Open Science Discovery for PhD students

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Ine Van Hoyweghen, professor in the Centre of Sociological Research, explains how citizen science plays a key role in pushing towards innovation to solve global challenges, through openness in science and openness towards society. Bringing citizens into science helps to gain public trust in science as they get insight into how science is done. Citizen science can be defined as scientific research conducted in whole or part by amateur or nonprofessional scientists. Citizen involvement can be at different levels: from contribution and collaboration to co-creation involving citizens actively from the start of research also in planning and hypothesis making. A challenge can be the lack of diversity amongst participating citizens, as those engaged tend to have a high educational background. Also uncertainty over ownership of data – scientists versus citizens – can pose challenges. For young scientists, a fear may be that involving citizens means the impact of research publications that matter in their career may be lower. On the contrary, citizen science papers are often cited more. Another fear may be that academic freedom may be sacrificed. However, it is not about letting the public decide what will be researched, but having the capacity to listen to them.

[Watch Ine Van Hoyweghen's presentation](#)