

Why Open Education Matters in Higher Education?

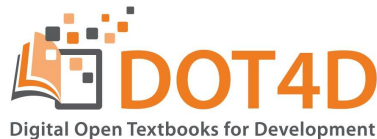
By

Glenda Cox

University of Cape Town



Centre for
Innovation in
Learning and
Teaching



UNESCO CHAIR
IN OPEN EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

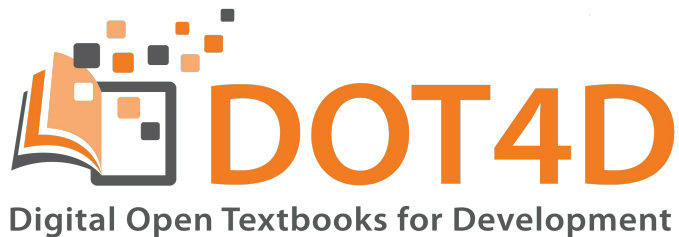
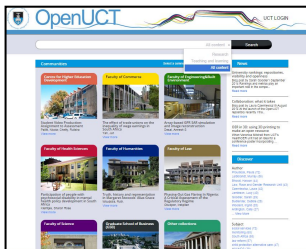




**UNESCO CHAIR
IN OPEN EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**



Chair of OE Global
conference, Cape
Town, 2017



What is Open Education?



Open Education encompasses resources, tools and practices that are free of legal, financial, and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared and adapted in the digital environment. It maximizes the power of the Internet to make education more affordable, accessible and effective (**SPARC**).



OER = Free + Permissions

Retain

Reuse

Remix

Revise

Redistribute

“Open Movement”



The idea of OPEN in ...
Open Source Software

A collection of logos for various open source software projects, including Mac OS X, OpenOffice.org, Open Source Day 2004, Drupal, Sakai, Java, and the Linux penguin mascot.

Open Source Software

Open Access

The idea of OPEN in ...
Open Access

Logos for SHERPA/ROMEO, OpenDOAR, and the Open Access logo (an orange padlock). Text describes the SHERPA/ROMEO project, OpenDOAR as an authoritative directory of academic open access repositories, and the Open Access logo as a new profit organization of academics and librarians.

Open Society

The idea of OPEN in ...
Open Society

Logos for ourWaterCoffin and Web of Change. Text describes ourWaterCoffin's mission to transform water delivery and Web of Change's mission to connect the research, technology, and social science communities.

The Open Movement

Open Science

Open Licences

4

The idea of OPEN in ...
Open Science

Logos for the Open Science Grid and the Open Developer Project. Text describes the Open Science Grid as a platform for promoting discovery and collaborative data science, and the Open Developer Project as a community for open source developers.

The idea of OPEN in ...
Open Licences

Logos for Creative Commons and the GNU General Public License. Text describes Creative Commons as a non-profit organization and the GNU GPL as a free software license.

Digital Open Textbooks for Development

Initiated as a three-year (2018–2021) research, advocacy and implementation project funded by the Canadian IDRC, following in wake of Research on Open Educational Resources for Development (ROER4D) and other CILT open education initiatives (since 2007). Now an institutionally funded initiative.



Dr Glenda Cox
Principal Investigator



Bianca Masuku
Researcher



Michelle Willmers
Publishing &
Implementation Manager

Example: Open Textbooks

- Digital, freely available collections of **scaffolded teaching and learning content**
- published under an **open licence**
- with affordances for **integrated multimedia** and third-party content
- published via platforms and in formats that provide affordances for content delivery on a **range of devices**, print and low bandwidth access strategies

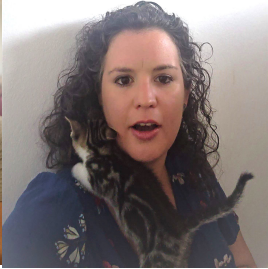
UCT open textbook authors in the DOT4D study



Kensleyrao
Apajee
**Mechanical
Engineering**



Chris Barnett & Cesarina
Edmonds-Smith
Chemistry



Stella Papanicolaou
Architecture



Dr Juan Klopper
Surgery



A/Prof. Abimbola
Windapo
Construction



A/Prof Maria Keet,
Computer Science



Jonathan Shock,
Mathematics



Dr James
Lappeman,
Marketing



Tim Low,
Statistics

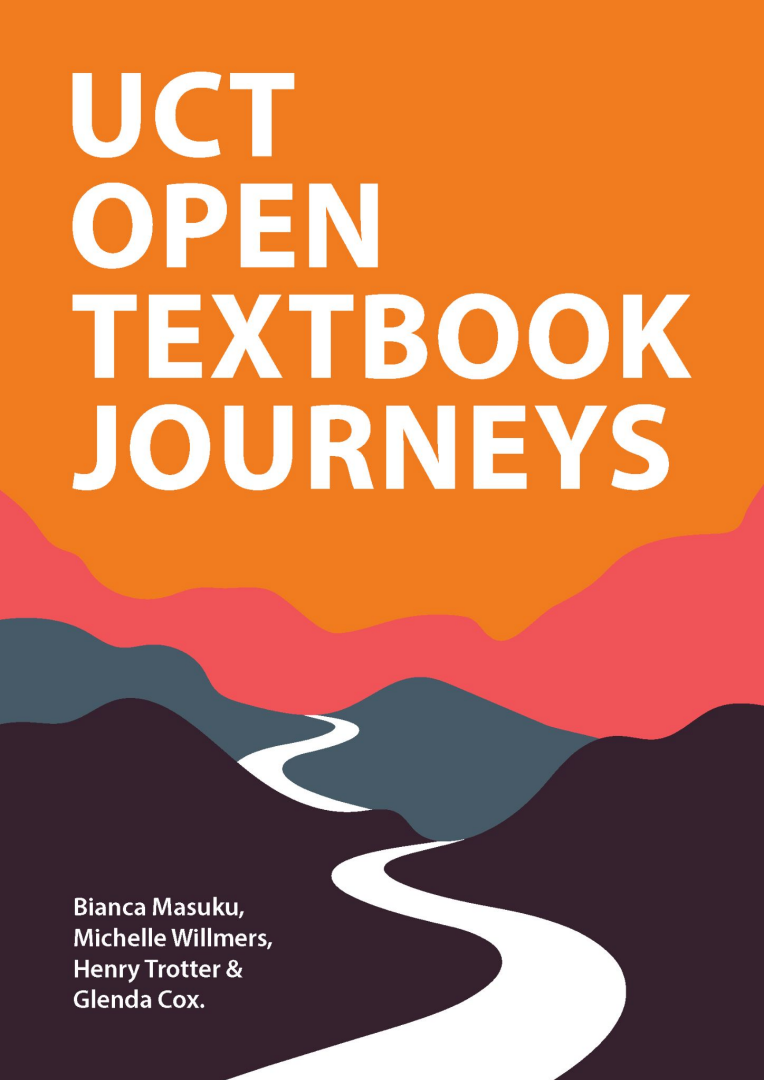


Dr Michael Held,
**Orthopaedic
Surgery**



Dr Claire Blackman
Mathematics

UCT OPEN TEXTBOOK JOURNEYS



Bianca Masuku,
Michelle Willmers,
Henry Trotter &
Glenda Cox.

Read about the journeys these academics went on in developing their open textbooks; including their motivations, challenges, insights around working with students and sustainability factors.

<https://openbooks.uct.ac.za/uct/catalog/book/37>

Findings

1. Economics

Student protest #fees must fall



openstax

We visited Rice University and spoke with students about their perspectives on free textbooks. Check back tomorrow to see another student's perspective. [#ForStudentsForever](#)

<https://africanarguments.org/2021/06/fallisms-faultlines-the-paradoxes-of-fees-must-fall/>

Open Textbooks save money

2. Culture and representation

#Rhodesmustfall



Cape Town U Must Fall protests

<https://www.educationworld.in/south-af-rica-must-fall-protests-report/>



<https://www.buzzfeed.com/husseinkesvani/oxford-campaign-rhodes-must-fall>

Open textbooks for curriculum change

3. Copyright vs legally sharing



UNESCO

ENGLISH ▾



Covid-19, a catalyst for greater OER use worldwide?

📅 30/09/2021

🕒 2 min

AFRICA-GLOBAL

Open education resources to shape post-pandemic world



Curt Newton and Krishna Rajagopal 29 April 2021



For the past two decades, the world has been building open knowledge on a massive scale, with open educational resources as a cornerstone. The 2001 launches of MIT OpenCourseWare and Creative Commons formed a solid foundation of this global open educational resource movement, which now supports many millions of learners from all walks of life.

Now, as we begin to grapple with the long-term impacts and changes in education brought on by the pandemic year, it's crucial to assess how open educational resource (OER) tools and resources are reaching those who need and use them most. In this article, we'll focus on students in Africa.

"Legal, copyright and IP is everyone's business". Laura Czerniewicz.

[#OASymp2016](#)

[@ROER4D](#) [@CILT](#) [UCT](#)

Open textbooks are openly licensed

4. Students as partners

Students as co-creators of teaching approaches, course design, and curricula: Implications for academic developers

Article in International Journal for Academic Development · June 2011

DOI: 10.1080/1360144X.2011.568690

CITATIONS

470

READS

4,366

3 authors:



Catherine Bovill

The University of Edinburgh

58 PUBLICATIONS 2,653 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



Alison Cook-Sather

Bryn Mawr College

87 PUBLICATIONS 4,581 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



Peter Felten

Elon University

59 PUBLICATIONS 2,614 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)

International Journal for
Students as Partners

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2017

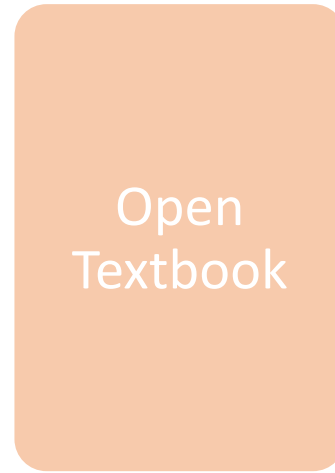


Open textbooks for collaboration and
co-creation

Example: Open Textbooks

- Digital, freely available collections of scaffolded teaching and learning content
- published under an open licence
- with affordances for integrated multimedia and third-party content
- published via platforms and in formats that provide affordances for content delivery on a range of devices, print and low bandwidth access strategies
- through **collaborative, inclusive authorship, quality assurance and publishing approaches**
- that can be leveraged in **sustainable models of open textbook production for social justice and transformation.**

**Open textbooks > Collaboration > Inclusion >
Social justice > Sustainability**



- Economic 'distribution'
- Cultural 'recognition'
- Political 'representation'

- Open licences
- Localisation
- Voices

- Free
- Digital
affordance: adaptability
- Co-creation

“Inclusivity is a key dimension of both social justice and sustainability, in that multiple voices are required in order to achieve more equal epistemic representation” (Cox, Masuku and Willmers 2022)

A Call to organise open education.....

What are we organising against?

The current emphasis on market value of HE
(via Neoliberalism)

Technological monopolies (technology is never neutral)

Perpetuating injustices

Racism

Economic exclusion

Competition for gain

What are we organising for?

- Equity
- Access
- Intersectionality
- Collaboration
- Community
- Voice
- Generosity
- Care

“Open is a gift on offer. Like any gift, it is up to you whether you think it is worthwhile to accept it. We only ask that you consider”
(Biswas-Diener & Jhangiani, 2017:6)

References

Cox, G., Masuku, B. & Willmers, M. 2020. Open Textbooks and Social Justice: Open Educational Practices to Address Economic, Cultural and Political Injustice at the University of Cape Town. *Journal of Interactive Media in Education*, 1 (2):pp. 1–10. Available at:

<https://open.uct.ac.za/handle/11427/31887>

Cox, G., Masuku, Cox G, Willmers M and Masuku B (2022) Sustainable open textbook models for social justice. *Front. Educ.*

7:881998. doi: 10.3389/feduc.2022.881998

DOT4D. 2021. Open Textbooks in South African Higher Education: Action Brief. Cape Town: Digital Open Textbooks for Development. Available at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_BFNLHPRcPP1f94GyR9EiZ98HKKu54f1/view?usp=sharing

Fraser, N. (2005). Reframing justice in a globalizing world. *New Left Review*, 36, 69–88. Retrieved from

<https://newleftreview.org/II/36/nancy-fraser-reframing-justice-in-a-globalizing-world>

Jhangiani R. & Biswas-Diener R. (eds.) 2017. *Open: The Philosophy and Practices that are Revolutionizing Education and Science*. London:

Ubiquity Press. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bbc>