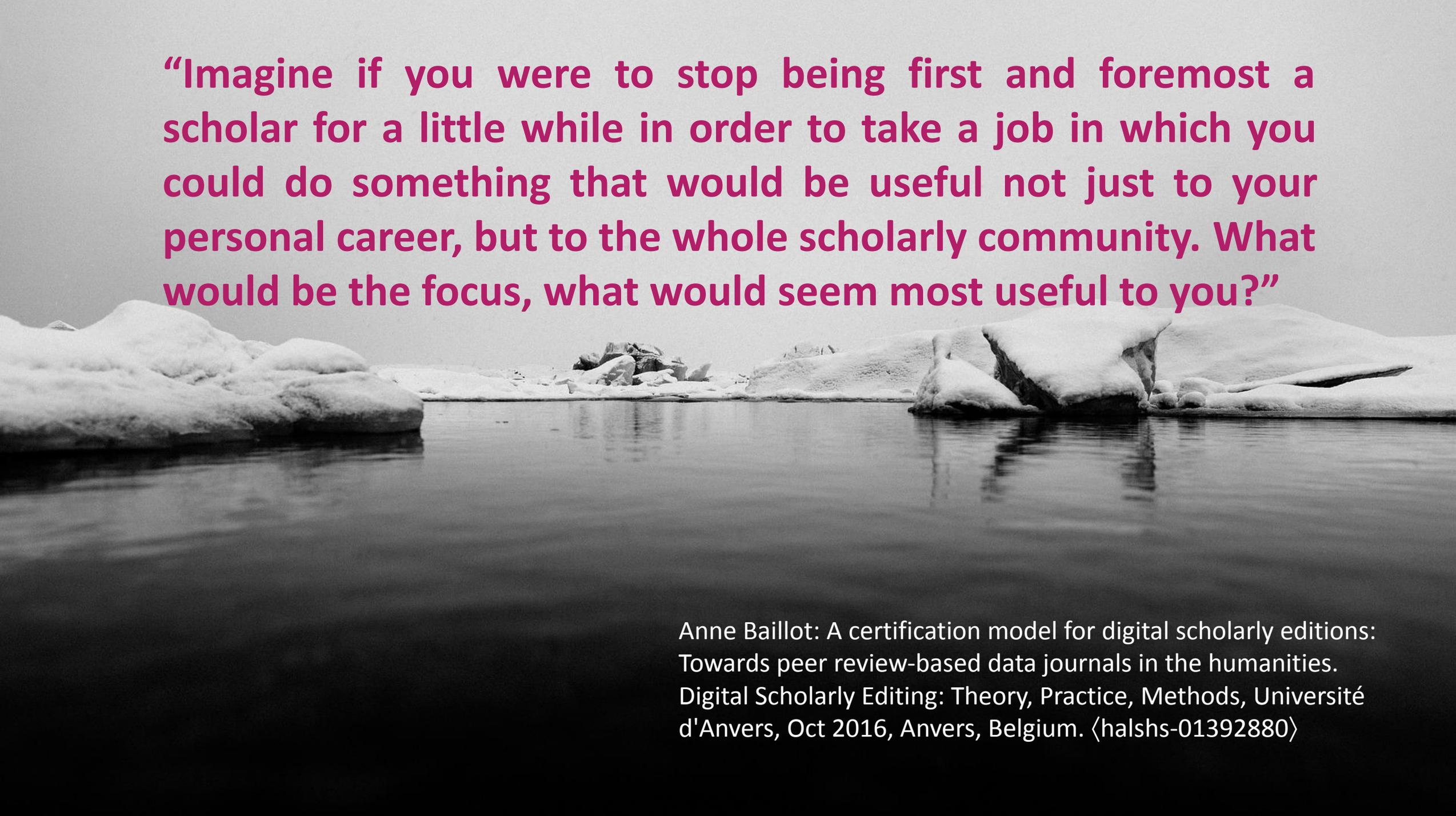


cover

**Text, techné and tenure: what remains out
of scope of research evaluation in
Humanities disciplines and how to change it
for the better?**

Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra
(Open Science Officer at DARIAH-EU, @etothczifra)





“Imagine if you were to stop being first and foremost a scholar for a little while in order to take a job in which you could do something that would be useful not just to your personal career, but to the whole scholarly community. What would be the focus, what would seem most useful to you?”

Anne Baillot: A certification model for digital scholarly editions: Towards peer review-based data journals in the humanities. Digital Scholarly Editing: Theory, Practice, Methods, Université d'Anvers, Oct 2016, Anvers, Belgium. <halshs-01392880>

We wanted to better understand...



Who we are?

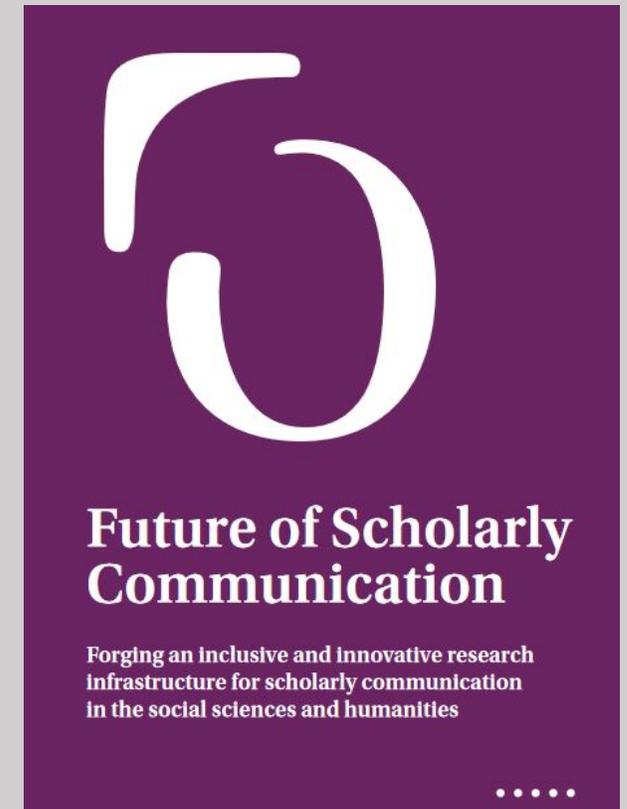
OPERAS-P T 6.6: on the quest for re-harmonizing research evaluation with research realities

- DARIAH-EU (Jennifer Edmond, Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra);
- Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (*Maciej Maryl, Marta Błaszczynska, Anna Buchner, Agnieszka Szulińska, Paweł Rams, Mateusz Franczak*);
- University of Zadar (*Jadranka Stojanovski, Iva Melinscak Zlodi, Kresimir Zauder*)

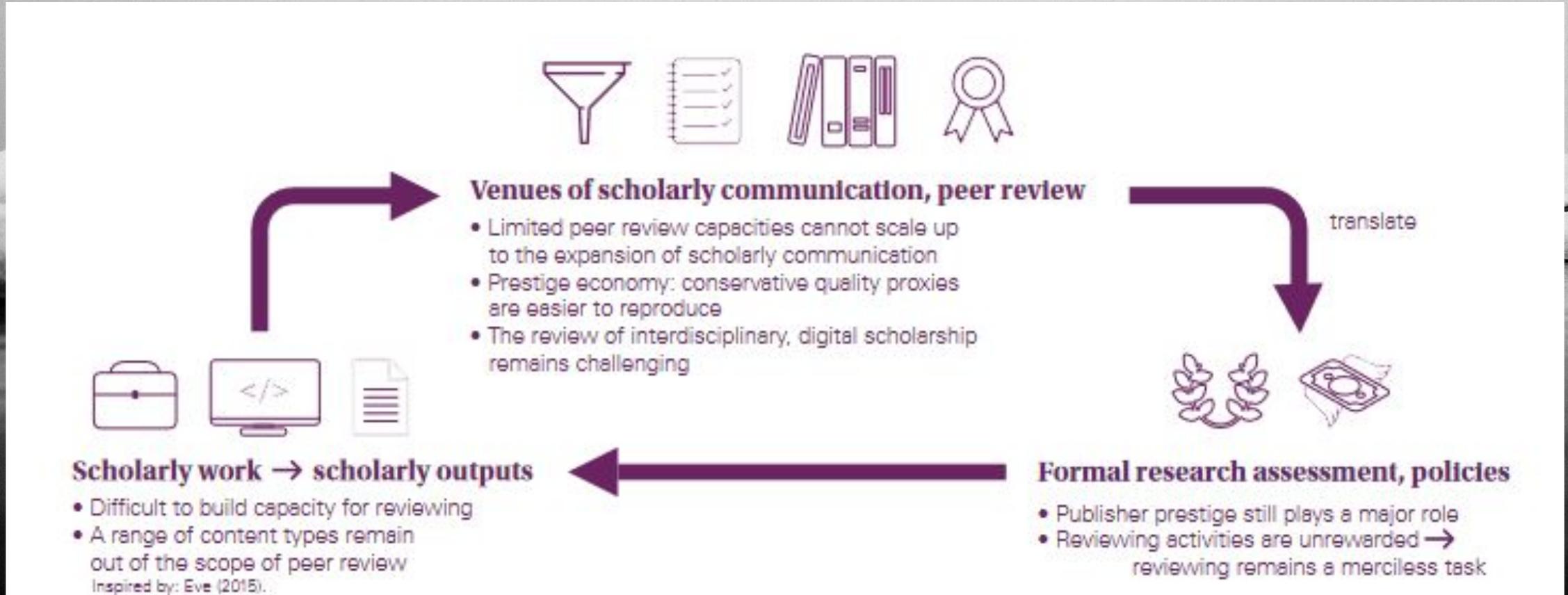


<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5017705>

OPERAS-P: H2020 project, supporting open scholarly communication in the Social Sciences and Humanities.



Why certain established proxies are so persistent?





The 'who'

The **shortage of evaluative capacities** is clearly the biggest challenge that defines how peer review operates and 'publish or perish' culture does not help.

Our printing and dissemination capacities are non finite any more. But human attention is very much so.

It is **difficult to administer and gain recognition** for one's review record.

Journal/publisher prestige attracts reviewers conserving effect, **innovation is discouraged**

The shortage of reviewers **opens the door for young scholars** to establish themselves as reviewers. But: one's networks and institutional prestige can be a gamechanger here.

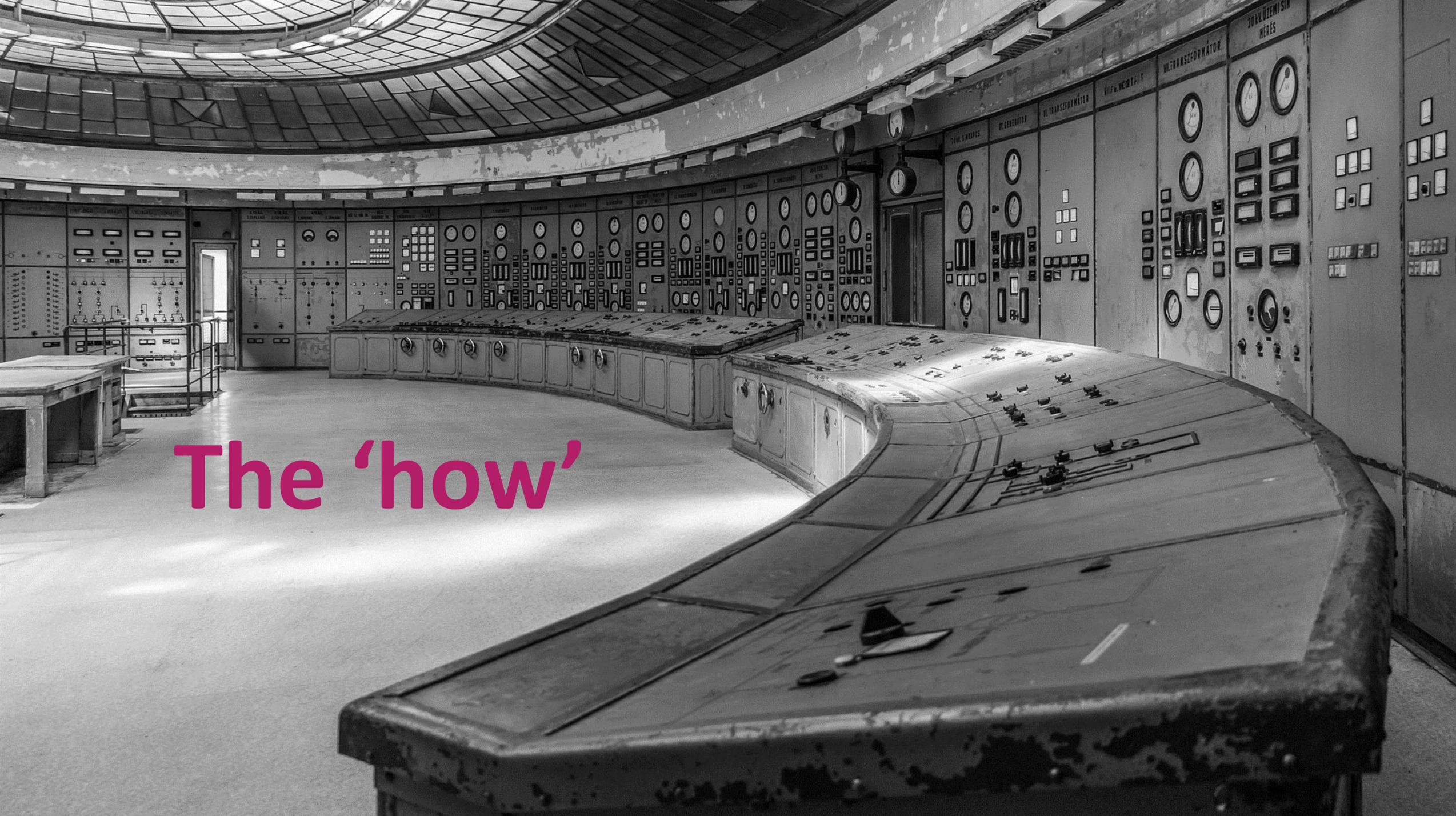
Less capacity to successfully implement **diversity measures** (in terms of gender, geography etc.)

In SSH, **editors** are in stronger **gatekeeper** position than reviewers.



"If there's a new idea or a new way of doing something that comes through, it's really hard for editors to find reviewers because they might be outside of the normal scope for the journal."

(F, Senior Publishing Executive)



The 'how'

Openness vs. capacity building

Small epistemic communities □ Opening up the peer review processes turned out to be especially challenging in these research contexts, with strong and complex, but not univocal, community **resistance** against them

Publishing the review texts anonymously alongside the publications turned out to be the flavour of openness that enjoyed the most support and even endorsement by our respondents.

However, we still see working examples of community curation, such as OpenMethods or Programming Historian.



"These reviewers would probably die of shame, at least some of them. I don't know, I never thought about it. A bit like showing you making sausage. [...] Some of the things that are done between the editor, the author and the reviewers are such secret, closed negotiations. If we opened this formula, it would look completely different."

(F, Post-doc in Sociology)



The 'what'

Beyond the research paper?

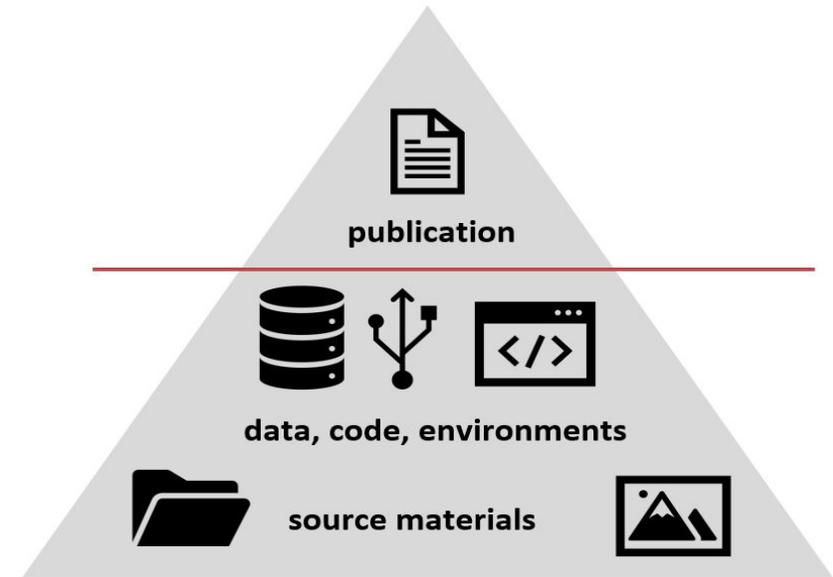
A pressing need to assess multimedia scholarship and a great diversity of outputs

An SSH native form of open post-publication peer review book reviews and their evolution into tool and code reviews

How discussions around reproducibility in SSH are taking shape?

Interdisciplinary challenges: finding reviewers who are competent in all aspects of evaluating complex, digital scholarly objects

Assessing the quality of scholarship and continuing the discussion around them is a much more abundant and prevalent activity than is channelled in formal peer review discourses. (See e.g. social media, mailing list, discussion groups etc.)



“And really the labor involved in evaluating these things just goes through the roof. And I just don't think people are going to have time to do that kind of evaluation for every piece of digital scholarship that emerges in the next few years. So I think there's a looming crisis for the labor of peer review.”

(M, Professor of Literary Studies)



The 'why still?'

Top incentives* and the value of peer review

Purely scholarly in nature:

1. Advancing one's field, curiosity, chances to contribute to the knowledge commons
2. "The invitation itself": networks, favours
3. Power and prestige
4. Reciprocity

* Under the caveats of 'if time permits';
'if I can make the deadline '.



"What I like about this is the editor actually identified someone relevant to my work based on what she read from my book [...].I mean, the editor actually can categorize me. This is really one of the values of peer review that I know. I've been sent to reviewers who understand my work, which means my work is clear enough in order to be sent to the right reviewers."

(F, Post-doc in Linguistics)

More details?

April 30, 2021

Project deliverable Open Access

OPERAS-P Deliverable D6.6: Report on quality assessment of innovative research in SSH

 Tóth-Czifra, Erzsébet;  Błaszczczyńska, Marta;  Buchner, Anna;  Maryl, Maciej

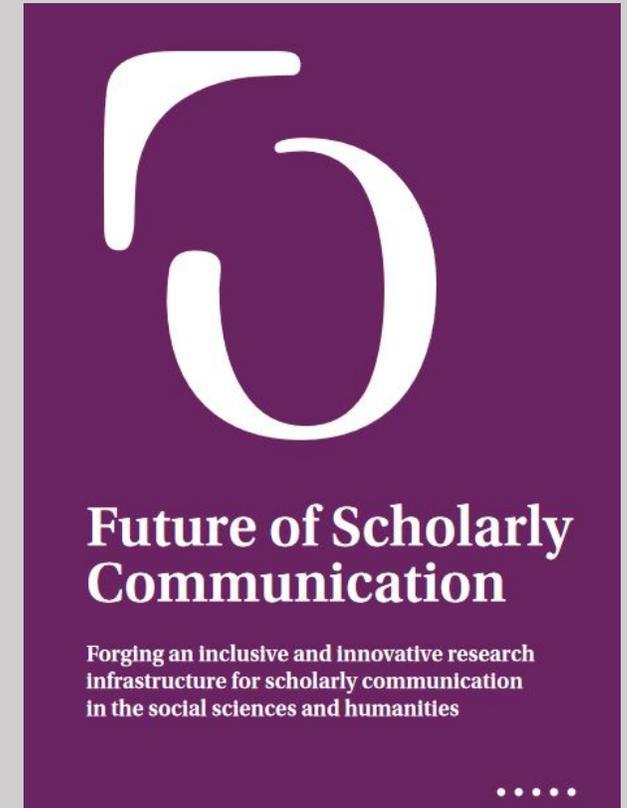
Other(s)

 Stojanovski, Jadranka;  Zlodi, Iva Melinščak;  Kaiser, Michael; Schaefer, Valérie;  Clivaz, Claire;  Nury, Elisa;  Juric, Mate; Zauder, Krešimir;  Edmond, Jennifer;  Maryl, Maciej

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4922538>

Stay tuned for the OA book version!

Thank you for your attention!



Summary of our findings:
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5017705>