

The Justice Imperative: Knowledge Democracy, Higher Education and the SDGs

Topic:

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States pledged to ensure “no one will be left behind” and to “endeavour to reach the furthest behind first”. To stimulate creative and imaginative thinking and ideas about how Higher Education can serve authentically sustainable development we must embrace truly inclusive thinking and practice. Realistically pursuing the “leave no one behind” motto implies genuinely listening to and acting side-by-side with those who are left behind.

The K4C – Knowledge for Change Consortium, led by the UNESCO Chair on Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education was set up in 2018. Up to today some twenty five local training hubs have been created in 15 countries of the Global South and the Excluded North to design and conduct educational programs to develop research capacities for the co-creation of knowledge through collective action by practitioners, community-based researchers, community groups and academics.

Since its launch, the K4C Consortium has focused on locally prioritised and contextually relevant SDGs in the location of each Hub. The Hubs are enacting knowledge co-generation and sharing by directly involving those who are typically left behind. We will bring the voices of some of them directly to participants at WHEC22. The session is conceived to stimulate a collective reflection about how HE teaching and research can creatively and effectively address SDGs through epistemic justice and inclusive practice, in diverse local contexts.

WHEC theme

Higher Education and the SDGs

Inclusion in Higher Education

Event design/time needed

60-90 Minutes

This will be a hybrid event including: 4-5 in-person interveners and both video-recorded and on-line testimonials and discussion

Who will participate?

Led by Dr Andrea Vargiu, Sassari University, Sardinia, Italy and Dr. Rajesh Tandon, PRIA, India with:

Dr. Deirdre Ni Loingsigh, Limerick University, Ireland

Dr. Minakata Quiroga María José, Ibero Americana University, Mexico City

Dr. Mahazan Abdul Mutaib, Islamic Science University, Malaysia

Dr. Victor Paul, Christ University, Bengaluru, India

Prof. Alfonso Reyes Alvarado, Rector, University of Ibagué, Colombia

Dr. David Monk, Knowledge for Change Hub, Gulu University, Uganda

Dr. Rene Oosthuizen, Engaged Citizen Programme, Rhodes University, South Africa

Technical support needed

Support is needed to ensure smooth coordination between the on-line and the recorded testimonials with the in-presence participants

Outputs –

There will be a video recording of the event and a written report in several languages.

a. Contact person(s)

Niharika Kaul, UNESCO Chair team-Victoria, Canada

Andrea Vargiu, University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy

Rajesh Tandon, PRIA, India