

**Working Group Open Media Studies**  
**Meeting Protocol (29.9.2018)**  
by Gaia Mosconi

The first meeting of the Open Media Studies Working Group (WG) at the German Association for Media Studies (GfM) took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The meeting opened with a motivation statement from the funding members who highlighted the importance of Open Science issues due to its potentially pervasive impact over the academic system.

After a short introduction, participants (full list below) were asked to introduce themselves and state their interests in this WG. The presentation round of the participants expressed the heterogeneity and the complexity of Open Science itself that could be addressed from a political and pragmatic point of view.

Some participants stated their interests in copyright and the explicit intention of fighting back publications regimes. In fact, politically, open access policies, such as the Budapest Open Access Initiative (OAI) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest\\_Open\\_Access\\_Initiative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest_Open_Access_Initiative)) have been pursued as a challenge to those regimes. The group highlighted the need to address critically the hype on openness and digitalization, and seeing “openness” not only as an ontological state but also as a political movement.

Some others were interested in understanding the Open Research process as a whole (comprehending methods, tools, data). Within this perspective, some questions were raised: what kind of tools and methods do researchers use nowadays and how does tool usage and choice of method shape the disciplines and the results researchers have? How does Open Research affect our research? Others suggested to think conceptually about ‘openness’, questioning for whom does openness make sense.

After the presentation round, the group stressed the importance of identifying concrete goals beyond the general ones already expressed in the [opening announcement of the WG](#). The voiced suggestions regarding these goals may be summarized as followed: (1) increasing dialogue and collaboration among scholars of the GfM concerning Open Science issues; (2) co-defining an Open Policy applicable in the contexts of the GfM but also beyond; (3) creating an open-infrastructure that will support GfM and media studies scholars: (3.1) open-bibliography for media studies literature (for reference see the example of: <https://katalog.adlr.link/>, [MediaRep](#) ), (3.2) list of tools/websites: library genesis, memory of the world (for reference see the example of: <https://www.monoskop.org/Monoskop>); (4) producing a handbook on (how-to do) ‘open media studies’.

Moreover, the group discussed how to organize itself. How to share common literature was one critical issue and [Zotero Open Library](#) was suggested as the most suitable of options for this Working Group but no official decision is taken yet. A mailing list was also suggested and decided to be hosted by Marburg university (see below). The language of the WG will be

mainly English to encourage a broader international participation and dissemination of the outputs.

Furthermore, the group brainstormed about the location and general theme of the next meeting. The group agreed upon the topic of “openness” (e.g. Open Access, Open Methodologies etc.): what does it mean, which perspectives and aspects are included, in which ways it affects academic contexts and more. The meeting will be hosted by Sarah-Mai Dang and Simon Hirsbrunner at the Wikimedia Foundation in Berlin on March 21, 2019.

At last, the group elected the official speakers: Dr. Sarah-Mai Dang and Simon David Hirsbrunner.

### **List of participants at the first meeting:**

Thomas Waitz, Wien  
Alena Strohmaier, Marburg  
Gaia Mosconi, Siegen  
Stephan Packard, Köln  
Simon Hirsbrunner, Siegen  
Andreas Kirchner, Köln/Marburg  
Sigrun Lehnert, Hamburg  
Sven Stollfuß, Leipzig  
Maïke Reinerth, Hamburg/Potsdam Babelsberg  
Seda Soyta, Siegen  
Marcus Burkhardt, Siegen  
Sarah-Mai Dang, Marburg

### **Contact**

The WG is open to all interested parties. If you are interested in working with us please send a short message to: sarah-mai.dang [at] uni-marburg.de or simon.hirsbrunner [at] uni-siegen.de.

If you are interested in being included in the email distribution list:

<https://www.lists.uni-marburg.de/lists/sympa/subscribe/openmediastudies>

**Speakers:** Dr. Sarah-Mai Dang, Simon David Hirsbrunner

**Upcoming meeting:** workshop on "openness" and research data on March 21, 2019 in Berlin.