

# Repairing the Curriculum: Using OER to Fill Gaps

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OUTSIDE of ORDINARY

# Proposal

Students in a formal education system are not only imparted content knowledge; they are indoctrinated into a way of thinking. In the traditional, Western education system—which has spread throughout the world—this way of thinking includes a mindset that there are credentialed experts from whom, and only from whom, others learn. In this lightning talk, Kevin Adams and Samantha Dannick will explore the gaps in the “Western curriculum” and examine some of the ways in which OER can and cannot serve to fill those gaps.

10 minutes total!

# Land Acknowledgement

We consciously and intentionally recognize, acknowledge and honor that we are gathering on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Onöndowa'ga:' ("Great Hill People") also known as the Seneca people. The Seneca Nation of Indians ("Keeper of the Western Door") are the largest of the Six Nations that constitute the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy of Nations.

Alfred NY, Allegany County, and New York State at-large are still home to Seneca people.

Find out whose land you're on at <https://native-land.ca/>

# Context

This is part of an ongoing process of research, questioning, and growth.

We welcome additional perspectives and insight as we continue to explore this topic.

# Our Original Questions

- What kinds of knowledge are included and excluded in the American education system?
- What is the impact on marginalized people?
- How can OER remedy this? How can't it?

# Re-evaluating Our Scope

Further thought and discussion led us to two major questions about Western higher-ed:

- Whose voices are privileged and whose are not?
- What gaps does this leave in the curriculum?

# Gaps in the Western Curriculum

Whose voices are privileged and whose are not?

- Format - static text as the gold standard.
- Professional knowledge - “vetted scholars” as the only valuable work.
- Citation politics

What gaps does this leave in the curriculum?

- Content gaps
- Representation gaps
- Methodology gaps

# OER as Gap Filler

Many properties of open educational resources lend them to addressing gaps we identified.

- Living resources
- Outside commercial publishers
- Many ways to engage

# Constantly Ask...

- “Who is it for?”
- “Who will benefit from it?”
- “Who will be burdened by it?”

— Kelly Hurst

# References

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# Contact Us!

Thoughts? Questions? Want more readings?

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