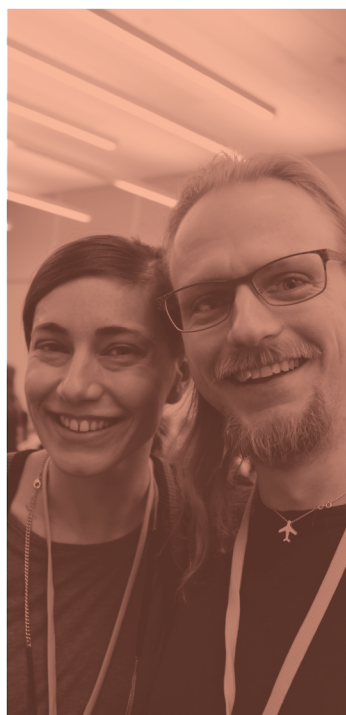




# OPENCON2016

Empowering the Next Generation to Advance  
Open Access, Open Education and Open Data



## COMMUNITY REPORT



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**SPARC\***



# OPENCON - BY THE NUMBERS



## GLOBAL MEETING

**16,000**

total applications

**176**

countries in application pool

**80**

countries at OpenCon global meetings

**over 50%**

of participants were awarded full or partial travel scholarships



## SATELLITE EVENTS

**4,100**

participants

**70**

OpenCon satellite events

**32**

countries

**13**

different languages spoken



## OPENCON COMMUNITY

**20,700**

individuals in the OpenCon community

**30+**

new projects launched out of OpenCon

**7**

alumni have won awards from work stemming from OpenCon

**6**

OpenCon alumni work for their President, Prime Minister, or a senior policymaker

\*All statistics cumulative from 2014-2016

# GLOBAL IMPACT: SOME OF OUR STORIES



## OA POLICY @ UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

As grad students, Gennie Gebhart ('15) & Juliya Ziskina ('15) led the advocacy effort for an institutional OA policy at the University of Washington. Gennie is now a researcher at EFF.



## OPEN ACCESS BUTTON

Founded by Joe McArthur ('14,'15,'16) and David Carroll ('14) and covered by Scientific American & VentureBeat, the OA Button provides users access to legal copies of otherwise paywalled articles.



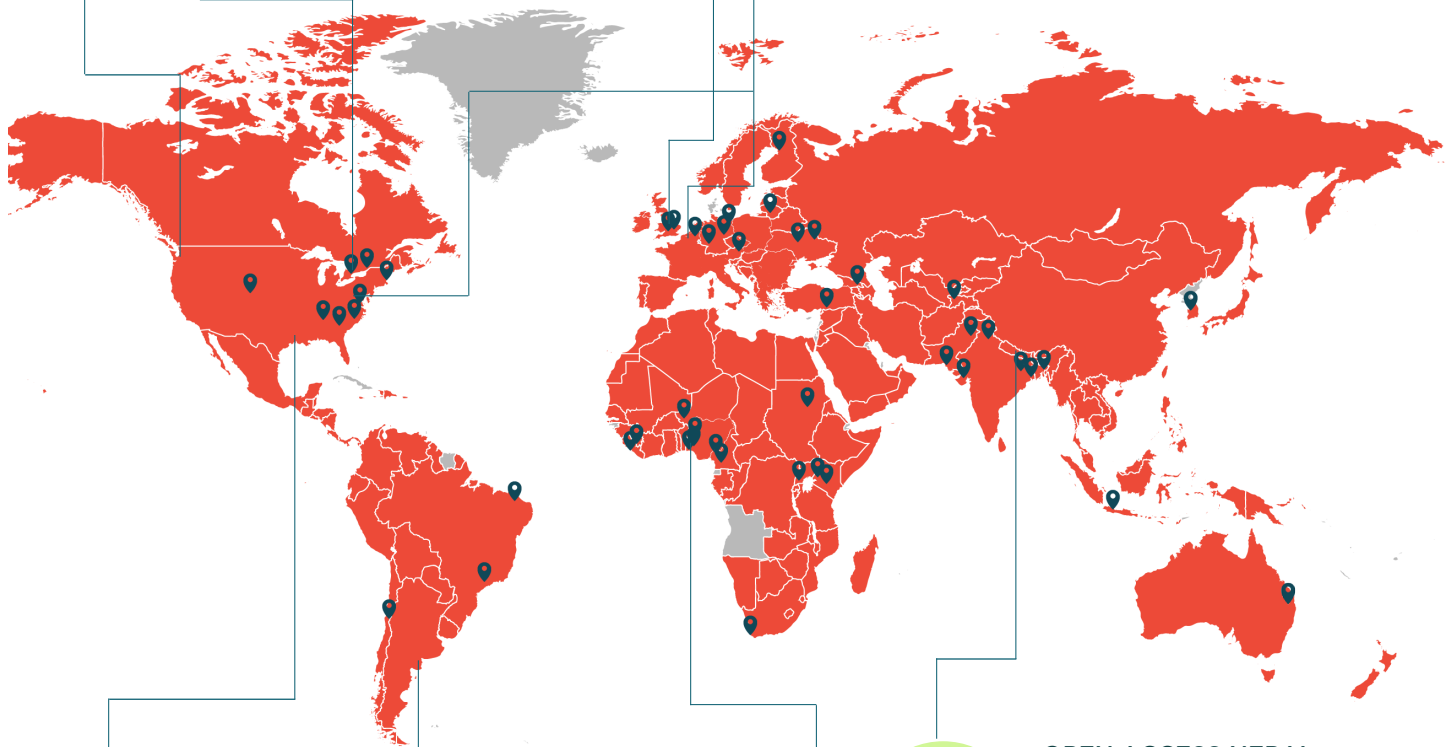
## OOO CANADA RESEARCH NETWORK

Co-founded by Haley Kragness and a group of fellow '14 alumni, the network advocates for Open across Canadian institutions.



## ADVANCING OPEN POLICY

OpenCon has facilitated 107 meetings between participants and policymakers in D.C. and Brussels—building advocacy skills & advancing open policy.



## OPENCON LATIN AMERICA

Guillermina Actis ('16) is an advisor on Open Data policies to the Argentine National Scientific and Technical Research Council who's helping launch OpenCon Latin America.



## OPEN ACCESS NEPAL

Founded by Roshan Karn ('14,'15,'16), OA Nepal now has 20 campus chapters, has reached >1,000 individuals, and helped pass one of the world's strongest institutional OA policies at Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine.



## PROMOTING OPEN THROUGH TENURE

Heather Coates ('15, '16) supports initiatives to incorporate OA and alternative products in IUPUI's department tenure guidelines and aids faculty in using altmetrics in their tenure dossiers.



## OPEN ACCESS NIGERIA

Founded by Ahmed Ogunlaja ('14,'15,'16), OA Nigeria now has 22 campus chapters, which have reached 40,000 individuals through workshops and events.

● Countries applications came from

📍 Satellite event locations 2014 - 2016





## Opening up research & education is the goal. The next generation is the key.

The next generation holds the key to setting the default to open for research and education. In both science and industry, the revolutionary ideas that lead to fundamental change often come from those at the beginning of their careers. At its core, OpenCon is a platform for creating, empowering, and connecting the next generation of leaders to open up research and education—in each discipline and in every corner of the globe. OpenCon seeks to foster these revolutionary ideas from diverse sources and support the hard work it takes to make them reality.



*“ We will all win by sharing knowledge, that’s a fact. The OpenCon community has been instrumental in pushing this change of mindset. I’d like to pay tribute to your alumni who have launched several initiatives across the world promoting open research. ”*

- EU COMMISSIONER CARLOS MOEDAS



# Conference and Community: Creating an Ecosystem for Change

## OPENCON GLOBAL: IDENTIFYING & CULTIVATING FUTURE OPEN LEADERS

OpenCon's flagship global conference powers the wider community and its reach. The global conference convenes the most promising students and early career academic professionals from around the world interested in opening research and education—regardless of financial means. As a result, attendance at the global conference is by application only, with a majority of participants receiving travel assistance. The application process brings thousands into the community each year (10,000 applications were submitted in 2016), surfaces emerging leaders across every continent, and provides a powerful incentive for action.



*"OpenCon is more than a conference; it is a growing international community of students and early-career professionals supporting each other in sharing their research and advocating for transparency that will lead to better science and education worldwide."*

- Erin McKiernan ('14, '15, '16)

## SATELLITE EVENTS: CREATING LOCAL CHANGE AT SCALE

From the first OpenCon in 2014, more individuals have participated in satellite events than the flagship global conference. Satellite events are locally produced meetings that blend global themes from main meeting with local context, often connecting individuals who applied to the flagship conference. While the main global conference powers the wider community, satellite events are what translate that energy to create change at scale. In 2016, fully 90% of in-person OpenCon participants were at satellite events held across 20 countries.





## OpenCon's Impact

The outcomes of OpenCon's first three years suggest the community can be a powerful catalyst. OpenCon conference alumni and community members are already having a significant impact. They make their own work open and serve as exemplars of open practices in their home institution. Others create new organizations to provide a structure for creating change across many institutions. Some advocate for policies that promote openness for their campus, others focus their advocacy on research funders, and yet others make the case within their discipline. The types of impact the OpenCon community have are as diverse as OpenCon itself.

### CATALYSTS ON CAMPUS

Perhaps the single most important outcome of OpenCon is supporting individuals to become exemplars of open on campus and in their disciplines. OpenCon alumni, now distributed across 80 countries, have a strong commitment to making their work open and often encourage their colleagues to do so with them. They get the opportunity, as Heather Coates ('15, '16) did, to provide input on promotion and tenure policy, then leverage that to promote open. They band together at disciplinary meetings, such as the Global

Health Summit, to host workshops promoting open practices. OpenCon community members become individual change agents within their communities, and each year their impact extends farther and farther.

### REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Some OpenCon community members expand their efforts to create change across the institutions in their country. Nine national organizations have been founded out of OpenCon to promote openness in research and education in Bangladesh, Canada, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, South Africa, and Tanzania. Collectively, these organizations have many dozen chapters, have reached tens of thousands of individuals, and met with many senior policymakers.

### TOOLS & RESOURCES

The OpenCon community has contributed and supported the development of tools such as the Open Access Button, which helps readers access paywalled publications and Dissemin, which aids researchers in making their publications freely available. Members of the community have also built a number of platforms encouraging the adoption of open practices, including WhyOpenResearch, the Open Access Academy, and the Open Research Glossary.



## ADVOCACY ON CAMPUS

Many OpenCon community members extend their efforts to open up knowledge beyond their own work to institutional policy—advocating for their university’s research output to be accessible. Many are successful in helping establish these policies, such as Carly Robinson (’14, ’16) at the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Roshan Karn (’14, ’15, ’16) who established one of the world’s strongest institutional OA policy at the Institute of Medicine under Tribhuwan University—the policy requires full OA. Others have extended existing policies to cover student work, such as Jennifer Beamer (’14, ’16) at the University of Hawaii and Meredith Niles (’14, ’15) for the entire University of California system.

Fulbright Commission that has now led the organization to establish an open access policy for its scholarship recipients. Kristofferson Culmer (’14, ’15, ’16), the President of the U.S. National Associations of Graduate-Professional Students, has ensured Open Access and Open Education have been top priorities during the organization’s biannual advocacy days, raising the issue in hundreds of meetings in DC. Other OpenCon alumni, such as Osman Aldirdiri (’14, ’15, ’16) in Sudan, have been able to secure meetings with government ministers to promote the importance of Open Access, Open Data, and Open Education.



## FUNDER ADVOCACY

Research funders have a pivotal role to play in setting the default to open, and increasingly, many are requiring results they fund to be made accessible. Here too the OpenCon community is making a difference. While she was a Fulbright scholar, Karin Purshouse (’14, ’15) started a conversation with the head of the

*“The meetings with policy makers were the first experience in science advocacy I’d ever had. These interactions showed me that it was my job, even my duty, to communicate with political leadership.”*

- Danielle Robinson (’15, ’16),  
2016 Mozilla Science Fellow







## OpenCon 2016 - A Global Meeting

Held on November 12-14, 2016 in Washington D.C., OpenCon's third global meeting convened the most promising students and early career academic professionals from around the world interested in opening research and education. The three-day meeting offered participants the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of Open issue areas, find collaborators for new and existing projects, and build skills critical for advocating for open policies at the institutional and national levels.

### LEARN.

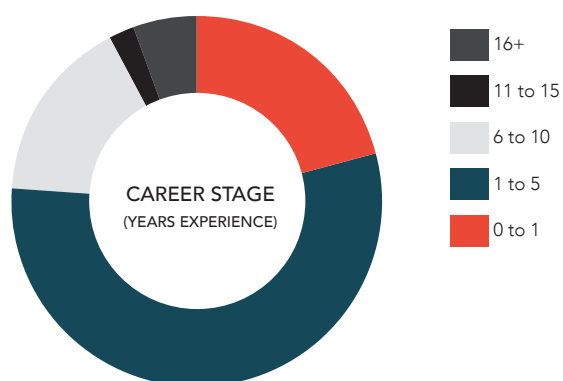
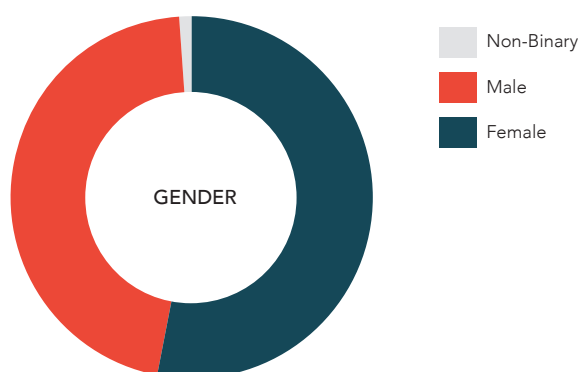
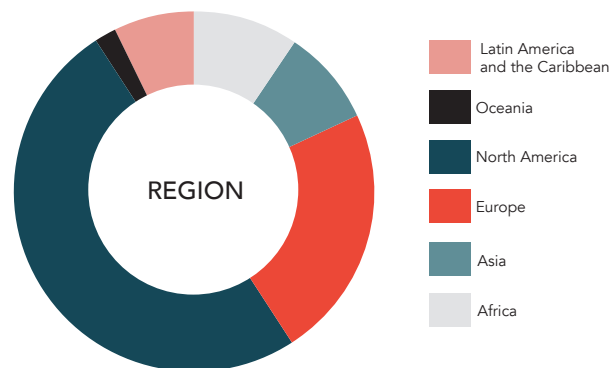
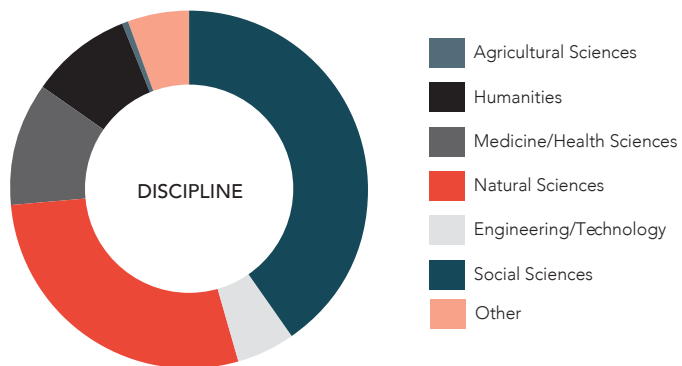
Participants receive training on Open Access, Open Data, and Open Education through keynotes, panels, interactive workshops, and unconference sessions.

### COLLABORATE.

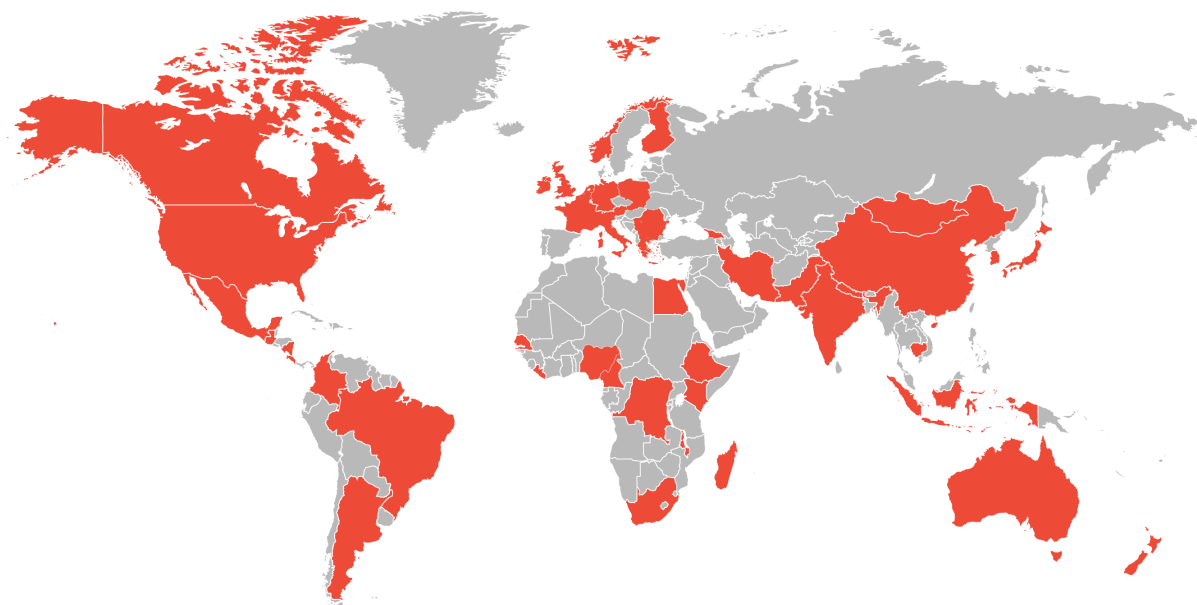
Participants meet others from around the world who are leading projects advancing open. Collaborations are born out of presentations, unconference sessions, and informal interaction.

### ACT.

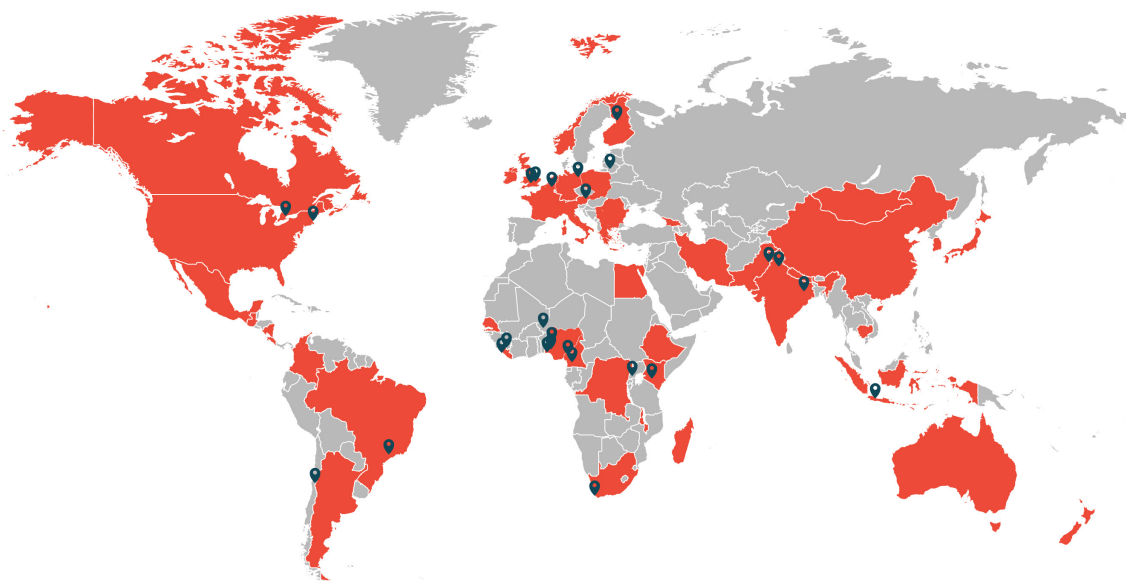
OpenCon's final day focuses on advocacy. Participants put their conversations from the first two days to work in meetings with policymakers to educate them about OA, OER & Open Data.



## Who comes to OpenCon?



This year, there were 60 countries represented at OpenCon 2016.  
Countries represented at the conference are labelled in orange.



Countries represented in 2016



Satellite event locations in 2016

## Satellite Events

OpenCon satellite events are local events held in partnership with the main conference, organized by volunteers from the community. They combine themes, ideas and content from the main meeting with locally arranged activities. Satellite events are a central part of the OpenCon global community: in 2016, over 2200 participants from 20 different countries participated in 28 satellite events. Events were held in cities across the world, including Campinas, Jakarta, Boston, Lagos, and many more.

### Corina Logan Organizes Against Big Deals in Cambridge

Corina Logan went from being a satellite event participant to institutional advocate for canceling big deal subscription packages at the University of Cambridge. Corina recently led a campaign at Cambridge to generate researcher support for their library to walk away from their Big Deal with Elsevier. Her campaign included collecting survey data from researchers at Cambridge, writing letters to institutional governing bodies, and strategizing with colleagues.

## SATELLITE EVENT IMPACT STORIES

One of the key aims of satellite events is not only to educate people about access to information, but to catalyze local progress in Open Access, Open Data, and Open Education. Satellite events can act as a starting point for building communities and creating impact after the event itself. Many satellite participants and hosts have gone on to do important work. Here are some of their stories.



*"Our goal is to support and build the open community in Cambridge...This year's committee brought together a sensational program of world leading speakers. There was also time scheduled for focus group discussion around actions that we can take to make a change in the world."*

- OpenCon Cam Organizing Team

Source: [opencon2017.org/opencon\\_2016\\_cambridge](https://opencon2017.org/opencon_2016_cambridge)





## Lillian Juma launches a Train the Trainer Program

OpenCon 2016 Nairobi host Lillian Juma used her satellite event to launch a Train-the-Trainer program. The goal of her initiative was to train a cohort of ambassadors who are responsible for advocating for Open Access and related issues within their own institutions in Kenya.



*"As an advocate who aspires for a community which understands the role Open plays in day-to-day economic and social developments, I am looking forward to a platform where people can be inspired as they join the Open Access community, and empowered as they continue advocating for Open"*

- Lillian Juma

Source: [openaccessweek.org/profiles/blogs/from-nairobi-to-the-world-open-access-week-2016](http://openaccessweek.org/profiles/blogs/from-nairobi-to-the-world-open-access-week-2016)

## Creating a culture of open

To succeed, a culture of open needs nourishment. Satellite events work to connect local communities and introduce new people, new ideas, and new momentum to their work. They grow leading individuals into leading communities, who together can support change.

### SATELLITES IN 2016



28 events



20 countries



2200 participants



9 languages



## This is just the beginning.

*Setting the default to open for research and education will require the efforts of individuals on the ground at every institution and in every country. The next generation is already at the forefront of this effort, creating new tools and practices that leverage open and driving their adoption—scholar by scholar, discipline by discipline, country by country.*

Thousands of members of the OpenCon community across every continent are actively working from both the top down and bottom up to make open the norm and help their colleagues make this change.

This change will be driven by researchers like Chris Hartgerink ('15, '16), a PhD candidate at Tilburg University, who has been recognized by EU Commissioner Moedas for his advocacy work to strengthen text and data mining rights in Europe.

This change will be driven by librarians like Robin Champieux ('14), a scholarly communications librarian at Oregon Health and Science University, who is using workshops and events to create a culture of open research at her institution.

This change will be driven by early career government leaders like Guillermina Actis ('16) who actively work both within government to promote Open Data and outside of it to cultivate an active community of open advocates within Latin America.

This change will be driven by student leaders like Ahmed Ogunlaja ('14, '15, '16), a medical student who was recognized by the Obama Administration with a Mandela Washington Fellowship in 2016 for founding Open Access Nigeria, an organization that has now reached tens of thousands of students, scholars, and administrators across his country.

For each of these success stories, there are dozens more in the OpenCon community, in different disciplines and across diverse countries. However, to achieve their potential, members of the OpenCon community need support.

OpenCon can facilitate more collaboration—online and in-person—that helps community members get engaged year round and take action in ways that scale. OpenCon is well-placed to provide startup funding that allows ideas for impactful projects to get off of the ground, where they may currently fall through the cracks. OpenCon can help create space in meetings, at institutions, and within organizations for the next generation and help give voice to those that are often under-represented.

The next generation is already making important contributions to accelerate the switch to an open system for research and education, and this is only the beginning.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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"I felt I was part of something really big and important. It was a truly life changing experience. The people were supportive and truly interested in your personal story."

OpenCon has gave me confidence and empowered me to keep working and advocating about different openness fields in Guatemala."

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"As an advocate for open education or open science you understand that these movements have shared values, but at OpenCon you actually see these values manifest in the energetic, creative, and utterly brilliant work of young colleagues across the world."

It is a humbling, inspiring, invigorating experience."

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**OPENCON2016**  
Advancing the World's  
Open Access, Open Education