

Open access in Africa

*Open Research: a Global Perspective,
Society of Biology, 4 October 2013*

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putting research knowledge at the heart of development



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Doing research in an African university



A neon sign spelling the word "OPEN" in bright orange-red letters. The sign is mounted on a dark, possibly black, background. The letters are made of thin neon tubes. The 'O' is a simple circle. The 'P' has a vertical stem and a curved top. The 'E' has a vertical stem and three horizontal bars. The 'N' has a vertical stem and a diagonal bar. The sign is illuminated, casting a glow on the surrounding dark surface.

OPEN

Transformative potential –
but new risks and challenges

The potential

- Potential to read much more
- Making work more visible
- Contributing to global research community
- Research for development

The problems

- Free to read but paying to publish
- New forms of inequality - a new gulf between Africa and the rest of the world?
- Misunderstandings & confusion
- Still problems of access, research skills



1. Access

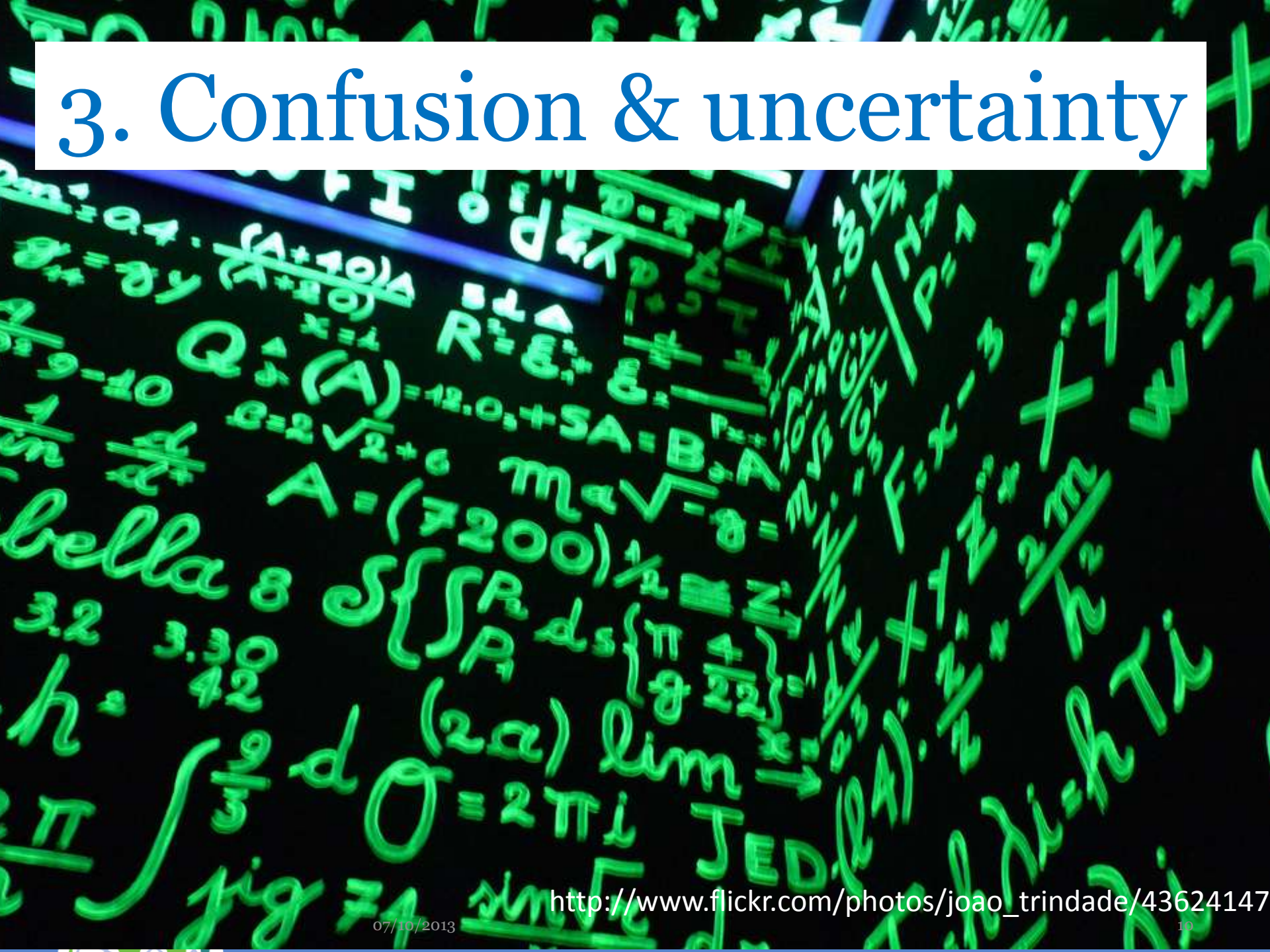


<http://www.flickr.com/photos/darwinbell/>

2. Visibility



3. Confusion & uncertainty





4. Costs

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/68751915@N09/>

5. African publishing

Featured Country: Nigeria

Featured Journal: Democracy & Development: Journal of West African Affairs

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Concluding thoughts

- huge opportunities – but also risks
- need to be aware of the dangers in the transition
- what happens here has an impact in African universities



How you can support this

How you can get involved



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