

Dr Rachel Bruce

Head of Open Research, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)



Rachel is Head of Open Research at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). She has worked in research policy and digital scholarship across national organisations including for the former Higher Education Funding Council, Jisc and the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). She has overseen national and international programmes that develop digital infrastructure for information and scholarship that have resulted in long-term sustainable services, and developed UK research data policy including open research data concordat.

She is an expert in open science and has been an expert adviser to the European Commission and was the UK representative on the European Open Science Cloud Governance Board and been engaged in the Research Data Alliance from its inception.

Currently Rachel is leading the UKRI Open Access review that will result in a single policy for across of the UKRI Councils including Innovate UK and Research England as well as leading the wider UKRI open research strategy, including development of FAIR data capability for the UK, international standards and responsible research assessment to reward open research.

She is also the UK representative on the G7 Open Science Working Group and a member of the Expert Group for Plan S, the international initiative seeking full and immediate open access to research publications.

Abstract of Presentation

The presentation will set out the UK's approach to open science, covering three themes: open access to publications, open research data, and open culture. The talk will include an overview of the recent UK Research and Innovation open access policy review and the approach for research articles and monographs; policy directions for the sharing of research data to support integrity, collaboration and innovation, and how this is being addressed via skills and infrastructure investment, and finally it will outline a key pillar to achieving open, transparent and impactful research via modernising research reward and incentives. UKRI is pursuing this via an approach of responsible research assessment and doing so in collaboration with a range of stakeholders across the UK and globally. Latterly the benefits of open science have been seen during the current pandemic and assuring lessons are learned is an additional priority, in particular how to support rapid research sharing and collaboration, and ensuring that research data is as open as possible and as secure as necessary; the presentation will also reflect on some of the priorities that have emerged from this experience.