

Citizen Science and Participatory Research in and with Organizations

Workshop convenors:

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Jurgen Willems (WU Vienna University for Economics and Business)

Discussants:

Patricia Stark (Johannes Kepler University Linz)

Gerid Hager (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis)

Lukas Daniel Klausner (University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten) and Bettina Pospisil (University for Continuing Education Krems)

Claudia Fahrenwald (University of Education Upper Austria) and Petra Siegele (OeAD-GmbH, Agentur für Bildung und Internationalisierung),

Marika Gruber (Carinthia University of Applied Sciences)

This workshop is grounded in the interdisciplinary field of **Citizen Science (CS)**, a participatory approach to research that actively involves citizens across multiple stages of the research process, well beyond data collection. By fostering more inclusive, democratic, and collaborative forms of knowledge production, citizen science enhances research quality, relevance, and societal impact.

The workshop provides an opportunity to exchange experiences and insights on conducting CS research *in and with organizations*. Participants will explore how participatory methods enable the co-creation of knowledge and how research can move beyond mere scientific publication, in order to create meaningful impact for organizations, communities, and society at large. The discussants will give short presentations that span a broad range of CS projects:

- In national and international organizational contexts.
- Engaging young students as well as older generations.
- Addressing managerial practices, climate governance, and public administration.
- Working with vulnerable groups and civil society organizations across European cities.

Workshop goals

1. **Facilitate meta-learning and exchange** by bringing together experienced researchers with extensive expertise on citizen science in and with organizations.
2. **Enable active participation and collaborative learning**, fostering critical reflection on how participatory research can be embedded in both scholarly and applied social science practice.
3. **Empower participants to design their own citizen science projects**, including building reciprocal collaborations with organizational practitioners, creating impact for organizations and their beneficiaries, and establishing effective data pipelines for social science research.

Admission Process

This workshop is ideal for researchers of all levels who are interested in participatory methods, collaborative knowledge production and research that has a tangible impact on society. To pair participants with citizen science experts, we ask applicants to submit a short **abstract of 300 Words by March 31st via the EGOS website.**

Applicants should submit their idea on how to implement the CS approach into their projects, regardless of the stage in which the research is. The abstract should include information on the context and focus of the research, a precise research question, and the intended contribution and societal impact, as well as some initial thoughts on methods. Please also indicate what kind of feedback you are looking for. Accepted applicants are expected to be present during the workshop on the **8th of July 2026 from 9-16 o'clock.**

If you have any questions, please contact kai.udo.klein@wu.ac.at

Further introductory readings on Citizen Science

- Bela, G., Peltola, T., Young, J. C., Balázs, B., Arpin, I., Pataki, G., Hauck, J., Kelemen, E., Kopperoinen, L., Van Herzele, A., Keune, H., Hecker, S., Suškevičs, M., Roy, H. E., Itkonen, P., Külvik, M., László, M., Basnou, C., Pino, J., & Bonn, A. (2016). Learning and the transformative potential of citizen science. *Conservation Biology*, 30(5), 990–999. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12762>
- Eitzel, M. V., Cappadonna, J. L., Santos-Lang, C., Duerr, R. E., Virapongse, A., West, S. E., Kyba, C. C. M., Bowser, A., Cooper, C. B., Sforzi, A., Metcalfe, A. N., Harris, E. S., Thiel, M., Haklay, M., Ponciano, L., Roche, J., Ceccaroni, L., Shilling, F. M., Dörler, D., ... Jiang, Q. (2017). Citizen Science Terminology Matters: Exploring Key Terms. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, 2(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.5334/cstp.96>
- Gold, M. (2022). *ECSA 10 Principles of Citizen Science*. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/XPR2N>
- Hecker, S., Haklay, M., Bowser, A., Makuch, Z., Vogel, J., & Bonn, A. (Eds). (2018). Evaluating citizen science: Towards an open framework. In *Citizen Science: Innovation in Open Science, Society and Policy*. UCL Press. DOI: [10.2307/j.ctv550cf2](https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv550cf2)
- Heigl, F., Kieslinger, B., Paul, K. T., Uhlik, J., & Dörler, D. (2019). Toward an international definition of citizen science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(17), 8089–8092. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1903393116>
- Herzog, L., & Lepenies, R. (2022). Citizen Science in Deliberative Systems: Participation, Epistemic Injustice, and Civic Empowerment. *Minerva*, 60(4), 489–508. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11024-022-09467-8>
- Kosmala, M., Wiggins, A., Swanson, A., & Simmons, B. (2016). Assessing data quality in citizen science. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 14(10), 551–560. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.1436>
- Kraker, P., Dörler, D., Ferus, A., Gutounig, R., Heigl, F., Kaier, C., Rieck, K., Šimukovič, E., & Vignoli, M. (2016). The Vienna Principles: A Vision for Scholarly Communication in the 21st Century. *Mitteilungen Der Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen Und Bibliothekare*, 69(3–4), 436–446. <https://doi.org/10.31263/voebm.v69i3.1733>
- Vohland, K., Land-Zandstra, A., Ceccaroni, L., Lemmens, R., Perelló, J., Ponti, M., Samson, R., & Wagenknecht, K. (Eds). (2021). *The Science of Citizen Science*. Springer International Publishing. <https://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-3-030-58278-4>