CLACSO supports open access to knowledge as a commons, managed by the scholarly community

In Latin America and the Caribbean, research is mainly publicly funded. However, access to the results of that research is hampered by limitations in international traditional scholarly communication systems. CLACSO-Latin American Council of Social Sciences, a non-governmental network of 779 research institutions and 700 postgraduate programs in 52 countries, partners with universities and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion and development of strategies and initiatives that provide open access to research results in the region, and in the review and improvement of research evaluation procedures in social sciences and humanities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CLACSO promotes a model of open access to knowledge as a commons, managed in collaborative and inclusive models by the scholarly community, and defends this position in the international debates on a renewal and future of scholarly communications. In a region where open access initiatives mentioned above are managed by the scholarly community, the Council sees with great concern international proposals to manage open access flipping “pay to read” by “pay to publish” and charging APCs (article processing charges) to publish in open access.

CLACSO collaborates with the regional initiatives AmeliCA, Redalyc, Latindex, La Referencia, and with institutional repositories and university journal portals and university presses, to give visibility to research output from the region. All these initiatives and services are non-commercial and managed by the scholarly community.

Karina Batthyány
CLACSO’s Executive Secretary

CLACSO’s diverse programs promote and implement open access initiatives, among others:

- CLACSO’s Declaration on Open Access to knowledge managed as a commons by the scholarly community was approved by the General Assembly in 2015.
- CLACSO’s network editorial catalog includes more than 3,000 social science & humanities books in open access which are also available for sale in print-on-demand.
CLACSO’s [Latin America and the Caribbean social science digital repository](books, journals, articles, working papers, conference papers, theses, reports, multimedia), and [CLACSO-REDALYC Portal](of 1.015 social science and humanities peer-review journals from Iberoamerica, provides open access to more than 444.455 full-text articles and receive together an average of four million full-text views and/or downloads each month.

1.078 editors and librarians are members of CLACSO’s [digital repository community](and receive biweekly communications on open access/open data/open science trends, initiatives and best practices.

CLACSO TV provides open access to more than 1.800 videos of interviews, academic activities, book presentations from CLACSO and its members.

CLACSO sponsors, together with REDALYC and UNESCO, [Ameli-Open Knowledge for Latin America and the Global South](with participation of universities “reconstruct the spaces of visibility, which have become spaces of legitimation and exclusion, to build a scholarly communication project of critical thinking that can respond with alternatives to dissemination, development of networks, exercise of analysis, training, and technology for the scientific publication process”

CLACSO has been invited to join the Advisory Board of

- [DORA-Declaration on Research Assessment](
- [Open Access India](
- [Coalition Publica](Canada)
- [COPIM](Community led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs

- [International Open Access Week Advisory Board](2018 -2019)

The Council has signed

- [The Berlin Declaration on Open Access](Access the declaration in [English](, [Spanish](, [Portuguese](
- [The Declaration of San Francisco on Evaluation of Research- DORA](
- [The Declaration COAR-Confederation of Open Access Repositories](in support of reducing or eliminating embargo for immediate open access to scientific literature
- [The Hague Declaration](on Knowledge Discovery in the Digital Age
- [Jussieu Call](for open science and bibliodiversity
- [Helsinki Initiative](on Multilingualism

The [Latin American Forum on Scientific Evaluation (FOLEC)] and [The Latin American University Evaluation System (SILEU)] are two CLACSO programs dedicated to review and propose improvements in the evaluation systems in social sciences and humanities and their indicators, including open access indicators. In 2020 it issued the report on [trends in open science and open access policies in Iberoamerica](in Spanish with abstract in English)

CLACSO’s research Working Groups Program has, among its WG, open access to knowledge as a commons in the following WG: 1) The working group “Open Knowledge as a Commons” (2019-2022) coordinated by Arianna Becerril-García (UAEM, Mexico) and Saray Córdoba (IIE-UCR, Costa Rica) with 27 researchers from 10 Iberoamerican countries, and previously 2) The working group “Commons and Open Access” (2013-2019) coordinated by Eduardo Aguado López (UAEM, Mexico) and Elena Lazos Chavero (IIS-UNAM, Mexico) with 35 researchers from 8 countries in Latin America and 5 countries from other regions and 2)
CLACSO’s Scholarship Program organized in 2011 the contest “Common Goods: space, knowledge and intellectual property” and awarded 16 research grants in the region (Access to the book). In 2014 it organized the Elinor Ostrom Essays Award on the right to knowledge as a commons: promotion of open access y Latin America and the Caribbean. (Access to articles from Luis Reygadas y Esther Juliana Vargas A)

CLACSO collaborates in international, national and institutional open access policies and legislation.

- At national level, e.g. open access legislation was approved by Congress in Argentina in May 2013. Since 2012, CLACSO participates in the Experts Committee of the National System of Digital Repositories, at the Ministry of Science and Technology, where the bill was drafted and approved in 2013 in Congress, and today repositories are evaluated by the Experts Committee to be accepted and funded in the System.
- At inter-regional level, e.g. CLACSO contributed with CODESRIA-Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, in the drafting of the Dakar Declaration on Open Access Publishing in Africa and the Global South.
- Review of national open access policy proposal by Open Access India.
- CONACYT (National Council of Science and Technology, Mexico) – CLACSO was member of the Evaluation Commission at annual contests for the Development of Institutional Open Access Repositories in Mexico.
- CLACSO is member of the Comité pour la Science Ouverte, France (2018- to date) participating in the evaluation of open science projects requesting funds.

CLACSO has also been invited in recent years by the following international programs:

- FORCE11-The Future of Scholarly Communications and e-Scholarship- Scholarly Commons Working Group.
- Radical Open Access.
- CLACSO was member of the Advisory Board of the research project “Open Access Publishing Cooperative Study” led by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), the universities of Stanford and Simon Fraser, and SPARC (2015-2017).
- As member of the ISSC-International Social Science Council, CLACSO surveyed web resources from ISSC members for the “Web Resources” section in ISSC website (2011-2014).

CLACSO was selected by UNESCO to:

- In Open Access Week 2020, joint organization UNESCO-UAEM-AMELICA-CLACSO-REDALYC-DORA:
- Co-organize UNESCO’s Forum “Democratization of academic knowledge: The challenges for open access to knowledge” and UNESCO session “Challenges for
strengthening South-South cooperation in open access scholarly communications” with invited panelists from Africa, Asia, Arab countries and Latin America. Buenos Aires, CLACSO Conference, UMET, November 21st, 2018


- Coordinate collaborative CLACSO-UNESCO-SciELO-REDALYC-PKP-AJOL research project “Open Access indicators: Assessing growth and use of open access resources from developing regions — the cases of Latin America and Africa” and edit in 2014 the book “Open Access indicators and scholarly communications in Latin America”

- Member of Curriculum Design Committee for UNESCO Self-Directed Learning Materials on Open Access Scholarly Communications (UNESCO, 5 modules, 2013).

- Prepare the contents of Section Latin America and the Caribbean, for UNESCO-Global Open Access Portal

- Contribute in First Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Open Access to Scientific Information and Research, Kingston, 4 to 8 March 2013 and in recommendations for the Final Report


CLACSO’s presentations on open access available in CLACSO’s Slideshare collection.

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This webpage URL: http://biblioteca.clacso.edu.ar/documentos/CLACSO_and_Open_Access_version_ingles.pdf

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Knowledge is a global public good

Open access to knowledge is a human right

www.eclac.org  www.unesco.org