

Exercise: Barriers to open research

What are the difficulties of fostering openness in your research context?

What may help to overcome these?

For a more detailed discussion and answers to the most common misconceptions about sharing research data, see the LSE impact blog post by Carly Strasser. This points to several community resources: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2013/05/06/answers-to-common-misconceptions-about-data-sharing>

Competitive advantage	
I'm afraid I'll be scooped - other researchers will use my data to publish ahead of me.	
I can't share my methods – that's my intellectual capital. This is what gives us an edge on other research groups when competing for grants.	
I intend to mine my dataset for a long time to produce several papers. It's not done yet.	
I need my data to get ahead in my career.	
My funder does not require me to share data and there's no reward for all that effort.	

Issues with publication	
My dataset is dynamic (e.g. longitudinal dataset)	
My data is too large to share	
My data is not in digital form	
I can't afford to share my data	
I have no data	

Issues with reuse	
Others might misuse my data	
Others might misinterpret it and damage my reputation	
My data is impossible to understand without my input	
My data is not in English	
My data is too niche to be of interest	

Sensitive data and confidentiality	
My research is highly sensitive	
There is personally identifiable information	
I combine datasets which, taken together, contain enough information to disclose participant identities	
My dataset contains audio-visual data which reveals identity	
My dataset must be destroyed at the end of the project	
Research participants have been given complete assurances of confidentiality	
My data might be the basis of a police prosecution	

Legal issues and IPR protection	
My data is subject to IPR	
I have reused other datasets in my research which I don't have permission to publish	
My data might have a commercial application	