

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

FAQs about Open Access: The Politics of Publishing in Anthropology

16-17 October 2014

Medialab-Prado, Madrid

Abstract of workshop aim and scope:

The proposed workshop will seek to address relevant questions and dilemmas regarding contemporary discussions about Open Access taking place across the world. It will focus on the specific ways in which these discussions concern anthropologists and their work. The event will aim to foster discussion on three key aspects related to the promotion of free-of-charge and unrestricted access to anthropological research outputs:

- 1) It will provide a forum in which to compare different traditions of publishing and both long-standing and recent Open Access proposals so as to assess the advantages and limitations of each and the additional barriers, beyond subscription, that they may raise or maintain.
- 2) It will bring together professionals from different fields (scholars, publishers and policymakers) in order to put forth sustainable and non-discriminatory formulas of free access to anthropological knowledge.
- 3) It will explore the ways in which ethnographic research on Open Access and any issues thereof has the potential to inform public debates on Open Access and proposals to implement it.

While the workshop will focus on how Open Access debates concern anthropologists and their research specifically, it will surely yield insights that can be relevant for discussions on this issue across the social sciences.

Location of workshop

The event will be held at Medialab-Prado. This venue is located in Madrid's city center, which will facilitate the attendance of participants from various universities and institutions. Most importantly, Medialab-Prado hosts networks and events concerned with research on social media and digital technologies. In this vein, this unique venue will enable us to reach a wide audience beyond academia and engage in a discussion with people who in various ways experiment with or conduct research on digital networks and instruments. Information about the venue is available at <http://medialab-prado.es>

Organisers:

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The workshop convener institution is the *Research Group on Anthropology with a Public Orientation* (GIAOP), based at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. This research group was set up in 2006 in order to work towards constructing productive and sustainable links between scientific realms and the wider public. The organisers of the event are all members of this research group. The event is funded by The Wenner-Gren Foundation, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Madrid Institute of Anthropology.

Rationale of the workshop:

The proposed workshop seeks to address current debates revolving around the promotion of “Open Access” to research outputs and the ways in which these debates concern the work of anthropologists specifically and of social scientists more generally. This workshop will provide a forum in which to discuss issues relating to the channels through which we disseminate our work while enabling us to draw links between the issue of Open Access and debates about our audiences and how we communicate with them. In addition, the workshop will explore the ways in which ethnographic research on Open Access can enhance public debates concerning the opening up of access to the outputs of publicly funded research and contribute to shaping the nature of scholarly work.

Open Access is currently a widely discussed topic within public arenas across the world, engaging academics, publishers, sponsors and politicians in controversial yet crucial dialogues. Under the rubric of “Open Access,” numerous voices have demanded that research, especially when it is publicly funded, be made freely available to any reader at the point of use with the only barrier of internet access (see the definition of Open Access provided by the 2002 Budapest Open Access Initiative). The underlying motivation to promote free of charge and unrestricted access to research results is to enrich the research process as well as to enhance its impact. Facilitated by the development of digital technologies and in order to open up access to information, innovative instruments have been created (open source software, free software licences, and so on). Crucially, Open Access initiatives have proliferated in the new millennium in countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia, where governments and public sponsors have manifested their determination to enforce Open Access. In countries as variegated as Spain, Peru and Argentina, Open Access has been

recently enforced through legislative efforts. Yet in contrast to the Anglo-American world, in Spain as well as in much of Latin America there exists a long tradition of Open Access publications, whose exploration can bear important lessons for new Open Access initiatives.

Whereas a number of events have recently been held on the subject of Open Access as it concerns the publishing industry and scholarly work broadly speaking, these events have not addressed the specific concerns of anthropologists (an exception to this would be the roundtable entitled *The Politics of Publishing in Academia and Beyond*, held at the recent 2013 EASA-AAA joint meeting of the Medical Anthropology Network, in which one of the applicants participated and which was limited in scope). Various anthropologists have however engaged in discussions that analyse the implications of Open Access for scholarly work (see Kelty et al. 2008; Miller 2012; Zeitlyn and Lyon 2012) and in ethnographic research on the practice of various aspects related to Open Access (for instance, conducting research among developers and users of open source software, see for instance Coleman 2004, 2009, 2010a; Coleman et al. 2012; Leach et al. 2009). These works provide a ground on which to discuss not only how to provide wide access to publicly funded research but also about the nature of scholarly work and its public functions and responsibilities. It is on this ground that we want to locate the discussion that the workshop will promote and deliver.

The event we propose will be innovative in three chief ways:

- 1) It will bring together editors of journals that have originated within very different publishing traditions in order to explore what existing open access journals and new proposals for open access offer as well as the limits and barriers each of these open access initiatives raise or maintain (e.g. linguistic, financial, hegemonic academic standards or others). As mentioned above, Spain and various Latin American countries (as well as Asian countries such as Japan) have a long- existing tradition of Open Access publications. Holding the conference in Spain will allow fostering a dialogue that explores the advantages and limitations of already existing open access publications and the lessons these can bear for recent Open Access initiatives in the Anglo-American world.
- 2) It aims to put forth specific proposals to make anthropological research widely available to various audiences beyond academia. It will bring together professionals from both the scholarly world and the publishing industry, aiming to yield insights into concrete solutions to restrictions of different nature to opening up access to research outputs while deepening on the implications of the politics of publishing.
- 3) It will explore the ways in which anthropological research on the digital, free software licenses, the publishing world, and so on, can contribute to public debates on Open Access publishing as well as on shaping the ways in which anthropologists envision and produce their work. In this sense, following the footsteps of Kelty et al. (2008), we aim to discuss how anthropological research may be crucial to promoting discussion on the kind of "public spheres" and "models of collaboration" that Open Access initiatives can or should strive to engender.

Programme:¹

First Day (16 October)

8:30-9:00 REGISTRO DE PARTICIPANTES (REGISTRATION)

9:00-9:30 PRESENTACIÓN DE LA CONFERENCIA (CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION)

9:30-11:00 Session 1: What do we mean by “open” in alluding to open access? / ¿De qué hablamos cuando nos referimos a “abierto”?

- David Zeitlyn (University of Oxford, Social and Cultural Anthropology)
- Alberto Corsín Jiménez (CSIC, Social and Cultural Anthropology)
- Joaquín Rodríguez López (Escuela de Organización Industrial de España and author of *El Potlatch Digital*)

11:00-11:30 CAFÉ (COFFEE)

11:30-13:00 Session 2: What are the advantages and risks of open access? / ¿Cuáles son las ventajas y los riesgos del open access?

- Janet Finch (University of Manchester, Sociology, responsible for the *Finch Group Report* in the UK)
- Mercedes Jabardo (Universidad Miguel Hernández, Social and Cultural Anthropology)
- David Price (University College London, Computational Mineral Physics responsible of UCL strategies regarding quality and dissemination of research)

13:00-14:30 Session 3: What insights can ethnographies of digital media and technologies yield for debates about open access? / ¿De qué manera pueden las etnografías sobre medios y tecnologías digitales contribuir a los debates sobre open access?

- Daniel Miller (University College London, Anthropology and Archeology)
- Christopher Kelty (University of California, Science Studies, History and Anthropology)
- Elisenda Ardèvol (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Social Anthropology)

15:30-17:00 Session 4: How sustainable are existing open access publications? / ¿En qué medida son sostenibles las publicaciones de open access existentes?

- Giovanni Da Col (Cambridge/Max Planck Institute, Social Anthropology and editor of HAU)
- Tomás Sánchez-Criado (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Social Anthropology and editor of *AIBR, Revista de Antropología Iberoamericana*)
- Carlos Fausto (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Social Anthropology and editor of *Mana*)

¹ Confirmation of most participants is still pending.

17:00-17:30 CAFÉ (COFFEE)

17:30-19:00 Session 5: How can we make open access work? Open source software / Copy Left and Creative Commons / ¿Qué herramientas son necesarias para implementar el open access?

- John Willinsky (Public Knowledge Project and Stanford University, Education)
- Rupert Gatti (Open Book Publishers, Publisher, Economics)
- Traficantes de sueños (Press working with free licences)

Second Day (17 October)

9:30-11:00 Session 6: How likely is it that academic journals will transition to open access? / ¿Qué posibilidades hay de que se produzca la transición al open access?

- John Gledhill (University of Manchester and editor of *Critique of Anthropology*, Social Anthropology)
- Jasmine Gideon (Birkbeck College and *BLAR* editor, Development Studies)
- Andrew Canessa (University of Essex and *JLACA* editor, Sociology)
- Clarence C. Gravlee (University of Florida and editor of *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Cultural Anthropology)
- Julie Hermesse (Université Catholique de Louvain and editor of *Investigations*, Anthropology and Sociology)

11:00-11:30 CAFÉ (COFFEE)

11:30-13:00 Session 7: What barriers exist in the dissemination of publicly-funded research other than restrained access? / ¿Qué barreras existen, además del acceso restringido, para que el conocimiento adquiera el estatus de bien público?

- Carlos Fausto (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and editor of *Mana*)
- Gonzalo Sichar (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and director of the SEPHA press, Social Anthropology)
- Amita Baviskar (Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, Development Sociology)
- Ernest Abadal (Universitat de Barcelona, Communication and Documentation)

13:00-14:30 Session 8: FINAL DISCUSSION / DISCUSIÓN FINAL