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 traditional scholarly communication systems. CLACSO-Latin American Council of Social Sciences, a non-governmental network of 625 research institutions and 700 postgraduate programs in 48 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.

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

CLACSO promotes a model of open access to knowledge as a commons, managed in cooperative and inclusive models by the scholarly community, and defends this position in the international debates on a renewal of scholarly communications. In a region where open access initiatives mentioned above are managed by the scholarly community, the Council sees with great concern proposals from international commercial publishers to manage open access of Latin American journals.

Pablo Gentili, Executive Secretary
Pablo Vommaro, Director
Nicolás Arata, Director
Dominique Babini, Open Access Advisor
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 Latin America and the Caribbean social science digital repository, and CLACSO-REDALYC Portal of 905 social science and humanities peer-review journals, provide open access to more than 400,000 full-texts and receives an average of 1,400,000 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’s editorial catalog includes 2,700 social science & humanities books in open access and also available for sale in print-on-demand.

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

- CLACSO is a member of the
  - DORA Advisory Committee
  - Open Access India
  - Open Policy Network
  - FORCE11-The Future of Scholarly Communications and e-Scholarship-Scholarly Commons Working Group

- CLACSO’s research Working Groups Program organized a competition in 2013 for the creation of a regional research group on the topic of the biocultural and knowledge commons, where open access to knowledge as a commons is included. The working group is 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. Contact: eal123@gmail.com ; lazos@unam.mx
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. 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.
- At 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

CLACSO was selected by UNESCO to:

- Coordinate collaborative CLACSO-UNESCO-SciELO-REDALEY-PKP-AJOL research project “Open Access indicators: Assessing growth and use of OA resources from developing regions — the cases of Latin America and Africa” (2013) and edit book with results
- 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 Open Access Program publications and presentations in English (last 3 years, only presentations in English  (for all presentations see CLACSO’s Slideshare)

- “Realising the BOAI visión: a view from the global South” (answering questions from Richard Poynder, December 20th, 2017)
- Open access to humanities – perspectives from the Global South. World Humanities Conference, CLACSO’s 50th Anniversary Symposium, Panel “The
humanities and knowledge as a public good” University of Liege, Belgium, 7-9 August 2017


- **Aligning research funding to inform policy – the case of CLACSO’s social science and humanities network.** Invited presentation at: Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Science and Humanities Workshop on “Towards new Transatlantic dialogue in the social sciences and humanities”. Brussels, 27-28 September 2016.

- **CLACSO’s Declaration on Open Access to knowledge managed as a commons by the scholarly community.** Declaration approved by CLACSO’s XXV General Assembly, Medellín, Colombia, November 9th, 2015.


- **Latin America social sciences open access experience and perspective** Radical Open Access Conference, Coventry University (UK), 15-16 June 2015.

- **Next generation repositories.** No presentation. Closed meeting organized by COAR with support from UNESCO. University of Porto, 17-18 April 2015.


- **Open access is about access and re-use, but it is also about being able to contribute and participate in global conversations - developing region concerns.** Global Research Council & Research Councils UK Workshop “Unlocking the future: Open Access communication in a global research environment”. London, British Library, 1-2 April 2015.


Contact:

babini[at]clacso.edu.ar