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Citizen science: Society takes centre stage



Monograph coordinated by
Ana Delicado and Isabel Mendoza-Poudereux

n the past decade, scientific research that relies on the collaboration of citizens has grown exponentially. Be it for collecting data on bird migrations, noise pollution, or empty houses in a neighborhood, or for analyzing pictures of malignant cells or distant stars, or for transcribing ship logs or translating Egyptian hieroglyphs (all examples of real citizen science projects), there are countless opportunities for society to get involved in the work done by scientists and contribute to the accumulation of scientific knowledge. Also, other levels of engagement are possible beyond collecting or analyzing data: suggesting research topics, designing research methods, interpreting research results, discussing and disseminating findings.

This monograph brings together contributions from several countries and from the perspective of diverse kinds of citizen science. From consultations to understand ways to improve science communication to increasing science and sustainability awareness through games and activities, exploring mental health support networks and analysing instruments for measuring radioactivity after a nuclear disaster. Concomitantly, issues such as levels of participation, the potential for doing citizen science in the social sciences, the impacts of education, or the role of digital applications are discussed.

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This monograph has the collaboration of the Valencian illustrator and graphic designer Diego Mir. His series on citizen science, which follows the conceptual but suggestive style that has been his trademark throughout his career, revolves around the idea that it is now the time for people, that it is indeed high time for society to take centre stage.

On the left, Diego Mir, 2021. «Citizen Science» series.