Science is defined as the set of scientific communities working to improve human knowledge and technology, in its international, methodological, ethical and political dimensions. Research institutions around the world are carrying out this noble mission. However, research is currently the preserve of a restricted group of experts whose modes of production are often too opaque. Thus, knowledge is enclosed and not as accessible as it can be with modern technology. Yet, given the complexity of the world and the issues our time, it seems essential to bring science and knowledge as real commons.

The HackYourPhD community was born out of an acknowledgement that current ways of performing research frequently generate frustration, conflicts, and isolation. The crisis in research is sometimes covered in the media: job insecurity, rush to publication creating pressures and dishonest practices, privatization of knowledge through the grip of scientific publishing houses. This is a vision from the inside – that of research practitioners.

This picture may appear rather negative to society at large, which often does not understand how research works. Research is a “black box” for the majority of the population. There is a divide. Citizens often hold researchers in high esteem, but the crisis of trust is deepening, because of the lack of dialogue. However, there is hope: today’s knowledge society makes the emergence of citizen researchers both desirable and possible.

HackYourPhD brings together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, citizens, hacktivists, tinkers, and everyone who is interested in the production and the sharing of knowledge in the wider sense. This collective aims to bring concrete solutions to complex issues and to build much-needed collaborative relationships between those involved in knowledge production. This is required for collective intelligence to come into existence and bring answers to urgent issues of society.

We wish, through common activities carried out by members of the community, to create healthy dynamics among researchers and to open the “black box” so that research may serve society rather than entrenched interests.

01 WHY OPEN SCIENCE?

02 OUR ACTIONS AS AN OPEN SCIENCE COMMUNITY

INFORM AND ADVOCATE OPEN PRACTICES

Our main activity is to spread information about open science to students, researchers, and citizen from all over the world. We thus report daily and in a collaborative way news about open science and open research practices. We also develop creative formats like flyers, short interviews or improvisational theatre.

CONNECT PEOPLE AND IDEAS TO INITIATE NEW PROJECTS

A second activity is to facilitate the creation of new initiatives. We especially try to connect international communities, especially in French and English. In the last two years, more than 30 events were organized with the main objective to connect people and ideas in order to generate concrete actions. More than a thousands people are also following the online discussion and exchanges. Overall, those activities follow the idea that open science is not at all a static concept but rather an ongoing dynamics that must be catalyzed by critical thinking and diversity of cultural and disciplinary viewpoints.

03 MEET PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN OPEN SCIENCE

Students and researchers have already integrated open science in their practices. On the right are some cheery-picked portraits of students. You can listen to them and many other interviews on SoundCloud. Just follow the QR Code...

04 JOIN A GROWING COMMUNITY

You can take part of our daily discussions and many projects by joining us on the social media like thousands of other people around the world.

We are collectively making a daily curation about open science and fostering initiatives through collective brainstorming and networking. Our blog also announces key news related to open science and keeps everyone updated about the forthcoming workshops, the ongoing projects, and other tools to help make Science more open.

Do not hesitate to email us at: contact@hackyourphd.org

Jess Hamrick, Open & Collaborative Research

Passionate by open science, she thinks that we need more intersections and connections between projects in research. She thinks that we have a lot of things to learn from collaborative tools developed by programmers like GitHub to share code & data.

Todd Huffman, Open Innovation & Entrepreneurship

A PhD dropout, he launched his stringing because he did not feel the right tools to analyse his PhD data. He thus created the tools that he was missing for his research: a 3D microscope to scan biological samples.

Emma Peng Chien, Open Education & Interdisciplinarity

After a bachelor degree in biology, Emma trained in philosophy and psychology in a multidisciplinary master program. She is now a PhD Student in Psychology at the University of Alberta. She is looking to see more integration between Philosophy and Science. And for that, it will be with some changes in the educational systems.

Sage Bionetworks 2015 Paris Assembly: Connecting Open Research, Open Education and Open Social Impact

Empowering Ph.D. students and young researchers for the advocacy of Open science & Knowledge as Commons

Marc-André Ayvazian, Open Research

Marc is a PhD researcher at Université de Montréal. He is also the CEO of Canto, a software company that aims to disrupt the current academic publishing system.

Emma Peng Chien, Open Education & Interdisciplinarity

Jess Hamrick, Open & Collaborative Research

Contact: guillaume@hackyourphd.org; celyagd@hackyourphd.org

Facebook.com/HackYourPhd

Twitter: @HackYourPhd

HackYourPhd.org


More references on our Zotero group: https://www.zotero.org/groups/hackyourphd/items/collectionKey/WHFCBCSP.

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Contact: guillaume@hackyourphd.org; celyagd@hackyourphd.org

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Twitter: @HackYourPhd

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