

# Philosophy and Science Policy

## A Report from the Field

J. Britt Holbrook

[holbrook@njit.edu](mailto:holbrook@njit.edu)

[@jbrittholbrook](https://twitter.com/jbrittholbrook)

Department of Humanities Colloquium Series  
NJIT, Newark, NJ  
October 10, 2018

# Presentation

- Serendipity
- Improv
- Academic flourishing
- A case study in philosophy and science policy
- Key point: there is a deadline!

# Argument

If we want to encourage academic flourishing, then we need new ways of evaluating academic research.

We want to encourage academic flourishing.

Therefore, we need new ways of evaluating academic research.

# Serendipity

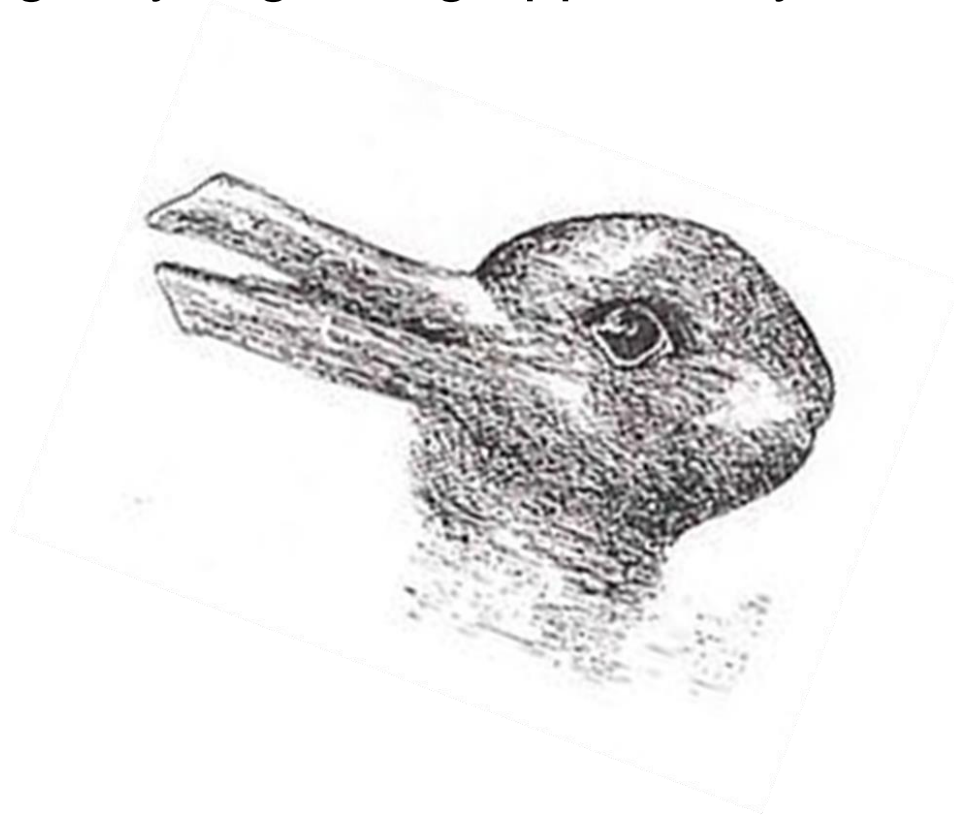
“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.”



— Seneca

# Serendipity

Serendipity is sagacity regarding opportunity.



# Improv

Engaging in improv, we seek the rules that will allow us to go on.





# Standardization

- Enforces standards
- Tends to make everything the same (replication)
- Resists change
- Encourages conservatism
- Uses peer review



## (Standard) Evaluation

- Relies on standards
- Requires individuals to meet standards *and* exhibit originality
- Rarely changes
- Punishes risk taking
- Relies on peer review (of articles, books, portfolios – see Alperin et al.)

# Transvaluation

- Redefines standards
- Tends to begin with – and value – individuals
- Embodies change
- Exemplifies risk taking
- Challenges established methods of evaluation

# Academic Flourishing

- Seeks new standards
- Individuals seek to meet standards *and* exhibit originality
- Judged relative to individuals and changes as individuals become who they are
- Requires risk taking
- Extends peer review

# Evaluating Academic Flourishing

- Recognizes new/different/developing standards
- Encourages individuals to meet standards *and* exhibit originality
- Changes in response to good arguments (non-dogmatic)
- Rewards risk taking
- Uses traditional peer review along with other means

# Expert Group on Indicators

Indicators for Researchers' Engagement with Open Science and its Impacts

[Home](#)

[Open Access](#)

[European Open Science Cloud](#) ▾

[Open Science Policy Platform](#) ▾

[Groups](#) ▾

[Open Science Monitor](#)

How can the responsible engagement of the scientific communities with open knowledge practices be stimulated? In what way may current evaluation protocols hinder the development of open science and scholarship? Which new indicators can be developed to ensure that the



## Plan S

# Accelerating the transition to full and immediate Open Access to scientific publications

The key principle is as follows:

**“After 1 January 2020 scientific publications on the results from research funded by public grants provided by national and European research councils and funding bodies, must be published in compliant Open Access Journals or on compliant Open Access Platforms.”**

IN ADDITION:

- Authors retain copyright of their publication with no
- When Open Access publication fees are applied,

datory publishing?

both welcome new

ACADEMIC PUBLISHING GUEST POST OPEN LETTER

olarly communication

opportunities!

## Response to Plan S from Academic Researchers: Unethical, Too Risky!


This is Appeal by several European scientists protesting against Plan S, recently revealed by the EU and a coalition of European research funders. Lynn Kamerlin and her coauthors worry that Plan S will deprive them of quality journal venues and of international collaborative opportunities, while disadvantaging scientists whose research budgets preclude paying and playing in this OA league. They offer instead their own suggestions how to implement Open Science.

# Open Acce

# What's 'unethical' about Plan S?

Posted on [September 18, 2018](#) by [jbrittholbrook](#)

In a recent [blog post](#), my co-authors and I refer to Plan S as 'unethical'. Doing so has upset Marc Schiltz, President of Science Europe.

 **J Britt Holbrook** @jbrittholbrook · Sep 17, 2018  
Replying to @marcschiltz1  
[@MsPhelps](#) and [@jeroenbosman](#) do a great job of addressing the four proposed 'solutions' in our original piece. Their target was not so much our critique of Plan S, which you call "unsubstantiated." May I ask what you mean by that and what would count as a \*substantiated\* critique?

 **Marc Schiltz**  
@marcschiltz1

1/3 Well, it starts with the title, where Plan S is bluntly termed "unethical". This is a very strong qualifier for a plan that was, after all, endorsed by Research Councils from 11 countries and the European Union.

5:47 PM - Sep 17, 2018

  See Marc Schiltz's other Tweets

Academic freedom **Alt-ac**

altmetrics

Autonomy and

Accountability

Impact Justice

Open Access Peer Review

Philosophy and Technology

philosophy of/as

interdisciplinarity **PhyloPic**



# Robert-Jan SMITS

Senior Adviser for Open Access and Innovation



+32 (0) 229 63296



[Robert-Jan.Smits@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Robert-Jan.Smits@ec.europa.eu)

**Robert-Jan SMITS** is the Open Access Envoy of the European Commission, based at the European political Strategy Centre (EPSC) of the European Commission. In this capacity, Robert-Jan has to propose concrete [policy recommendations](#) to ensure that by 2020 all publicly funded scientific publications are available in Open Access.

Prior to joining the EPSC, he was from 2010-2018 the Director-General of DG Research and Innovation (RTD) at the European Commission. In this capacity, he was responsible for defining and implementing the EU policy and programmes in the field of research and innovation (average annual budget 8 billion euro).



[Home](#) [About Stephen](#)

[← Ten Years a Blogger](#)

## Academic freedom and responsibility: why Plan S is not unethical

Posted on [October 1, 2018](#) by [Stephen](#)

Since its [announcement](#) on 4th September the European Commission's plan to make a radical shift towards open access (OA) has caused [quite a stir](#). Backed by eleven\* national funding agencies, the plan aims to make the research that they support free to read as soon as it is published. This is a major challenge to the status quo, since the funders are effectively placing subscription journals off limits for their researchers, even if the journals allow green OA (publication of the author-accepted manuscript)

### Recent Posts

- [Academic freedom and responsibility: why Plan S is not unethical](#)
- [Ten Years a Blogger](#)
- [DORA, the Leiden Manifesto & a university's right to choose: a comment](#)
- [Ready-made citation distributions](#)

# On Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Posted on [October 1, 2018](#) by [jbrittholbrook](#)

Today, Stephen Curry published a piece on his [blog](#) on “[Academic freedom and responsibility: why Plan S is not unethical](#),” and I want to offer a response to some of his arguments here.

The first thing to say is that I think Curry and I agree on quite a few points. We especially agree that to speak of academic freedom means we should also to speak of academic responsibility. For six years (2012-2018), I was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. I fully support the [AAAS Statement on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#), which the Committee co-authored:

“ *Scientific freedom and scientific responsibility are essential to the advancement of human knowledge for the benefit of all. Scientific freedom is the freedom to engage in scientific inquiry, pursue and apply knowledge, and communicate openly. This freedom is inextricably linked to and must be exercised in accordance with scientific responsibility. Scientific responsibility is the duty to conduct*

Academic freedom [Alt-ac](#)

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# Architect of bold European open-access plan heads to Washington to garner US support

*Robert-Jan Smits takes Plan S to the White House to seek support from US funders and policymakers.*

## Academic freedom

Since the plan's launch, an argument has also flared up over whether funders should be able to restrict where academics can publish. Britt Holbrook, a philosopher at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, co-wrote a [blog post](#) arguing that the plan is unethical because mandating where researchers publish impinges on academic freedom. His co-authors include some European scientists, such as biochemist Lynn Kamerlin at Uppsala University in Sweden.

But other researchers disagree. Peter Suber, director of the Harvard Open Access Project and the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication in Cambridge, Massachusetts, says that it is entirely reasonable for funders to put restrictions on how their money is used. Suber, who is meeting with Smits on 4 October, says that taxpayer-funded public research agencies have a duty to spend their money in the public interest.

For his part, Smits says it is a “pity” that the academic-freedom argument is being used, “because it stifles a lot of debate”.



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[Jason Stanley](#)

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### Upcoming Events

[\[ Month View \]](#)

Nominations open for APA leadership positions

*SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018*

APA Lecture by Janet Stemwedel

*FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018*

Nomination deadline for the 2019 Lebowitz Prize

*SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018*

Application deadline for the 2019–2020 Edinburgh Fellowship

*SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018*

Invitation to join panel on  
public philosophy at Central  
Division APA Meeting

Interview with reporter from  
*Physics Today*

Letter submitted to *Nature*

Writing grant proposal for  
workshop on Post-Plan S Peer  
Review



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Invitation to join panel on  
public philosophy at Central  
Division APA Meeting

So, only one standard product  
– an invited presentation.

And then, there's the deadline

.....

What's the deadline?

**January 1 , 2020**



# Evaluating Academic Flourishing

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# References

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