

## Decolonising science: collective action for open and accessible science

### An empirical study

Department: Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Research group: Energy and resources

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### Project Description

**This research project aims to gather and analyse empirical data to explore the potential pathways and factors for open and accessible science, namely decolonising science.** For centuries, accessing knowledge and science has been a privilege for specific groups. An example in recent years is related to the discussions around accessing the (knowledge and formula) for the COVID-19 vaccine. In contrast, in some historical communities, science has been seen as a common pool resource; therefore, members had equal access and contribution to the science and knowledge of their community. Currently, the ongoing developments in internet infrastructure and online AI tools, along with the open science movements around the world, provide an opportunity to explore the potential for exploring the collective action approaches for open and accessible science through decolonising science. Therefore, **this research aims to provide insights into exploring the potential pathways and factors for decolonising science by conducting interviews with various national and international scientists, higher-education teachers and practitioners educators (and policy and governance experts).** Therefore, the research involves developing the interview questions, conducting the interviews, collecting and analysing data and providing insights and recommendations. For all these steps, close supervision and guidance will be provided. **This research is in close collaboration with Delft University of Technology (i.e. Technology, Policy and Management faculty);** therefore, the student assistant has an opportunity to collaborate with researchers inside and outside Utrecht University (and Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development). **The project could bring insights for academics and research/ education institutes (and policy-makers) on alternative and innovative governance approaches for open and accessible science.**

### Job Requirements

A highly motivated student with fluency in English and experience in (or willingness to learn) empirical data collection (e.g. conducting interviews and surveys) is a must. Experience performing research on related topics (e.g., education and research policy/ governance, decolonising, behavioural studies and collective action) is a plus. Knowledge and experience with statistical software and applications (e.g., R. and Python) are highly appreciated.