

Transcript of video contribution by

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Thank you very much for this invitation. I would like to speak today about inequalities that I can see around the article processing charges, which is, as I show in this image, for me, a Pyrrhic victory of open access. As the chair of the UNESCO committee of experts that prepared that recommendation for Open Science, we discussed for more than a year and a half the tensions and the asymmetries that this international system of publishing has and how the APCs and the open access with fee is increasing the inequalities between peripheral, semi-peripheral and central countries.

And it is increasing other types of asymmetries, not only gender, but also related to geography and related to class and race. But I would like also to speak now about other asymmetries that the APCs are generating. And this comes from the studies that we made and the projections that we can see in countries like Argentina, Colombia, Brazil or Mexico and Chile in Latin America.

This is a new type of inequality that is seen around the article-processing charges and the expansion or the transition of the previous subscription type of model to the APC model in which the author is the one that is paying and not the institution and so on, and other funds. In this way what we are seeing is, and particularly this is affecting the areas, the disciplines of biology, health and medicine.

And this is what we can call a new inequality, which is the generational gap. This means that the young people that are now immersed in this new open access system, with the journals that they're interested in publishing, emerging to the open access system in which they have to pay very high fees, from their salaries, or some of the national projects, which currencies are not clearly at the expectations of these high prices and on the other part the directors of the teams and prestigious more recognized sciences either are publishing in the subscription type of model or they are invited and they have a lot of opportunities because they are recognized scientists.

But what we're seeing is that the young people are really in a state of desperation because they need to publish in order to keep on with their careers and they need to publish in in these journals, because these this is also critical to be able to be accepted for tenure or to gain an international project fund. And so this type of inequality is really important at this moment to be taking into account. I think, that the open access with APC is generating different type of inequalities in our world, and I think it is a critical matter for the critical studies of science, for funders, for institutions of all the agencies that the public agencies in which we do our research.

And so I we hope that all this discussion is going to take us to a better place in which publishing, academic publishing, is really what it must be, which is academic communication and not commercial communication.

Thank you very much.