



# THE LYRASIS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FUND: PHASE 1 REPORT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to outline the origins of the Lyrasis United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) Publishing Fund and report on the results of the first phase of the fund's activities.

The Lyrasis UNSDG Publishing Fund was founded in 2020 as part of a Lyrasis Springer Nature journal negotiation. Lyrasis members redirected funds from their package towards a small collection of Springer Nature Open Access (OA) titles whose content was aligned with the UNSDGs. The initial fund included six selected titles, five of which were published in 2022. The report examines global usage data for the collection, as well as usage data for each individual title.

The Fund then expanded to include any contributors (not just members of the Springer Nature group), who contributed money during calendar year 2022. The money raised was recently used to convert two previously paywalled monographs from the African Book Collective, a non-profit publisher, to OA. Those monographs will be converted in 2023.

The selection of the African Book Collective publications marks the end of the first phase of the Lyrasis UNSDG Publishing Fund. This report should inform previous subscribers of the impact of their financial donations to the fund. It will be accompanied by a survey that will provide Lyrasis staff with guidance on how to create a permanent focus and infrastructure for this important initiative.

# PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Lyrisis UNSDG Publishing Fund arose in late 2020 out of the renegotiation of a multi-year subscription deal for the Lyrisis Springer Nature journals group due to the pandemic. Given the different levels of financial impact on the 140 institutions in the group, the Content and Scholarly Communication Initiatives (CSCI) team negotiated a reduction in the group's planned journal costs for 2021 and introduced an opt-in Open Access component to fund selected ebooks published by Springer Nature.

Libraries were given the option to redirect funds previously budgeted for journals in 2021 to an Open Access ebook fund for the publication of titles aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>), with the hope of having positive global impact:

- SDG5: Gender and Equality
- SDG9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG13: Climate Change
- SDG16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

The ebooks would be chosen for their teaching value. Strategists hoped that the ebooks could be suitable for classroom use, and directly benefit students and campus affordable learning initiatives.

This initiative was entirely optional, but several of the libraries within the group were enthusiastic about this opportunity. Some libraries had not previously participated in OA initiatives due to high cost or administrative thresholds. With the ability to donate anywhere from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars, enough libraries donated their negotiated savings to the fund to enable the publication of several OA ebooks.

Based on positive feedback from the group, the CSCI team expanded the program to the larger Lyrisis membership. While the fund originated from initial participation within the Springer Nature group, it is now a standalone project that seeks to grow beyond one individual publisher.

As of December 2022, the fund has gone through a complete cycle of fundraising, title selection and OA publication. Now is an opportune time to evaluate the first phase of the fund and determine new directions for the future.

## FUNDING AND SELECTED MONOGRAPHS

Lyrasis received funding from the following institutions, either initially through redirected funds from their Springer Nature subscriptions, or as an independent contribution:

- Albert Einstein Medical School (Yeshiva University)
- Albright College
- American Museum of Natural History
- Ashé Cultural Arts Center
- Berry College
- Bucknell University
- Butler University
- College of William & Mary
- Creighton University
- DePauw University
- Dickinson College
- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Georgia Tech University
- Haverford College
- Hollins University
- Iowa State University
- James Madison University
- Lafayette College
- Louisiana State University
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Messiah University
- Montclair State University
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Muhlenberg College
- Murray State University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Seton Hall University
- Siena College
- SUNY Potsdam
- Swarthmore College
- University of Idaho
- University of Maryland Baltimore County
- U.S. Naval Academy
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- University of North Dakota
- Southern Indiana
- University of Virginia

Some of these institutions were only able to contribute a few hundred dollars, some more. All contributions were appreciated.

# FUNDING AND SELECTED MONOGRAPHS

The first round of funding, which was contributed by members of the Lyrasis Springer Nature subscription group, equaled \$59,400.00. This funding covered the publication of six titles, selected by Lyrasis staff.

## 2022 Published Monographs

### A Climate of Justice: An Ethical Foundation for Environmentalism

- Author: Marvin T. Brown
- Published: September 2022
- DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77363-2>
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 13 Climate Action; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

### Equity Policies in Global Higher Education: Reducing Inequality and Increasing Participation and Attainment

- Editors: Orlanda Tavares, Carla Sá, Cristina Sin, Alberto Amaral
- Published: February 2022
- DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-69691-7>
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 10 Reduced Inequalities; 4 Quality Education

### Towards Gender Equality in Law: An Analysis of State Failures from a Global Perspective

- Editors: Gizem Guney, David Davies, Po-Han Lee
- Published: June 2022
- DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-98072-6>
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 10 Reduced Inequalities; 5 Gender Equality

### Police Code of Silence in Times of Change

- Authors: Sanja Kutnjak Ivković, Jon Maskály, Ahmet Kule, Maria Maki Haberfeld
- Published: April 2022
- DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96844-1>
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

### Education for Sustaining Peace through Historical Memory

- Author: Markus Schultze-Kraft
- Published: February 2022
- DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-93654-9>
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; 4 Quality Education

**\*A sixth volume, *Eco-citizenship - Globalization, Multiculturalism and Climate Justice*, was selected and funded, but has not entered the publication pipeline. Lyrasis is working with Springer Nature to determine a suitable replacement.**

A second round of funding, opened up in early 2022 to the entire Lyrasis membership, gathered \$15,300.00. The CSCI team received feedback from initial funders that they would be interested in seeing their money directed not only to large publishers (Springer Nature), but to smaller non-profit publishers as well. In order to invest the money before the end of the year, strategists searched for a partner who could fit within the criteria. They engaged with African Books Collective (ABC), an African owned, worldwide marketing and distribution outlet for books from Africa. ABC was interested and enthusiastic about using the remaining funds to convert recently published monographs to OA. After discussing the possibilities, Lyrasis determined that the following two publications fit within the original criteria of the program:

### Leap 4.0 African Perspectives on the Fourth Industrial Revolution

- Editors: Zamanzima Mazibuko-Maken, Erika Kraemer-Mbula
- Published: 2021
- Publisher: Mapungubwe Institute (MISTRA), South Africa
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 10 Reduced Inequalities; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

### People, Predicaments and Potential in Africa

- Editors: Takehiko Ochiai, Misa Hirano-Nomoto, Daniel E. Agbiboa
- Published: 2021
- Publisher: Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon
- UNSDG Goals addressed: 10 Reduced Inequalities; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; 5 Gender Equality

Those monographs will convert to OA in early 2023.

# USAGE

The following section is a report of the usage of the fund's five published OA monographs over the calendar year of 2022. These statistics represent publications that were released at different points throughout the calendar year:

**Figure 1: Springer Nature Title Publication Dates**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
Equity Policies in Global Higher Education	February 2022
Education for Sustaining Peace through Historical Memory	February 2022
Police Code of Silence in Times of Change	April 2022
Towards Gender Equality in Law	June 2022
A Climate of Justice	September 2022

Figures 2 and 3 on the next page represent COUNTER 5 usage statistics have been provided by Springer Nature. These statistics represent usage data directly from the original DOI, as hosted on the Springer Nature site. The time period for these statistics represents February 1, 2022 through December 21, 2022. Figures 4 and 5, for comparison, are also COUNTER 5 metrics, as obtained from OAPEN - Springer Nature provides their OA ebooks for discovery on the OAPEN platform, including the funded ebooks above. Their statistics represent the entire calendar year of 2022 (this represents ten additional days, which the author has deemed sufficiently equivalent to include).

The statistics provided are both COUNTER 5 Unique Item Requests and are therefore equivalent. OAPEN's statistics are included because they provide supplemental information about the dissemination of these titles. OA publications are often disseminated from multiple platforms, making a full picture of usage almost impossible to assemble. The OAPEN statistics provide a partial image of how OA aggregators can amplify an original publication's impact.

## USAGE

Figure 2: Springer Nature Total Unique Item Requests for all items, by geographic region

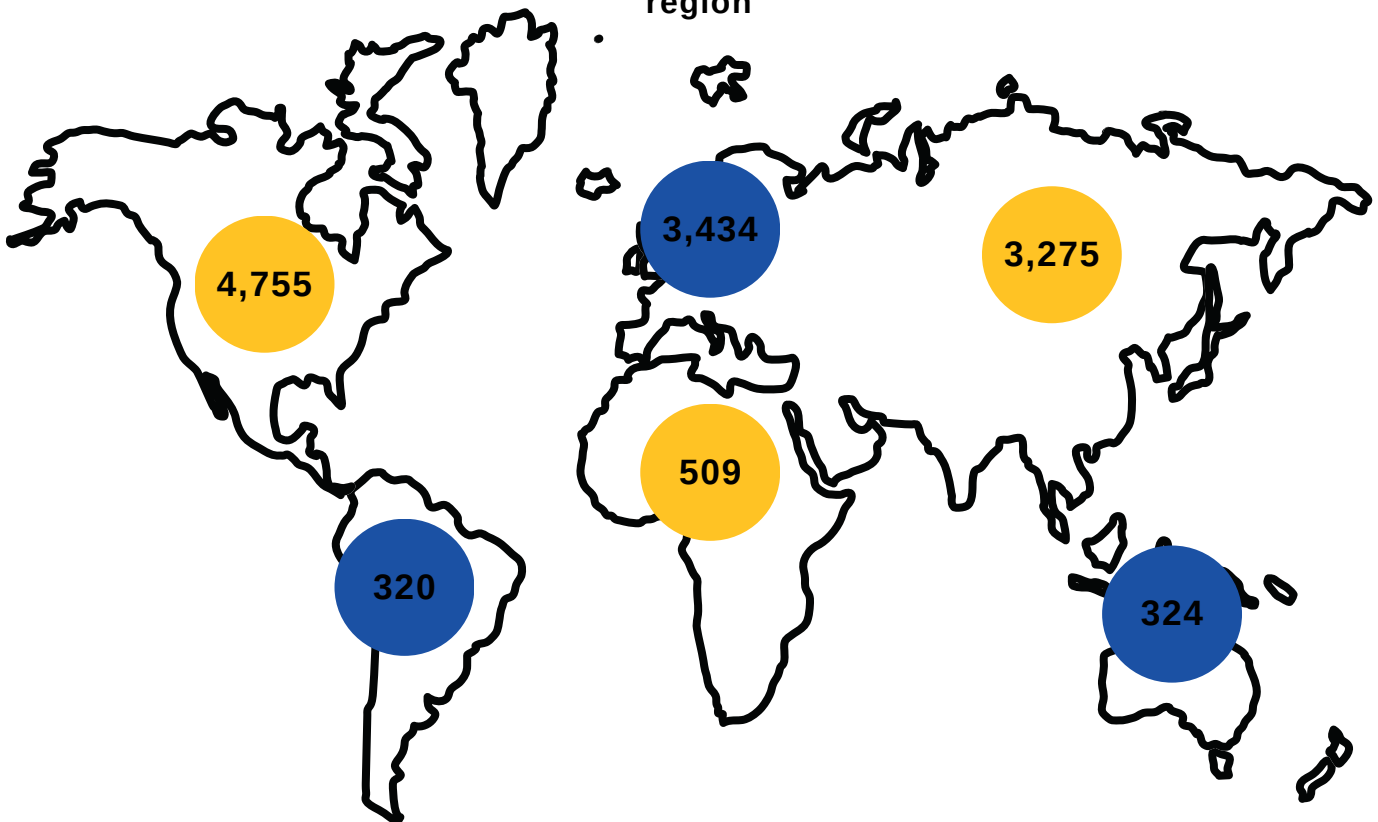


Figure 3: Springer Nature Unique Title Requests and Total Chapter Requests, by Individual Item (as of 12/21/2022)

Title	Total Unique Item Requests	Total Chapter Requests
Equity Policies in Global Higher Education	3,347	11,592
Education for Sustaining Peace through Historical Memory	1,887	5,340
Police Code of Silence in Times of Change	1,578	5,447
Towards Gender Equality in Law	2,345	8,573
A Climate of Justice	3,493	15,272



## USAGE

Figure 4: OAPEN Total Unique Item Requests for all items, by geographic region

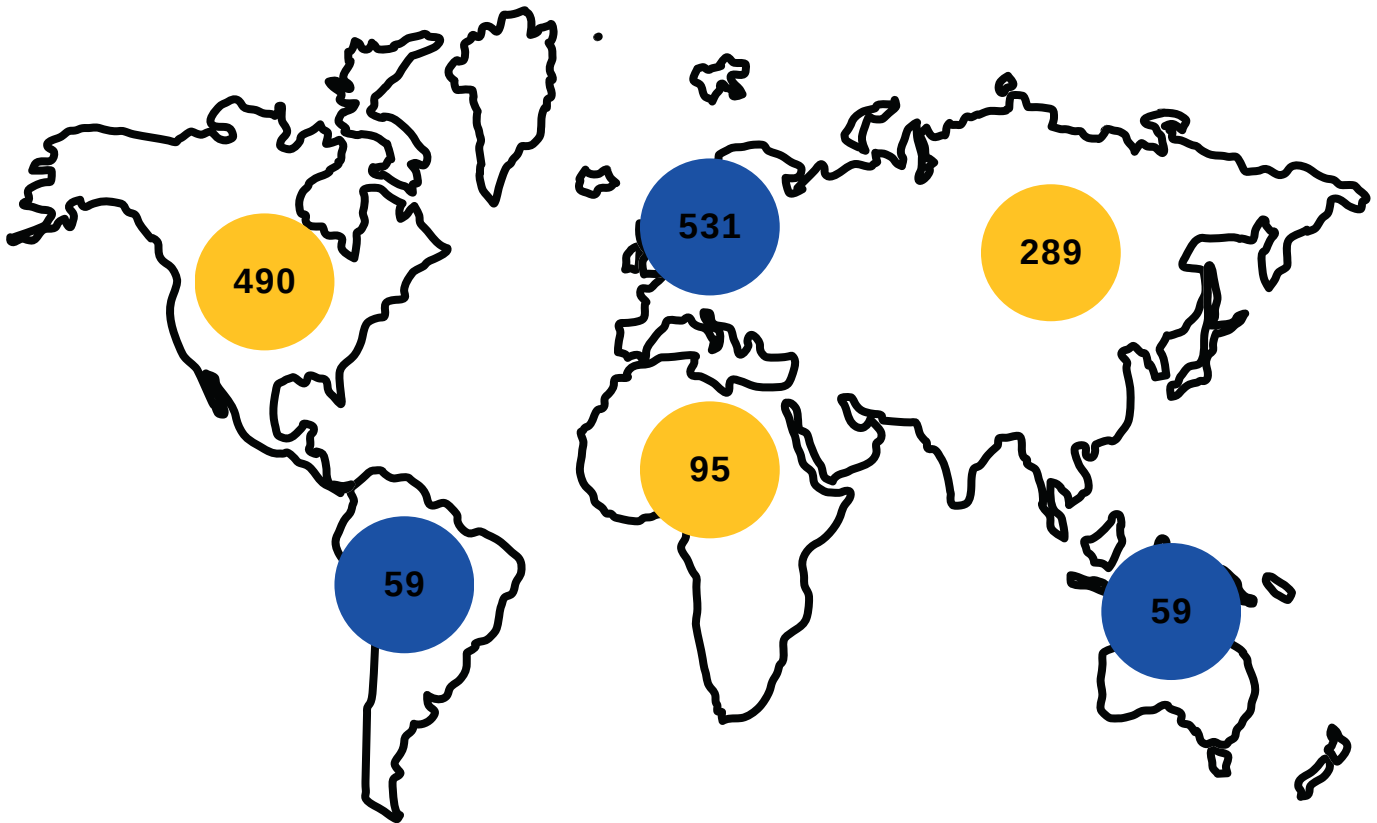


Figure 5: OAPEN Unique Item Requests by Individual Item, 2022

Title	Unique Item Requests
Equity Policies in Global Higher Education	593
Education for Sustaining Peace through Historical Memory	159
Police Code of Silence in Times of Change	264
Towards Gender Equality in Law	276
A Climate of Justice	233

## NEXT STEPS

The Lyrasis UNSDG Publishing Fund began as a fortuitous opportunity, and quickly transitioned into a pilot project. The primary objective of this report is to provide a comprehensive outline of the project and its outcomes to each of the project funders, so they can demonstrate the impact of their contributions. However, the secondary objective is to provide enough context about the program so that contributors can help the CSCI team determine how best to move the program forward. Many questions remain about how to institutionalize this program, some of which include:

- How did contributors feel about the way their money was spent? Where they satisfied?
- Would contributors be invested in funding more OA monographs or was this a one-time contribution?
- Do contributors prefer that the program work with for-profit publishers, non-profit publishers, or both?
- When selecting publications, do contributors prefer front-list or back-list monographs?
- Were contributors satisfied with the decision-making process for both pools of funding? Do contributors want more input on titles/publishers chosen? if so, how much input would contributors prefer to have?

This report will be distributed to all Phase 1 funders with an accompanying survey. When the survey responses are collected, the CSCI team will be able to use that feedback to restructure this program for a sustainable future. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a wonderful framework for pursuing impactful Open Access publication - if the Lyrasis UNSDG Publishing Fund can be restructured into an annual Lyrasis initiative, then it can continue to facilitate access to crucial scholarly knowledge across the globe.