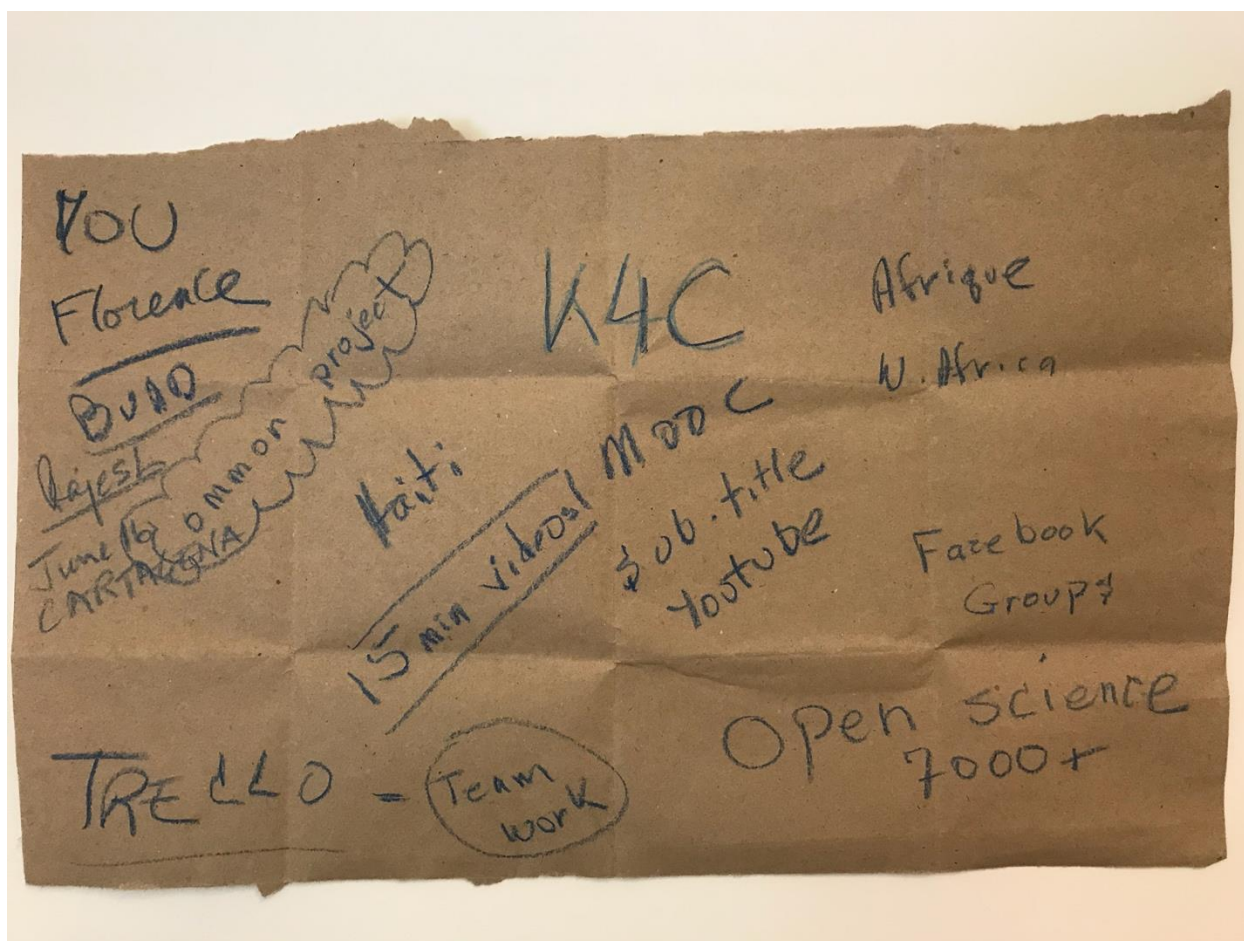


May I first offer, on behalf of Rajesh Tandon, myself and our colleagues associated with the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, our deepest condolences to the family of Florence. Thank you so very much for supporting her work over these years, for welcoming many of us into your family's life and for sharing her with the world. There are no words that can convey the depth of this loss for you. I am honoured to be able to share a few words with you as the family and with all of the friends scattered around the world.

### **Florence: A Dialogue of Knowledges**

Florence exploded into my life with the publication of her magnificent book on Cognitive Justice. I had been thinking and writing about aspects of epistemic justice and knowledge democracy for many years, but often feeling somewhat isolated. I did not know anyone else in Canada doing this kind of thinking. But then, with a sudden flash of intellectual energy I entered at least in a small way into the electricity of the Florence Piron universe. I learned that she was part of a network of alternative scholar activists in Haiti, the francophone countries of West Africa as well as those in Quebec, France and other parts of Francophonie. Florence, I learned combined a mastery of anthropology, philosophy, digital technologies, cultural studies, global feminisms and more. She was committed to making use of her prodigious skills to open the doors for women and men whose knowledge had been historically excluded. She created an open access publishing structure. She brought the science shop idea to Quebec. She created digital platforms in West Africa for the free exchange of documents in French as well as Indigenous African languages. She criticized the predatory publishing industries everywhere she was invited to speak. She taught courses in the decolonization of knowledge in many countries.

Rajesh Tandon, my friend and co-chair of our UNESCO Chair on Community-Based Research joined Florence in Cartagena, Colombia in June of 2017 for a meeting celebrating the life of the great Colombian scholar activist, Orlando Fals Borda. We were together for many days with activists from many parts of the world. One day at lunch, the three of us met to create a Memorandum of Understanding that would tie our collective work together over the coming years. It is my pleasure to display a photo of the original copy of the MOU for all of you here today.



In addition to the remarkable networking which Florence did, she also found time to write a huge number of papers, articles, and books. These writings of hers will allow us to continue to work with her ideas for generations to come.

The most recent project that Rajesh Tandon, Leslie Chan, Lorna Williams, Ellie Haine-Bennett on worked with Florence on was a document in support of a Recommendation on Open Science that will be made by UNESCO at their General Conference in November. The Open Science Recommendation will be signed by 197 nation states. The intellectual architecture of the Recommendation as it currently stands owes a great deal to Florence's creative and articulate framing of a dramatically expanded and visionary way to understand open science. She named the brief, *Open Science Beyond Open Access With and For Communities: Towards the Decolonization of Knowledge*. And in that brief, she called upon the global communities to understand openness in three ways: Free and Open Access to all academic knowledge products; Openness to the knowledge created by minority linguistic groups everywhere and by communities and movements who produce knowledge and Openness to Indigenous knowledges of the world. I am pleased to say that most of the key principles that Florence outlined have so far withstood the gaze of intergovernmental debate. When this Recommendation on Open Science is ratified by UNESCO in November of 2021, Florence's

words will become a permanent feature in a document that will influence the evolution of science.

Florence. Thank you for your vision, your joy, your energy and your kindness. And know Florence that we will continue to work with you in pursuit of a more just and equitable world.

Budd Hall and Rajesh Tandon

UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education