



Back To The Future

The Early Years of GO-GN

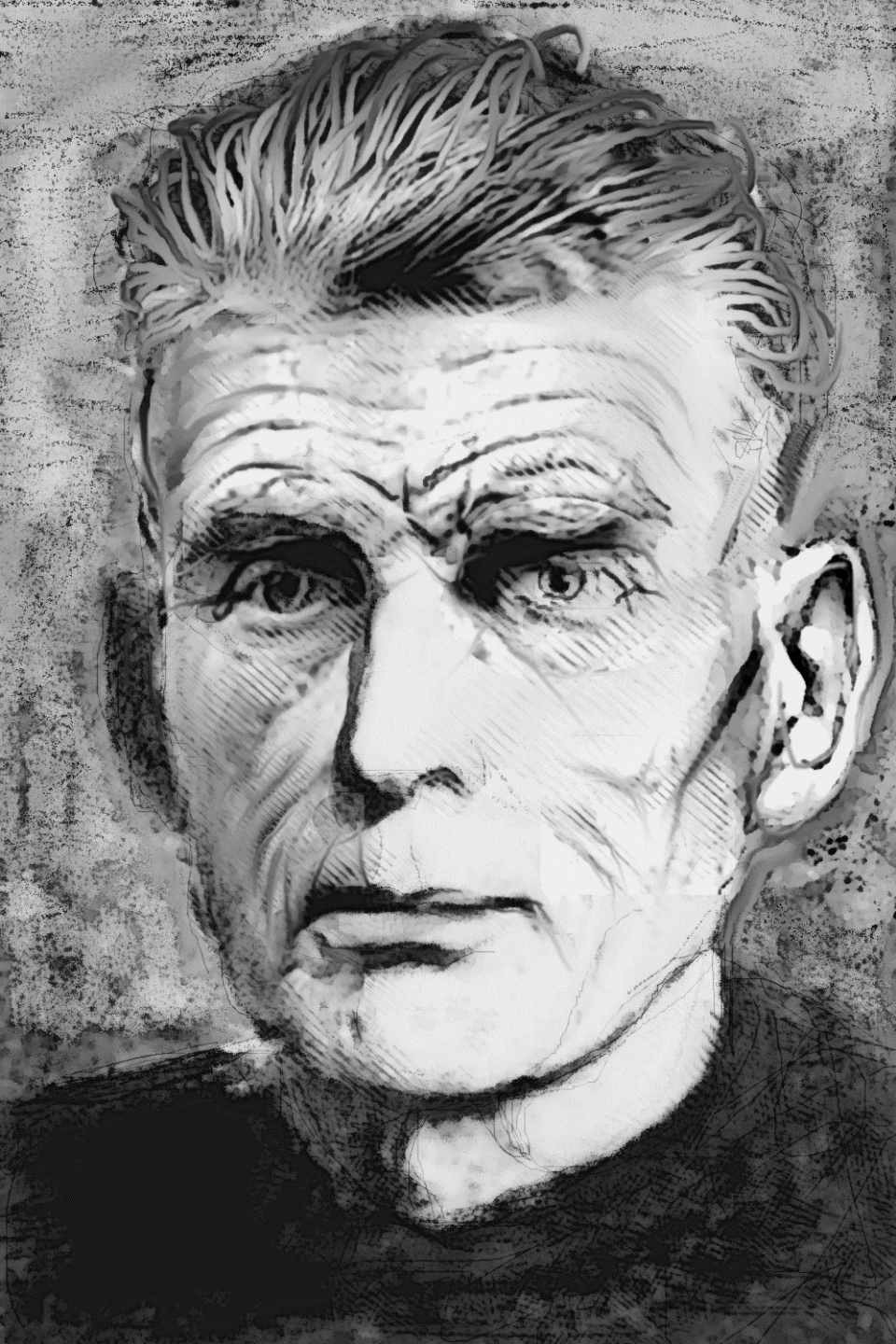
13 October 2023 – Edmonton
Robert Schuwer



This talk is based on....

- Written sources
 - Documents of Fred Mulder (many!)
 - Slides of presentations
 - Grant requests
 - Reports to funders
 - Factsheets
 - Outlines
 - My personal archive
 - Seminars
- Several discussions with Ben Janssen
 - At that time strategic advisor at OUNL; worked closely with Fred
- Some facts checked with
 - Anja Mulder
 - Cable Green
- My memory





Voluntary memory (Proust repeats it ad nauseam) is of no value as an instrument of evocation, and provides an image as far removed from the real as the myth of our imagination or the caricature furnished by direct perception. (p. 4)

(Beckett, S. (1957). *Proust*. Grove Press, New York)



Initial setting

2010



- Fred Mulder stepping down as rector from the OUNL
- UNESCO Chair on OER
 - OUNL (Fred Mulder)
 - Athabasca (Rory McGreal)

2011 – 4-6 May OCWC Global Meeting Cambridge (Boston)

- First mention of research
- But not about how to implement

*The UNESCO Chairs in Open Educational Resources:
Objectives and intended Activities*

The OUNL UNESCO Chair in OER

Fred Mulder
UNESCO OER Chair holder
Former Rector OUNL (2000-2010)

Jos Rikers
Coordinator UNESCO Chair Program

OCWC Global2011
4-6 May 2011 / Cambridge



Major activities: focus on research

- Knowledge development
- Knowledge dissemination
- Supervision and training of PhD students
- Exchange of research staff
- Networking and sharing expertise and good practices
- Spin-off to exploration pilots and implementation projects
- Knowledge valorisation

2011 – 18/19 June New York

- Joint meeting UNESCO Chairs OER
- Agreed Plan of Action for Open Educational Resources
- Two main Lines of Action
 - **Global OER Graduate School** (priority PhD level) (coordinator OUNL)
 - OER Knowledge Cloud (coordinator AU)
- Two enabling Lines of Action
 - Global OER Map of national and institutional OER initiatives
 - Global balance in the network of UNESCO Chairs in OER

Rationale behind the Graduate School

- Need of substantial expansion of the OER research base, to:
 - develop and explore new knowledge in the broad OER field linked to a variety of disciplines
 - provide a solid fundament for the introduction and implementation of OER innovations
 - monitor and evaluate the outcomes of institutional, national and international OER initiatives
 - increase evidence and guidance for OER in practice
- in an international contextual diversity

Foreseen benefits of the Graduate School (1st 5 from 17)

	Benefits	PhD candidates	(co- or associate) Promotors	related University (Institute)
1	A significant and substantial worldwide interdisciplinary OER researchers network ('focus & mass')	x	x	x
2	Reputation to be based on increasing excellence by the focus & mass approach	x	x	x
3	Joint mentoring and supervision by a promoter's team of 2-3 OER and other domain expert researchers from universities from different countries	x	x	x
4	An advanced global learning network, offering online facilities and virtual activities which suit the target group being scattered and (partly) time constrained	x	x	
5	A training component to be composed from a catalog of diverse good quality courses (including transferable skills), based on OER and to be delivered by partner universities or individual GO-GN experts	x	x	x

Out in the world

- 8 september 2011 - Brussels
 - EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities) R&D Strategy Meeting
- 27 oktober 2011 - Park City
 - OpenEd 2011
- Principles and Characteristics
 - Distributed decentralized model with light overall coordination and regulation
 - Membership and finances
 - Memberships from institutions and experts
 - “Efforts will be made to set up an externally funded Grants Program”



Funding

- First funders in 2012:
 - Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands: €120K (~US\$ 126K)
 - DG Education and Culture of the European Commission: €120K
- Hewlett Foundation in 2013:
 - For 3 GO-GN seminars: US\$153K

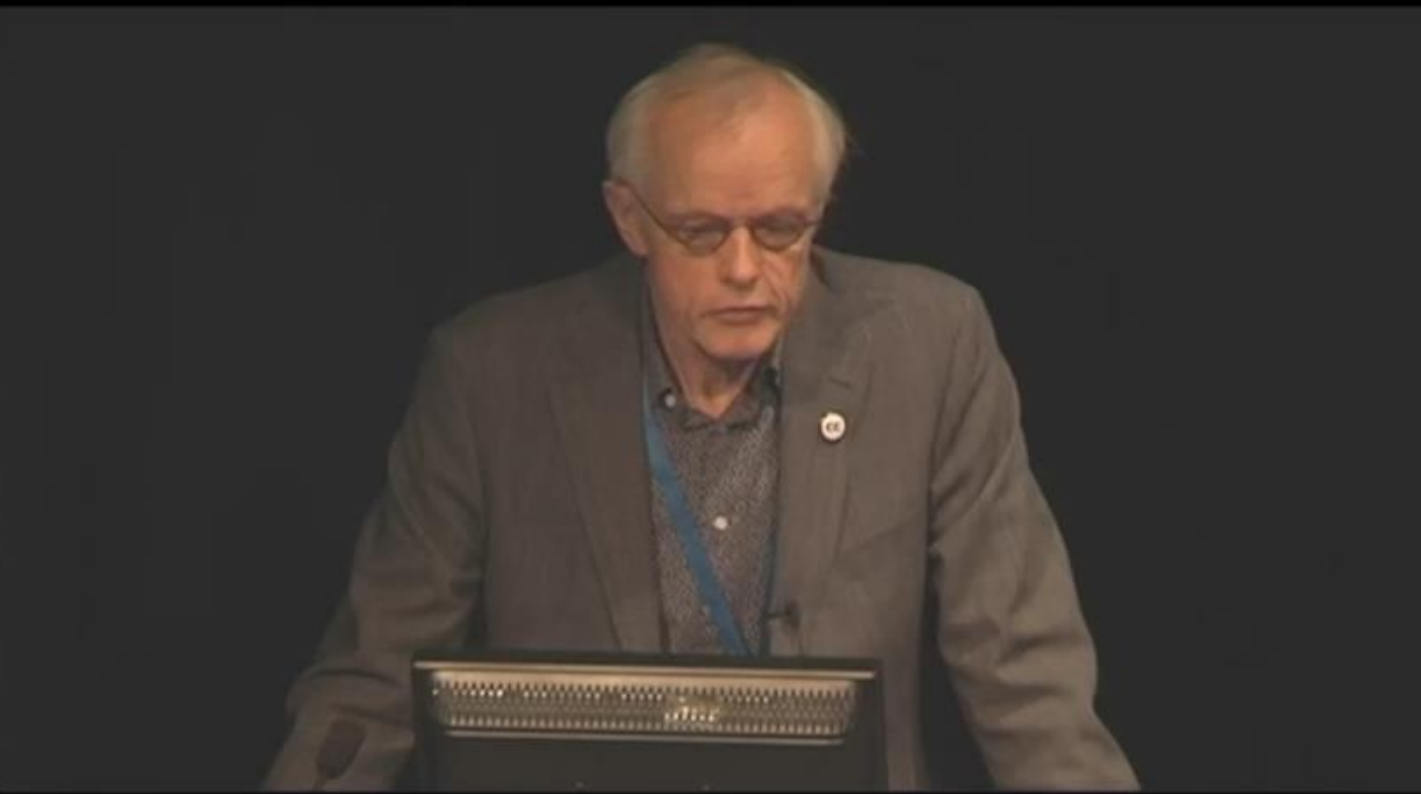


Support team

- OUNL
 - Jos Rikers
 - Marina Pongraz
 - Bernardo Tabuenca
- Feedback from Rory McGreal and many more, a.o.
 - Susan d'Antoni (UNESCO at that time)
 - Cable Green (Creative Commons)



Launch



VIIDEA



Introduction acronym

- After this presentation was given
 - Fred did not use the acronym in this presentation
- Fred told me: Cable Green came up with the acronym
- But...
 - Cable cannot remember this ("that detail is no longer in my brain 😊")
 - I could not find any reference in the documents
 - So, only based on my memory....

Members on 3 December 2012

19 experts

- Amiel T. - University of Campinas - Campinas Belarus
- Bitter-Rijkema M. - Open Universiteit - Heerlen Nederland
- De Diego Angeles P. - Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia - Madrid Spanje
- Deimann M. - FernUniversität in Hagen - Hagen Duitsland
- Eshet Y. - The Open University of Israel - Raanana Israel
- Guri-Rosenblit S. - Open University of Israel - Raanana Israel
- Hodgkinson-Williams C. - University of Cape Town - Rondebosch Zuid-Afrika
- Kalman Y. - The Open University of Israel - Raanana Israel
- Lindstrom B. - University of Gothenburg - Gothenburg Zweden
- McAndrew P. - Open University - Milton Keynes UK
- Moreton-Sanz M. - UNED - Madrid Spanje
- Morgado L. - Universidade Aberta - Lissabon Spanje
- Pierli F. - Tangaza college - Nairobi Kenia
- Prinsloo P. - University of South Africa - Pretoria Zuid-Afrika
- Punie Y. - IPTS European Commission - Sevilla Spanje
- Rodrigo C. - - Madrid Spanje
- Teixeira A. - Universidade Aberta - Oeiras Portugal
- Tovar E. - Universidad Politecnica de Madrid - Boadilla del Monte Spanje
- Weller J. - Open University - Milton Keynes UK

5 Institutions

partners
The Open University
The Open University of Israel
UNED - Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
Universidade Aberta
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

9 PhD students

PhD studenten
Abad Arenas, E.
Adhiambo Pete, J.
Algers, A.
Biancini, A.
Cox, G.
Fransman, G.
Iniesto, F.
Lesko, I.
MIRELES TORRES, N.



The first four seminars



6-13 December 2013 – 1st GO-GN seminar

- 10 years GO-GN: counted from here
- Cape Town
- Simultaneously with kick-off of ROER4D
- According to Fred (in report for Ministry of Education, Culture & Science):

"Participants were unanimously very enthusiastic about the output of the Seminar in terms of relevant feedback on their research (plans), the creation of a fruitful network of kindred spirits, and the extensive informal contacts."

TABLE MOUNTAIN, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.



Other seminars before hand over to OU-UK

- April 2014: Ljubljana (simultaneously with OEGlobal Global meeting)
 - E-book with reports, slides and video lectures <https://go-gn.net/resources/publications/>
- November 2014: Washington (simultaneously with OpenEd)
- April 2015: Banff (simultaneously with OEGlobal Global meeting)
- In these conferences, there was a separate GO-GN track where the research was presented to a wider audience

Ljubljana



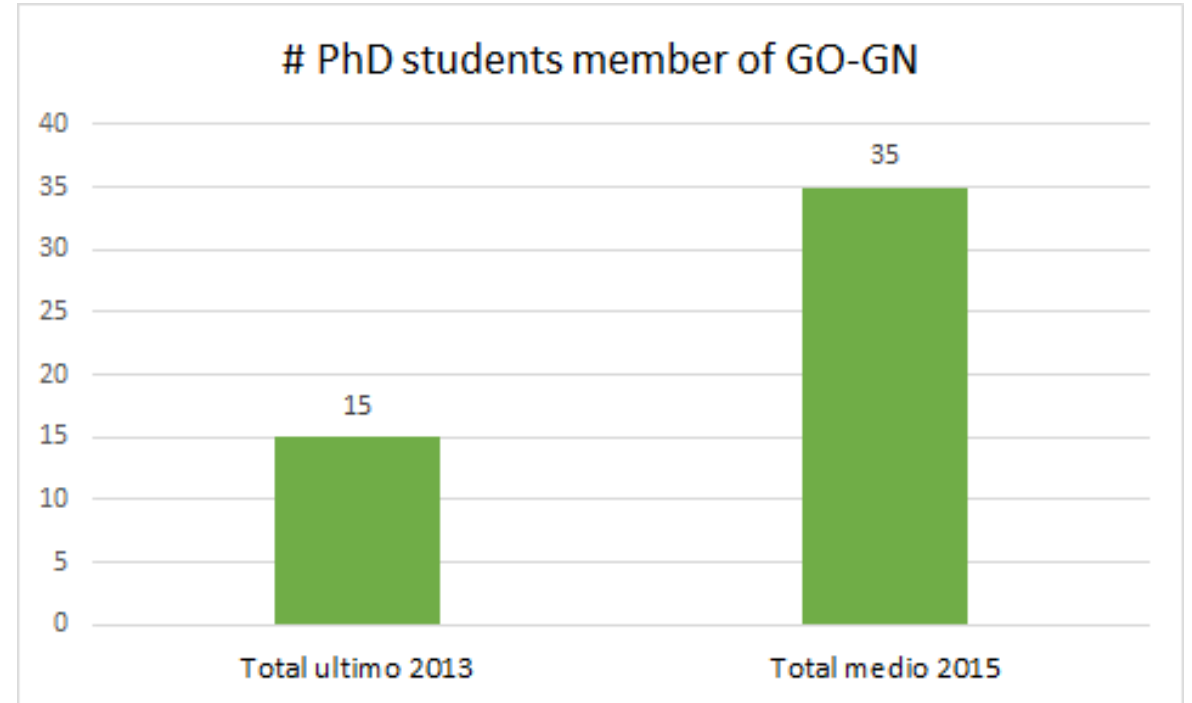
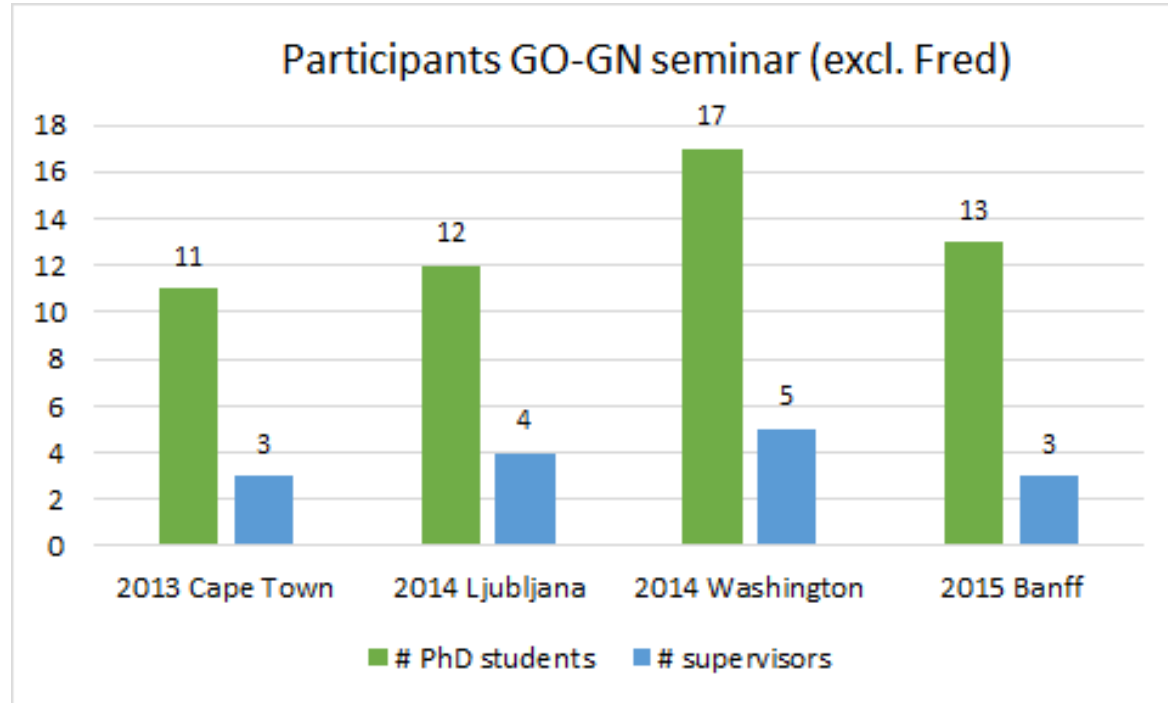
Washington



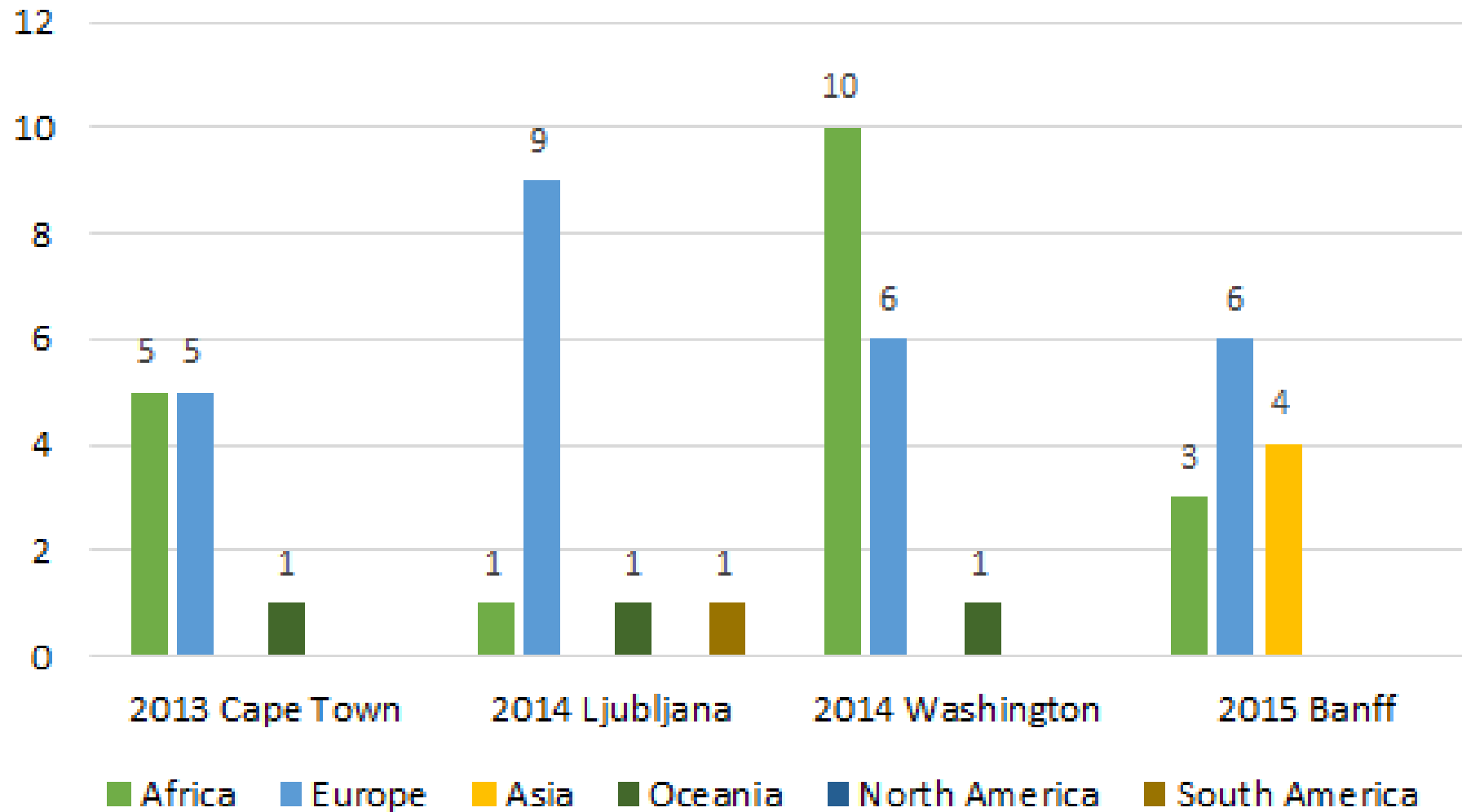
Banff



Some statistics



Seminars: participation PhD students per region





2015: hand-over to OU-UK

- Retirement Fred Mulder in November 2014
- No follow-up in OUNL to take over GO-GN
- Banff seminar was co-organized with OU-UK
- In July 2015 final hand-over


- From announcement letter of Fred :

“It has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve GO-GN and its members as its founding Academic Coordinator. However, I have formally retired as a full Professor at OUNL by the end of October 2014 and that was paralleled with the end of my four-year term as UNESCO Chair holder in OER at OUNL. In order to find a new home for GO-GN, I contacted our colleagues at the OU in the UK (OU UK). We were quick in our decision to link GO-GN to their OER Research Hub since the synergy and mutual benefits were crystal clear. ”



Naam (Land van herkomst)	Universiteit waar promotie plaats vindt	Domein
Alannah Fitzgerald (Nieuw Zeeland)	Concordia University, Canada	Language
Anne A. Algers (Denemarken)	Gothenburg University, Sweden	Animal welfare and ethics
Bernard Nkuyubwasi (Ruanda)	University of Leicester, UK	MOOCs and OER (e.g. applied to Ruanda)
Bernardo Tabuenca (Spanje)	Open Universiteit, Nederland	Mobile learning and OER
Dalila M. Pinto Coelho (Portugal)	University of Aveiro, Portugal	OER in HE in Portuguese language regions
Deepak Prasad (Fiji)	Kumamoto University, Japan	Open textbooks
Dimitar Poposki (Macedonië)	Open Universiteit, Nederland	Diffusion of innovations, related to OER
Felix Seyfarth (Duitsland)	St. Gallen University, Zwitserland	Digitization strategies in German HE
Francisco Iniesto (Spanje)	UNED, Spanje	MOOCs
Gino Fransman (Zuid Afrika)	UNISA, Zuid Afrika	Student support
Glenda Cox (Zuid Afrika)	University of Cape Town, Zuid Afrika	OER arguments and the impact on HE
Igor Lesko (Slowakije; Z. Afrika)	Open Universiteit, Nederland	Impact of international organisations on governmental OER policies
Jos Rikers (Nederland)	Open Universiteit, Nederland	Curriculum development with OER in African context (in particular Kenya)
Judith A. Pete (Kenia)	Open Universiteit, Nederland	OER and differentiation in access and use in Africa
Marta Cáceres Piñuel (Spanje)	UNED, Spanje	MOOCs

Reflecting at hand-over

- Better alignment with trends in openness:
- From “open instruments” (OER, MOOC, Open policy,...)
 Overview topics in 2014
- To “open practice” and value-driven approach (open pedagogy, social justice perspective,...)

Topics and rationale

- How are the topics mentioned in the Rationale (slide 10) linked to the topics from the PhD studies?
 - Most PhD studies address more than one of the topics

Rationale	Topics
Develop and explore new knowledge in the broad OER field linked to a variety of disciplines	E.g. the MOOC studies
Provide a solid fundament for the introduction and implementation of OER innovations	Most PhD-studies address this (e.g. Bernardo Tabuenca, Jos Rikers)
Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of institutional, national and international OER initiatives	E.g. studies of Igor Lesko and Glenda Cox
Increase evidence and guidance for OER in practice	Has overlap with all previous topics

Future

- The rationale behind GO-GN is still valid
- Steady growth needed
- Complementing and strengthening by regional RO-GNs (regional chapters)
 - Fred mentioned the idea of an EO-GN (European) in 2011
 - Opportunity for joining forces in region-specific topics
- Regional chapters under supervision of an UNESCO Chair in the region

Colophon

Author: Robert Schuwer.

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