

UNESCO Chairs Seminars Futures of Higher Education

Seminar 3: Wednesday 15 March, 14:00 to 15:30 Paris time

Reimagining our Futures Together - A new social contract for education

Date and time: Wednesday 15 March 2023, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time)
Languages: English and French
Format: Zoom – please click [here](#) to register

Seminar description

In the context of multiple overlapping crises, higher education has a huge responsibility for the transformation of education and society as we look to 2050 and beyond. This Seminar will begin by exploring the main messages of the 2021 report from the International Commission on the Futures of Education: [Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education](#).

Professor António Nóvoa, who led the drafting committee, will present the report's main messages and reflect on their implications for higher education. Specific topics, such as internationalization, global citizenship and environmental sustainability will then be taken up by invited UNESCO Chairholders. As education institutions, universities must be fully committed to basic education. They must also be organized for inter-disciplinary research and contribute to the knowledge commons. Beyond 'learning', higher education involves presence, participation, conviviality, equity, and pluralism with social justice. Yet, the distinctive features of higher education institutions are at risk from marketization and commercialization.

The International Commission proposes 'a new social contract' as a living vision of change shaped by three foundational principles. First, quality education throughout life as a human right. Second, education as a collective public endeavour and a common good. Third, education must reflect humanity's wide diversity of ways of knowing, living, and being to address interconnected challenges through the acquisition, application, and generation of knowledge.

This Seminar will engage UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, and other experts, on the implications of the International Commission's report for the futures of higher education.

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

Seminar 3: Reimagining our Futures Together – A new social contract for education

Wednesday 15 March 2023, 14:00-15:30 (CET)

14:00-14:10	Opening remarks Sobhi Tawil , Director, Future of Learning and Innovation, UNESCO Charlène Camille , Associate Expert, Future of Learning and Innovation, UNESCO
14:10-14:25	Reimagining our Futures Together - Report from the International Commission on the Futures of Education <i>Reimagining our Futures Together: Implications for Higher Education</i> António Nóvoa , Honorary Rector and Professor of Education, UNESCO Chair on the Futures of Education, University of Lisbon, Portugal. <i>Discussant</i> Rajani Naidoo , Vice-President (Community & Inclusion), UNESCO Chair in Higher Education Management, University of Bath, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
14:25-14:45	Comments from participants <i>Moderator</i> Charlène Camille
14:45-15:00	Looking Towards 2050 – The Futures of Higher Education <i>The Internationalization of Higher Education</i> Jocelyne Gacel-Ávila , Vice-Dean for Social Sciences and Humanities, UNESCO Chair on Internationalization of Higher Education and Global Citizenship, University of Guadalajara, Mexico <i>Higher Education for Green Economy and Sustainability</i> Dorcus Beryl Otieno , Senior Lecturer, Department of Environmental Studies and Community Development, UNESCO Chair on Higher Education Development for a Green Economy and Sustainability, Kenyatta University, Kenya
15:00-15:25	Comments from participants <i>Moderator</i> Charlène Camille
15:25-15:30	Closing Sobhi Tawil