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 680 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.

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

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 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”.

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 943 social science and humanities peer-review journals, provide open access to more than 450,000 full-texts 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 928 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 is a member of the

- DORA-Declaration on Research Assessment Advisory Committee
- Open Access India Advisory Board
- Open Policy Network
- FORCE11-The Future of Scholarly Communications and e-Scholarship-Scholarly Commons Working Group
- Radical Open Access

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´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 “Commons and Open Access” 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.

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 today repositories are evaluated to be accepted and funded.

- 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
- Review of national open access policy proposal by Open Access India
- CONACYT (National Council of Science and Technology, Mexico) – CLACSO is member of the Evaluation Commission at annual contests for the Development of Institutional Open Access Repositories in Mexico.

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

- Since 2019, CLACSO es member of the International Advisory Board of Coalition Publi.ca in Canada.
- PKP-Public Knowledge Project, invited CLACSO to be member of the Advisory Panel of the project “Sustaining the World’s Most Widely Used Open Access Publishing Platform” (2017-2018)
- 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:

- 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 and publications in English (last 5 years, only those in English, for all presentations see [CLACSO’s Slideshow](#))


- **Recognizing regional differences can improve evaluation** (21 February 2019, interview by DORA-San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, Blog)


- **“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.

[Repositories as key players in non-commercial open access – a developing region perspective.](#) COAR-SPARC Conference “Connecting research, bridging communities, opening scholarship”. University of Porto, Portugal, April 15-16, 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.


[10 questions about open access to increase visibility and use of Southern perspectives for addressing global challenges](#), was presented to participants in the following training activities: 1) CLACSO-CODESRIA-IDEAs South-South Comparative Research Workshop. Dakar, Senegal, 24-25 July 2014; 2) Bangkok, Thailand, 3-8 Nov. 2014; 3) Arab Council of Social Sciences Conference, Beirut, Lebanon, 13-15 Mar. 2015.

**Contact:**

Information about open access initiatives/activities in CLACSO: clacsoinst@clacso.edu.ar

Information about open access initiatives/activities in Latin America: babini@clacso.edu.ar