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Open or ajar?: 'openness' within the neoliberal academy

Bowie, Simon and Sanders, Kevin (2019) Open or ajar?: 'openness' within the neoliberal academy.
In: Open Repositories 2019, 10-13 Jun 2019, Hamburg. (Unpublished)

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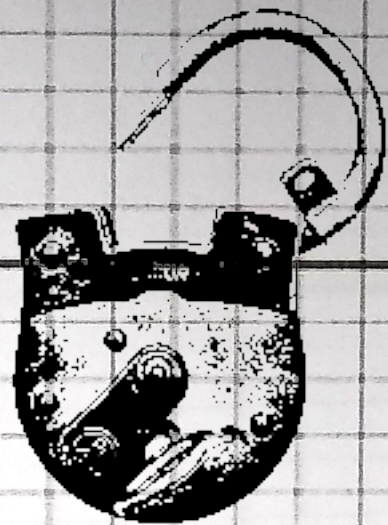
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Open or ajar?: 'openness' within the neoliberal academy



Simon Bowie (SOAS, University of London)
Kevin Sanders (University of West London)

Openness

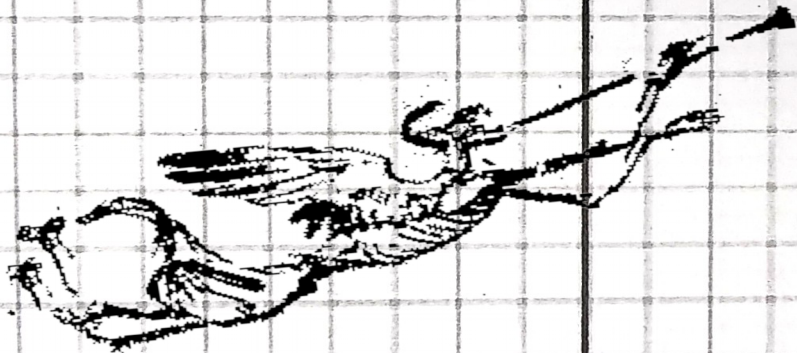
"a term with multiple understandings and no fixed definition. It is cited by governments, startups and organisations as integral to their philosophy, often without further explanation of the term (Moore, 2017)



Neoliberalism

"a political project to embed market-based logic into all social relations. In other words, it makes people think, and act, as if they themselves are capital

(Lawson, 2019: 18)



The open agenda in higher education



Social justice



Neoliberal capitalism

The meaning of openness

Open licensing has a fractious
history

Autonomy / community / commerce



''

Creative Commons reinforces a private and individualist understanding of intellectual property

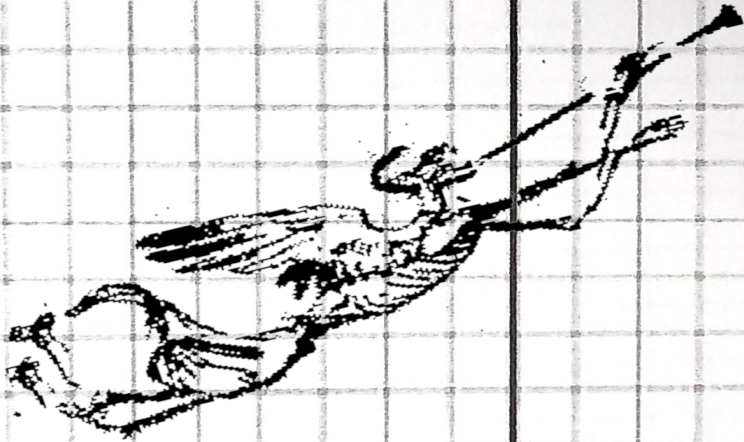
(Moore, 2018)



Openwashing

"to spin a product or company as open although it is not

(Thorne, 2009)



'' An open framework for our sector is the most compatible with our ethics, fundamentally [...] One of the watch words of my career certainly for the last kind of 15 or 20 years has been "open" (Poole, 2018)



Nicholas Poole
@NickPoole1

Replying to @mcsanddrowe @SimonXIX and 2 others

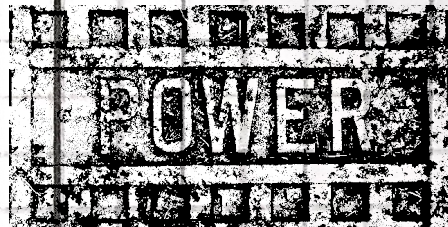
PS In general, I prefer to promote software based on functionality, compliance, total cost of ownership etc rather than licensing model

12:44 PM · Nov 3, 2017 · TweetDeck

Neoliberal appropriation of openness

Bureaucracy

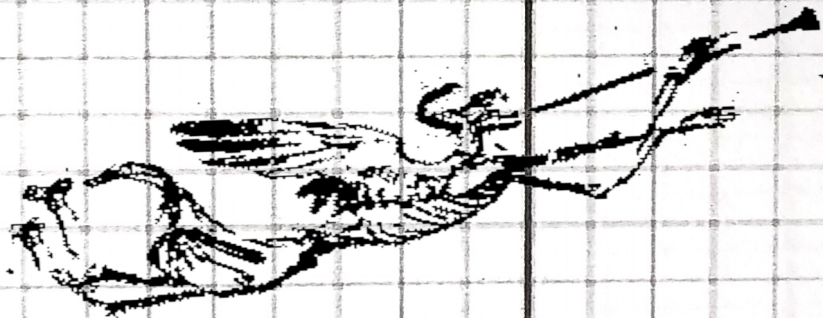
Openness as a disciplinary function



Alternative modes of openness for radical practice

"One should not think of OA as a thing-in-itself; rather, it should be seen as a process of understanding, engaging and experimenting with the ways in which research is presented and disseminated

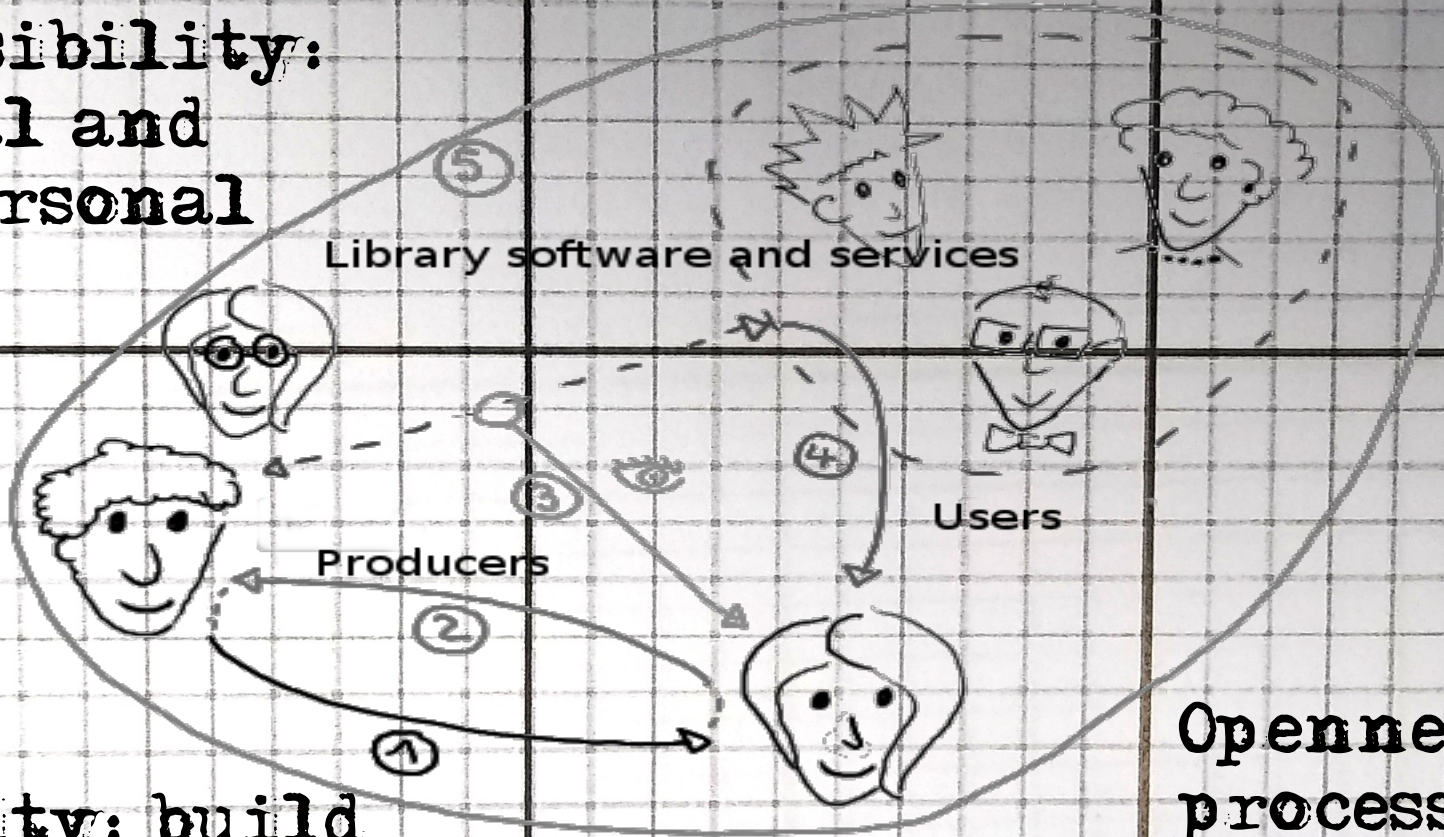
(Moore, 2017)



Conclusion

Responsibility:
personal and
interpersonal
ethics

**People
oriented**



**Openness as a
process**

**Community: build
for strength**

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