

# Open Science & Open Access

NUANCES AND CONTRASTS IN THE CASE  
OF LATIN AMERICA

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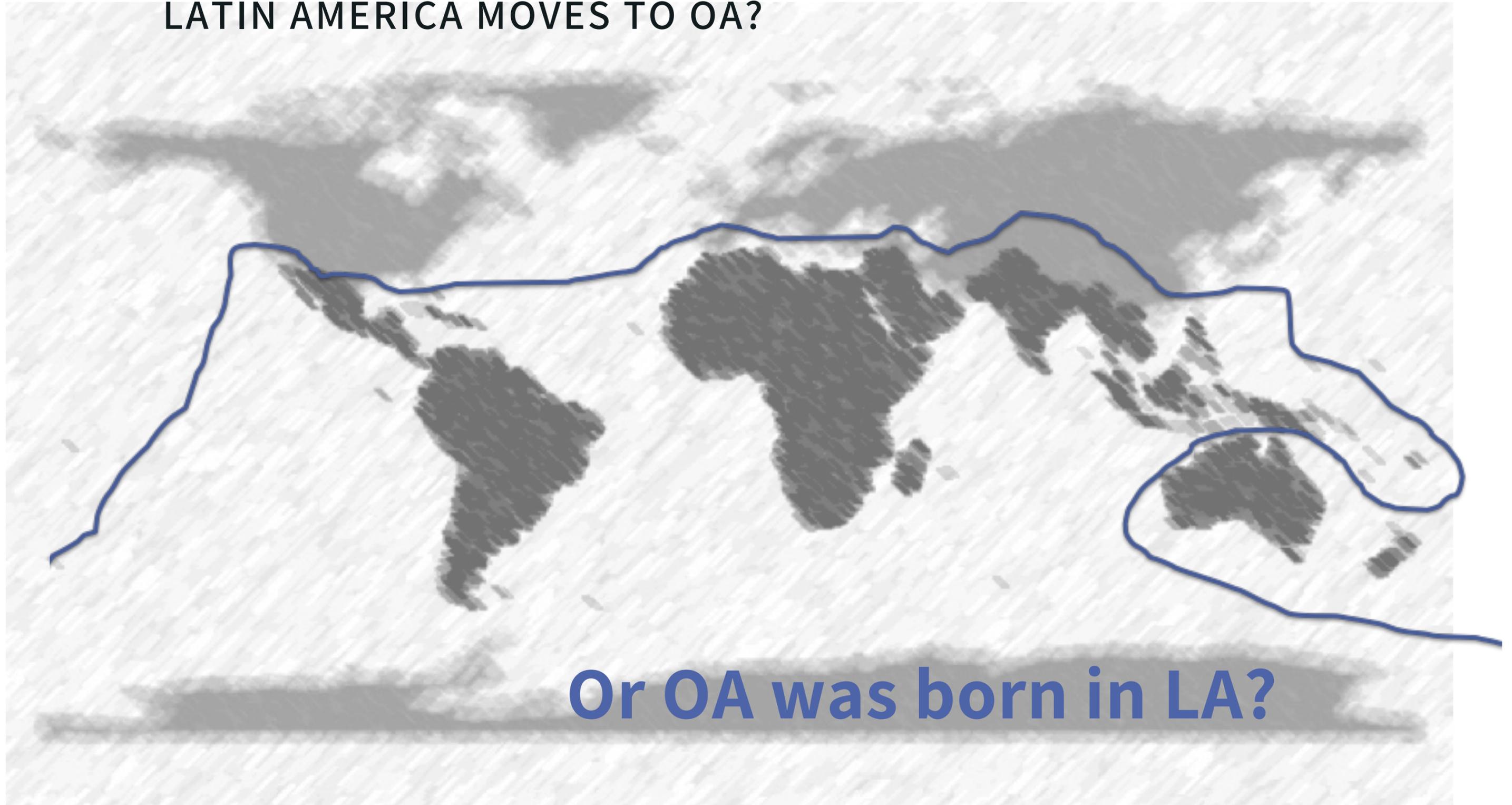
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LATIN AMERICA MOVES TO OA?



Or OA was born in LA?



# Key facts

- Science produced and published in LA has always been Open Access.
- Journals are supported by universities and research institutions, published by public universities, and government-funded.
- Historically we have suffered from having limited access to science published in the Global North.
- The tradition of scholarly publishing has never been outsourced to commercial publishers, nor supported by charging authors.

# More key facts

- In LA higher education is free — or very low cost.
- The publication of research results is managed by the universities themselves...
- ...and fully subsidized with public funds
- ... and also has serious distribution problems.

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## ADDRESSING DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS

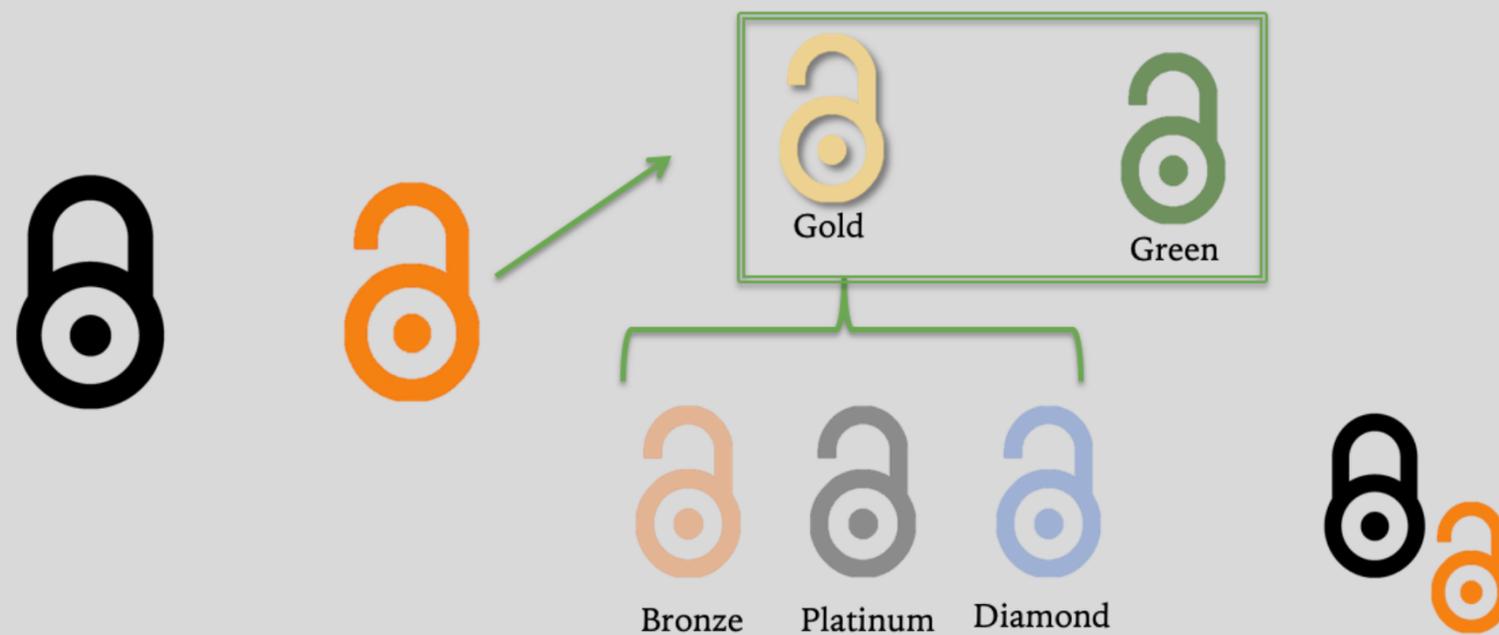
- Warehouses are full of books that cannot be properly distributed, which implies knowledge that does not reach its potential users.
- In this context, **making the publications available without any cost via electronic media was the only way to address the distribution problems.**

**A distribution problem in a non-profit editorial system.**

# Open Access

HOW THE OA MACHINE  
WORKS IN LATIN AMERICA?



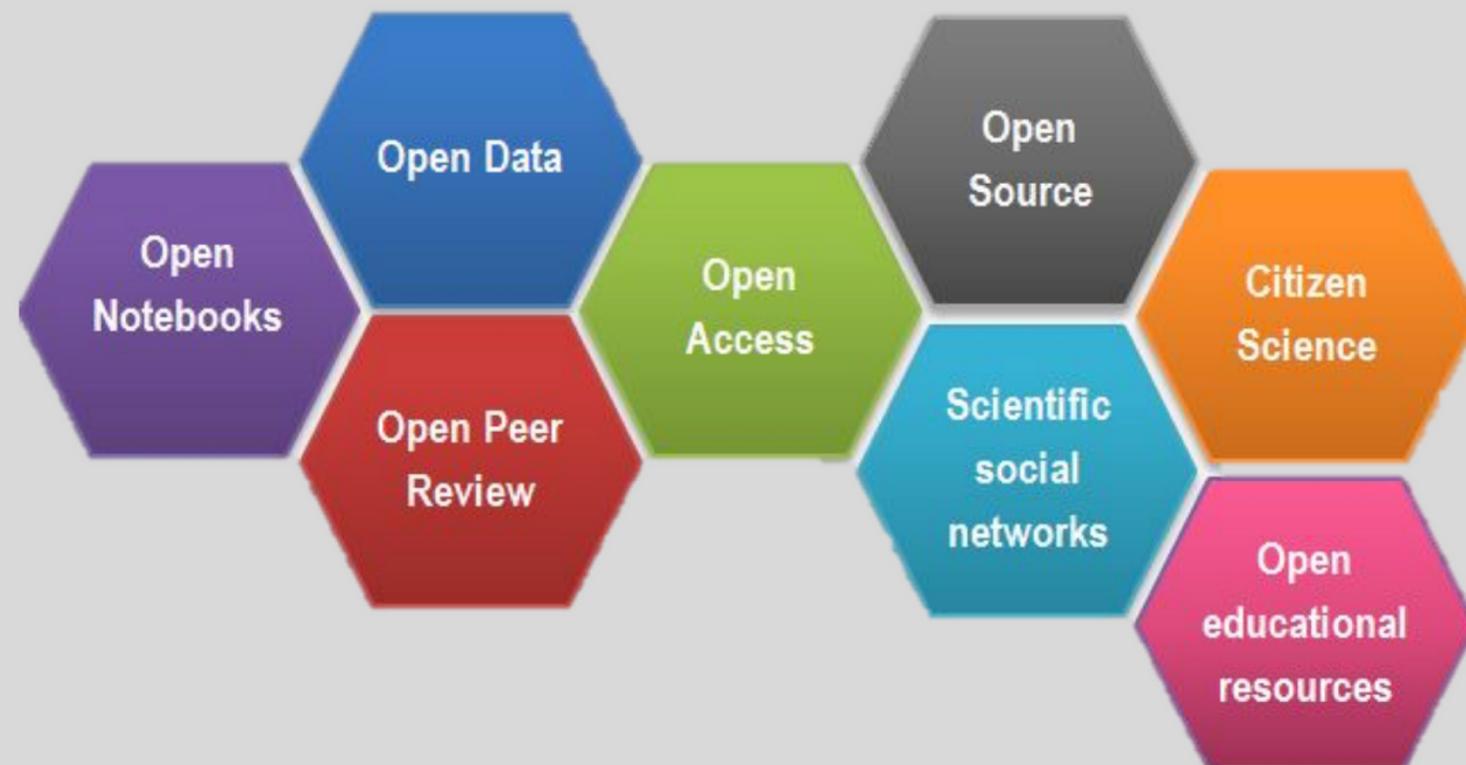


# Multiple paths to OA

- We cannot talk about Open Access only through traditional green and gold models, as a diverse palette has now appeared: platinum, diamond and bronze, among other models.
- Without a doubt, APC distorts the market, not only owing to its publication cost, but also because of the cost of management.

# Open Science

HOW THE OS MACHINE  
WORKS IN LATIN AMERICA?



- Other aspects of Open Science have not experienced the same level of development as OA in LA
- Countries with legislation regarding OA (Peru, Argentina & Mexico) are regulating open data or the creation of institutional repositories —linked to the so-called green road to OA.
- Countries without this sort of legislation may have advanced a bit further, as is the case of Brazil, Colombia or Costa Rica.

# Pending agenda on Open Access in LA

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## OA LICENSES

The development of institutional mandates and repositories with contents under dissemination licenses consistent with OA distribution.

## MODALITIES OF OA

Lack of intensive campaigns that allow academics to know the modalities of OA.

## CULTURE

Create a solid transition to an effective Open Science culture. In this sense, there is still a long way to go.

# In LA, we need to...

## TYPES OF OA

Differentiate the types of OA in public policies:

- APC Open Access
- Free Open Access

## ALIGN POLICIES

Align the scientific policies related to access and use of information.

## THE RISKS OF APC

From a financial standpoint, for LA it would be impossible to face an expansion policy of APC-OA.

## NO SUBSIDIES TO APC

Do not create subsidies to pay for publication in APC-OA journals.

# Plan S

## TRANSITION TO OA-APC FOR WHOM?

Plan S is a proposal by EU & a coalition of European research funders to move the full academic publishing industry towards online OA by 2022.

Recent concerns about implementation have been expressed. Problems of affordability and exclusion for scholars have been raised, alongside fears that Plan S may create a dichotomy of the global scientific society, separating European countries from the rest of the world.

Some people see this as yet another example of colonialist exploitation (those in poor countries pay and the richer countries benefit with free access).

## How can we guarantee society's access to knowledge, without creating new inequalities?

- Encourage and support the establishment of fully OA journals published by charitable foundations, research grants, learned societies and/or universities. Just like we do in Latin America.

- Encourage the use of alternative ways to identify the quality of journals. For instance, volunteering time to expertly review papers and/or serve on editorial boards for venues that facilitate the exchange of ideas within and beyond a global community of scholars.

- Encourage the use of open science practices, in order to disseminate openly, not only research findings, but to collaborate and co-create.

# Plan S

## ALTERNATIVES FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH



**To achieve the above,  
it is necessary:**

To build strong national information systems on publications in LA.

To design public policies or redesign incentives to promote the acquisitions of subscriptions via consortiums.

To improve the quality of journals rather than increasing the number of journals.

To promote best practices in scholarly communication so that the asymmetries between the journals of the global north and the global south are eliminated.

## FINAL REMARKS



If we actually want to speak of the common good regarding science and education, we cannot merely change the restrictions of reading to publishing.

## FINAL REMARKS

LA has shown that scientific content can be freely available to anyone, without any fee. We need the rest of the world to explore if they can do the same.



## FINAL REMARKS



We all –Southern & Northern researchers– need to take back ownership of our publications.

## FINAL REMARKS

The APC model carries the risk of broadening the gap between researchers all over the world.





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¡Gracias!

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A WORLD BEYOND COMMERCIAL OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING