

# KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access

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# Overview presentation



Innovating scholarly publishing



The story behind the KU Leuven fund for Fair Open Access



The what, why, and how of the KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access

# Innovating scholarly publishing

# Problems with scholarly publishing

**Access:** research funded by public money is often inaccessible to the wider public when published behind a paywall, limiting access to a select few

**Cost:** accessing scholarly literature has become increasingly expensive, making it unaffordable for many

**Control:** academics and their institutions have limited control over the dissemination of their own research

**Equity:** barriers in scholarly communication prevent equal participation, both in terms of access to knowledge and opportunities to publish

# Problems with scholarly publishing

Solved by for-profit implementation of open publishing

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# Problems with scholarly publishing

Solved by open publishing aligned with academic values




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# “If you want change, try something new”

Redirect library budgets

Shift from spending on product to spending on production cost

Stimulate the development of innovative, non-profit, and community-led initiatives

Support for both books, journals, infrastructures, ...

Bibliodiversity

Encourage the diversity of business models in the market of academic publishing

# With change, come some challenges

Set-up of library budgets

Rigid structure, reluctance to redirect budget, limited amount of funds

Overcoming arguments against trying something new

Academic reward system, importance of institutional rankings, prestige attached to legacy publishers

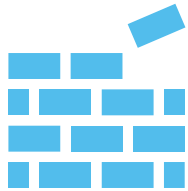
Issue of freeloaders

Lack of concrete return on investment



# The story behind the KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access

# KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access



Established in 2018 to streamline support for non-profit and community-driven Open Scholarship infrastructure

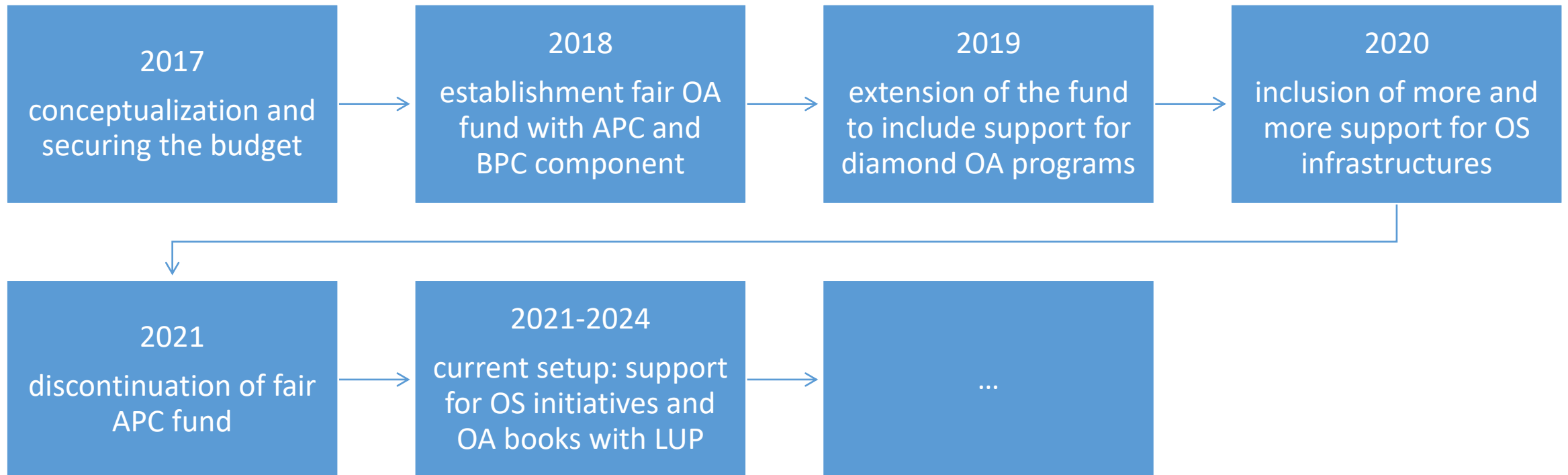


Distinct budget line separate from the acquisition budget for academic publications behind a paywall



Support for OS initiatives (€60,000 in 2024) and grants for OA books published by Leuven University Press (€93,600 in 2024)

# Evolution of the fund



# Journey of our support for APCs

Why we initially included support for APCs	Why we eventually excluded support for APCs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for scholar-led, non-profit OA journals depending on an APC-based business model, no support for for-profit journals</li><li>• Increase awareness about OA publishing costs</li><li>• Increase awareness about for-profit vs. non-profit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not a huge number of non-profit APC journals, but a growing number of diamond OA journals and books</li><li>• APC business model is not equitable</li><li>• APC business model is associated with profit-driven approach</li></ul>

# Why (not) a separate fund



- Secures library budget for non-profit OA
- Simplifies budget decisions and administration vs. rigid set-up of library budgets
- Creates extra visibility

- Support for non-profit OA might be perceived as marginal

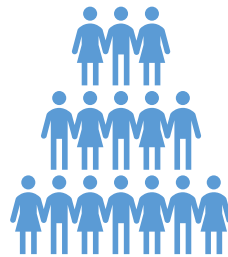
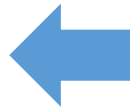
**hence: support for (non-profit) OA should not be limited to Fair OA fund**

# The what, why, and how of the KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access

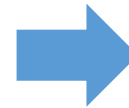
# Part 1: open investments



Open Access publishing  
initiatives



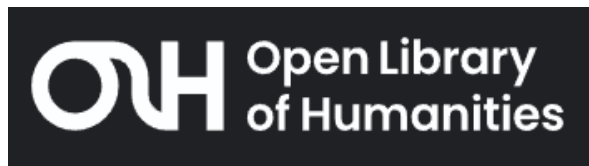
Collective funding  
programs



Open scholarship tools  
and infrastructure

# Open Access publishing initiatives

- Foster innovative forms of open publishing
- Stimulate non-profit, community-led initiatives
- Move away from the dominant author fee driven model



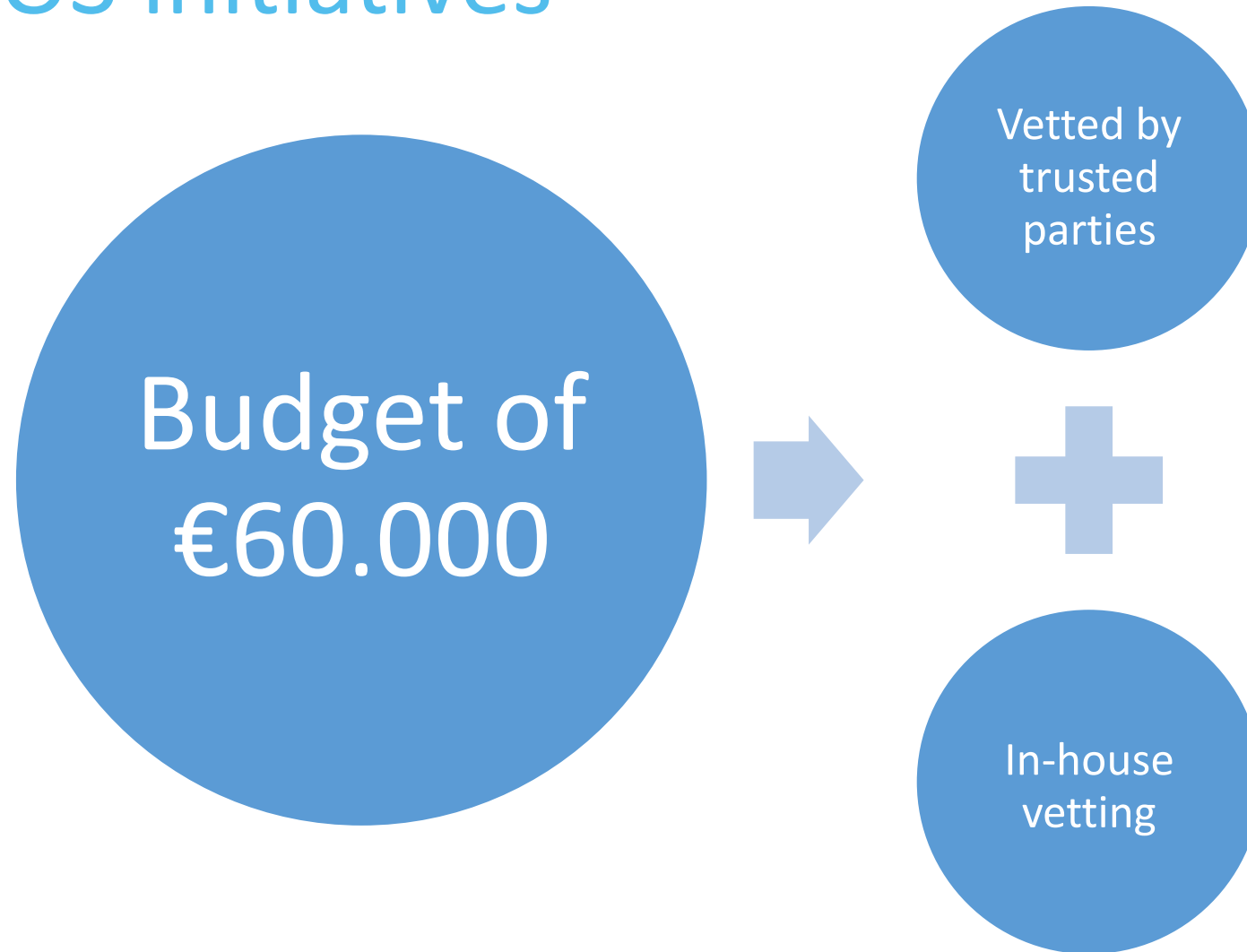


# Open scholarship tools and infrastructure

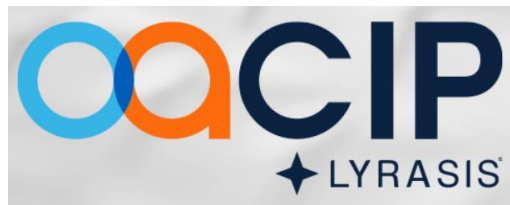
- For research to thrive and achieve true openness and equity, comprehensive infrastructure is essential
- Various open and community-led technologies and systems:
  - Discovery services
  - Collaborative platforms
  - Publishing software
  - ...



# Vetting OS initiatives



# Trusted parties: collective funding programs



# In-house vetting: light process based on trust



# Part 2: BPC fund Leuven University Press



Open to all authors



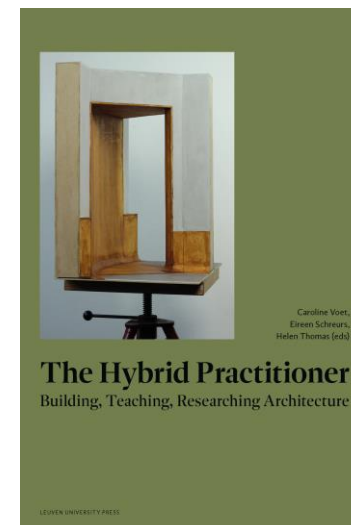
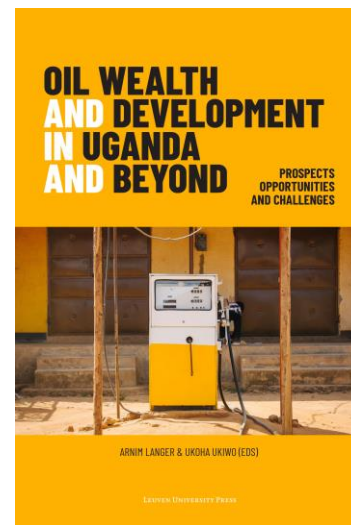
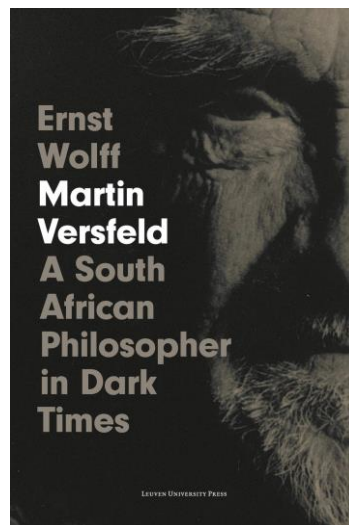
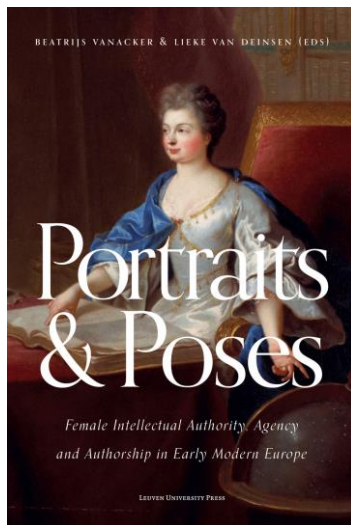
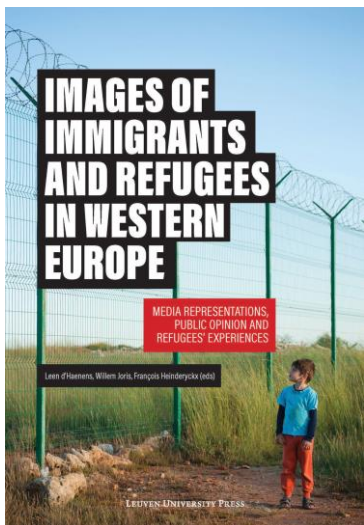
Subsidy amounts vary based on affiliation, with different rates for KU Leuven affiliates and non-affiliates



BPC is calculated separately for each book, depending on its word and image count, and complexity

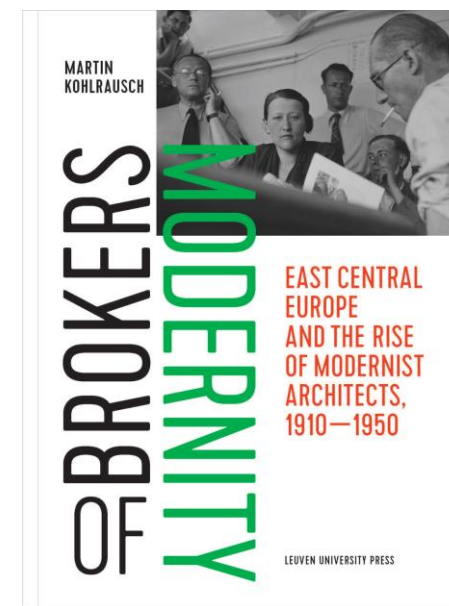
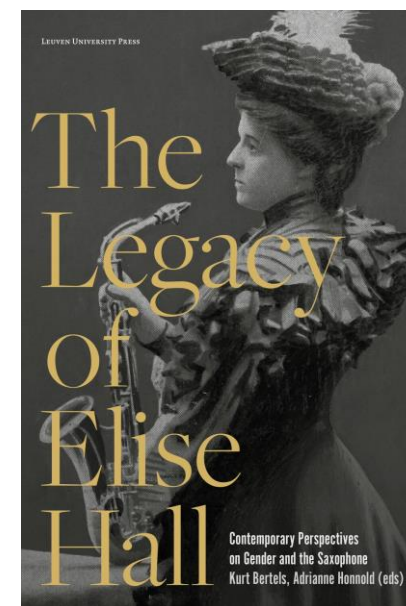
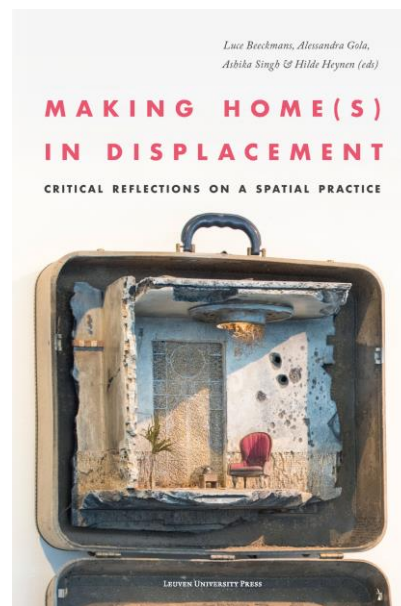
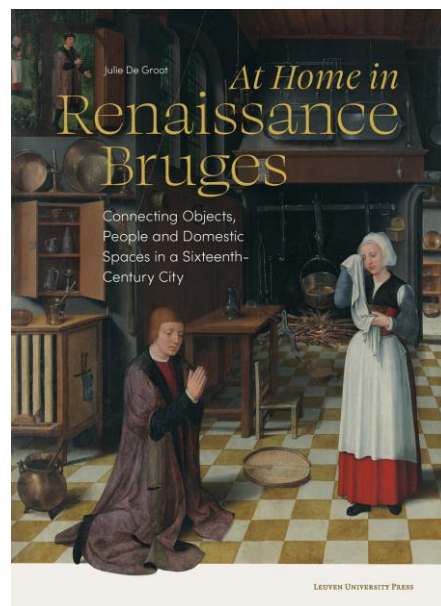
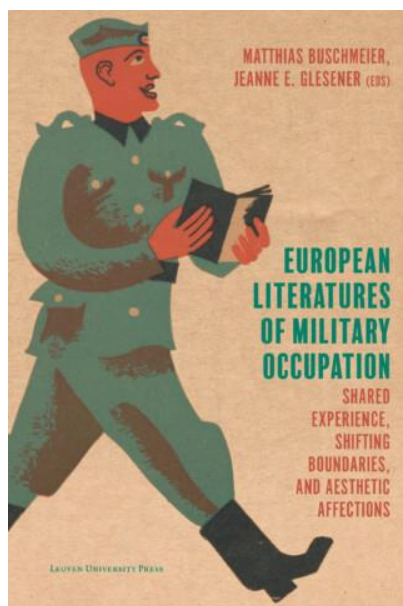


Applications are assessed by committee (4 times/year)



71  
published

45  
in production



For the full overview, see: <https://www.kuleuven.be/open-science/what-is-open-science/scholarly-publishing-and-open-access/open-access-kuleuven/fairoabooks/overviewfairoabooks>





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