

# **A Consortium of Academic Open Access Presses**

ScholarLed

## Introduction

ScholarLed is a consortium of Scholar-led Open Access Presses. It brings together a group of academic book publishers, each of which produces high-quality academic books that are available to read online for free, on an Open Access basis. The consortium formed in 2018, bringing together five presses: Mattering Press, meson press, punctum books, Open Book Publishers, and Open Humanities Press.

Each is a scholar-led Open Access press that publishes work within or connected to the humanities and social sciences. The group includes publishers that operate at different scales: some publish many books per year (Open Book Publishers, Open Humanities Press, punctum books), with others focusing on just a handful (Mattering Press, meson press).

Members of the consortium each retain their distinct identity as publishers, with different audiences, processes, business models and stances towards Open Access. What they share, however, is a commitment to opening up scholarly research to diverse readerships, to resisting the marketization of academic knowledge production, and to working collaboratively rather than in competition.

ScholarLed exists to increase the visibility, reach and sustainability of scholar-led Open Access publishers, so that, ultimately, we can publish a greater number of books to be discovered by many more readers. This booklet is one of the products of that collaborative effort.

**website:** [www.scholarled.org](http://www.scholarled.org)

**twitter:** @ScholarLed

## The need for Open Access in Book Publishing

Under a traditional, closed-access academic book publishing model, printed texts typically cost £60-£80, with lifetime sales estimated to be typically around 200-400 copies. These are primarily sold to university libraries. This is an extremely limited level of circulation: as a way to make knowledge widely available, traditional academic publishing is not working, and access to books is severely restricted as a result. This is bad for everybody – bad for readers, whose access to knowledge is restricted, bad for libraries, who have to meet the high costs set by closed-access publishers, and bad for academics, whose work is only read by a tiny number of people.

Research has shown that making books available on an Open Access basis has a direct positive effect on their usage and discoverability (Ferwerda, Snijder and Adema, 2013, Lucraft 2017), as well as increasing usage of books from readers and institutions in countries (such as in the Global South) that struggle to access academic work (Gatti 2013, Snijder 2013, Tennant 2016). With an Open Access model, readers benefit from free access to knowledge, libraries do not have to pay extortionate costs for

resources, and academics know that their work is widely and equitably available, to the benefit of both the work itself and the reputation of the academic.

Despite these advantages, universities and publishers have not embraced the publishing of pre- or post-print versions of academic books as is common in journal publishing. Institutional repositories only rarely archive and make commercially produced books publicly available via the so called ‘green’ open access route—even after an embargo period.

In response to this, a relatively small but steadily growing range of presses have emerged that are extending the promise of Open Access from journal publishing to the domain of book publishing. These include presses led by universities and, as in the case of the present consortium, presses led by scholars. These have embraced a model in which books are available online for free, on an Open Access basis, with printed copies of books available to purchase, at a much lower price point than most commercial academic books publishers in order to raise some of the revenue necessary to ensure their sustainability.

# How ScholarLed can work for you

## For Academics

- Reach a wider global audience
- Increase the readership and citation of your publications
- Make your publications available across multiple platforms, including via high quality, printed and affordable texts
- Improve and track your impact
- Publish Open Access either without BPCs (Book Processing Charges), or via BPCs that are transparent and that offer fee waivers
- Retain your copyright
- Publish books in experimental, interactive and non-standard forms
- Quality assurance, high standards of production and care for your publications
- Preserve your work into the future
- Comply with (future) Open Access mandates

## For Librarians

- Support a consortium of scholar-led, not-for-profit open access publishers
- Support a biodiversity of publishing projects and models
- Support library-scholar publishing partnerships as solutions to the crisis in humanities publishing
- Integrate a large and growing collection of Open Access books into your systems
- Easily integrate the consortium's books into your collection
- Availability of multiple digital editions
- Affordable print publications
- download a complete set of MARC records of our titles
- Compliance with (future) OA mandates

## For Readers

- Access for free a large and growing collection of high-quality academic books in the HSS
- Books available online upon publication
- Publications available in multiple digital and (affordable) print formats
- Possibility to download, share and (often) reuse our publications

## References/Further reading

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# ScholarLed

Presses





# Mattering Press

Started in 2012

Based in Manchester, United Kingdom

[www.matteringpress.org](http://www.matteringpress.org)  
[mail@matteringpress.org](mailto:mail@matteringpress.org)

Mattering Press publishes high quality, peer reviewed open access books within empirically grounded, relational research on science, technology and society. We work with a production model that is based on cooperation and shared scholarship while ensuring the high quality of the resulting work through systematic peer-review. As an open access publisher, we are dedicated to make empirically grounded monographs and edited collections widely and freely available, At the same time, we are committed to producing books that can travel as physical entities. All Mattering books will therefore be available freely as ebooks and as printed books to purchase. We also support books using formats that are experimental or difficult to publish using conventional publishing models.

## Submission Policy

We are currently welcoming submissions. These texts may herald from a variety of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences including sociology, social anthropology, human geography, history, art and philosophy.



## meson press

Started in 2014

Based in Lüneburg, Germany

[www.meson.press](http://www.meson.press)

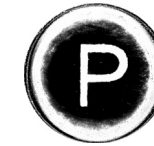
[info@meson.press](mailto:info@meson.press)

meson press publishes research on digital cultures and networked media. Our open access publications challenge contemporary theories and advance key debates in the humanities of today. We combine a rigorous peer-review with hybrid formats and collaborative production methods. As a cooperative, meson press is organized in a participated setup. This allows scholars to take part in a publishing venture by academics for academics and for everyone else who is curious about theory.

meson press is a cooperative initiated by Mercedes Bunz, Marcus Burkhardt and Andreas Kirchner, and grew out of the Hybrid Publishing Lab, Leuphana University of Lüneburg that looked into the effects of digitalization on academic communication and publishing.

### Submission Policy

Upon receipt we will review your project proposal internally and if evaluated positively ask you to provide a more formal book proposal to be evaluated by an external reviewer. Based on this review we determine whether your book can be published with meson press.



## **punctum books**

Started in 2011

Based in Santa Barbara, USA & The Hague, Netherlands

[www.punctumbooks.com](http://www.punctumbooks.com)

[eileen@punctumbooks.com](mailto:eileen@punctumbooks.com)

punctum is an open-access publisher dedicated to radically creative modes of intellectual inquiry and writing across a whimsical para-humanities assemblage (in which assemblage you will find humanists keeping rowdy and thought-provoking company with social scientists, scientists, multi/media specialists, artists, architects, and designers). We have a special fondness for neo-traditional and unconventional scholarly work that productively twists and/or ignores academic norms.

### **Submission Policy**

We review book proposals and completed manuscripts from May through August of each year.

## Open Book Publishers

Started in 2008

Based in Cambridge, United Kingdom

[www.openbookpublishers.com](http://www.openbookpublishers.com)

[general@openbookpublishers.com](mailto:general@openbookpublishers.com)

Open Book Publishers (OBP) is the biggest open access academic publisher of monographs in the UK and among the leaders in the English-speaking world. We publish rigorously peer reviewed monographs and textbooks in all areas, and offer the academic excellence of a traditional press with the speed, convenience and accessibility of digital publishing. Our titles are published in hardback, paperback, and ebook editions, but we also create a free online edition that can be read via our website, downloaded as a pdf, reused or embedded anywhere. OBP is a social enterprise run by scholars who are committed to making high-quality research available to readers around the world, and we are proud to say that our free online books are currently being accessed worldwide by over 20,000 readers each month. We have been shortlisted for the 2017 and 2014 WISE Awards and we are very proud to have achieved a 9/10 social impact score in the SE100 Rankings 2017.

### Submission Policy

We encourage submissions in any area of the Humanities and Social Sciences and are also accepting book proposals in science, mathematics and medicine. OBP invites prospective authors to submit their complete, or near complete, manuscript and book proposal via email to: [a.tosi@openbookpublishers.com](mailto:a.tosi@openbookpublishers.com).



OPEN HUMANITIES PRESS

## Open Humanities Press

Started in 2006

Based in London, International

[www.openhumanitiespress.org](http://www.openhumanitiespress.org)

[sigij@openhumanitiespress.org](mailto:sigij@openhumanitiespress.org) / [gary@garyhall.info](mailto:gary@garyhall.info)

Open Humanities Press is an international, scholar-led open access publishing collective. Its mission is to make leading works of contemporary critical and cultural thought available worldwide.

At present, OHP consists of a network of interlacing thematic scholarly communities whose various – predominantly autonomous – editorial activities make up the collective. OHP has operated in this form as an independent not-for-profit initiative since 2006, promoting open access scholarship in journals and books, and also experimenting with new forms of scholarly communication.

Open Humanities Press is incorporated in the UK as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company.

### Submission Policy

We welcome book and journal proposals in critical and cultural theory. For book proposals, please consult our current book series descriptions ([www.openhumanitiespress.org/books/series/](http://www.openhumanitiespress.org/books/series/)) and contact the editor(s) directly. To propose a journal for consideration by the board, please contact [ademaj@uni.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:ademaj@uni.coventry.ac.uk)

