



## Call for Abstracts

# Open Innovation in Science (OIS) Research Conference 2026

May 11-13, 2026 | Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Dear colleagues,

We invite you to join the discussion about openness and collaboration in scientific research at the upcoming 7th [OIS Research Conference](#).

OIS research investigates whether, how, and under which conditions open and collaborative practices influence the productivity and societal impact of scientific research. We strive for a balanced view that recognizes important contingency factors on the individual, organizational, and ecosystem-level. The 2026 special conference theme is:

### Science-Policy Relations: What is the role of openness and collaboration?

Science-based input into policy decisions is more crucial than ever to address complex global challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, and geopolitical instability. Existing channels such as scientific services in national parliaments, one-way consultations, or ad hoc advisory roles help, but they often fall short of providing scientific expertise in ways that are timely, transparent, and attuned to broader societal contexts. Rising mistrust in science adds to the strain. Yet the relationship is not one-way: while science informs policy, policy priorities, incentives, and rules also shape what gets researched, how quickly results are produced, and how evidence is framed.

Openness and collaboration offer promising avenues to reimagine these relationships. Open access to publications, data, and methods can enable broader reuse and engagement, while AI tools may enhance scalability and integration into policy processes. Beyond access, sustained co-development of policies between scientists and policymakers – and at times, with citizens or other stakeholders – may strengthen the relevance, transparency, and legitimacy of outcomes. Yet these models also raise questions about credibility, responsibility, and alignment with democratic processes. Hence, this year's theme explores science-policy interactions as a two-way, evolving relationship, asking how openness and collaboration can both enable and complicate the pursuit of evidence that is usable, trustworthy, and aligned with democratic values.

### ► Submissions

Submissions both empirical and conceptual in nature are welcome. Extended abstracts (500-1000 words) for advanced papers and short abstracts (250-500 words) for early-stage projects can be submitted related to this year's special conference theme or to one of the three following general OIS research tracks:

**Track 1:** Open and collaborative approaches along the entire scientific research process, including opportunities, challenges, and contingency factors. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Crowdfunding/crowdsourcing science and citizen science
- (Open) university-industry collaborations
- Open data/material sharing/re-use
- Platforms facilitating open and collaborative approaches to scientific research
- Artificial intelligence and its influence on open and collaborative approaches in science and innovation

**Track 2:** Ecosystems and organizational designs facilitating or constraining open and collaborative research approaches. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Institutional factors
- Local and national policies
- Intellectual property rights
- Incentive and impact measurement systems

**Track 3:** Micro-foundations of open and collaborative research approaches. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Scientists' motives for engaging in open and collaborative research
- Skills and capabilities for open and collaborative research
- Attitudes and beliefs supporting or blocking open and collaborative research
- Characteristics and motives of institutional entrepreneurs in research organizations

Please also note that:

- We welcome submissions of both early-stage and advanced research projects.
- The research to be presented must not have been accepted for journal publication.
- Participation in the conference is initially reserved for those whose abstract has been accepted for presentation or who have been invited to contribute as a speaker, discussant, panelist, or session facilitator. Registration for any remaining spots without a presentation will open in February on a first-come, first-served basis.

To submit your abstract, please click [here](https://ois-research-conference.org/submission/) or use the following link:

<https://ois-research-conference.org/submission/>

The **submission deadline is December 21, 2025**. All submissions will be reviewed by the Organizing Team, and notifications of acceptance will be sent by January 18, 2026.

### ► Conference program

In addition to inspirational **Paper Sessions**, the conference program includes plenary sessions related to this year's conference theme (Science-Policy Relations: What is the role of openness and collaboration?) such as a **Keynote** speech by Ben Jones (Professor at Northwestern University), an **OIS Debate** with – among others – Brandi Geurkink (Executive Director of the Coalition for Independent Tech Research), Dietmar Harhoff (Director at Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition), and Reinhilde Veugelers (Professor at KU Leuven), and an **OIS Experiment** where we “walk the talk” by engaging in and reflecting on novel ways of doing research. The 2026-conference will additionally feature a special session on open university-industry collaboration, sponsored by the Center for Open Innovation in Science at Aarhus University.

The conference also organizes a **Junior Paper Development Workshop** on May 13 in the afternoon. Junior scholars (PhDs and post-docs) can indicate their interest in participating and receiving personalized in-depth feedback from senior mentors during the abstract submission process.

### ► Practicalities and conference fee

The conference will be an in-person meeting at Copenhagen Business School, with online streaming for selected sessions to enable participation for a broader audience. The core

conference program will commence on May 11 early afternoon and conclude on May 13 early afternoon. We expect participants to attend the entire program.

The conference fee is 250 Euros. PhD students facing financial constraints can pay a reduced fee of 100 Euros upon request. The conference fee covers all meals including a fabulous conference dinner.

Join us for what promises to be a rewarding and impactful conference experience – we look forward to your participation!

Yours sincerely,  
The Organizing Team

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**2026 OIS Research Conference Organizing Team**

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