

Webinar on Open Science and Gender Equality in Science

Open Science for Global Inclusion: Empowering Women Scientists

Tuesday, 28 October 2025, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CET (Paris time), Online meeting

Concept Note

Exploring the intersection between open science and gender equality is highly relevant to UNESCO's mandate. Open science is increasingly recognized as a transformative approach to scientific practice, grounded in principles of transparency, equality of opportunities, responsibility, collaboration, flexibility, and sustainability. The [2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#) positions this movement as a key driver for democratizing access to knowledge, reducing inequalities, and strengthening international scientific collaboration – all essential to addressing today's global challenges.

At the same time, UNESCO has long recognized persistent gender gaps in science, particularly in access to resources, visibility, and career advancement. The [2024 UNESCO Call to Action "Closing the Gender Gap in Science"](#) identifies the root causes of these inequalities worldwide. The [2025 Status and Trends of Women in Science factsheet](#) further shows that these challenges are even more pronounced in certain sectors and regions, including in contexts where women scientists face restricted access to high-cost journals, limited funding, and insufficient laboratory infrastructure.

In this context, UNESCO is leveraging its international networks of experts in both open science and gender in science to explore the gender aspects of open science practices and to assess how open science can advance gender equality and how, in turn, gender equality can strengthen open science. This initiative seeks to address key questions such as: *To what extent do women researchers contribute to open science practices, including open access publishing, and how does open science influence their participation and visibility in global research?*

As a first step, this webinar will explore:

- The mutual benefits and challenges of open science and gender equality in science;
- The gender aspects of open science practices; and
- UNESCO's role in ensuring that open science effectively contributes to gender equality in science and vice versa, and potential opportunities for further action.

Provisional agenda

2.00 p.m. – 2.10 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks and Introduction Ana Persic, Programme Specialist, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO
2.10 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	Overview of UNESCO's Work on Open Science and Gender in Science Rania Sabo, Associate Programme Specialist, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO Lora Gailly, Associate Project Officer, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO
2.30 p.m. – 3.10 p.m.	Sharing of Research and Studies from Experts Ana María Cetto, Research Professor, Physics Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico; Chair, UNESCO Open Science Steering Committee Vincent Larivière, Canada Research Chair on the Transformations of Scholarly Communication, Université de Montréal, Canada Cameron Neylon, Professor of Research Communications, Co-founder, Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative Aurelija Novelskaitė, Senior Researcher of Kaunas Faculty and Professor of Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University, Lithuania
3.10 p.m. – 3.25 p.m.	Q&A and Discussion with Participants <i>Moderated by</i> Ana Persic, Programme Specialist, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, UNESCO
3.25 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Next Steps and Closing