

ANNUAL REVIEW

2023

GLOBAL OER
GO
GN
GRADUATE
NETWORK



Annual Review

2023

Draft 1.0

8 January 2024

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

GO-GN is currently funded through the Open Education program of [The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) and administered by the [Open Education Research Hub](#) from the [Institute of Educational Technology](#) at The Open University, UK





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Artwork by Bryan Mathers, [Visual Thinkery](#)

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Introduction

This was a significant year for GO-GN as we celebrated our 10th anniversary. It is unusual for projects to maintain funding over such a prolonged period, and the fact that this has been maintained is evidence of the strength of the network and the contribution of all its members. It is also a vindication of founder Fred Mulder's original vision, and highlights the faith that the Hewlett Foundation have in the project.

We co-hosted the OER23 conference in Inverness, which marked the real return of face to face meetings since the pandemic, following on from a smaller event in London in 2022. Then we hosted our largest ever GO-GN workshop in conjunction with OEGlobal in Edmonton, which was a great success.

This year also saw a new phase of funding from the Hewlett Foundation, which will continue the project through until 2026 at least. We have continued with the core of the approach, such as webinars and the face to face workshops, but added in some new activities such as research sprints and scholarships.

On a personal note, this will mark my final full year as Director of GO-GN as I will be leaving The Open University in June 2024. I have often remarked that GO-GN is my favourite project that I have worked on in my career, and that is no mere rhetoric, but a testament to the values and intellectual reward embodied in the work.

I hope you enjoy this review, and look forward to meeting you in 2024 either face to face or online.

Martin Weller, Director of GO-GN

2023 Highlights

Network Reach

The GO-GN network has grown by 20% since our 2022 report and we currently have 174 members and alumni. Of the 26 new members that joined GO-GN during 2023 we were delighted to welcome six new members from Mexico. With a growing number of our members successfully completing their doctoral studies, our membership now comprises around 30% alumni.



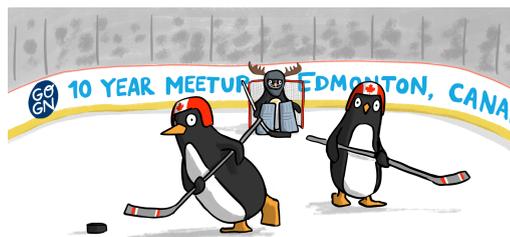
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Our wider network also increased over the past year with 32 new friends and experts joining the wider GO-GN network.

There have been significant changes to the social media platforms that we use over the past year. Despite this we increased our Twitter/X following by 65 between January and early December. Our number of Facebook followers currently stands at 345. We are currently conducting a communication refresh to ensure we continue to support our members appropriately, and in a range of ways, going forward .

Conferences and Events

GO-GN held two workshops during 2023. We were delighted to bring together more than 15 of our GO-GN'ers for a one-day workshop in Inverness, Scotland prior to OER23. Our two-day workshop in Edmonton, Canada prior to OE Global 2023 celebrated 10 years of the GO-GN network. More than 30 members and alumni participated in this extra special anniversary event.



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GO-GN was a proud partner for both the OER and OE Global conferences this year. Our membership's research was also well represented at both events. The OER23 programme included 16 member and alumni presentations, workshops and a keynote. At OE Global 23 more than 20 members and alumni of the network presented at the conference.

Network Activities

Building on the success of previous years, we continued to offer a wide range of online and face-to-face activities during 2023, including two of our member

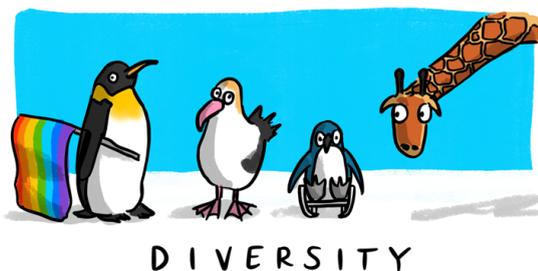
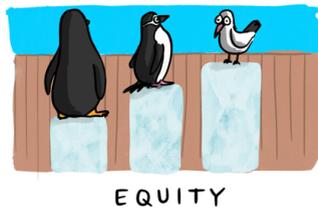
research specials, and a talk from the internationally renowned Professor Guy Standing. Other sessions included online presentations led by alumni on Australian higher education open educational practices and decolonising curriculum with ChatGPT.

Whilst GO-GN's three-year, alumni focused fellowship scheme has now concluded, we are pleased to announce that a new GO-GN scholarship scheme will launch in early 2024. This will be open to all members and alumni, and build on the successes of the previous scheme, but with a wider scope.

Finally, 2023 saw the publication of GO-GN EDI Guidelines in February and the GO-GN Open Research Handbook in April. Our co-authored publications and guides continued to receive high levels of interest in 2023.

The website received 75,680 visits from 33,584 unique users over the last year. These statistics reflect visits from many countries around the world. Some of the countries who provided the most visitors in 2023 included Brazil, China, Germany, India, Russia, UK, and USA.

GO-GN Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Project



The EDI strand aims for 2023 were to work on further dissemination of the EDI project findings and to develop some guidelines for EDI in Open Education using findings from Phase 1 (Africa) and Phase 2 (Latin America). Below are some key dissemination events we presented and also the reference to the EDI Guidelines.

- Iniesto, Francisco and Bossu, Carina (2023). [Equity, diversity, and inclusion in open education: A systematic literature review](#), Distance Education, 44:4, 694-711, DOI: 10.1080/01587919.2023.2267472
- Martinez-Arboleda, A., Van Wezenbeek, W., Bossu, C. & Iniesto, F. (2023). Openness and networks for sustainability to support researchers and practitioners. Building the future of education together: innovation, interdisciplinary research and open science. Training of Researchers in Educational Innovation and Sustainability. Comillas, Spain. Support <https://repositorio.tec.mx/handle/11285/651302> Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCa9uhPhczg&t=3s>
- Iniesto, Francisco and Bossu, Carina A systematic review of literature on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in open education: implications for future research. In: OEGlobal 2023 - Building a Sustainable World through Open Education, 16-18 Oct, Edmonton, Canada.
- Bossu, Carina and Iniesto, Francisco A guide for developing EDI practices in Open Education centred around Africa and Latin America contexts. In: OEGlobal 2023 - Building a Sustainable World through Open Education, 16-18 Oct, Edmonton, Canada.

- Bossu, Carina and Iniesto, Francisco (2023). [Guidelines for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) in Open Education Centering on Africa and Latin America Contexts](#). In: EDEN 2023 Annual Conference: "Yes we can!" – Digital Education for Better Futures, 18-20 June 2023, Dublin, Ireland.
- Bossu, Carina; Iniesto, Francisco; Vladimirschi, Viviane; Jordan, Katy and Pete, Judith (2023). [GO-GN Guidelines for Equity Diversity and Inclusion in Open Education with a focus on Africa and Latin America](#). Global OER Graduate Network (GO-GN). The Open University (UK).
- Iniesto, Francisco and Bossu, Carina (2023). Hacia una educación a distancia más inclusiva. Cátedra UNESCO/ICDE Movimiento Educativo Abierto para América Latina. 10 January 2023. Monterrey, Mexico.

In addition to these activities, we have also planned the next steps of the EDI work package as part of the GO-GN Phase 4. A decision was made by the team that the region we will explore next is Asia. As this is a very large region, we will divide this region into subregions and investigate a different region each year of Phase 4. For example:

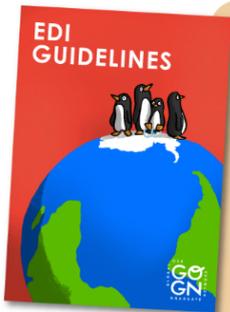
- Southern Asia - Year 1
- South-Eastern Asia - Year 2
- Central and Eastern Asia - Year 3

Information collected from the different regions in Asia will help to continue informing the future directions of the EDI guidelines. These guidelines have been well received by the network and broader community. It was shortlisted for the OEAwards 2023 in the category of Special Awards - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Open Leadership for the ecosystem of **Open Educational Implementation** with Ebba Ossiannilsson

Paco and Carina visit Tecnológico Monterrey University, Mexico to participate in the **UNESCO Chair Open Educational Movement for Latin America 2023** and The 9th International Conference on Educational Innovation



GO-GN EDI Guidelines are published

GO-GN EDI Guidelines **Launch webinar**

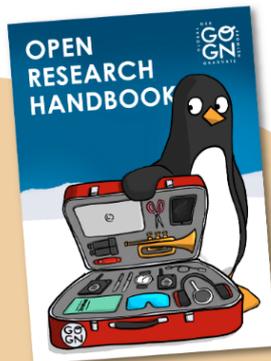
JAN 23

FEB 23

GO-GN TEL Researchers Special at Lancaster Uni (online)

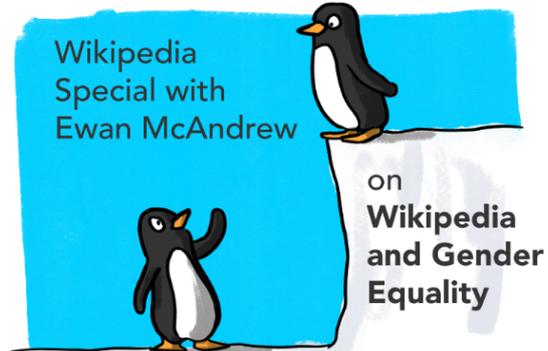
Member research special VI with Davis Verlande Camaqui, Tanya Elias, Lucy Beattie and Viviana Betancur Chicué

Open Education Week



Publication of the **GO-GN Open Research Handbook**

MAR 23



Wikipedia Special with Ewan McAndrew

on **Wikipedia and Gender Equality**

APR 23



GO-GN workshop and **OER23**, Inverness, Scotland

MAY 23

GO-GN Phase IV begins!

JUN 23

Open Education Research: Past, Present, Future. OTESSA Conference, Toronto

The Global OER Graduate Network: An Example of a Community of Care. EDEN Conference, Dublin

The Education Commons: Reviving the Soul of Lifelong Learning with Guy Standing

Decolonising Curriculum with ChatGPT and other education technology with Sarah Lambert and Jo Funk

The Ecology of OEP in Australian Higher Education with Adrian Stagg



Metaphors of Ed Tech podcast series with GO-GN

JUL 23



10th anniversary workshop and Live-and-direct session in Edmonton, Canada in **OEGlobal**

Comunidad, Becas, Apertura: Apoyando Investigadores Junior a través de Prácticas Educativas Abiertas is published in Edutec journal

AUG 23

Collaborative Open Practices: The Global OER Graduate Network (GO-GN) presented by Beck Pitt at the **Interdisciplinary Open Practices Workshop**

SEP 23

Bootcamp: Construyendo Juntos El Futuro de la Educación



OCT 23

An Open Handbook for Open Research presented by Rob Farrow at the Open Education Conference

Member Research Special VII with Helen DeWaard & Gabi Witthaus

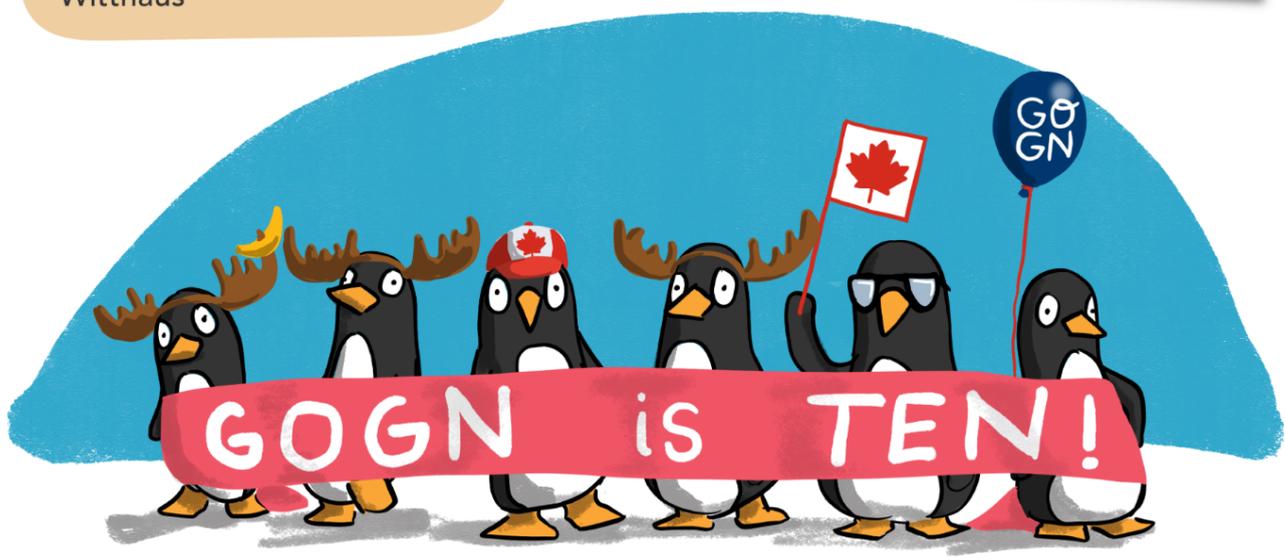
NOV 23

GO-GN Strategic Refresh

What's next for GO-GN? plus **End of Year celebration**



DEC 23



Membership Overview

We are delighted that the GO-GN network has grown 20% since our last report. We now have 174 members based at institutions in 27 different countries around the world. An estimated 30% of our membership are now alumni and 30% of our membership is based in the Global South. A special welcome to the 26 new members that have joined GO-GN during 2023, including six new members from Mexico!

We also had 32 new friends and experts join the network in 2023, increasing our wider network to more than 230.

This year we celebrated a number of GO-GN members who successfully passed their vivas, including Paz Diez Arcon, Marjon Baas, Helen DeWaard, Regina Gong, Kathryn R. Johnson, Elvis Otamere, Adrian Stagg and Gabi Witthaus. Warmest congratulations to all!

If you are a current doctoral researcher, please do keep us updated as to when your viva is, and if we can support you.

We continue to support members to share their research with the network and wider open education community. Activities this year included our two member research specials, a livestream of selected 10th anniversary sessions and our live-and-direct session from OE Global with members and alumni. During January 2024 we will be hosting our first friends and experts research session and will continue to promote our members and alumni's research through a variety of online and other activities.

In January we will launch a new opportunity for both members and alumni: the GO-GN scholarship scheme. The scholarship scheme will support a wider range of activity and replace our previous fellowship scheme for alumni. The scholarship scheme will build on the successes of the previous scheme and the recommendations which were published earlier this year (<https://go-gn.net/gogn/out-now-the-go-gn-fellowship-scheme-experience/>). We will also be conducting a communication refresh, introducing new ways for our membership to connect and support each other.

We held two face-to-face GO-GN workshops in 2023 and were proud to be a partner for both the OER and OE Global conferences.

OER23



We were delighted to bring together more than 15 of our GO-GN'ers for a one-day workshop in Inverness, Scotland prior to OER23. The GO-GN network was also well represented at the conference with 16 member and alumni presentations, workshops and a keynote. Eight alumni and six members were (co-)presenting and the conference also featured two team presentations. You can review our curated GO-GN presentation list here:

<https://go-gn.net/gogn/go-gn-at-oer23/>

Below is some of our member and alumni feedback from our OER23 workshop:

“Thank you so much for the hospitality, support and generosity. It was my first workshop and OER and I felt right at home with everyone.”

“The atmosphere was wonderful. It felt like a very inclusive and encouraging space. The presentations were interesting and it was great to know what everyone else was doing in their research.”

“I am so grateful that I was able to attend the GO-GN workshop because this overall opportunity to connect with other students and alumni with shared interests introduced me to new avenues in this field and gave me confidence in the relevancy of my own work. Thank you for everything!”

“Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend this workshop and conference! I would not have had the means to do so on my own, and it was amazing to meet so many other doctoral students doing work in open education! I feel less lonely and more connected on my doctoral journey now. :-)”

Read more about our member and alumni workshop experiences:

[OER23 Reflections](#) (Vidminas Vizgirda)

[People and Connections: What I'm taking away from OER23](#) (Melissa Ashman)

[Across the pond for Open Education!](#) (Lucas Johnson)

10th Anniversary Workshop



This year marked a milestone for GO-GN... our 10th anniversary!

We were honoured to receive an exceptional level of interest in this extra special workshop with 25% of our members and alumni applying to participate. We are very grateful to The Hewlett Foundation for the additional funding to support this event.

This workshop brought together around 30 members and alumni from 14 different countries around the world for a two-day workshop (13 & 14 October 2023) prior to the OE Global 2023 conference in Edmonton, Canada. The first day of this extra special two-day event focused on sharing research and experiences of the doctorate and included a special keynote presentation from Professor Robert Schuer *Back to the Future: The Early Years of GO-GN*. We were also delighted to welcome our Programme Officer from The Hewlett Foundation Dr. Angela DeBarger for a special Q&A session on Day Two of the workshop. Our focus on the second day was collaboration and working together on different themes using a format inspired by the [World Cafe](#). This activity generated lots of reflections and ideas on the network's future direction. The document was subsequently opened for wider network contributions and is currently being drafted before an open editorial review process in the new year.

To enable wider participation in the workshop, we live streamed selected day one presentations, including Professor Schuwer's keynote and member and alumni presentations. You can watch the recordings of these here:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLX_b9kVIIAECTAQrUOnDUICdOtwcrBlgO&si=idi3stC1u1nWMLIX

You can also review selected GO-GN member presentations at OE Global in our curated playlist:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLX_b9kVIIAEBTVDFR_rzpqELe7hAWsQFM&si=DNPBiErXi-yx73bl

GO-GN was a partner for OE Global this year and we were delighted to see member and alumni research well represented at the conference, with more than 20 sessions featuring our members' research. You can read more about these presentations on our blog:



<https://go-gn.net/seminar/go-gn-at-oe-global-2023/>

Read about some of our fantastic participant experiences in a series of blog posts published during December 2023 and New Year 2024 including:

- Making and sustaining connections thanks to GO-GN (Melissa Ashman): <https://go-gn.net/gogn/go-gn-10th-anniversary-making-and-sustaining-connections-thanks-to-go-gn/>
- GO-GN: Home Away from Home (Bethany Eldridge): <https://go-gn.net/gogn/go-gn-10th-anniversary-go-gn-home-away-from-home/>
- Reflections on the GO-GN workshop (Samia Almousa): <https://go-gn.net/gogn/go-gn-10th-anniversary-reflections-on-the-go-gn-workshop/>
- Sowing the seeds of an equitable and diverse community of practice (Viviane Vladimirschi): <https://go-gn.net/gogn/go-gn-10th-anniversary-sowing-the-seeds/>

Some of our participants' feedback on the 10th anniversary workshop:

"This workshop was so impactful both personally and professionally. The main aspect that works so well is facilitating a welcoming community that not only values my work with OER but also values me. I also really appreciated the opportunity to share my work and receive feedback that is vital for my dissertation progress.

Finally, I thought the World Cafe worked well, for I appreciated that this workshop included creating writing together that can be used outside of the workshop. This process helped me realize that I do have something to contribute to this field and that there is so much power in collaboration.”

“The diversity of presenters and their topics within the GO-GN community reflects a membership comprising expert researchers and novices from around the world. This diversity facilitates the sharing of research interests, leading to valuable suggestions and recommendations from both seasoned experts and researchers with practical experience in open education. The inclusive atmosphere within the GO-GN community is noteworthy; everyone is welcoming, and I can easily approach members with any questions without hesitation. I highly recommend GO-GN to anyone working in open education. Being part of this remarkable group has significantly boosted my self-confidence as a researcher. It has reinforced my belief that my work holds considerable value and deserves to be shared with others, potentially through publication in academic journals.”

“What worked well in the GO-GN workshop was its excellent organisation and the inclusion of engaging activities that facilitated participant interaction and bonding. The warm and sociable nature of all the attendees created a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere akin to a family reunion, enhancing the overall experience.”

“The organization prior to the event and during the event were impeccable. There was plenty of time to get to know and exchange ideas and information with new members. The learning experience obtained from all presentations was invaluable. It was really great to see how the GO-GN network has expanded and to touch base with GO-GN alumni friends again.”



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Finally, there’s still time to send us a celebratory postcard using our Remixer:
<https://remixer.visualthinkery.com/g/c/GOGN10>

And you can also reuse our wonderful special 10th anniversary CC BY 4.0 licensed images by Bryan Mathers:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nYjBr-semxeThWpxrj3t03_u0FVK1kEu?usp=sharing

Annual Survey

This is the fourth annual survey we have conducted. Our annual surveys are a key opportunity for us to better understand the needs of our members and alumni. Feedback enables us to better understand our members' needs and as a result, improve our support and offer to members and the wider open education community.



This year's survey had a total of 21 respondents, with 62% of respondents reporting membership of GO-GN for three years or more (n=13). 48% of respondents were alumni (n=10). In contrast, over a third of respondents were midway through their doctoral studies (38%, n=8).

Most respondents had participated in a GO-GN online event in the past year (90%, n=17) with over half of respondents participating in a GO-GN workshop either face-to-face or online prior to OER23 or OE Global 2023 (n=11). Support for attending conferences was described as "very useful" by 78% (n=14) of respondents whilst 67% (n=12) considered support for participating in GO-GN face-to-face workshops "very useful."

Other activities such as contributing to collaborative outputs were described as "very useful" by 69% (n=11) of respondents. Our regular monthly webinars were described as "very useful" by 61% of respondents (n=11).

GO-GN currently maintains a presence on a number of social media platforms. We are currently working on a refresh of these, to better support the growing network. Feedback from this year's survey revealed a range of responses to our social media presence, which will help inform next steps. The newsletter and website, which are core to our engagement with the network, received very positive feedback. For example, 89% (n=16) of respondents reported finding the newsletter "very useful." The frequency of our communications with members also received a very favourable opinion with 95% (n=20) of respondents advising that this was "about right."

This year 71% of respondents considered GO-GN to have supported them "very well" over the last year, with the remaining respondents describing support as "okay" during this period (n=15 and n=6, respectively).

We asked our survey respondents to tell us how important different features of GO-GN are to them. 90% of respondents told us the "community of peers" was "very important" to them (n=18). Similarly, "networking opportunities" were also considered "very important" by 85% of our members and alumni (n=17). As well as developing connections with others in GO-GN, "advice on open practices" was also

considered “very important” by 79% of respondents (n=15) whilst “research communications” was also viewed as “very important” by 75% of respondents (n=15).



Some of our member and alumni feedback from this year’s survey:

“GO-GN has connected me with peers who are and have been on the doctoral journey and who have similar interests and research ideas. This is invaluable to me.” (GO-GN member for 1-3 years)

“The WhatsApp group is nice, it allows sharing and finding out about events and opportunities related to open education, as well as celebrating peers' achievements (which is motivating, because it shows that completing a PhD, getting a promotion, publishing a crowdsourced book, etc. are possible!)” (GO-GN member for 1-3 years)

“Throughout these years GO-GN has helped me a great deal by providing me with the emotional support required to get my Doctoral work done, particularly with the feedback provided during the F2F GO-GN Workshops. I have also received a lot of help from GO-GN alumni peers who offered to proofread my research before it was submitted in addition to providing very useful suggestions. GO-GN has also been key in promoting my research so from an emotional/pastoral support perspective I feel very happy and lucky to be part of this network.” (GO-GN alumni)

“Messages or posts by GO-GN headquarters or members are a source of joy and warm fuzziness...” (GO-GN alumni)

“Being able to share and receive feedback on my work helps me feel like I'm part of a community and part of the OER field, which is really important when I'm normally working alone at my university. Being able to discuss my academic and personal journey in 1:2:1 has also been helpful in encouraging and uplifting me.” (GO-GN member for 1-3 years)

“Knowing that a doctorate can be done. Especially the final months were sooooo stressful and it is nice to know that other people survived those months as well. Seeing other achieving great things, makes you believe you can too. Especially the warm sense of community of peers (both experts and more novice) really helps with motivation, self-efficacy and feeling of belonging.” (GO-GN alumni)

We are currently further analysing responses and suggestions and will be incorporating these into our future activities. Suggestions such as providing deadlines more in advance or webinars taking place at other timezones will also be

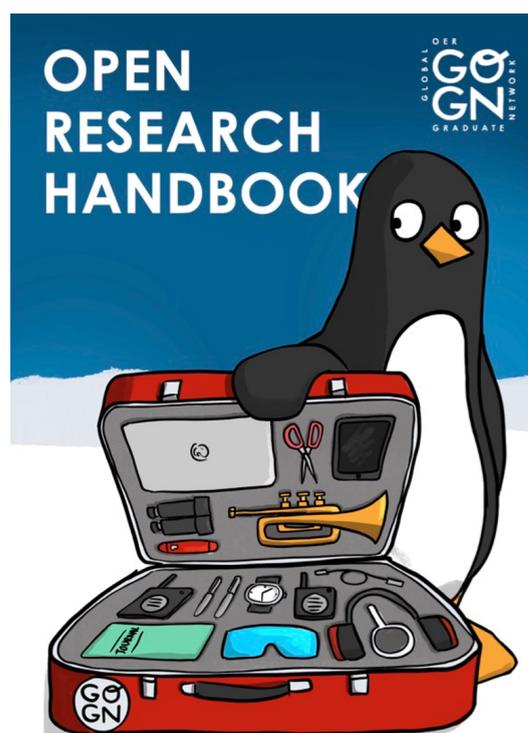
actioned in the next couple of months. We will also be sharing an updated version of our member pack to ensure that all our members are aware of the current GO-GN offer. As always, we remain open to feedback throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with suggestions or if we can support, at any time.

Publications

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. These included the [Research Methods Handbook](#) and [Conceptual Frameworks Guide](#) (2021) and three editions of the Research Review. These have been incorporated into a single volume, [The GO-GN Open Research Handbook](#) (which also includes a range of useful openly licenced resources).



https://go-gn.net/gogn_outputs/open-research-handbook/

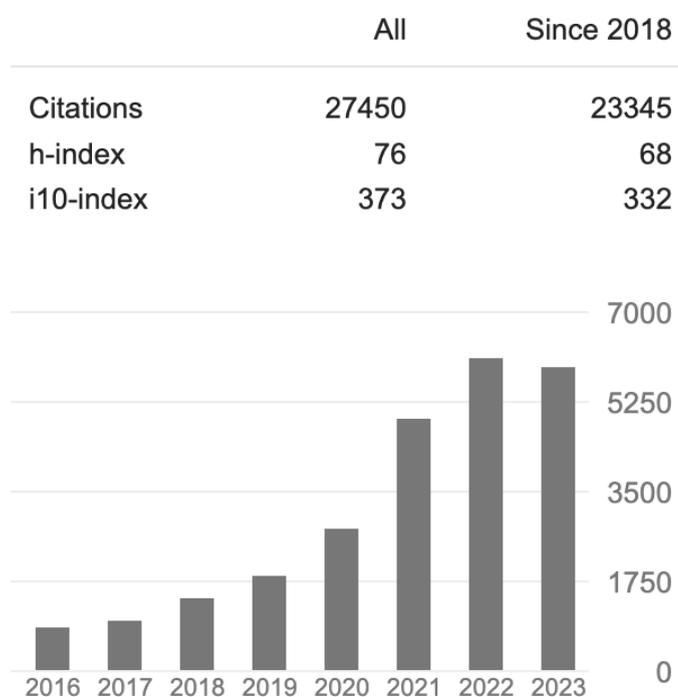


We hope that the Handbook will continue to evolve as we produce further guides and other materials. The vision is that, as new guides are produced in the coming phase of GO-GN, they will exist as independent titles but also as sections in the Handbook. If you produce or find open resources that can be incorporated into the Handbook, let us know!

Our next guide will be *The GO-GN Guide to Research Supervision* and will be a chance for our experts and friends to get involved as well as our doctoral students. Look out for more announcements on this as we move into the summer! If you have an idea for a guide or another output, get in touch with the team.

We decided not to publish a *Research Review* for 2023, partly because of our funding cycle but also because we wondered whether this was a good use of time and resources. For now, we propose to publish reviews iteratively on the blog. Later on, these can be consolidated into a volume so that option is still open. If there's something you would like to review for GO-GN let us know!

In 2021, we set up a [GO-GN Google Scholar](#) profile to try and track publications by members of the network. It was believed that this account was fully automated but it turned out not to be the case - presumably because of the way data scraping works with GO-GN not being a 'person'. This meant that we under-estimated the number of publications and citations within the network significantly. We still haven't perfected the system and there are probably some false positives included, but the revised totals show an amazing growth in recent years. (It should be noted that these totals don't include the GO-GN coordination team but do include GO-GN alumni who are highly cited.) If GO-GN was a person it would be one of the leading researchers in the world!



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

Looking Forward

January - March 2024

- Experts and Friends research special
- Launch of GO-GN scholarship scheme
- OEP & AI Sprint
- BERA/BJET Internationalisation Paper Sprint
- GO-GN workshop at OER24 in Cork, Ireland

April - June 2024

- Members research special VIII
- Drafting GO-GN Guide to Research Supervision

July - September 2024

- OpenEd 2024
- Nordic Conference on PhD Supervision (CoPhS)

October - December 2024

- OE Global 2024 in Brisbane, Australia

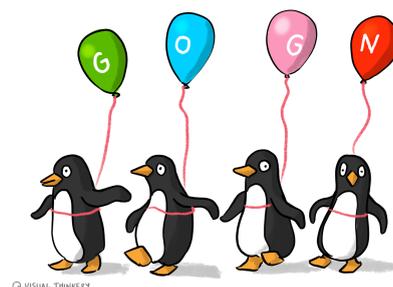


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With thanks to Gino Fransmann for the 10th anniversary group photo on p.13 (edited).



<http://go-gn.net/>