CONSCIOUSNESS COMMONS:
Building Collaborative Science with Open Consciousness Data

Call for Participants

Date: July 4–5, 2026 (following ASSC)

Location: Santiago, Chile

Website: https://consciousness-commons.github.io/cc-assc-2026

Questions: contact Organizing Committee; consciousness.commons@gmail.com

Link to application: https://forms.gle/c1xpSTk2sJ3oTzHZ6

Overview

Consciousness Commons is a two-day collaborative satellite workshop following ASSC 2026 that brings together early-career researchers to develop new scientific projects using open datasets in consciousness science.

Participants will work in interdisciplinary teams to formulate hypothesis-driven research questions and develop rigorous analysis plans using openly shared datasets, including the Cogitate consortium datasets.

The workshop combines hands-on exposure to open scientific workflows with structured collaborative project development and guidance on preregistration and reproducible research practices. Over the course of the event, participants will work together to design a new research project that tests a clearly defined hypothesis about the neural correlates of consciousness or evaluates predictions derived from competing theoretical frameworks. By the end of the workshop, each team will have produced a preregistered research plan specifying their hypotheses, dataset, and analysis pipeline.

Teams will subsequently have the opportunity to compete for **$25,000** in seed funding to support their project after the event. In this way, Consciousness Commons aims not only to train early-career researchers in open and collaborative science, but also to catalyze new research initiatives that leverage shared datasets to advance the scientific study of consciousness.

Why a Commons?

Over the past decade, the scientific study of consciousness has begun to generate large-scale, openly shared datasets through collaborative initiatives such as the Cogitate Consortium. These datasets create unprecedented opportunities for the field. They allow researchers around the world to test new hypotheses, reanalyse existing results, and evaluate competing theoretical predictions using the same empirical foundations. However, access to open data alone does not guarantee scientific progress.

The event creates a temporary scientific commons where early-career researchers can work productively with shared datasets, develop collaborative research ideas, and build the practical skills necessary to conduct transparent and reproducible science. The workshop aims to demonstrate how open data and collaborative practices can accelerate progress in understanding the neural basis of conscious experience.

What Will Participants Do?

During the workshop, participants will work together in interdisciplinary teams to design a new research project using openly available datasets in consciousness science. Over the course of the event, teams will:

- Formulate a **clear scientific research question** that can be addressed using existing open datasets in consciousness science.
- Identify a **testable hypothesis** related to the neural correlates of consciousness or predictions derived from competing theoretical frameworks.
- Explore and select an appropriate **open dataset**, including datasets from the Cogitate Consortium
- Develop a **structured analysis plan**, specifying the neural measures and analysis methods required to test the hypothesis.
- Design a **transparent and reproducible analysis pipeline**, following best practices in open and FAIR scientific workflows.
- Draft a **preregistered research plan on the [Open Science Framework (OSF)](#)** describing the hypotheses, dataset, and planned analyses before any analyses are conducted.
- Prepare their project for **post-workshop continuation and prize submission**.

By the end of the workshop, each team will have developed a **preregistered scientific project based on open datasets**, providing a clear foundation for a future collaborative study.

Participants will also take part in a **pre-event virtual kick-off** [May 18-19] to begin a Mind-Match team-facilitation process and complete light onboarding before arriving in Santiago.

Eligibility

Applications are open to early-career researchers who are interested in collaborative, open science approaches to studying consciousness.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Any researcher who has not received a PhD in a related field more than 10 years ago. This includes PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career researchers (ECRs)
- Researchers motivated to collaborate across disciplines and career stages
- Researchers with motivation for open science and open / FAIR outputs.
- Researchers able to confirm attendance for both days in Santiago, July 4–5, as well as the pre-event Zoom call (day between May 18/19 – TBC based on participant pool and timezone spread)
- Sufficient technical capacity to analyse datasets, or a strong willingness to develop these skills during the project.
- Ability to participate in hypothesis-driven research and contribute to the development of a clear analysis plan.

Who is not eligible:

- Master's students and undergraduate students

Selection Process

Applications are reviewed in two stages. We are looking for a pool of participants that collectively represent a broad range of skills.

Initial Screen checks confirmation of attendance, career stage, years since PhD commencement, and volume of open outputs relative to time in academia.

Further Review assesses:

- Commitment to open research outputs, given career stage
- Evidence of collaborative research experience or willingness to engage in team-based science
- Demonstrated technical, analytical, or theoretical capacity relevant to working with open datasets

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Timeline

Milestone	Date
Application window opens	[March 19- April 13]
Application deadline	[April 13]
Applicants notified	[April 22-27]
Pre-event virtual kick-off	[May 18/19]
Consciousness Commons — Santiago	July 4 - 5
Award proposal submission deadline	[Jul 5-12]
Award announcement	[Jul 20]
Project period	[Aug 10-Nov 8]

The Consciousness Commons Prizes

To support the continuation of projects that emerge from the workshop, participating teams will be eligible to compete for a total of $25,000 in seed funding. These awards are intended to help transform preregistered research plans into completed scientific studies by providing resources for data analysis, computational infrastructure, collaborative meetings, and the preparation of manuscripts or future grant proposals.

The Consciousness Commons Prizes will recognise projects that demonstrate strong scientific merit, rigorous and transparent methodology, and effective collaboration across disciplines and institutions. In addition to the main research prize, additional awards will recognise excellence in the implementation of open science practices and in the development of particularly effective collaborative teams. Through these awards, the initiative seeks to encourage both scientific innovation and the development of new models for collaborative and reproducible research in consciousness science.

To be eligible for prize consideration, teams must:

- Form or join a Mind-Matched team during the pre-event phase

- Submit a formal OSF preregistration during or within one week of the workshop
- Demonstrate FAIR data reuse (use of PIDs, ORCIDs, and open-source code with registered DOI)
- Base their project on any dataset that is openly available at time of submission
- Have at least one representative who could act as a Principal Investigator (PI) and who is based at a research institution that can receive grant funding.
  - The PI must have been awarded a PhD and must be able to receive grants at their institution.
  - Funding cannot be awarded to institutions subject to sanctions by Canada or the USA.

Partners

ASSC — Official satellite event of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness conference; supports event promotion.

brainlife.io — Data and analysis platform; provides free computational resources and user support, hosting Cogitate datasets in a BIDS-formatted, accessible environment.

Datacite — Granting partner.

Event Hosts

Lucia Melloni · Tanya Brown · Dawid Potgieter · Alex Lepauvre · Oscar Ferrante · Rony Hirschhorn · Zefan Zheng

Apply

LINK TO APPLY: https://forms.gle/c1xpSTk2sJ3oTzHZ6

For questions, contact the Event Organizers; consciousness.commons@gmail.com

Consciousness Commons is a satellite event of ASSC 2026, supported by Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF)