

Who Owns Our Knowledge? Exploring Open Access through Voices of Change

Organised by the Library Open Science Office for International Open Access Week 2025, the exhibition 'Who Owns Our Knowledge? Exploring Open Access through Voices of Change' marks the 15th EUI edition of a global event first held in 2007.

Knowledge is power. Who creates it, who controls it, and who can access it are questions that shape not only research but also society. The International Open Access Week 2025 theme 'Who owns our knowledge?' discusses, among other issues, the integration of AI into academic processes, which threatens to undermine our knowledge systems.

Open Access enables free, immediate online access to scholarly outputs and permits reuse under open licences, helping to democratise science and education. Showcasing activists who dared to challenge traditional publishing, the exhibition 'Voices of Change' seeks to highlight that research should not be a privilege, but a shared resource for everyone.

This exhibition invites you to reflect on these transformations. Through narratives of resistance, innovation, and commitment to open research, it celebrates people who show how opening knowledge accelerates progress and broadens participation.

Open Access has no borders, and voices of change exist all around.
Explore the exhibition and mark your country with a pin!

As you engage with these narratives, we invite you to ask yourself:

**How can the EUI community take responsibility
for open, just, and inclusive
knowledge creation and dissemination?**



The individuals portrayed have provided consent for the use of their images. All citations on these posters derive from verified sources. References are documented in the Library blog.

The EUI PhD theses on display are the most downloaded in Cadmus, defended in the last decade (from 2014 to 2024). More information on the International Open Access Week 2025 event is available in the Library blog.

Martin Paul Eve

LITERATURE, TECHNOLOGY & PUBLISHING

Professor at Birkbeck and co-founder of the Open Library of Humanities, Martin is a leading advocate for Open Access in scholarly publishing. As Plan S Ambassador, he has shaped international policy and practice, bridging scholarship, technology, and equitable access to knowledge. He has authored ten books, developed digital projects, and received numerous awards.



*Doing Open Access unlocks
a whole global discourse of
academic communication.*



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Jean-Claude Guédon

OPEN ACCESS PIONEER & GLOBAL POLICY VOICE

Honorary Professor at the University of Montreal, Jean-Claude Guédon founded the first Canadian electronic journal, establishing himself as a pioneer of electronic publishing. As one of the original signatories of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, he has advanced scientific communication globally, advising the United Nations, the European Commission, Redalyc, and SciELO.



Validated knowledge is produced through the workings of a 'Great and Open Conversation'.



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Eva Méndez

METADATA & OPEN KNOWLEDGE

As a PhD in Library and Information Sciences and an expert in metadata, Eva considers herself an 'open knowledge militant'. She has shaped the global Open Science landscape through research, teaching, and policy leadership, influencing debates on open data and digital repositories. She was named Open Data Champion by SPARC Europe in 2017, cementing her role as a leading voice.



*A world with far more
Open Data will be a
better world - one that is
more transparent.*



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Frances Pinter

PUBLISHER, INNOVATOR & OPEN ACCESS ADVOCATE

Frances Pinter was the first woman in the UK to found her own publishing company. She established Knowledge Unlatched, a “global library consortium” enabling sustainable Open Access academic book publishing. She relaunched CEU Press with the Opening the Future initiative, led campaigns for open climate science, and supports Ukrainian publishing resilience.

(...) people who aren't lucky enough to be (...) at a university will also benefit from the content.



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Peter Suber

PHILOSOPHY, LAW & OPEN ACCESS ADVOCACY

Senior Advisor on Open Access at Harvard Library and Director of the Harvard Open Access Project at the Berkman Klein Center, Peter has dedicated decades to advancing the free circulation of research. His work spans education, collaboration, writing, tool-building, and public speaking, continuously shaping global conversations on equitable access to scholarly information.



*There are lamentably
many problems for which
OA is part of the solution.*



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Aaron Swartz

PROGRAMMER, HACKER & OPEN ACCESS ACTIVIST

A computer prodigy and visionary, Aaron Swartz dedicated his life to free knowledge, online privacy, and open access. He challenged paywalls, advocated for liberated culture, and helped develop the Creative Commons license. Through his 2008 Guerrilla Open Access Manifesto, he denounced the tyranny of academic publishing and championed freely accessible knowledge for all.



You get to feed at this banquet of knowledge while the rest of the world is locked out.



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Marta Teperek

ZOOLOGY & FAIR DATA

A leading voice in the global shift toward FAIR Data and Open Science, Marta is a pioneer of improved research practices through data stewardship and academic collaboration. From Cambridge to TU Delft and beyond, she has built sustainable infrastructures, led and guided international initiatives, and tirelessly championed transparent, accessible research worldwide.



If you want to move human knowledge forward, you have to share your discoveries with others.



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Essays on migration, education and work opportunities

Esther Mirjam Girsberger

European University Institute
Department of Economics, 2015



ABSTRACT

This thesis explores migration and education decisions in the context of a West African developing country, namely Burkina Faso. The first chapter provides descriptive empirical evidence on migration motives, internal and international migration patterns, and the role of gender and family in observed migration patterns. I rely on a unique and rich life history data set on locations and activity spells and cross-sectional information on 9,000 men and women in Burkina Faso. The empirical analysis reveals that internal and international migration movements attract very different types of migrants, with education playing a key role. (...)

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full text



9,581
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Fear management: foreign threats in the postwar Polish propaganda. The influence and the reception of the communist media (1944 -1956)

Bruno Kaminski

European University Institute
Department of History and Civilisation 2016



ABSTRACT

The idea of this dissertation ascends from the scholarly interest in developing the issue of the history of emotions. Among four basic emotions, this thesis explores the vital historical and social aspects of the emotion of fear. In particular, this thesis offers a complex introduction to the general problem of propaganda fear management in communist Poland. The concept of fear management is examined as a manipulation of the propaganda information, referring to both the real and artificially stimulated fears with a special focus on external dreads. The entire set of figures of foreign threats are investigated as rhetorical tropes of the 'external enemies of Poland' (...).

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14,629

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Virtual property: towards a general theory

Przemysław Pałka

European University Institute
Department of Law, 2017



ABSTRACT

The primary contribution of the thesis is a theory enhancing the legal understanding of the phenomenon of virtual property, encompassing presentation of data and a new conceptual framework to interpret it. The author argues that the normative debates concerning the phenomenon have underestimated the importance of understanding and conceptualizing it first, and aims at amending this gap. The 'virtual property phenomenon' refers to the users of internet platforms and online computer games 'possessing' virtual items – digital objects that exist within these services – and getting into economic and social relations concerning these items, with other users, service providers and third parties. (...)

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23,022

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Precarious workers' unions in Greece and Italy: a comparative study of their organizational characteristics and their movement repertoire

Markos Vogiatzoglou

European University Institute
Department of Social and Political Sciences, 2015



ABSTRACT

This thesis is the outcome of six-year-long research, aiming at understanding how the flexibility-era-South European workers unionize and engage in collective action. Its empirical material derives from the employment of a qualitative methodology techniques' triangulation: archive research, participant observation and semi-structured interviews. I define as Precarious Workers' Unions (PWUs) labor collectives the members of which (a) are subjected to atypical labor relations; (b) lack adequate access to the welfare state structures; (c) have developed a collective conscience of belonging to a post-Fordist labor force. (...)

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OPEN ACCESS HAS NO BORDERS

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Who Owns Our Knowledge?

Exploring Open Access through Voices of Change

This is the final poster! Want some context? Head back to the beginning and get the complete picture.

By highlighting these 'Voices of Change', we underline that Open Access is not only a library initiative but a shared academic responsibility. A movement that everyone across academia should actively embrace and advance, just as at its inception.

This exhibition amplifies the voices of those who challenge barriers. We celebrate a global movement that redefines knowledge as a common good. The future of research depends on the choices we make today. Together, we can build a culture where openness strengthens discovery, inclusion, and justice.

**How can the EUI community take responsibility
for open, just, and inclusive
knowledge creation and dissemination?**

We invite you to share your ideas!

