Open or ajar?: 'openness' within the neoliberal academy

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Openness

"a term with multiple understandings and no fixed definition. It is cited by governments, startups and organisations as integral to their philosophy, often without further explanation of the term"

(Moore, 2017)
Neoliberalism

"a political project to embed market-based logic into all social relations. In other words, it makes people think, and act, as if they themselves are capital."

(Lawson, 2019: 18)
The open agenda in higher education

Social justice

Neoliberal capitalism
The meaning of openness

Open licensing has a fractious history

Autonomy / community / commerce
"Creative Commons reinforces a private and individualist understanding of intellectual property"  
(Moore, 2018)
Openwashing

to spin a product or company as open although it is not

(Thorne, 2009)
An open framework for our sector is the most compatible with our ethics, fundamentally [...] One of the watch words of my career certainly for the last kind of 15 or 20 years has been "open" (Poole, 2018)

Nicholas Poole
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Replying to @mounshazdrone @SimonVIX and 2 others

PS In general, I prefer to promote software based on functionality, compliance, total cost of ownership etc rather than licensing model

12:44 PM · Nov 3, 2017 · TweetDeck
Neoliberal appropriation of openness

Bureaucracy

Openness as a disciplinary function
Alternative modes of openness for radical practice

"One should not think of OA as a thing-in-itself; rather, it should be seen as a process of understanding, engaging and experimenting with the ways in which research is presented and disseminated."

(Moore, 2017)
Conclusion

Responsibility: personal and interpersonal ethics

People oriented

Openness as a process

Community: build for strength

Library software and services

Producers

Users
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