

Call for papers: Open Access Publications: Constraints, Challenges and Potentialities

Session at the **II European Geographies of Sexualities Conference**, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal on 5-7 September, 2013

Session organizers: *Eduarda Ferreira (e-GEO, FCSH, UNL), Maria João Silva (ESE-IPP)*

“Publish or perish” is a well-known statement. As Doreen Massey questioned, back in 2000, to publish is just to add a paper to one’s CV, to guarantee a better chance of employment, promotion or grants, or “to launch something into a stream, a proliferation of connections, to see how it will fare, how it will affect and be affected” (Massey, 2000:133)?

Sharing and openness are supposed to be the hallmarks of the scholarly tradition. Researchers publish their results, not for direct financial return. However, many times, indirect professional and academic benefits from publishing in highly ranked journals seem to be the major reason to publish and not to contribute to the progress of knowledge in their fields.

On the other hand, academic publishing is a highly profitable economic activity for publishers who profit from researchers’ free work force or from research financed from tax payers. On January 2012 a blog post (Elsevier — my part in its downfall, Gowers’s Weblog) by Tim Gowers, a distinguished mathematician, started an “Academic spring”. Researchers protest against the rising costs of academic journals has led to demands for open access to scientific knowledge (one example is the website <http://thecostofknowledge.com/> where researchers take a stand against Elsevier).

Are free and unrestricted online available publications a feasible alternative to commercial publishing? What are the main constraints of such a model: the viability of economic models in an open access environment, or academic prestige?

As the Internet has fundamentally changed the practical and economic realities of distributing the results of research it can also provide metrics for scientists in the future, such as download numbers, bookmarks in social bookmarking services or even tweets and Facebook likes. Can this be an alternative way to determine the impact factor of scientific publications? And how should peer reviewing be related to the impact factor?

An interlinked issue is the hegemony of the English language in academic publishing, including open access publications. Is this reality a constraint, an advantage, or an obstacle to scientific communication?

This session seeks papers that discuss the challenges and potentialities of open access academic publications. Those papers can explore a wide range of topics, such as: specific cases, theoretical issues or future scenarios.

Please send your proposals to Eduarda Ferreira e.ferreira@fcsh.unl.pt and Maria João Silva mjosilva@ese.ipp.pt by the 18th April 2013.

For more details about the conference, please visit the website: <http://egsc2013.pt/to/>

Massey, D. (2000). Editorial: practising political relevance. In *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 25 (2), pp. 131-33.