GO-GN is a network of PhD and EdD candidates around the world whose research projects include a focus on open education. These doctoral researchers are at the core of the network; around them, over two hundred experts, supervisors, mentors and interested parties connect to form a community of practice that:

- Raises the profile of research into open education
- Offers support for those conducting PhD research in this area
- Develops openness as a process of research

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Artwork by Bryan Mathers, [Visual Thinkery](https://visualthinkery.com/)

Introduction

Introduction from Martin Weller, Director of GO-GN

This year saw the return of face to face meetings and conferences, although with some trepidation. GO-GN co-chaired the OER22 conference held in London in April. Prior to this we hosted a one day seminar, where we brought eight GO-GN members together to discuss their research. This type of seminar has always been the main activity of GO-GN, usually aligned with the OEGlobal or OER conference. Prior to this year, the previous one was in Galway in 2019, so although the activity was somewhat smaller this year, it marked a welcome return to meeting and discussing OER/OEP research with our members.

This report covers this activity but also highlights the other work we have participated in this year, including supporting GO-GN Fellows, producing reports and hosting webinars. 2023 marks the end of this phase of GO-GN funding, and also 10 years since the network was founded by Fred Mulder. It will be a time for reflection therefore, examining the way the network has evolved and the incredible achievements of the members. But it will also be a time to consider the future as we prepare for the next phase. We hope to continue the work of the network for another decade.

I hope the team get to meet some of you face to face or online next year, and as always if you have any ideas or suggestions for the network, please let us know.
2022 Highlights

Network Reach

The GO-GN network continued to expand in 2022 and we currently have 145 members and alumni. 29% of our members are based in the Global South. GO-GN currently has 222 friends and experts. Interest in GO-GN's work also continues to grow and we were delighted to increase our friends and experts to 88% since the start of this phase and increase our Twitter following by 154 followers between January-November of this year.

Conferences and Events

In April 2022 GO-GN co-chaired our first conference! We were thrilled to welcome colleagues online and face-to-face for OER22. We were equally delighted to welcome eight GO-GN members and alumni to London, UK for our first face-to-face workshop in over two years. It was fantastic to see so many GO-GN’ers participate and 20 members and/or alumni were listed as (co-)authors on presentations and featured in 25 conference sessions, including the plenary and showcase.

Participating in this year’s OE Global in Nantes, France during May was another highlight of 2022. 13 sessions featured GO-GN’ers and/or the team across the three days. GO-GN were also conference supporters for ALT-C 2022. GO-GN was also represented at i-HE2022 in Athens, Greece with a presentation about research trends within the network.

Network Activities

Building on the success of 2021, we continued to offer a wide range of activities during 2022, including another of our popular new member research specials and guest speaker webinars. We also held the second of our Wikipedia edit-a-thons which saw members add 1,200 words and 20 references to open education articles.

We also supported our members to participate in conferences including i-HE2022 and OER22 this year.

Finally, 2022 saw the publication of two GO-GN outputs: our annual Research Review and Fellowship Reflection report. Our publications and other outputs continue to receive a high level of interest from the open education community and beyond with more than 35,000 annual visitors to the website.
GO-GN Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Project
Phase II

Our aim during this year was to work on further dissemination and on the implementation of some of the recommendations from phase 2 of the EDI project, which was focused on EDI in open education in Latin America.

One of the recommendations made by phase 2 participants was that more effective communities of practice around open education in Latin America should be created, enabling broader dissemination of their open practices and research to Global North and beyond. This would help Latin American scholars in OE to produce high-quality pieces of work in English. As a result the GO-GN Collega Mentoring Program was conceptualised, developed and launched in early March 2022. Unfortunately, the program did not receive the target number of registrations and interest from the community to proceed and it was paused while we had a rethink. Instead, we focused our efforts on the implementation of another project recommendation, which was the production of a handbook with a set of EDI guidelines in OE bringing together findings and recommendations from both phases 1 and 2. The handbook will be published early next year.

As part of the 2022 EDI activities, we also joined the rest of the GO-GN team in two key conferences in open education to further disseminate findings from this project. They are:

- Bossu, Carina and Iniesto, Francisco (2022). Supporting Latin American researchers in Open Education through the Collega mentoring program. In: Open Education Global Conference 2022, 23-25 May 2022, Nantes, France
Drop in sessions with the team

Third call for GO-GN fellowship application opens

In the “after-times”: Despair, Criticality, Resistance and Hope with Catherine Cronin & Laura Czerniewicz

GO-GN fellows third cohort starts: Catherine Cronin, Viviane Vladimirscihi and Michael Paskevicius

Fellows Research Special
Third cohort presents their proposal while Verena Roberts provides reflections

GO-GN live at OEGlobal22 in Nantes, France

Wikipedia Edit-a-thon: 10 editors signed-up to improve open education articles
Open Empowerment and Evaluations: **Professional Development, Content Curation** and **Quality Standards** with Gino Fransman and Koshala Terblanche

GO-GN fellows **third cohort** finishes

GO-GN New Member Special with Mara Bordignon, Melissa Ashman and Kathryn Johnson

Team at **ALT-C**, Manchester

**Launch of Annual Review**

End of year celebration!

**GO-GN team at i-HE2022 in Athens!**

**Launch of Research Review**

**OpenEd22**

**Launch of GO-GN Fellowship reflections** report and the third cohort experience round table

**THE TEAM @ALT**
Membership Overview

This year we continued to diversify our offerings, in order to further support the growing GO-GN network. Diversification of our online activities has been accompanied by new collaborative outputs such as the Research Review and Fellowship Reflections Report. We continue to utilise Twitter and other social media platforms to connect with the network and wider open education community.

Alongside members and alumni participating in a range of conferences throughout the year, GO-GN co-chairing OER22 and sessions at i-HE2022, the Open Education Conference, ALT and Open Education Global this year also supported members sharing their research with the wider open education community.

In our last annual report GO-GN had 125 members and alumni and 199 friends and experts. We currently have 145 members and alumni, with 29% of our membership based in the Global South. A special welcome to our new 20 members who have joined us over the past year! Our 4 new members from the Global South are based in Ecuador, Mexico, and India.

GO-GN members are currently based in 38 different countries and are registered with universities in 27 countries. Countries with the most members by institution are The UK (30), USA (27), Canada (20), Australia (11) and The Netherlands (10). The following map shows the current composition of the network by countries of origin.
This year we congratulate Dr. Tanya Elias who successfully passed her viva:


One often reported strength of the GO-GN network is our pastoral and emotional support for members. In this year’s annual survey we asked members and alumni to share any ways in which the network had provided this kind of support:

“GO-GN has always through its members been an emotional/pastoral [support] during the most difficult times, specifically when I was doing my doctoral dissertation. I was always able to find emotional support from the community during this very trying period.”
(GO-GN alumni)

“GO-GN has provided much appreciated support over the lifetime of my engagement with the network... from encouragement on the doctoral journey to friendship/support during and after that. This is a great testament to the trust and good will that the team takes the time (and care) to foster...“
(GO-GN alumni)

Current doctoral student members also reflected on the role that GO-GN plays in creating connections and centring openness:

“ Feeling less isolated. Knowing that others experience similar ups and downs. “
(GO-GN member for more than three years)

“Knowing that I’m not alone in my PhD journey and commitment to openness”
(GO-GN member for more than three years)
Fellowships

The GO-GN Fellowship Scheme was launched in 2020 to ensure that participants are recognised after they formally graduate from doctoral studies to become alumni in a postdoctoral fellowship format providing an opportunity for alumni to stay involved and share their experiences with other members.

During 2022 we have launched the third and last cohort of fellows, it is worth remembering that the first cohort included four alumni: Johanna Funk, Judith Pete, Chrissi Nerantzi and Virginia Rodés while the second one had Verena Roberts and Sarah Lambert. The third cohort of GO-GN fellows comprises three alumni: Michael Paskevicius (Assistant Professor, The University of Victoria, Canada), Viviane Vladimirschi (Independent Researcher, Educational Consultant and Instructional Designer, E-Connection, Brazil) and Catherine Cronin (open educator and open researcher, independent, Ireland). Fellows were recruited during Winter 2022 and were carrying out their research from February 2022 until July 2022.

Current GO-GN Fellowships (in their own words…)

Michael Paskevicius

“The goal of this project is to identify and develop a framework for digital literacies in relation to open access resources, open copyright models, networked learning environments, and open educational resources. I would like to build upon the technological, pedagogical, and content knowledge (TPACK) framework extending the existing model, which identifies the three types of knowledge educators need to combine for successful educational technology integration and consider this in the context of open educational practices. For example, what specific pedagogical knowledge is needed in the context of openness, what technological knowledge is needed, and so on? As well, it may be necessary to identify new facets of the model to take into account networked technologies, social networks, and learning design repositories.”
Read Michael’s blogs post about his project at:

- Blog 1 – Initial Fellowship Idea: Exploring the foundations of open education for new and emerging K-12 teachers
- Blog 2 – An Invitation for Feedback: What are the pedagogical, technological, and content values and principles we most need to share with new K-12 educators?
- Blog 3 – Finale: Reflecting on starting with ‘openness in mind’ for future research and teaching

Viviane Vladimirschi

“My fellowship idea is to investigate if basic public education teachers who were enrolled in and took a forty-hour Open Online Course on OER offered by the Federal University of Santa Maria, did engage, if at all, and in which ways with OER and OEPs in their emergency remote classes or during their face-to-face classes during this pandemic period. The Federal University of Santa Maria is located in the Southern region of Brazil. The course began to be offered in 2016 and is still offered today.”

Read Viviane’s blog posts about her project at:

- Use of OER and OEP by Brazilian Public School Teachers during the Pandemic: Preliminary Findings and Future Plans
- Use of OER and OEP by Brazilian Public School Teachers during the Pandemic: Update and Workshop Findings
- Use of OER and OEP by Brazilian Public School Teachers during the Pandemic: Final Reflections and Guidelines

Catherine Cronin

“My current research involves widening the lens to consider the broader purpose of higher education, i.e., furthering public good and the wellbeing of all. This fellowship will
support research, which is currently in its very early stages, i.e. exploring open knowledge beyond the formal curriculum and beyond mainstream teaching and learning activities. This research will explore sharing/applying open education expertise, capabilities and resources with community-focused initiatives in higher education. I am currently engaging with a range of community-focused initiatives in Ireland to understand their needs and challenges, and the potential of open resources and/or practices to address these.”

Read Catherine’s blog posts about her project at:

- Just Knowledge, my GO-GN Fellowship 2022 research project
- Just Knowledge research partner: Green Sod Ireland & biodiversity
- Just Knowledge research partner: Galway Traveller Movement & community mapping project

You can find more information about the third cohort and the presentation of their research proposals at the “meet the fellows session”:

- Fellows research special

You can see the presentation of their fellowships at the OER22 conference:

- Just Knowledge: a community-focused open knowledge project. Catherine Cronin
- Developing a framework for digital literacies in relation to open educational practices, Michael Paskevicius
- Use of OER and of OEPs by Brazilian public basic education teachers during the Covid-19 pandemic: Preliminary Findings, Viviane Vladimirscih

In November we launched the GO-GN Fellowship Reflections Report where we summarised the experience of the GO-GN fellowship scheme 2020-2022 drawing on the reflections of the nine GO-GN alumni and fellows.
Annual Survey

The GO-GN annual survey is a key opportunity for members and alumni to share feedback on the GO-GN network. How can we better serve you, our members and alumni, and the open education community?

This year’s survey had a total of 20 respondents, with our alumni predominantly represented (60%, n=12). Whilst members included those who had joined the network recently, respondents were largely long term members of the network with 65% of respondents a member of GO-GN for three years or more (n=13).

OER22 was a major event in this year’s GO-GN calendar. 26.3% of respondents participated in our face-to-face seminar prior to the conference (n=5). Moreover, 80% of respondents considered that GO-GN co-chairing had raised the network’s profile (n=16).

84.2% of respondents said they were “very likely” or “likely” to be able to participate in a GO-GN face-to-face event in future (n=16). This year 70% of respondents considered GO-GN to have supported them “very well” during the pandemic, with the remaining respondents describing support as “okay” during this period (n=14 and n=6, respectively).

The top five benefits of GO-GN:

- Webinars
- Support for participating in conferences
- Website
- Newsletter
- Fellowship

The top three features of GO-GN:

- Community of peers
- Networking opportunities
- Advice on open practices

Respondents reported high levels of engagement in the network’s activities, with other members and wider networks. Almost 80% of respondents had participated in
a GO-GN webinar (78.9%, n=15). Engaging with both GO-GN and discussions with members via social media were also popular activities (89.5%, n=17 and 63.2%, n=12, respectively). 36.8% reported contributing to the annual research reviews (n=7). Almost half our sample have also joined ALT supported by GO-GN (47.5%, n=9).

We are currently analysing responses to a range of other questions including suggestions for different ways members could contribute to the network, and thinking how we can better support these activities either informally or formally. We have also solicited feedback on potential collaborative reports and what would best serve the community, building on the success of our conceptual frameworks and research methods handbooks.

As we look forward to 2023 and the 10th anniversary of GO-GN, we continue to listen and engage with the network, in order to continue to grow and shape the network collaboratively. This conversation will continue over the coming months and we would love to hear from as many people as possible regarding how we can better serve the GO-GN and wider open education communities. If you missed this year’s survey or are reading this report and have an interest in the network... we would love to hear from you!

“...Even just drinking out of that cute, bossy little blue coffee cup reminds me and fills me with thankfulness for this community. For real. I can’t begin to explain it. Thank you” (GO-GN alumni)

“...It’s a joy to be a part of this network!” (GO-GN member for three years or more)

“... I simply extend a huge thanks to you all for the time and care taken in building and sustaining this network – including the strong focus on equity and epistemic justice.” (GO-GN alumni)

“I think it’s fantastically managed and organised. The GO-GN team are always super-responsive on email, and always helpful, kind and encouraging.” (GO-GN member for three years or more)

“You guys definitely need more funding and staffing to keep growing such an amazing supportive network that has such scale and global impact.”(GO-GN alumni)
We have reached the end of this GO-GN publication cycle, which saw network members collaborate in different configurations to produce openly licensed resources that others can now benefit from.

In 2020 we produced the Research Methods Handbook which explores the relationship between openness and methodology and provides guidance on doctoral level research. The Handbook won the Open Research Award at the OE Awards for Excellence and has proved to have appeal beyond our immediate community.

In 2021 we published the Conceptual Frameworks Guide which describes and illustrates the role of theory and theoretical constructs in open education research. More than 40 different frameworks are presented and discussed in the guide.

We did originally plan to produce updated versions of the Handbook and Guide but this is now going to take place on a later schedule. In the meantime we will be consolidating these outputs along with other openly licenced resources into a GO-GN Research Handbook - look out for this in early 2023!

Included in the Handbook will be copies of our Research Reviews. Our annual review of research is collaboratively produced with volunteer members and comprises a collection of reviews of recent publications in open education and related fields which are organised into clusters.

This time the Research Review was published in November and includes reviews in the areas of accessibility, open educational practices, OER implementation and impact, open pedagogy, MOOCs, quality, technology and infrastructure.
Our publications and collaboratively written outputs have been an activity for GO-GN since 2020. As we move into the next phase of activity we welcome feedback from members on our strategy going forward. We have ideas for a range of other guides and handbooks which we think could be useful for researchers, but if there’s something specific you’d like to see then drop the team a line!

Since our last update in 2021, more than 200 additional publications by GO-GN members have been added to the GO-GN Google Scholar profile. It’s great to see this kind of leadership and achievement from members! In addition, not all members are included since not everyone has a Google Scholar account. So the true number could be even higher…

If you are a member who would like to include their publications in this database then please get in touch with the team! (You will need a Google Scholar profile).

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You can find a comprehensive list of publications arising from GO-GN online.
Looking Forward

January - March 2023
- EDI Report Launch
- Consultation: The Future of GO-GN
- Publishing GO-GN Handbook of Open Research
- Launch of our 10th anniversary celebrations

April - June 2023
- New Phase?
- GO-GN workshop at OER23 in Inverness, Scotland
- EDEN 2023 in Dublin
- Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon
- OTESSA 2023 in Toronto

July - September 2023
- OE Global 2023 in Edmonton, Canada
- OpenEd 2023

October - December 2022
- Annual Survey 2023
- Annual Review 2023 and end of year celebration!
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http://go-gn.net/