

**“Social Sciences and Humanities open access scholarly communications in a developing region: policies, initiatives and needed changes in research assessment - the case of Latin America”**

Dominique Babini & Laura Rovelli



Symposium Series on  
*'Open Access to Humanities and Social Sciences Information'*



*Symposium 3*

## Open Access to HSS research: Perspectives from Latin America and the United Kingdom

Speakers



Dr. Rebecca Darley  
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University of London



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Dr. Laura Rovelli  
Coordinator of the Latin American  
Forum of Research Assessment  
FOLEC-CLACSO



Host  
Dr. Venkat Nadella  
Research Fellow at the DST-Centre for  
Policy Research, Indian Institute  
of Science

Organiser: Knowledge Resource Centre,  
Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

Register  
Now

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Time: 6.30pm - 8.00pm (IST)

Registration link:

Knowledge partners:



Library, National Institute  
of Advanced Studies (NIAS)



DST - Centre for Policy Research,  
IISc, Bengaluru

# These challenges need as much local as international research outputs

## Opportunities for social sciences and humanities



## Opportunities for SSH in an open science context:

Concepts taken from the UNESCO's Preliminary Report on the first draft of the Recommendation on Open Science (September 2020)

- **extended collaboration with societal actors beyond the scientific community**, open to diversity of knowledge holders, inclusion of excluded and marginalized knowledge in solving problems of social importance
- **different forms of knowledge creation and communication**, not limited to publishing in peer reviewed international journals, multilingualism
- **supporting collaborative publishing models with no article processing charges (APCs) or book processing charges (BPCs)**
- **ensuring equity among researchers from developed and developing countries**, enabling fair and reciprocal sharing of scientific inputs and outputs and equal access to scientific knowledge to both producers and consumers
- **diversified information technology infrastructure for Open Science**, including high performance computing and data storage where needed, and robust, open and community managed infrastructures, protocols and standards to support bibliodiversity and engagement with society
- platforms for exchanges and **co-creation of knowledge between scientists and society**
- **community-based monitoring** and information systems

# The case of Latin America



## Latin America and the Caribbean

- Approach to knowledge as a public and common good and open access managed by the academic community as a common, non-profit good, stands out.
- Most advanced region in % of open access adoption in academic and scientific journals published in the region, with no APCs and no outsourcing to commercial publishers
- national and institutional open access policies prioritize open access repositories
- more recently, open science is promoted in the region



Latin America has created and maintains a non-commercial infrastructure where **scientific publishing belongs to academic institutions** and not to large publishers



# 2013-UNESCO first Regional Latin American and Caribbean Consultation on Open Access to Scientific Information and Research (representatives from 23 countries) - Statement

- Both Gold and Green routes are suitable form of OA for the region.
  - a) For Green routes, **inclusive and cooperative OA solutions** should be promoted to avoid new enclosures on knowledge access and dissemination.
  - b) Regarding Gold route, and considering that – i) only 30% of OA journals in the world presently require article processing charges (APCs); ii) **APC are mainly fixed by international publishers and entrepreneurs, and fixed at international prices which are unaffordable for the average developing country**; iii) research in Latin America and the Caribbean is mainly government funded; and iv) the region has a decade of experience with OA regional gold initiatives (SciELO and Redalyc) with more than 1.000 journals with no APCs - it is therefore **recommended that the Gold OA route in the region continues its present emphasis on sharing costs.**

## What about the social sciences in Latin America

- 25% of researchers
- 50% of Ph.D graduates
- 45% of the 10.000 active journals published in the region
- 80% of articles published by social scientists are published in journals within the region, mainly in local language
- lack of visibility of our quality SSH journals in the international indexing services WoS and Scopus



# Challenges in the past 20 years: developing quality and visibility for SSH peer-review open access journals published in Latin America

- Journals published by universities and other SSH research institutions, no outsourcing to commercial publishers
- high percentage of journals in open access, no APCs
- Open Journal System (OJS-PKP) for managing editorial, peer-review process and collections of journals
- Collections of journals in open access
  - University repositories with collections of its open access journals
    - UNAM, Univ. Sao Paulo, UChile (more than 100 journals each)
  - National collections of peer-reviewed open access journals
  - Regional indexing of peer-reviewed open access journals
    - Redalyc-AmeliCA
    - SciELO
    - Latindex Catalog
  - Regional subject repositories: CLACSO for SSH

# The case of CLACSO-Latin American Council of Social Sciences

780 social science member institutions in 55 countries (mainly in Latin America)



## CLACSO Bookstore with

- 1.475 books (all in open access and sale of print versión on demand) displayed and promoted in CLACSO's bookstore catalog with link to the full-text and open Dublin Core metadata in CLACSO's interoperable repository

- Other 1.883 open access books published by CLACSO member institutes (mainly universities) Full-text available in CLACSO's server with basic metadata



LIBROS  
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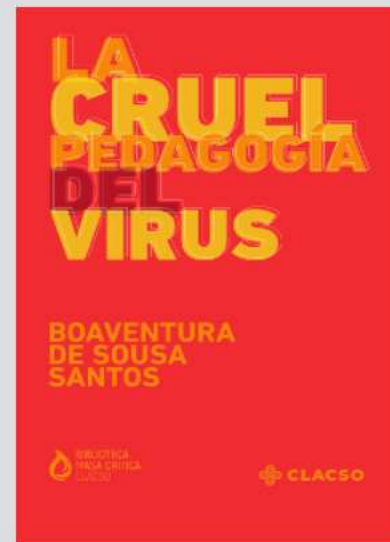
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Ordenar por

- 
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### La cruel pedagogía del virus

Boaventura de Sousa Santos. [Autor]

ISBN 978-987-722-599-0  
CLACSO.  
Buenos Aires.  
Mayo de 2020

\*Disponible sólo en versión digital

La irrupción de la pandemia en la vida cotidiana puso en crisis una "normalidad". Frente a ello, el sociólogo Boaventura de Sousa Santos expone un conjunto de preguntas inquietantes: ¿Qué conocimiento potencial proviene de la pandemia de coronavirus? ¿Carecen las democracias de la capacidad política para responder a emergencias? ¿Qué significa la cuarentena para los trabajadores que ganan cada día lo que necesitan para vivir ese día?

La biblioteca masa crítica pone a disposición de las y los lectores un conjunto de textos esenciales para interpretar las nervaduras del presente y desplegar las capacidades colectivas para transformarlo.

[Volver](#)

.pdf





## CLACSO's repository:

- Since 2002
- Collaborative
- Contents: SSH outputs from CLACSO's members institutions: journals, articles, books, book chapters, research reports, opinion papers, conference papers, videos, audio records
- Interoperable open source repository (OAI-PMH protocol)
- 110.000 full-texts in open access
- Mailing of 1.018 people working in editorial and repository teams in Latin America, receive biweekly trends and good practices in open access/open science



RED DE BIBLIOTECAS VIRTUALES  
DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES  
DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE



Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales | Conselho Latino-americano de Ciências Sociais | Latin American Council of Social Sciences

INICIO

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COLECCIONES

INGRESO DE INFORMACIÓN

CAMPAÑA CLACSO DE ACCESO ABIERTO

Sala de Lectura

Revistas

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BUSCA en la Red de Bibliotecas Virtuales de CLACSO

Buscar  de la(s) siguiente(s) palabra(s)   
en  en   
en el índice por

artículos de revistas, libros, documentos de trabajo,  
ponencias, tesis y multimedia

buscar en CLACSO

Consulte artículos de revistas arbitradas en CLACSO/Redalyc

Artículos



La Red de Bibliotecas Virtuales CLACSO, repositorio digital, ofrece acceso libre a más de 100.000 textos de la red CLACSO y recibe más de un millón de solicitudes por mes en CLACSO y en la colección CLACSO en Redalyc.

CAMPAÑA DE  
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Ayúdanos a que  
la Biblioteca Virtual  
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su trabajo

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INGRESO DE INFORMACIÓN  
PARA CENTROS MIEMBROS

Usuario

Contraseña

entrar



# Special collection REDALYC-CLACSO for peer-reviewed journals (1.015 SSH journals published in the region- 445.000 articles)

Las ciencias sociales y humanidades por un acceso abierto no comercial,  
colaborativo y sustentable en ALyC



1015 scientific journals 35 424 issues 445 059 full text articles

Artículos



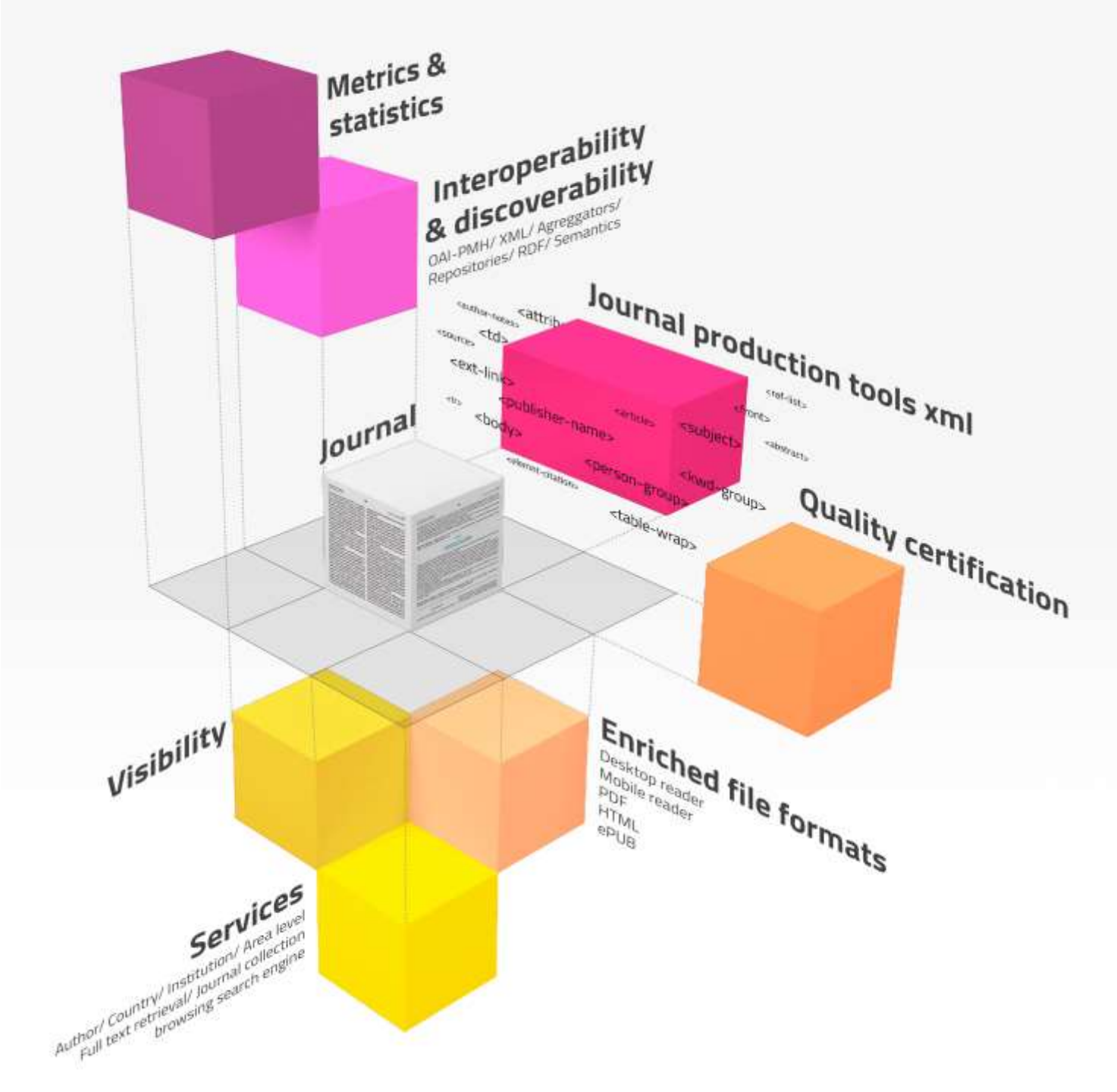
JOURNAL  
COLLECTIONS



SCIENTOMETRIC  
INDICATORS



PRODUCTION  
REPORTS



The regional indexing services (SciELO, RedALyC) generally have more value among the researchers surveyed than those of greater international recognition (Web of Science, Scopus).

*Results of survey 504 social scientists from Latin America (2014)*

Who is using those articles published in peer-reviewed open access journals from our region indexed in regional indexing services SciELO and Redalyc?

Contribution to education, research, professional practice and citizens needs

Type of Reach	Approximate Proportion		
	SciELO	RedALyC	
Students	50%	55%	} academic
University Staff	25%	22%	
Professional Practice	20%	17%	} public
Personal Use	9%	6%	

\* This table represents a composite of the results derived from my interpretations of all the responses and data collected in my dissertation study. As such, the numbers should be treated only as approximations, and the percentages should not be expected to add to 100%.

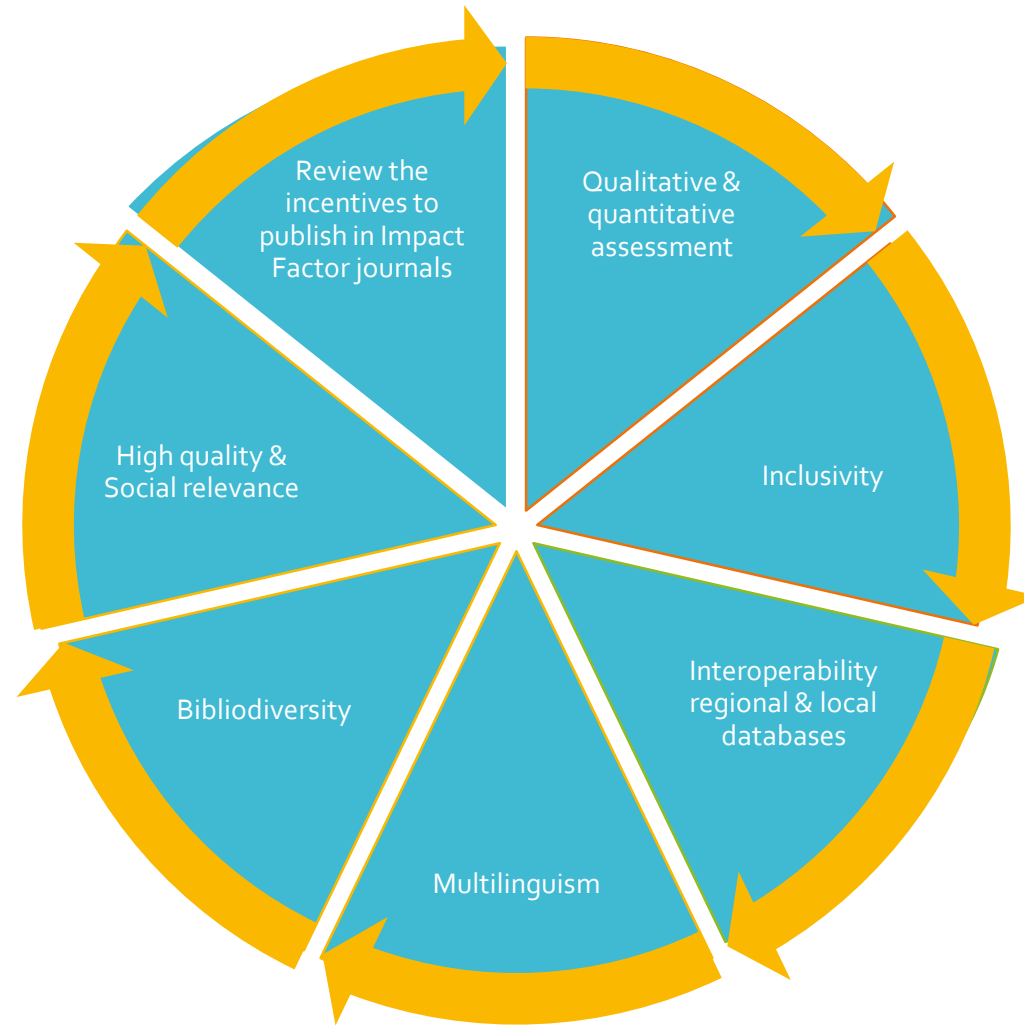


# Sharing three of our main concerns from a developing region perspective and ways forward

- Underfunding of community-owned infrastructures because scarce funds directed to APCs
  - Prioritize funding and resources dedicated to non-APC/BPC community-based infrastructures/initiatives and quality certification of its contents
- Weak international dialogue, cooperation and interoperability among community-owned infrastructures
  - Call for more international collective action, have a stronger and collective voice
  - South-South cooperation
- Researchers rewarded only when publishing in “mainstream” journals with “prestige industry” indicators, making invisible other contributions
  - Reward quality and relevance independent of publication venue
  - Reward doing peer-review of contents from community-based infrastructures

And what about research assessment in the social sciences and humanities, and its impact in open access scholarly communications?

Seven challenges in research assessment to expand open access in SSH knowledge production & circulation



The CLACSO-FOLEC initiative in Latin America

“All voices, formats and perspectives of knowledge production and circulation”



**FOLEC**  
Latin American Forum for  
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**PROPOSAL FOR A DECLARATION  
OF PRINCIPLES<sup>1</sup>**

.....

A new type of research assessment  
towards a socially relevant science  
in Latin America and the Caribbean



**FOLEC**  
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**TOWARDS A TRANSFORMATION OF  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ASSESSMENT IN  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

.....

Diagnosis and Proposals  
for a Regional Initiative<sup>1</sup>



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# Actions taken internationally



**CLACSO** **FOLEC**  
Latin American Forum for Research Assessment

**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**"Towards a Transformation of SSH Research Assessment in Latin America and the Caribbean"**

**Wednesday, 28th October 2020**  
10am-12am Buenos Aires - Montevideo  
2pm-4pm CET / 1pm-3pm UTC

**Participants:**

- Gabriela Ramos (UNESCO)
- Heide Hackmann (ISC)
- Karina Batthyány (CLACSO)
- Pablo Vommaro (CLACSO)
- Fernanda Beigel (CONICET-UNCuyo)
- Dominique Babin (CLACSO)
- Laura Rovelli (CLACSO)
- Cecilia Steiman (MINCYT)
- Leslie Chan (University of Toronto- OCSD Network)
- Emanuel Kulczycki (ENRESSH)
- Seteney Shami (ACSS)
- Virendra Kumar Malhotra (ICSSR)
- Ismael Ráfols (CWTS- University of Leiden)
- Yuan Junpeng (Chinese Academy of Sciences)

*Organized by the Latin American Forum for Research Assessment (FOLEC), Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO)*

*Institutions: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - International Science Council (ISC) - European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (ENRESSH) - Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) - Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) - Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCYT, Argentina) - Chinese Academy of Science.*



## Other international initiatives

- DORA in collaboration with the European University Association and SPARC Europe, developed a [digital repository of 10 case studies](#) that examine key elements of institutional change for academic assessment reform.
- The Global Research Council organized a [virtual conference](#) on responsible research assessment in November 2020 to explore the research ecosystem.
- A new Chinese [national policy](#) directs institutions not to use the number of papers a researcher has published or their citations as the sole criteria for recruitment or promotion.
- The Hong Kong Principles for assessing researchers, which include valuing complete reporting, rewarding the practice of open science, acknowledging a broad range of research activities, and recognizing essential other tasks like peer review and mentoring have seen initial [endorsement](#) by 15 institutions in 2020.
- Research funders—[The Dutch Research Council](#), [Science Foundation Ireland](#), [Swiss National Science Foundation](#), and [UKRI](#)—are adopting the use of narrative CV formats to balance quantitative and qualitative assessments.

Source: DORA (2020). <https://sfdora.org/2020/12/18/2020-in-review-doras-list-of-new-developments-in-research-assessment/>

## Next steps

# FOLEC agenda initiatives for 2021

- Common proposal on research assessment reform to be presented at the 9th CLACSO Latin American and Caribbean Social Sciences Conference “Patterns of inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Knowledge, struggles and transformations”. One of the main axes of the Conference is “Science, technology and society: challenges of knowledge and evaluation”, which will include a special session for regional and international debate.
- Project “The evaluation of research in change: inclusion in scientific systems and projects oriented to specific missions in research funding initiatives of the Global South. Reforming quality assessment through progressive and well-founded methodologies”, funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC, Canada).
- Working group on academic publishing and scientific evaluation registered in *Es Ciencia* platform, in collaboration with the Spanish Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and the OLIVA Project of UNCuyo, Argentina.
- Collaboration with [ENRESSH](#) – European Network for Research Evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities



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Thank you very much

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<https://www.clacso.org/en/folec>

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