for young scientists, currently serving as co-president of the Academia Joven de Argentina and an active member of Academia Joven Global, both aimed at amplifying the voices of early-career researchers worldwide.

Balboa is also a board member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), a global coalition focused on reforming research assessment practices to promote open science and ensure equitable access to knowledge.

Her involvement in various international consortia includes initiatives such as the Collaboration for Tuberculosis Vaccine Discovery (supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and the VALIDATE Network in the United Kingdom, aimed at improving vaccine development for tuberculosis and neglected pathogens.

Through her research and advocacy, Balboa strives to create a more transparent, inclusive, and effective scientific ecosystem that addresses disparities between the global North and South.



DR NOKUTHULA MCHUNU

Dr Nokuthula Mchunu is the Deputy Director at the African Open Science Platform, hosted by the National Research Foundation of South Africa. With a PhD in Fungal Genomics, Dr Mchunu has expertise in biotechnology, fungal genomics, and Open Science. Mchunu is a trailblazer in advocating for science accessibility across Africa.

Her research focuses on utilizing genomics and data-driven approaches to address environmental challenges, particularly in water management and pollution control.

Mchunu has previously served as a Senior Researcher at the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa within the Biotechnology Platform, focusing on Covid-19 and pathogen surveillance in wastewater, fungal genetics, cannabis, and African legume genomics. She has also held academic positions as a senior scholar in the Department of Biotechnology at Durban University of Technology for over 15 years.

Her international experience includes research appointments at leading institutions such as the University of Cincinnati (USA), Lund University (Sweden), Tianjin University (China), and the Centre for Chemical Biology (Malaysia). Notably, Mchunu was the first recipient of the Young Scientist Programme between China and South Africa, recognizing her pioneering work in biotechnology and genomics.

With a distinguished career in science and academia, Mchunu is recognized for her contributions to Open Science advocacy and her efforts in scaling Open Science activities across Africa. Her expertise extends to academia outreach, popularizing STEM fields among local communities, and fostering partnerships with knowledge and research organizations worldwide.

Mchunu's work is characterized by her commitment to building continental and global research partnerships, driving the advancement of science and technology in Africa, and promoting equitable access to scientific knowledge through Open Science initiatives. Mchunu continues to actively champion the cause of open science, driving forward initiatives that support research infrastructure, policy development, and the overall democratization of scientific knowledge on the continent.



MS HEATHER JOSEPH

Heather Joseph is the Executive Director of SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), a role she has held since 2005. Under her leadership, SPARC has become the leading advocacy organization for promoting open and equitable global systems of research and education. Joseph has spearheaded initiatives that have led to significant changes in public policy, including the 2023 White House Memorandum mandating open access to all U.S. federally funded research outputs. .

A recognized expert in national and international open research policies, Joseph has advised public and private funders, serving on several national boards and committees such as the U.S. Department of Commerce Data Advisory Council and the National Institute of Standards Research Data Framework Committee. She played a key role in establishing the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Aligning Incentives to Support Open Science, furthering the mission to incentivize knowledge sharing.

Joseph's expertise extends globally through SPARC's network of affiliates in Europe, Asia, and Africa, where she collaborates on community-driven projects that support open knowledge sharing. She has worked on open research initiatives with international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. A notable achievement in Joseph's career includes her pivotal role in the development and promotion of the "Open Access 2020" initiative, which seeks to accelerate the transition to open access publishing worldwide.

Prior to joining SPARC, Joseph spent 15 years in commercial and not-for-profit journal publishing, which provided her with a deep understanding of the publishing industry. She serves on the Board of Directors for various organizations, including Public Resource and Our Research.

A frequent speaker and writer, Joseph is a prominent voice in scholarly communications, focusing on open access and higher education issues. Her advocacy has helped to drive the conversation around the importance of open access, ultimately influencing policies at institutional, national, and international levels. Joseph continues to champion the cause of equitable access to knowledge, ensuring that research is freely available to all, thereby advancing global education and innovation.



DR LIDIA BORRELL- DAMIAN

Dr Lidia Borrell-Damián is the Secretary General of Science Europe, a prominent organization representing major public bodies that fund or conduct cutting-edge research across Europe. She has been in this role since 2019 and oversees the strategic direction and functioning of the association.

Dr Borrell-Damián has an extensive background in European and global research and innovation (R&I) policy, with particular expertise in areas such as EU Framework Programmes, Open Science, research infrastructures, and ethics in research.

Before joining Science Europe, Borrell-Damián was the Director for Research and Innovation at the European University Association (EUA), where she coordinated R&I policies and collaborations with universities and National Rectors' Conferences across Europe. Her leadership extended to key areas such as doctoral education, university-business cooperation, regional innovation, and gender issues in research.

She has played a pivotal role in promoting research excellence, fostering transnational collaboration, and enhancing the impact of European science on a global scale. Through her efforts, she has significantly influenced the development of policies that support open access, innovation, and sustainability within research communities across Europe.

Borrell-Damián holds a Doctorate in Chemistry, specializing in Chemical Engineering and Solar Energy, from the University of Barcelona. She has also held prominent academic roles, including Director of Research at Universitat Pompeu Fabra and visiting scholar positions at universities in the United States and Canada. She is a recognized expert in research policy development and serves on several international advisory committees, including the Global Research Council.

Throughout her career, Borrell-Damián has been committed to advancing sustainable development, fostering innovation, and promoting cooperation in higher education and research.



DR BHANU NEUPANE

Dr Bhanu Neupane serves as an Advisor for ICT and Sciences and Open Solutions, Dr Neupane is focused on enhancing access to scientific data through initiatives in Open Data, aiming to improve the transparency, accessibility, and utilization of critical scientific information globally.

Neupane is an expert in Hydrosystems, Water Resources Management, and Knowledge Management, with a distinguished career spanning several decades in international development and academia.

A seasoned educator, Neupane also holds a position as a visiting professor, where he teaches courses in Knowledge Management, Multi-criteria Decision-Making, Water Resources Management, and Disaster Risk Reduction at various universities. His teaching integrates practical insights from his extensive fieldwork and research experience, equipping students with the skills necessary to address complex global challenges.

Neupane began his career as a change agent for a GTZ-funded agricultural inputs project in Eastern Nepal in 1987, marking the beginning of his lifelong commitment to sustainable development. He went on to serve as an Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Specialist at a government research organization in Nepal, before expanding his expertise as a consultant across Southeast Asia and the United States during the late 1990s.

His international experience broadened further when he joined UNESCO in 2000 as a Programme Specialist, where he contributed to the UN system-wide World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and led the implementation of the International Hydrological Programme.

In 2004, Neupane was transferred to the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, where he played a pivotal role in designing and executing regional projects focused on hydrology and water resources across South Asia. With a career marked by leadership, innovation, and a commitment to the integration of science, policy, and technology, Neupane continues to influence the fields of water resources, disaster management, and knowledge sharing, shaping solutions to some of the most pressing global issues.



MR NICK SHOCKEY

Nick Shockey is the Director of Programs & Engagement at SPARC, where he has worked since 2009.

In his role at SPARC, Shockey leads initiatives aimed at promoting open educational resources, advocating for policies that enhance access to research outputs, and fostering collaboration among libraries, institutions, and researchers.

He is deeply involved in strategic engagement efforts that encourage the adoption of open access practices across various academic disciplines, helping to bridge the gap between research and public accessibility.

Nick works across SPARC to identify areas to better support member libraries, co-leads SPARC's communities of practice related to negotiations and privacy and surveillance, and leads SPARC's student and next generation-focused initiatives.

Nick also contributes to SPARC's policy advocacy and landscape analysis work, including authoring SPARC's statements opposing Clarivate's acquisition of ProQuest, Elsevier's acquisition of Interfolio, and commercial surveillance practices by academic vendors.

Through his work, Shockey continues to be a pivotal figure in advancing open science and education, making significant strides in the ongoing effort to democratize access to knowledge and research findings.

2nd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access



THANK YOU