

RIOS Report of Activities 2025

General reflections on the year

The Centre of expertise for Research Integrity and Open Science ([RIOS](#)) aims to connect initiatives related to research integrity (RI), research ethics, responsible conduct of research (RCR), open science, research culture, recognition and rewards, inclusion, diversity and equity, social safety, and research fairness – from now on referred to as ‘RIOS’ topics of interest’ – at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) and Amsterdam UMC (AUMC).

In 2025, RIOS solidified its unique profile within the VU and AUMC. In 2024, we continued discussions within and beyond the team about the precise focus and contribution of RIOS to better serve the community and how best to align with the initiatives already underway (e.g., the VU Open Science Program). In 2025, we were able to zoom in on specific activities and establish our own identity and visibility among the research communities at both institutions. Building this successful profile was made possible by the vision and suggestions shared by the RIOS Advisory Board members and hiring staff (two part-time project assistants) to support the RIOS Coordinator and RIOS Project Lead in running the Centre’s daily activities and research projects.

Despite suggestions to zoom in on specific topics rather than address all those mentioned in RIOS’ topics of interest, we remained confident in the importance of acknowledging the interrelatedness of all the topics of interest. Therefore, we narrowed our focus to specific activities rather than narrowing the topics we address.

Our engagement in the activities described in the following sections of this report has shown both successes and failures, which we aim to build on and improve in 2026. Our main goal for next year is to further improve what we are already doing and to create even more awareness and connection between RIOS and the VU and AUMC research communities.

Communities of practice (CoP)

The RIOS Communities of Practice (CoP) aim to bring together various stakeholders, including researchers, academics, policymakers, and support staff, to focus on the RIOS’ topics of interest. Currently, we have 4 running CoP. The first two, focusing on **1)** Research Integrity Training and Supervision and **2)** Research Ethics Committees, are run directly by the RIOS team, while the last two are community-run. More specifically, the RIOS Amsterdam Meta Science Network is run by prof. dr. René Bekkers (from our Advisory

Board) and Jack Fitzgerald (PhD candidate at the VU), while the Open Science for Naturally Occurring Data Network is organised by dr. Bogdana Huma. More information on each community of practice's activities in 2025 can be found below:

1) Research Integrity Training and Supervision CoP

In 2025, we organised two meetings that brought together researchers and trainers delivering Research Integrity courses for PhD candidates, along with supervisors from the VU and AUMC, to share experiences and needs regarding the current training on offer. These sessions included exchanges on how courses are organised and delivered across VU faculties and at AUMC, presentations on educational modules (e.g., Mpowering Responsible Supervision), and discussions of content (e.g., AI and a data course for PhD candidates), learning goals, quality assessment, and engagement. Overall, the meetings were well attended and helped establish synergies to sustainably embed research integrity training in both institutions.

The next meeting of the Research Integrity Training and Supervision CoP will focus on an exchange about the use of online materials (Epigeum and other sources) in the PhD Integrity courses. This meeting will be held on 27th January 2026 and will involve a collaboration with the VU Library to present on the Epigeum course.

2) Research Ethics Committees CoP

This CoP was established to connect members of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) across the various VU Faculties and Amsterdam UMC, and to build on a related initiative prior to the establishment of RIOS.

We organised three meetings in 2025. The first brought together members of RECs to discuss current procedures and challenges within their committees. The second focused on the use of AI in research and the ethical considerations for research proposals. In this meeting, we shared training materials from two Horizon Europe projects, irecs ([link](#)) and AIOLIA ([link](#)). The positive feedback indicated a need to continue organising meetings for this target group. Our last meeting took place in November 2025 and focused on research with vulnerable participants. Instead of a guided discussion, we experimented with an intervision-style discussion, asking some participants to bring a case beforehand to discuss with the group. The discussion was very lively, and participants again highlighted that they learned from each other. They offered enthusiastic suggestions for possible topics for the next meeting (namely, the legal implications of research and the ethical aspects to consider to protect researchers

developing research in potentially dangerous settings) and agreed that an intervision-style discussion works best. We will continue organising these sessions in 2026.

3) *RIOS Amsterdam Meta Science Network*

Led by prof. dr. René Bekkers and Jack Fitzgerald (PhD candidate at the VU), the group met three times in 2025 to discuss new research on research. The meetings featured presentations by invited speakers on a relevant topic or paper, followed by group discussion. Topics included reproducibility, robustness, peer review, research funding and publication decisions, open science monitoring, artificial intelligence, detection and prevention of errors in science, and responsible research practices. Overall, the meetings were well attended and proved valuable for reflecting on methodological aspects of research. We will continue organising these sessions in 2026.

4) *Open Science for Naturally Occurring Data CoP*

The Community of Practice for Naturally Occurring Data (COP4ONOD) aims to foster collaboration between researchers and research professionals to facilitate the sharing and reuse of naturally occurring data. The community bridges the gap between researchers and research support professionals to develop guidance and tools, and to share experiences and expertise in the sharing and reuse of naturally occurring data.

In 2025, the group met regularly to share knowledge, exchange best practice, and develop new approaches to the responsible sharing and reuse of naturally occurring data. A key activity was developing a guideline tool for naturally occurring data and maintaining the group's website ([link](#)). The group also organised a symposium titled '*Qualitative Innovation in Action: Advancing Open Research through Qualitative Methods*' at the VU. It was supported by RIOS through the first edition of the RIOS Collaborative Program (more information below). We will assess the group's plans for 2026 with dr. Bogdana Huma.

RIOS symposium



CENTER FOR
RESEARCH INTEGRITY
AND OPEN SCIENCE

In February 2025, we held our first RIOS symposium for VU and Amsterdam UMC researchers on our topics of interest. It had a strong turnout of over 30 participants from both institutions. The event program is shown in Figure 1. Highlights included lightning talks from researchers (including PhD candidates) across the VU and Amsterdam UMC on their work in our areas of interest, the launch of the RIOS Collaborative Program (see next), a matchmaking event where researchers could get to know each other and make a pitch, a plenary talk by Hans de Jonge (Open Science NL) on the future of research integrity and open science in the Netherlands, and the launch of the RIOS Amsterdam Meta Science Network. Given the positive feedback, we will organise another symposium in 2026.

Symposium 2025 AGENDA

FEB 20

WHERE
AURORA ROOM
VU MAIN BUILDING

9:30-10:00 Walk in with tea & coffee

10:00-10:10 Welcome

10:10-10:20 Words from the VU and UMC Executive Board
dr. Jeroen Geurts - Rector Magnificus VU & TBA

10:20-10:40 Introduction to RIOS
prof. dr. Jeroen de Ridder & prof. dr. Mariëtte van den Hoven

10:40-11:00 The VU Open Science Program
Sander Bosch - Chief Open Science Officer VU

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Research Highlights from VU and Amsterdam UMC
Barbara Leitner - Amsterdam UMC
Can empowering early career researchers lead to responsible research practices?
Eric Haynes - VU
Distributed Reproducible: Innovating Collaborative Methods for Qualitative Data Reuse
dr. Giulia Inguaggiato & Claude Palisse Pareilo - Amsterdam UMC
Gender inequality in academia: insights from the PREPARED project
prof. dr. René Bekkers - VU
Research Transparency Check

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 What is the Future of Research Integrity and Open Science?
Hans de Jonge - Director of Open Science NL

14:30-14:45 Launch of RIOS Collaborative Program
prof. dr. Jeroen de Ridder & prof. dr. Mariëtte van den Hoven

14:45-15:45 Matchmaking Workshop
preparing pitches for RIOS collaborative program

15:45-16:45 First Amsterdam Meta Science Network (AMSN) meeting
prof. dr. René Bekkers & Jack Fitzgerald

16:45-17:45 Drinks

Learn more @ rios-vu.nl/rios-symposium

RIOS Collaborative Program – 1st edition

QUALITATIVE INNOVATION IN ACTION
Advancing Open Research through Qualitative Methods
12th of December 2025
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (hybrid)

Chase Raymond
University of Colorado Boulder

Elizabeth Stokoe
London School of Economics and Political Science

Saul Albert
Loughborough University

Uwe-Alexander Küttner
Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache

'Is a PhD the right choice for me?'
Connecting Master's students and PhD Candidates of the VU and Amsterdam UMC.
with Barbara Leitner

Pick one date: October 13th, October 28th, November 17th, December 1st
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Format: Short Intro talk → 3 PhD stories → Open group discussions

"Make your PhD decision with clarity, not guesswork."
REGISTER HERE!

Amsterdam <RepliClub>
Jack Fitzgerald
René Bekkers

The Amsterdam RepliClub seeks to contribute knowledge about the robustness of published research findings by conducting replications of published research for which the source data and analysis files producing the results reported are available.

In-person biweekly (once every two weeks) meetings on Mondays from 19:30-22:30 with the first meeting on 15 September

Participants will discuss a published paper and work together to examine its replication data and code.

Participants suggest candidates for replication, try to reproduce the paper's findings, carry out robustness checks, and discuss the quality of the paper's data, code, and analysis.

To join, please send an email to [Krislma Labib, k.labib@vu.nl](mailto:Krislma.Labib, k.labib@vu.nl)

COLLABORATIVE MAPPING
of Responsible Conduct of Research Challenges and Dilemmas

Margreet Stolper
Giulia Inguaggiato
Natalie Evans

This event aims to create a space for researchers from the Vrije Universiteit and Amsterdam UMC to share and collaboratively map common ethics and integrity challenges, while reflecting together on how to address them and find support.

Day 1: 14th October 2025: 13:00-17:30 (walk in lunch from 12:00)
Day 2: 2nd December 2025: 9:30 – 13:00 (walk in coffee at 9:30)

Atrium Room, Amsterdam UMC (location VU/AMC) – Van der Boerhorststraat 7, 1081 BT Amsterdam

Phase 1: In-Person Dialogue (Day 1)
Phase 2: Collaborative Drafting
Phase 3: Final Reflection & Next Steps (Day 2)

JOIN US!

We launched the 1st edition of the RIOS Collaborative Program this year with two main goals, **1)** to reach out more strongly to the VU and Amsterdam UMC community, focusing on our topics of interest, and **2)** to strengthen and support the work of this target group.

As part of the program, we invited all VU and Amsterdam UMC researchers to pitch a small initiative (e.g. symposium, workshop, training, hosting a fellow researcher) that would benefit from RIOS support for implementation. We developed and communicated



clear selection criteria and were pleased to receive eight applications. We decided to honour four projects, namely: Repliclub, Empowering Master Students, Collaborative Mapping of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Challenges and Dilemmas, and Qualitative Innovation in Action Symposium. For the remaining four projects we were unable to support, we collaborated with the VU Open Science Program to discuss the possibility of implementing them, which was feasible. More details on each initiative are provided below.

This initiative proved successful as it helped stimulate the community to become more engaged and active in RIOS. We will implement this program again in 2026 and more actively disseminate it through our Advisory Board to attract more applications from additional departments and faculties. We will also refine our selection criteria to make it clearer that by *'impact'*, we mean initiatives that reach a broad audience or have higher periodicity, while for *'feasibility'*, we expect the initiative to be primarily led by the applicants, with specific support from the RIOS team.

1. Repliclub

RepliClub was led by prof. dr. René Bekkers and Jack Fitzgerald. The aim of the initiative was to provide a space for researchers across the VU and AUMC to meet regularly and replicate studies. The initiative began in early September on a bi-weekly basis. Although there was an enthusiastic initial number of sign-ups, it proved difficult to attract enough participants to each session. The main reasons for the low turnout were lack of time and competing obligations. The initiators also recognised that preparing each meeting takes substantial time, which they might not always have if running the sessions bi-weekly. After reflecting on these issues within the RIOS team, we encouraged prof. dr. René Bekkers and Jack Fitzgerald to continue the initiative in 2026, with fewer, perhaps longer sessions to encourage greater participation.

2. Empowering Master Students

Many master's students are encouraged to pursue a PhD without being sufficiently informed about what this journey entails. Therefore, led by Barbara Leitner (PhD candidate at AUMC), four workshops were organised in 2025 to equip master's students with relevant information about pursuing doctoral study. Around 150 master students attended these on-site sessions. The workshops were designed to move beyond formal presentations; each session included an overview of what a PhD is and its requirements, as well as invited PhD students who shared their insights and real-life experiences. Participants were encouraged to engage in dialogue, ask questions, and discuss their



concerns about pursuing a PhD, academic careers inside and outside academia, and research life, while receiving honest answers grounded in personal experience.

One of the most valuable aspects of the event was observing how openly students engaged once they realised that uncertainty and doubt are common when considering a PhD. Questions about funding, supervision, work–life balance, and career prospects sparked thoughtful discussion and peer-to-peer learning. Facilitating these conversations highlighted the importance of demystifying academia and presenting the PhD not only as a credential but as a complex and demanding process in which no two trajectories are the same. Feedback from participants emphasised the need to inform master’s students about career pathways and to provide a space for open and honest communication. Building on the success of this initiative, we plan to organise additional sessions in 2026.

3. Collaborative Mapping of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Challenges and Dilemmas

The project, Collaborative Mapping of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Challenges and Dilemmas, aimed to bring together researchers at different seniority levels to share and reflect on challenges and dilemmas encountered in their daily work, and to discuss concrete institutional actions needed to support researchers navigating grey areas in research. Although a timely and relevant topic, the project did not attract a sufficient number of participants to enable a meaningful dialogue and mapping of prevalent issues. Therefore, the team (dr. Giulia Inguaggiato, dr. Natalie Evans and dr. Margreet Stolper) decided to postpone the event and will assess with the RIOS team the feasibility of implementing it in 2026.

4. Qualitative Innovation in Action Symposium

The symposium '*Qualitative Innovation in Action: Advancing Open Research through Qualitative Methods*' was held on Friday, 12th December 2025, at VU Amsterdam. The event comprised a morning plenary, a networking lunch, two parallel workshops, and an afternoon plenary. It attracted over 40 online and over 30 in-person attendees throughout the day, from over 20 countries. Although this was fewer than the anticipated turnout based on the number of people who signed up (there were 110 online and 76 in-person registrations), the organising team (dr. Bogdana Huma and dr. Elliot Hoey) was satisfied with how the event ran. Informal feedback from participants was positive, particularly regarding the quality of the guest speakers' presentations and the overall organisation of

the event. We will make the recordings and presentation slides available on the RIOS webpage ([link](#)) soon.

We have conducted brief interviews with all projects supported during the 1st edition of the RIOS Collaborative Program, except for the Collaborative Mapping of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Challenges and Dilemmas, which was not implemented. These interviews aimed to reflect on each project's role in fostering responsible research practices across the VU and AUMC, and on RIOS's role in enabling such initiatives. The interviews will be made available in 2026 and will serve as a teaser for the launch of the 2nd edition of this program.

Research

RIOS has been involved in multiple research projects in 2025, focusing on topics of interest. Below is an overview of the main research activities:

1. *Grant applications*

RIOS applied for and was awarded a CoARA Boost CF1 grant for a 1-year project, worth 60,000€, titled '*Integrating Diversity into the Evaluation and Assessment of Researchers at the VU (IDEA)*'. The project ran from January to December 2025 and aimed to integrate diversity into the VU's research assessment reforms by aligning efforts across the VU Recognition & Rewards (R&R) Program, the VU Diversity Office, and ongoing initiatives across Europe. Further details are provided below.

By aligning some of our RIOS topics of interest with our ongoing research projects, we applied for and were awarded a 1-year project, worth 50,000€, from the Open Science NL Program, which aims to integrate Open Science into the R&R reforms at the Amsterdam UMC. The project, titled '*Appointing a Publication Steward to Develop Open Science Researcher Assessment Guidelines*', began in May 2025 with the appointment of a Publication Steward, whose main role is to provide one-to-one advice to researchers in selected departments on Open Science practices (e.g., open access publishing, preregistration, and preprints), compile an inventory of challenges and facilitators for engaging in Open Science practices, and organise workshops with experts to co-create guidelines for embedding Open Science practices in researchers' assessment policies. Further details about the project are provided below.

Dr Rita F. Alves dos Santos partnered with colleagues from University College Cork (Ireland) to apply for the 2nd call of the CoARA Boost Grant. The team secured one year of funding, worth 40,000€, to develop their project titled '*Introducing an Open Research Framework and Integrating Open Research indicators into research Assessment*

(ORFIRA)'. The project began in September 2025 and aims to foster knowledge transfer between Amsterdam UMC and University College Cork (UCC) by leveraging Amsterdam's successful implementation of the Dutch Recognition & Rewards Program and Open Science practices and policies. Further details about the project are provided below.

Dr Santos, together with colleagues at AUMC, was also actively involved in preparing (coordinating team) a €2 million Horizon Europe proposal focused on improving reproducibility practices as a catalyst for research culture change by sustainably embedding these practices within researchers' assessment reforms (CATALYST project). Results from that call will be announced in early 2026.

Dr. Krishma Labib was the lead writer on another €2 million Horizon Europe proposal, with formal coordination from a partner institution in Maastricht. The project focused on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within Europe's research workforce. The results will be announced in January 2026.

At the end of 2025, we applied for the Open Science NL call '*Research on Open Science*', worth 220,000€. The proposal focused on advancing equitable Open Science within Dutch research institutions. We submitted the rebuttal letter in November 2025 and are awaiting the results, expected in March 2026.

2. IDEA – Integrating Diversity into the Evaluation and Assessment of Researchers at the VU

IDEA was a 1-year project running from January to December 2025, funded by CoARA Boost CF1. The project's goal was to develop an action plan for the VU Diversity Office and R&R teams on how to integrate diversity considerations into the ongoing researcher evaluation reforms at the university. To reach this goal, we combined a state-of-the-art literature review, 4 generative co-creation workshops with equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and R&R experts, and an analysis of current faculty policies at the VU. Our results showed that [diversity is currently neglected in researcher evaluations at the VU](#). Yet the researcher evaluation process [has a significant impact on promoting or hindering EDI](#). Therefore, we formulated a [set of recommendations](#) for the VU on how to tackle this blind spot and promote EDI through R&R.

As part of IDEA, we also organised an [online mini-symposium](#) on 5 November titled '*Where is the diversity in Recognition and Rewards? - Zooming in on diversity, equity and inclusion in researcher evaluation reforms.*' At the event, we disseminated our project's results and invited an inspiring group of national and international speakers to share important research and insights on the intersection of EDI and R&R. It was a great success, with a turnout of 40-55 participants throughout the symposium.

3. *Appointing a Publication Steward to Develop Open Science Researcher Assessment Guidelines at Amsterdam UMC*

The Open Science NL-funded project on recognising and rewarding Open Science at the Amsterdam UMC is progressing well. The publication steward is currently holding one-to-one consultations and organising workshops with early-career researchers across departments. Drawing on input from these sessions, we are developing an infographic on barriers and facilitators to Open Science, which will be publicly available soon on Zenodo. In addition, we are compiling an inventory of Open Science indicators and criteria that can be recognised and rewarded.

Looking ahead, our next steps are two online co-creation workshops with Open Science and R&R experts, scheduled for early 2026. In these workshops, we plan to use the inventory of Open Science indicators as a basis for brainstorming and co-developing feasible Open Science criteria that can be formally recognised and rewarded at the Amsterdam UMC and may also be useful for other institutions. Later in the year, we will refine these criteria in collaboration with the CTA to ensure effective implementation across the institution.

4. *ORFIRA - Introducing an Open Research Framework and Integrating Open Research indicators into research Assessment*

The CoARA ORFIRA project began in September 2025 and will run for 12 months. It aims to foster knowledge transfer between Amsterdam UMC and University College Cork (UCC) by leveraging Amsterdam's successful implementation of the Dutch Recognition & Rewards Program and Open Science practices and policies. The collaboration will focus on identifying effective Open Research Practices (including open science, data management, research integrity, and research assessment policies) and exploring their benefits for researchers, institutions, the national research ecosystem, and society.

Key indicators used in research assessment will be examined to understand how to embed a culture of open research into daily practice. Amsterdam UMC will provide advisory support to UCC in developing a tailored Open Research Framework aligned with CoARA principles. This framework will define Open Research within UCC's context, prioritise key items, identify enabling structures such as awareness, training, and infrastructure, and aim to secure senior leadership support.

A visit to Cork was held in November 2025 to share current practices and approaches at Amsterdam UMC regarding open science, research integrity and academic career paths. A visit by the Cork delegation to Amsterdam will take place in March 2026 to meet policy

advisors and key offices at the VU and Amsterdam UMC. This visit will be a key milestone in refining the Open Research Framework.

5. *Scoping review and critical discourse analysis of Research Integrity and Open Science Codes*

Dr Labib initiated and supervised two parallel studies focusing on **1)** research integrity and **2)** open science discourses worldwide, from a justice perspective. For these studies, we combined a systematic scoping review with a critical discourse analysis using an anti-colonial approach. In the first study, we examined how fairness is addressed in national and international codes of conduct, focusing on research integrity or research collaborations. We found that fairness is often reduced to procedural fairness, defined as completing procedures in an unbiased way, rather than engaging deeply with questions of justice, equity, inclusion, diversity, and colonialism. Similarly, we found evidence of ethical imperialism, evident in both the distribution and content of documents. We have submitted the manuscript for review and, in the meantime, published a preprint to circulate our results: <https://zenodo.org/records/17673458>.

In the second study, we investigated how Open Science goals are framed in national and international guidelines worldwide. We found that there was no single Open Science goal that the documents agreed on; instead, across and within documents, there was promotion of contradictory and conflicting goals. Some of these focused on promoting neoliberal aims such as growing countries' economies, while others aimed at promoting research quality and integrity, and very few focused on promoting knowledge equity. We have been invited to submit the manuscript to a special issue on open science in a diamond open-access journal, and we have also already released it as a preprint: https://osf.io/preprints/metaarxiv/zr35u_v3

6. *Assessing the perceptions, experiences and needs of Amsterdam researchers to foster a positive research culture (collaboration with the Horizon Europe CATALISI project)*

In 2025, we conducted two studies focusing on the challenges and opportunities for fostering a positive institutional research culture. These studies were carried out in collaboration with colleagues from Amsterdam UMC and as part of the Horizon Europe CATALISI project ([link](#)), which is dedicated to restructuring governance within higher education institutions through the implementation of institutional transformation pathways (www.catalisi.eu). We first conducted an interview study to investigate how a positive research culture can be fostered in a specific institutional context. In this study,

we explored how researchers from different departments and disciplines perceive research culture and how these perceptions relate to the responsible conduct of research. By interviewing experts in the field of RCR, we examined this context as a case study to inform other settings on how to stimulate a positive research culture. Preliminary findings from this study indicate differences between departments and disciplines in norms and behaviours, and in procedures that influence responsible research practices and a positive work climate. Additionally, three key actions were identified to stimulate a positive research culture, namely **1)** increase focus on teamwork rather than individual achievements; **2)** assess broader aspects of researchers' work; and **3)** stimulate good leadership and supervision. The final findings from this study will be published in an open-access publication in 2026.

As a follow-up to the interview study, we conducted a quantitative study to assess the perceptions, experiences, and needs of Amsterdam researchers (across different career ranks and disciplines) to foster a positive research culture. This study aims to serve as a barometer of the specific experiences and needs of researchers at different career stages and backgrounds regarding two aspects that shape an institution's research culture: **1)** responsible conduct of research (RCR) and **2)** the recognition and rewards of scientific outputs. For this study, we have also collaborated with the policy advisors on research integrity and recognition and rewards from the VU and AUMC to align the study's goals with each institution's policies and research strategy. The findings from this study will help raise awareness of opportunities to improve the current research climate in both institutions, and we will assess with the policy advisors opportunities to refine current institutional policies. We have conducted data analysis until December 2025, and the findings from this study will be published in an open-access publication in 2026.

Alignment with other VU and Amsterdam UMC initiatives

1. Science Hoops

Science Hoops was created in 2025 by theatre-makers Mens in de Maak and colleagues from the department of Ethics, Law and Humanities at AUMC.

How can we create a positive research culture – together? That's the central question explored in the interactive theatre dialogue. How do we navigate the many demands and expectations of academic careers? Where does the pressure in the system originate? What influence do researchers actually have? And what do we need from one another to move forward?



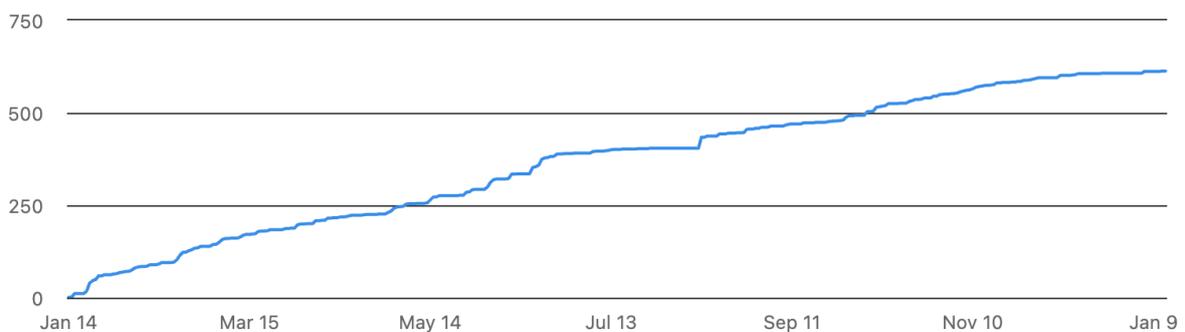
Through an interactive dialogue, actors brought to life real, often confronting situations from the academic world, inviting the audience to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns. Through dialogue, shared experiences, and scenario play, we reflected on new ways forward.

In 2025, we organised one play in collaboration with the VU Institutional Affairs and two plays open to the research community. In 2026, we will organise another three plays. Informal feedback from participants indicated the value of discussing these topics in a more dynamic way, as it helps to reflect and bring the conversations into the workplace.

Dissemination and communication

RIOS continues to maintain an active and impressive online presence via our website and social media accounts. To date, and across platforms, RIOS has accrued 1,081 new followers and connections, seeing steady exponential growth over the past 365 days. We have reached over 39,400 individuals on social media platforms alone and welcomed over 10,000 new visitors to our website this past year.

See below a graph of our steady and significant follower growth over the last 365 days on LinkedIn:



RIOS is also excited to announce a new collaborative Newsletter with the VU Open Science Program and the Network of Research Data Stewards. To expand our modes of outreach and increase community numbers, our three initiatives brainstormed a joint Newsletter (title TBA), coalescing our subscriber numbers and communication networks. The Newsletter will include news from all three initiatives in the form of (non-exhaustively) calls to action (signups, registrations, replies, etc.), event dissemination, and announcements of publications, awards, and projects. In a Teams environment, we will collect our topics, agree on a layout and order, working from a curated style guide that is currently under construction. Our first edition will include an editorial piece on why we joined forces; to share with our current subscribers the intentions and aims of this new

joint project. As of the most recent agreements, the Newsletter will have an edition every 2 months starting in January 2026 with subsequent editions in March, May, September, November and a summer retrospective. RIOS will also curate a post series showcasing the newsletter staff (VU OS Program, RIOS and NeRDS representatives), featuring a team member each week to announce the joint project, increase awareness and subscriber numbers.