

Tilburg, May 10, 2017

Dear Mozilla Foundation,

With pleasure I read that the Mozilla Fellowship is now open to the social sciences. I have wanted to submit an application previously, but was unable to. Additionally, by now I finally feel that it is timely for me personally and that I am able to bear the responsibility the fellowship brings with it.

The last three years I have been conducting my PhD research and, albeit satisfying, I find it too detached from solving some of the problems that need solving right now. It is like watching a game of football from the sidelines, while you want to play yourself. Science is in crisis due to its messed up incentive system that has been created in the last 30 or so years. Selective publication/access and confirmation bias are some issues that can be readily resolved, but require immediate action.

As we have seen, these problems in science are affecting all fields and with this Mozilla Fellowship, I hope to directly contribute to solving these issues. Tilburg University is at a pivoting point right now, having named Open Science as one of its seven pillars, partly because the Dutch Universities have signed a National Plan Open Science at the start of this year and (I hope) because colleagues and I strongly encouraged our executive board to include Open Science during a strategy session. This fellowship would allow me to spend time leveraging that mandate into effective action, change in the university, and research projects that can subsequently be used by policy makers as evidence-base.

All in all, I see much potential in effecting change in my local community with a Mozilla Fellowship. With the outputs that I want to create openly (together with the community, if possible), the fellowship can help others create change as well and not just in the Tilburg community. In my research I have been looking for potential solutions but subsequently always had to stop short from implementing them or spend my free time to do so. The Mozilla Fellowship would allow me to spend more time on Open Science education and advocacy, and take up a more active role within my community. During the Fellowship (if granted), I aim to finish my PhD (in the .2FTE left) and develop my community management, education, programming, and change-facilitation skills.

Kind regards,
Chris Hartgerink