United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair
on Global Understanding for Sustainability
Friedrich Schiller University, Germany

Humanities & Social Sciences for SUSTAINABILITY

Cultural and regional dimensions of global sustainability

October 21-22, 2020

United Nations
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UNESCO Chair
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Friedrich Schiller University, Germany

FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-
UNIVERSITÄT
JENA

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Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Germany)

The natural sciences have driven the world's attention to the mostly unintended, but ecologically harmful consequences of modern lifestyles. As important as these insights are, they are clearly insufficient for motivating needed policy change and change of the ways of living. Finding solutions to today's most urgent global problems calls for a broad humanistic approach.

Our everyday actions are deeply culturally and socially embedded. Given the many crises contemporary societies face now, all of which are overlaid by that of sustainability, there is now more than ever an urgent need to understand the many dimensions of human experience that impact our world.

Getting people to change their ways of living and supporting actions that trend toward global sustainability is certainly required. This demands first of all a respectful appreciation of cultural and social diversity and particularities across different regions of the world. Consequently, we need to find regionally and culturally differentiated paths to reach that goal.

Through their study and understanding of the many dimensions of human experience that shape contemporary societies, the humanities and social sciences are of crucial importance. They can provide a foundation for the mobilization of relevant local and regional knowledge that will be necessary for societal transformations. Deep societal transformations without the social sciences' and the humanities' insights are hardly feasible.

The aim of the conference is to explore the humanities' and social sciences' capabilities to contribute to such broadening of sustainability research and its practical implementation. In particular, conferees will consider ways in which these areas of inquiry can contribute to the identification of culturally differentiated pathways towards global sustainability. The conference is aimed at researchers, students and policy-makers from all domains interested in integrative sustainability research.

I would like to thank all partners and sponsors who make this event possible, and in particular the Canadian Commission for UNESCO under whose auspices the conference takes place.

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Conference Program

Wednesday, October 21

9:00 - 10:00 A.M. CET

Opening

Benno Werlen

Welcome Addresses

Federal State of Thuringia
by the Minister of Economy, Science and Digital Society, Wolfgang Tiefensee

Canadian Commission for UNESCO
by the President Liette Vasseur

German Commission for UNESCO
by the Secretary-General, Roman Luckscheiter

Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, Friedrich Schiller University Jena
by the Dean Alexander Brenning

International Geographical Union
by the President Mike Meadows

International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences
by the President Chao Gejin

World Academy of Art & Science
by the President Garry Jacobs

The Club of Rome
by the Co-President Mamphela Ramphele

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Conference Program

Wednesday, October 21

10:00 - 12:15 A.M. CET
Focus on the Cultural and Regional Dimension

Mamphela Ramphele
Global sustainability: A vision from Africa

Garry Jacobs
Paradigm change in thinking about the social sciences

Sander van der Leuuw
Mobilizing the social sciences for sustainability

DISCUSSION

Mathieu Denis
Deep societal transformations without the social sciences?

Thomas Reuter
The inevitability of systemic change and the role of social sciences in accomplishing a fair and peaceful transition

DISCUSSION

2:00 - 4:45 P.M. CET
Humanities & Social Sciences: Topics in Sustainability Research

Hartmut Rosa
Caring for the monster: Social resonance as a key dimension of sustainability

Tiago de Oliveira Pinto
Sounding sustainability? The humanities and the cultural dimensions of sound

Martin Leiner
Reconciliation and sustainability

DISCUSSION

Tilo Wesche
The rights of nature

Lutz Möller
Sustainability science – UNESCO's role beyond the 2017 guidelines

John Crowley
Social science and humanities perspectives on energy systems

DISCUSSION

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Conference Program

Thursday, October 22

9:30 - 12:30 A.M. CET
Knowledge Mobilization and Implementation

Luiz Oosterbeek
Understanding change to activate knowledge for sociocultural transformation

Melissa Leach
Transformative knowledge for equitable sustainability: Meeting the challenges

Lucilla Spini
The space and key players for knowledge mobilization in the field of sustainability

DISCUSSION

Carlos Álvarez-Pereira
Frontiers in learning for desirable futures

Anne Snick
Learning with the head, heart, hands and hope: A basic condition for sustainability

Howard Blumenthal
Kids on earth in the 21st century

Branko Šmon
Art and sustainability: The Matterhorn art project "Earth plastic view"

DISCUSSION

2:00 - 3:15 P.M. CET
Knowledge Mobilization for Deep Societal Transformations

Ursula Gobel
Imagining Canada's future – Knowledge mobilization in research and scholarship

Joanne Kauffman & Benno Werlen
Some results of the survey on "Futures of knowledge mobilization for deep societal transformations"

Paul Shrivastava
Transdisciplinary sustainability transformation of universities

DISCUSSION

3:15 - 4:30 P.M. CET
New Strategies: Roundtable Discussion

with Carlos Álvarez-Pereira, John Crowley, Patrick Degeorges, Philippe Forêt, Thomas Reuter, Anne Snick, Benno Werlen, and others

PLENARY DISCUSSION

4:30 P.M.
Concluding Remarks

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Join the event!

The conference will be broadcast on YouTube Live. To join the livestream visit our platform and tour through the virtual conference venue (Dornburg Palaces near Jena/Germany) at

www.salve.tv/hus

During conference it will be possible to leave comments and questions using the YouTube Live chat.

Humanities & Social Sciences for Sustainability

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