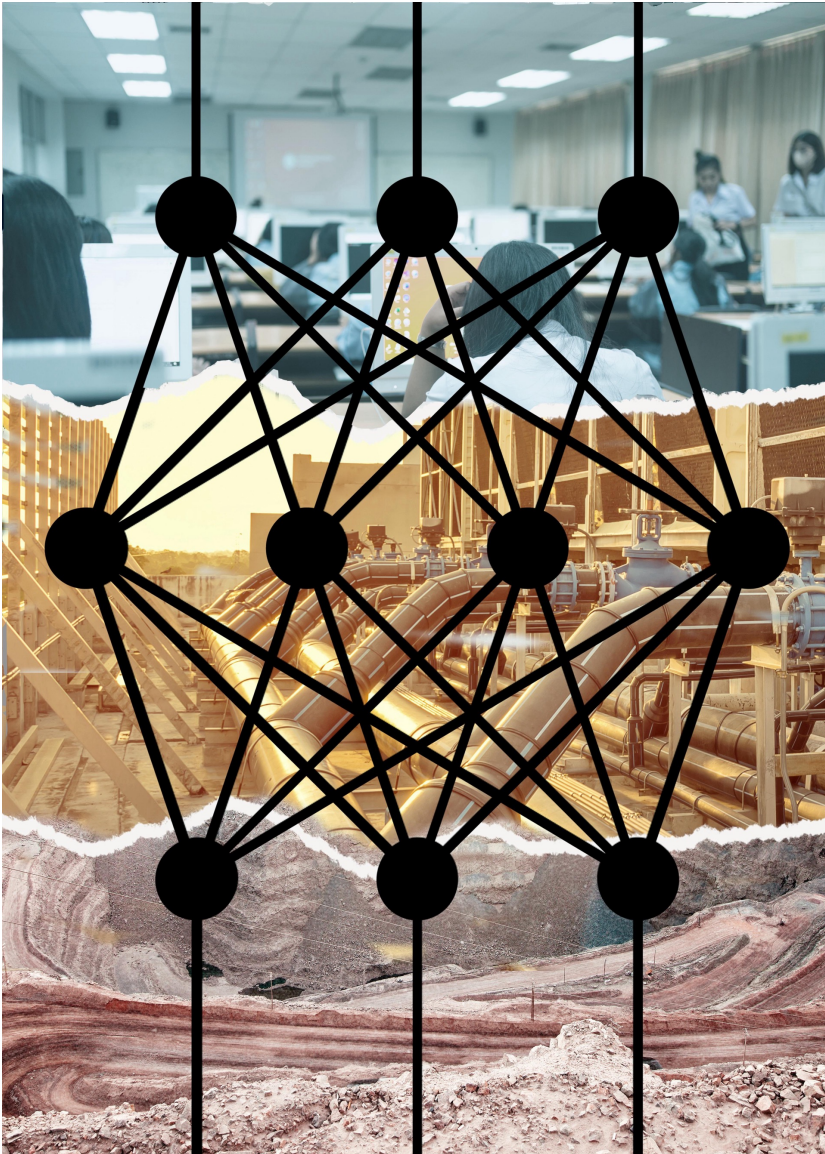


# Will “Diamond” Open Access Redress Global Knowledge Inequity?

Power, Visibility, and the  
Politics of Naming

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- Will Diamond OA be an equity intervention or just a technical publishing reform that maintains existing power structures?
- Will it decentralize knowledge and decision-making, or merely coopt peripheral knowledge into central agendas?

Extraction Network 1 by Kathryn Conrad & Rose Willis

[www.kathrynconrad.com/](http://www.kathrynconrad.com/)

Kathryn Conrad & Rose Willis / <https://betterimagesofai.org/> /  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

## Some concerns:



Continued Mining by Suraj Rai & Digit

[www.surajr.com/projects](http://www.surajr.com/projects)

[digital-dialogues.co.uk/](http://digital-dialogues.co.uk/)

<https://betterimagesofai.org/>

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

- Why distinguish technical efficiency from equity/justice?
- Will Diamond OA perpetuate global knowledge asymmetries (resources, prestige, norm-setting) favoring the Global North and private interests?
- What did we learn from "Plan S déjà vu"—reforms presented as universal solutions while Global South initiatives must "align" instead of leading?

## An example of proposing a technical fix for a structural problem.

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From a recent ad promoting a workshop on ranking improvement

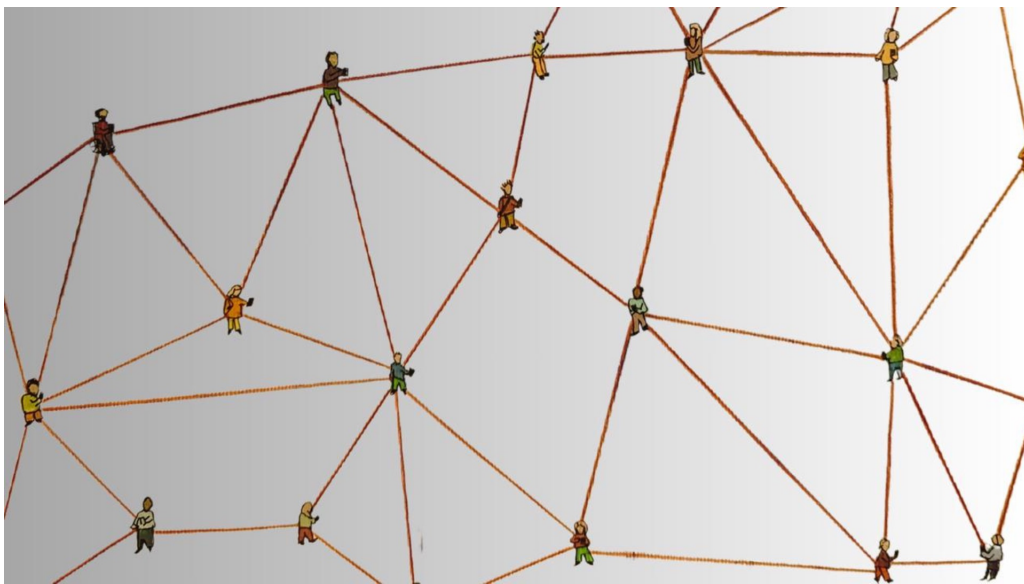
“University rankings shape global reputation, funding, and policy—but many institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America remain **underrepresented due to closed data and narrow metrics**.

Join \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ for a timely webinar exploring how open science practices—including transparency, persistent identifiers, and open research infrastructures—**can significantly improve institutional visibility and ranking performance.**”

## Be Compliance, or Be Invisible?

# The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) as Governance Infrastructure

- The DOI is not a neutral technology; its inherent power dictates which artifacts gain recognition (indexing, citation counts, evaluation) and which remain invisible, making compliance a form of governance.



Detail from Connected People by Jamillah Knowles & Reset.Tech Australia

[www.jemimahknightstudio.com/work/ai](http://www.jemimahknightstudio.com/work/ai)

Participation demands technical integration, metadata management, staff time, maintenance, and fees, which are unevenly distributed and lead to unequal outcomes.

For example, some Latin American journals cite "DOI payments" as a reason for charging APCs.

<https://blog.doaj.org/2026/01/22/diamond-and-apc-based-journals-in-latin-america-sustainability-in-a-changing-ecosystem/>

## C<sup>3</sup> Open Access

**Community-governed:** Decision-making power rests with the scholarly and affected publics who produce and rely on the knowledge system, especially those historically excluded.

**Commons-based:** Knowledge is supported by shared public infrastructure (a knowledge commons), not treated as a product, marketplace, or pipeline for extractive metrics.

**Care-centred:** Knowledge sharing focuses on relationships, reciprocity, and enabling good scholarly work relevant to local contexts, rather than speed, volume, or externally set standards.



Convivial Thinking by  
Angie Vanessita <http://www.angievanessita.com>

How do we ensure that the new “Diamond” model doesn’t overwrite long-standing labor in Latin America and elsewhere?

“Latin America has been doing open access right from the very beginning. **If we had the opportunity to start academic publishing from scratch**, this is certainly the way we would choose to go about it: academic-led, not-for-profit, technically proficient, and scientifically sound open access publishing.”

Johan Rooryck (2019)

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2019/12/04/opportunity-or-threat-what-plan-s-can-contribute-to-open-access-in-latin-america/>

Seeing the Forest for the Trees by Nicole Crozier & The Bigger Picture

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