# Open or ajar?:'openness'within the neoliberal academy
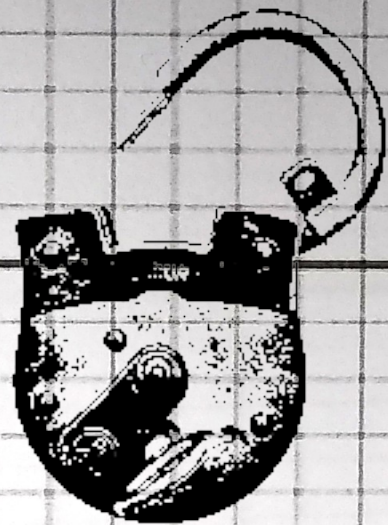
Simon Bowie (SOAS, University of London)
Kevin Sanders (University of West London)

# Openness

" a term with multiple understandings and no fixed definition. It is cited by governments, startups and organisations as integral to their philosophy, often without further explanation of the term

(Moore, 2017)

# Neoliberalism

" a political project to embed market-based logic into all social relations. In other words, it makes people think, and act, as if they themselves are capital

(Lawson, 2019: 18)
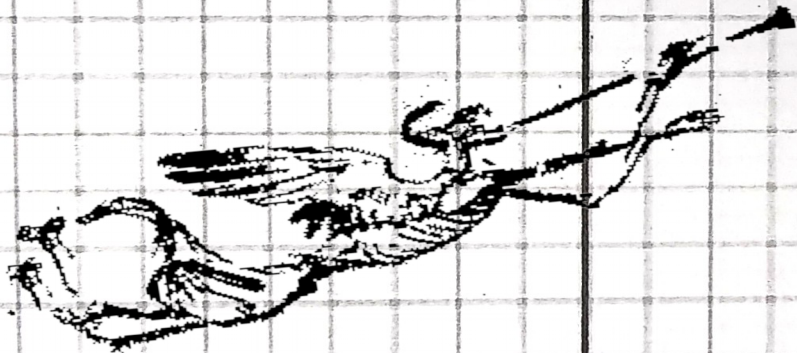
# The open agenda in higher education

Social justice

Neoliberal capitalism

# The meaning of openness

Open licensing has a fractious history

Autonomy / community / commerce

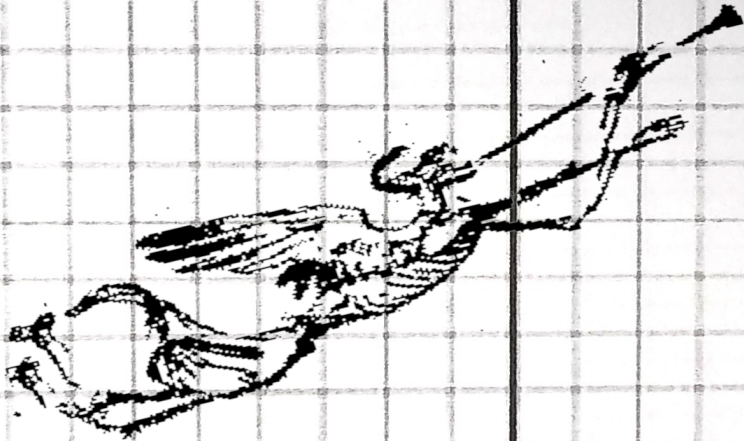"Creative Commons reinforces a private and individualist understanding of intellectual property

(Moore, 2018)

# Openwashing

"

to spin a product or company as open although it is not

(Thorne, 2009)

"An open framework for our sector is the most compatible with our ethics, fundamentally [...] One of the watch words of my career certainly for the last kind of 15 or 20 years has been "open" (Poole, 2018)

**Nicholas Poole**
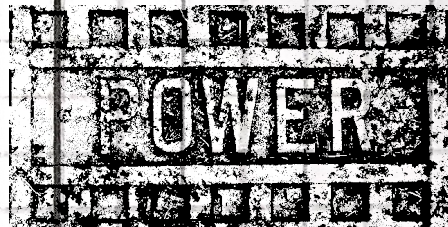@NickPoole1

Replying to @mosmanddrone @SimonXIX and 2 others

PS In general, I prefer to promote software based on functionality, compliance, total cost of ownership etc rather than licensing model

12:44 PM · Nov 3, 2017 · TweetDeck

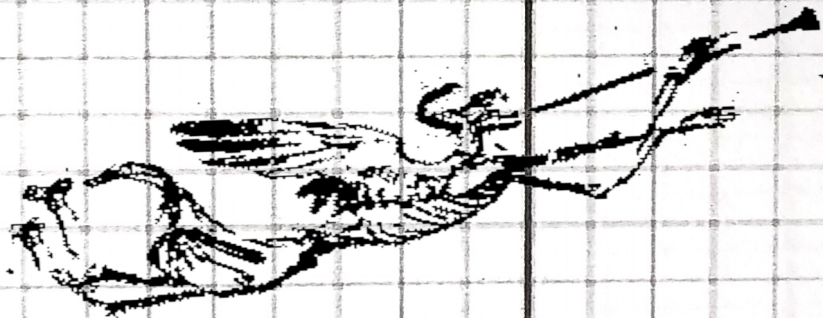# Neoliberal appropriation of openness

## Bureaucracy

## Openness as a disciplinary function

POWER

# Alternative modes of openness for radical practice

"One should not think of OA as a thing-in-itself, rather, it should be seen as a process of understanding, engaging and experimenting with the ways in which research is presented and disseminated

(Moore, 2017)

# Conclusion

Responsibility: personal and interpersonal ethics

People oriented

Library software and services

Producers

Users
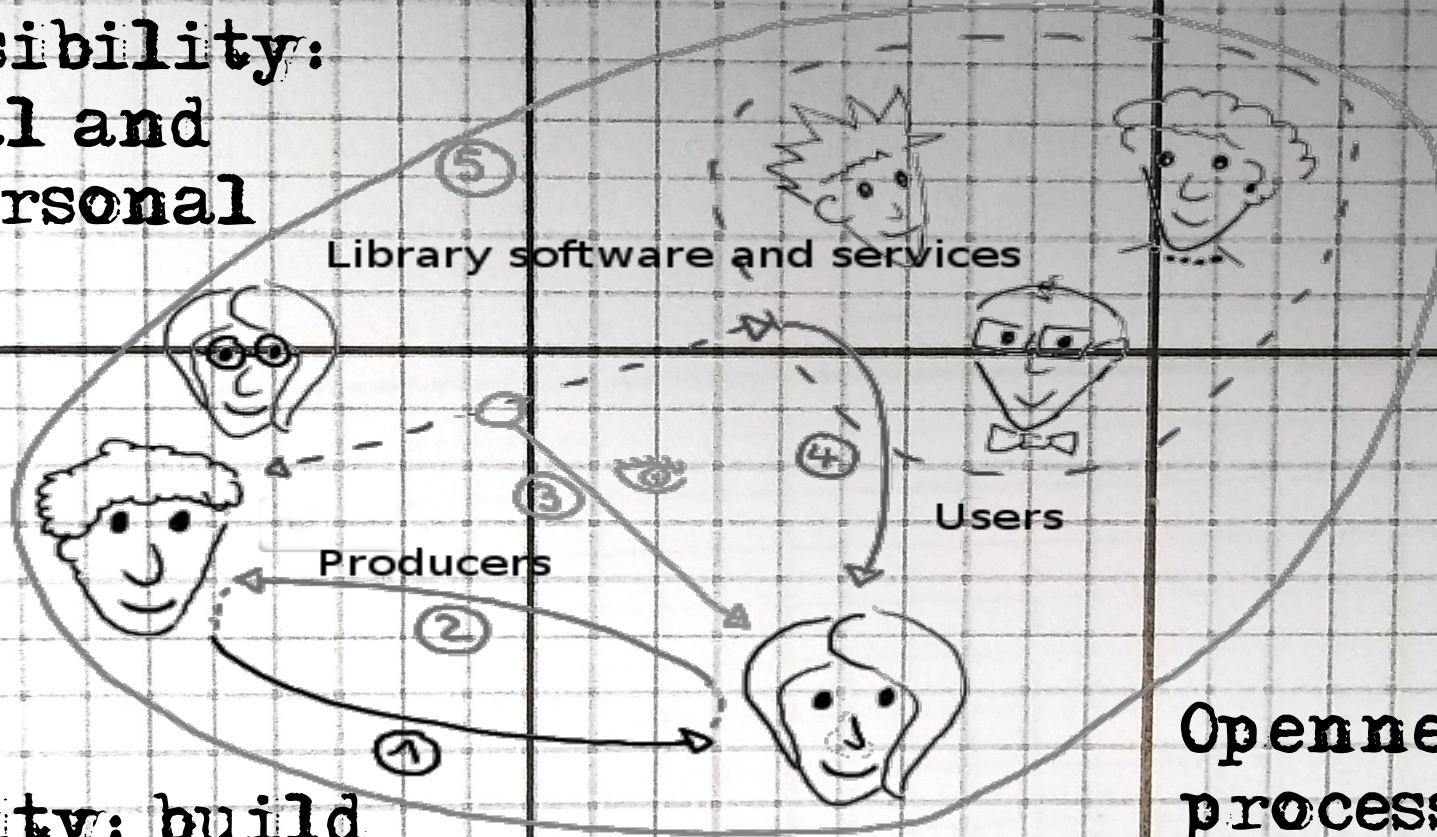
Community: build for strength

Openness as a process

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# Images