Comparative perspectives on the ~~human~~ infrastructures behind open knowledge

By Anne Lee Steele

The Alan Turing Institute
Data Justice Conference 2023

19 June 2023

csv,conf,v6

moz://a festival

RightsCon

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

OpenStreetMap

Missing Maps
Putting the World's Vulnerable People on the Map

transmediale/art& digitalculture

UNLOCK

WIKIMEDIA DEUTSCHLAND

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

The Alan Turing Institute

The Turing Way

2015 – 2020: Presenting anthropological research on open data, supply chains, and extractive economies at (open) conferences

October 2020: Participated in first mapathon with HOTOSM

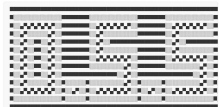**June 2021:** Began UNLOCK Accelerator at Wikimedia Deutschland

March 2020: Became Community Manager of *The Turing Way* project

July 2020: Began Frictionless Data Reproducible Research Fellowship at Open Knowledge Foundation

Feb 2021: Started Open Source Social Science

Jan 2022: Researching connectivity infrastructure with ISOC Fellowship

FRICTIONLESS DATA
STANDARDS AND TOOLING

Open Knowledge Foundation

OSSS
Open Source Tools for Social Science Researchers
Tools for social scientists of all kinds, conducting research with people online.

Internet Society

Building Trustworthy AI

Hugging Face

MetaDocencia

THE CARPENTRIES

Open Hardware Makers

Open Life Science

The Environmental Data Science book

CS&S
Code for Science & Society

netherlands **eScience center**

talarify

CZI

TOPS NASA

Open Phytoliths Community

2i2c
the international interactive computing collaboration
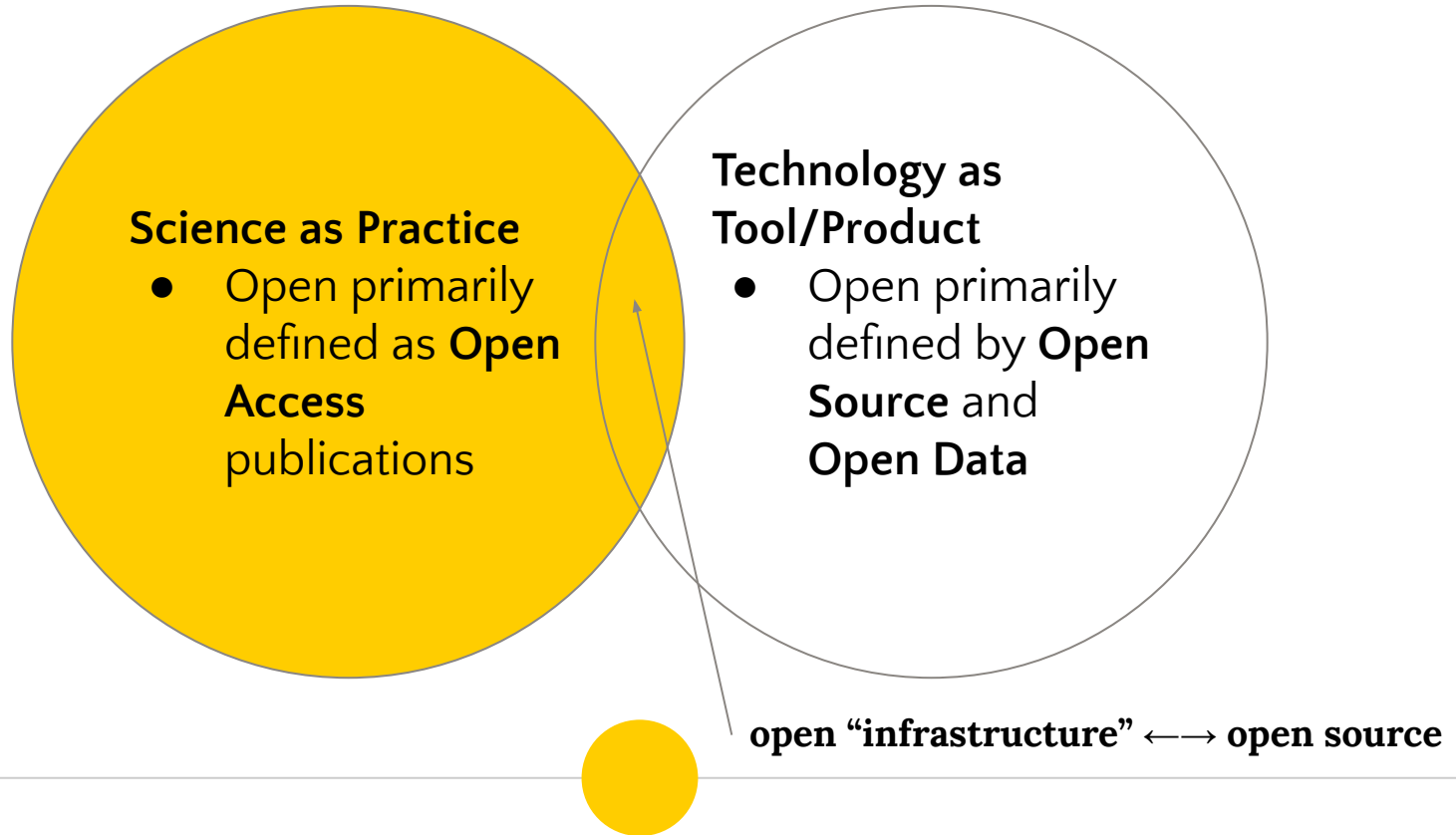
2023 Big Team Science Conference
hosted virtually, October 23-25

unesco

Open Post Academics

What are the frictions that constitute open knowledge?
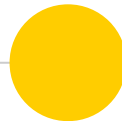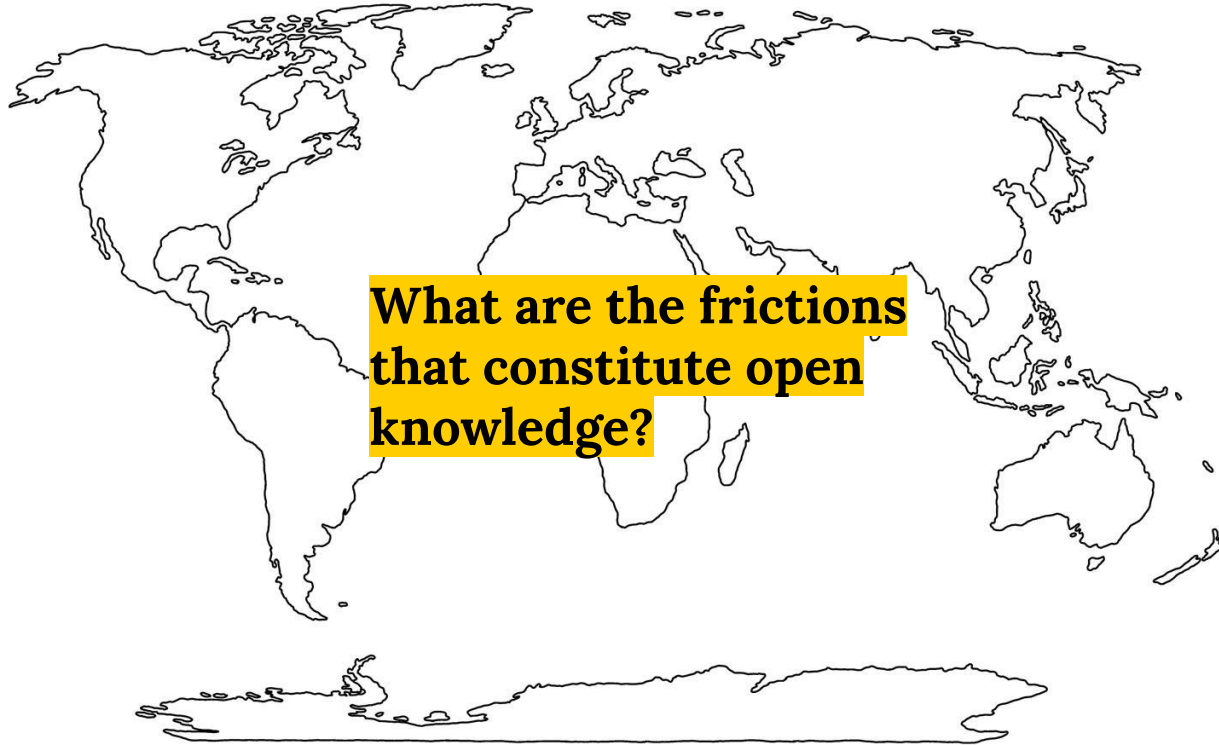
Defining the boundaries between science & technology

Science as Practice
- Open primarily defined as **Open Access** publications

Technology as Tool/Product
- Open primarily defined by **Open Source** and **Open Data**

open "infrastructure" ⟵⟶ open source

Defining 'openness' across ecosystem(s)

	Open for transparency & public accountability (open government, open data, open knowledge, open science)
	Open for ease of collaboration & crowdsourcing labor (open/ethical AI, open data, open knowledge projects)
	Open for version control & public peer review (open science)
	Open for "infrastructure" support (physical hardware, fiscal sponsorship, human support, policy development)
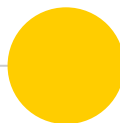
Expanding & diverging ideas of infrastructures support

|	
	Fiscal sponsorship ● Incubator Programmes ● Grants (Governments & Foundations → both scientific research & open technology development)
	Templating best practices for shared use ● Documentation-centered projects ● Mentorship programmes ● Policy development
	Organisation structure ● Science: Big Team Science, Research Infrastructure Roles, Open Source Programme Offices (OSPOs) ● Technology: HR services, OSPOs
	Labor ● Growing unionisation in tech-oriented workplaces ● "Digital strikes" (i.e. Reddit)
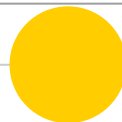
Understanding crisis (friction) as constitutive

	Crisis of Reproducibility (trust in computational science, AI/ML)
	Crisis of Resources (labor, mental health, compensation)
	Humanitarian Crisis (disaster, war, infrastructure breakdown)
	Crisis of Community (geographic, gender, linguistic diversity)

Who do these frictions serve? What does open knowledge serve?
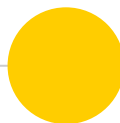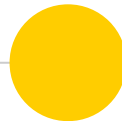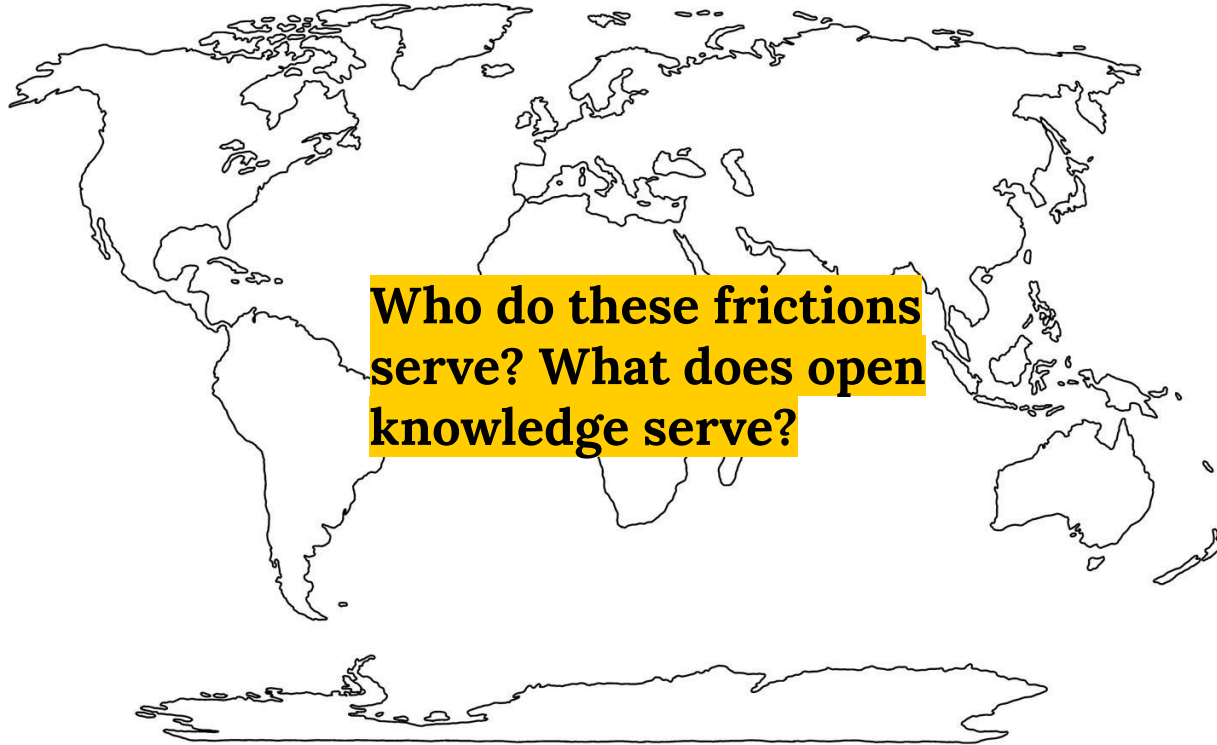
Thank you

@aleesteele

@aleesteele@social.coop

asteele@turing.ac.uk