

UNESCO Chairs Seminars Human Rights

Seminar 5: Wednesday 14 June, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time) Science Benefiting Society - the role of the right to science

Date and time: Wednesday 14 June 2023, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time)

Languages: English and French

Format: Zoom – [register here](#)

Seminar description

Scientists and scientific knowledge have been widely praised for helping to combat disease and its consequences, discovering vaccines in record time, but also helping to keep our societies and the economy functioning. Yet, science's full potential will remain untapped unless there is a steadfast commitment to a human rights-based approach, with the right to science at the centre.

The need for such paradigm shift is reinforced inter alia by two worrisome trends: the persisting inequalities of access to scientific knowledge and the applications of scientific progress; and the vicious circle of erosion of trust in science and infringements on scientific freedom and the safety of scientists. Such considerations underpinned the call of UNESCO Member States at the 216th session of the Organization's Executive Board to strengthen the implementation of the [UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers](#) (2017), an instrument that articulates a values-based vision of science.

The [75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#), celebrated throughout 2023, is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about the pivotal right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits (article 27 para. 1, UDHR). UNESCO Chairs Seminar 5 aims to mobilize the interdisciplinary expertise of UNESCO Chairs and university networks to discuss strategies to strengthen the implementation of this right, which is fundamental to reducing inequalities and ensuring sustainable development. UNESCO Chairs - and the academic community more generally - have an invaluable contribution to make in further clarifying the content of the right, raising awareness and supporting the translation of scientific evidence into policies.

**** [Register here](#) ****



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University Twinning and
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Provisional Agenda

Seminar 5: Science Benefiting Society – the role of the right to science Wednesday 14 June 2023, 14:00-15:30 (Paris time)	
14:00-14:10	Opening remarks <i>Keith Holmes, Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme Team, UNESCO</i> <i>Ângela Melo, Director, Division for Research, Ethics and Inclusion, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO</i>
14:10-14:50	Panel discussion <i>Helle Porsdam, Professor of History and Cultural Rights, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights, University of Copenhagen, Denmark</i> <i>Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, Associate Professor, University of Ghana School of Law, Ghana (tbc)</i> <i>Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, Researcher, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina</i> <i>Monika Plozza, Research Associate and PhD Candidate at the University of Lucerne, Advisor on the Human Right to Science for the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA), Switzerland</i>
14:50-15:20	Comments from participants <i>Moderator</i>
15:20-15:30	Final remarks and closing