

Topic: Bridging Knowledge Cultures-Examining the differences between academic and community modes of knowledge creation, validation and use

Knowledge and its use and creation are at the heart of the world of higher education. Over the past years attention has been given to the co-construction of knowledge between academics and knowledge workers in community or work place settings. We know that tensions arise commonly in most types of partnership research. Tensions based on real or perceived power differences between the academy and the community. Tensions based on control of funding. Tensions based on analysis of research results. Importantly, tensions based on often unspoken but different understandings of differences between the knowledge cultures within community settings and the academy. Even the sincerest participatory researchers in the academy may inadvertently make assumptions about the roles they (and others) should play. One of our biggest challenges is the establishment of truly respectful and equitable knowledge accumulation partnerships. How do we validate the diverse ways of knowing in our diverse communities, social movements and organizations when higher education institutions are seen as the place where 'real' knowledge is created? How do we 'bridge' the gap between perceived or actual knowledge cultures to contribute to better lives, social justice, climate solutions or healthier communities?

This event shares findings from the international Bridging Knowledge Cultures project funded by Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council. It is a study involving 14 community-university teams in 12 countries coordinated by the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

Theme: Inclusion in Higher Education (the inclusion of community knowledge systems) and/or Futures of Higher Education

Time Needed: 90 minutes

Design: This will be a hybrid conversation amongst community and university researchers working in partnership on the co-creation of locally generated knowledge for action

Support Needed: the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research will take care of logistical arrangements

Persons involved:

Led by: Budd Hall and Rajesh Tandon, Co-Chairs of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education with:

Dr. Walter Lepore, Director, Bridging Knowledge Cultures Project, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria

Dr. Muzaimi Mustapha, School of Medical Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Dr. Andrea Vargiu, Professor of Social Policy, Sassari University, Italy

Dr. Nabila Naily, Professor, Sunan Ampel University, Surabaya, Indonesia

Dr. Leslie Wood, Professor, NorthWest University, South Africa

Dr. Irma Flores, Professor of Education, University of the Andes, Colombia
Submitted by:

UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education
Sassari University, Italy
Sunan Ampel University, Indonesia
NorthWest University, South Africa
University of the Andes, Colombia

Contact persons: Maeva Gauthier and Niharika Kaul, UNESCO Chair team