

“Of hopes, villains and Trojan horses – Open Access academic publishing and its battlefields”
Doctoral research project

Project summary

Dear participant,

In this doctoral research project in the field of science and technology studies I aim to look into Open Access academic publishing as an area where expectations on science, the science system and well-working scholarly communication are formulated, tested and negotiated. How these expectations are translated into practices and lived with constitutes a further research interest.

The project is titled “Of hopes, villains and Trojan horses – Open Access academic publishing and its battlefields”. The main research questions are following:

How is Open Access academic publishing re-ordering the scientific system?

- What expectations towards the scientific system are expressed through the shift to Open Access academic publishing?
- How is Open Access imagined by different actors?
- How does Open Access affect actual publication practices?

In order to answer the research questions I aim to conduct a case study on the negotiations on Open Access between the publishers and research institutes in the Netherlands, particularly the agreement that was reached in December 2015 between the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and the academic publisher and scientific information provider Elsevier. The semi-structured interviews will form part of research materials and shall be conducted with main actors and institutions involved in the negotiations (phase 1) as well as Dutch researchers on the implications of the agreement in their daily practices (phase 2). Further information and a full description of the research proposal are available online at <http://hdl.handle.net/10760/29265>

In the following pages you will find an informed consent form detailing the use of the collected data as well as a preliminary questionnaire.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to meeting you for an interview.

With best regards,

Elena Šimukovič, M.A. (LIS)

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Informed consent

By signing this form, I hereby agree to participate in an interview in the context of the doctoral research project *Of hopes, villains and Trojan horses – Open Access academic publishing and its battlefields*.

I consent to the interview to be recorded and transcribed. The audio recording and the transcript will remain with the interviewer. The collected data will be used for research purposes in this doctoral research project only.

I am aware and agree that some parts of the interview may be cited as direct or indirect quotations in the doctoral thesis and/or related publications. In this case, any personal details will be rendered anonymous to the best possible extent. Should this form of anonymity not be possible for any reason, quotations will be used after obtaining an explicit permission only. Sensitive or confidential information related to the intellectual property or market competition will not be disclosed. I will explicitly indicate this information during the interview.

I can terminate the interview at any moment without giving reasons. In this case, the interview data collected so far will be used with my explicit consent only.

Date, place

Elena Šimukovič

Name and signature of the interviewer

Name and signature of the interviewee

Questionnaire

for a case study on Open Access publishing in the Netherlands

1. Could you please shortly introduce your area of work or main research questions.
2. Have you been involved in Open Access publishing as an author, a journal editor or in any other role?
3. Do you see any advantages or disadvantages of publishing one's research results in Open Access? Would it differ with regard to research fields, geographic or economic position, personal situation, etc.?
4. Have you published in Open Access under VSNU*-Elsevier agreement (starting in January 2016)? How did you decide in favour or against that?
5. Have you published in other Open Access and/or Elsevier journals? What are your experiences there?
6. Dutch government has announced a goal to reach 100% of research publications to be published in Open Access by 2024. What implications will it have for you and for other researchers in your field?
7. How, in your opinion, will scholarly communication and/or academic publishing look like in the future? What changes would it bring to your own research or publishing practices?
8. Do you think there is any other important aspect in order to understand Open Access and related issues better?

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* VSNU – Association of universities in the Netherlands (*Vereniging van universiteiten*)