



Reimagining the Futures of Higher Education towards 2050

24 and 25 February
University of South Africa (UNISA)
Virtual Conference

The University of the Future Network (UFN), in partnership with UNESCO, is pleased to invite you to a virtual conference on the futures of higher education, hosted by the University of South Africa (UNISA). This conference will bring together eminent scholars, policy makers and relevant stakeholders in higher education to engage in the construction of global visions and pathways for Higher Education towards 2050.

Context

‘**REIMAGINING THE FUTURES OF HIGHER EDUCATION TOWARDS 2050**’ will provide a platform to stimulate debate and discussion on the futures of Higher Education in 2050, in preparation for the UNESCO 3rd World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022) taking place from 18-20 May 2022 in Barcelona, Spain. Inspired by the [WHEC Theme on the Futures of Higher Education](#), which engages participants in visionary conceptions intended to reimagine future learning communities, this two half-day virtual UFN-UNESCO conference (24-25 February 2022) will provide a platform for sharing envisioned scenarios of higher education of the future with relevant higher education stakeholders, to address past and current injustices inherent in higher education ecosystems. Participants will begin to engage with futures research methodologies by imagining future paths that reflect the notion of higher education as a common good.

Throughout the two days, conference participants will explore and reimagine the futures of Higher Education by engaging with futures research methodologies and policies required for Higher Education transformations over the next decades. The resulting conclusions will be presented at the 3rd World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022) (see: <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-world-higher-education-conference-2022>).

The event is a combination of keynote presentations, panel discussions and breakaway sessions designed to stimulate discussions on futures research methodologies and policy engagement on the Futures of Higher Education. The breakaway sessions will offer spaces to reflect on and discuss higher education transformations, futures research methodologies, as well as other key concepts explored throughout the conference.

Registration

This virtual conference is FREE to attend. Please register online by filling out this [Registration Form](#) in order to receive the conference link.

Working Language: English

Provisional Agenda

24 February 2022
 15:00 to 19:00 South Africa time
 Online Event

Reimagining the Futures of Higher Education towards 2050 Higher Education Futures Research Methodologies

15:00 – 15:35	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Facilitator Sindile Ngubane, Principal Investigator for Visual Disability in ODL Research Project, University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa</p> <p>Welcome Puleng LenkaBula, Vice Chancellor, UNISA, South Africa (10 minutes)</p> <p>Opening remarks Josep M. Duarte, Full Professor, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain & University for the Future Network (UFN) (10 minutes)</p> <p>Sobhi Tawil, Director of Future of Learning and Innovation team, UNESCO (10 minutes)</p>
15:40 – 16:20	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Facilitator Martha Cleveland-Innes, Professor of Education Innovation, Athabasca University, Canada</p> <p>Keynote Address Keri Facer, Professor of Educational and Social Futures, University of Bristol, United Kingdom (30 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
16:25 – 17:20	<p>Panel Discussion: Studies on the Futures of Higher Education</p> <p>Facilitator Andrea Mangiatordi, Researcher on Educational Content Design, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy & UFN</p> <p>Panelists Eva Cendon, Professor of University Continuing Education & Teaching and Learning, FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany & UFN (10 minutes)</p>

	<p>Dorothee Schulte, Research Associate, Institute of Education & Media Research/Chair University Continuing Education & Teaching and Learning, FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany & UFN (10 minutes)</p> <p>Emma Sabzalieva, Senior Policy Analyst, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) (10 minutes)</p> <p>Mpine Makoe, Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Open Educational Resources (OER), University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
<p>17:25 – 18:00</p>	<p>Concurrent Breakaway Sessions</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to reimagine how higher education would look like in 2050 and beyond.</p> <p>The following questions will guide the discussions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would you like communities to look in 2050 – what type of social and economic activities will be taking place in these communities? 2. How could higher education contribute to better futures for all in 2050? <p>Facilitators</p> <p>Thulile Shandu-Phetla, Senior Lecturer, College of Human Sciences, UNISA, South Africa</p> <p>Teresa Mwoma, Executive Director, African Council for Distance Education & Senior Lecturer, Kenyatta University, Kenya</p> <p>Shila Mphahlele, Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education, UNISA, South Africa</p> <p>Gezani Baloyi, Associate Professor in the Department of Adult Basic Education, UNISA, South Africa</p> <p>(30 minutes)</p>
<p>18:05 – 19:00</p>	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Carina Lion, Professor of Education and Technologies, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina & UFN.</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Ronald Barnett, Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom (10 minutes)</p> <p>Ulf-Daniel Ehlers, Professor for Educational Management and Lifelong Learning at Baden Wurttemberg-State University, Germany (10 minutes)</p> <p>Melinda Bandalaria, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p> <p>Wrap up Day 1</p>

Provisional Agenda

25 February 2022

15:00 to 19:00 South Africa time

Online Event

Reimagining the Futures of Higher Education towards 2050 Policy Engagement on the Futures of Higher Education	
15:00 – 15:35	<p>Policy Plenary</p> <p>Facilitator Moeketsi Letseka, UNESCO Chair on Open Distance Learning, UNISA</p> <p>Introduction Keith Holmes, Programme Specialist, Future of Learning and Innovation team, UNESCO (10 minutes)</p> <p>The Futures of Higher Education Asha Kanwar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth of Learning (20 minutes)</p>
15:40 – 16:20	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia (30 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
16:20 – 17:35	<p>Regional Perspectives on the Futures of Higher Education</p> <p>Facilitator Romeela Mohee, Higher Education Commissioner of Mauritius, Mauritius & UFN</p> <p>Panelists from different regions</p> <p>Africa Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo, Head of Education, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (10 minutes)</p> <p>Arab States Ziad Said, Professor of Applied Research, College of the North Atlantic, Qatar (10 minutes)</p> <p>Europe and North America Jessica Retis, Director of the Master's in Bilingual Journalism, University of Arizona, United States of America (10 minutes)</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean Carmela Chavez Irigoyen, Universitaria del Perú (SUNEDU), Peru (10 minutes)</p>

	<p>Asia</p> <p>Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), Thailand (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
<p>17:40 – 18:15</p>	<p>Concurrent Breakaway Sessions</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to describe concepts that will become the essence of policy plans for the futures of higher education.</p> <p>Facilitators</p> <p>Kelly Young, Researcher, Institute for Open and Distance Learning (IODL), UNISA, South Africa</p> <p>Francis Simui, Lecturer, Department of Educational Psychology, Sociology and Special Education, University of Zambia, Zambia</p> <p>Mmabaledi Seeletso, Southern African Development Community-Centre for Distance Education (SADC-CDE).</p> <p>Buhle Tshili, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Psychology, UNISA.</p>
<p>18:20 – 19:00</p>	<p>Conference Outcomes</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Narend Baijnath, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada</p> <p>Way Forward and Conclusions</p> <p>Thenjiwe Meyiwa, Vice Principal, Research, Innovation and Commercialization, UNISA, South Africa (10 minutes)</p> <p>Martha Burkle, Assistant Dean Evaluation, Assessment and Analytics, Curricular Affair Office, College of Medicine - T, University of Arizona, UFN (10 minutes)</p> <p>Jose Luis Guzman Martell, WHEC2022 Secretariat, Section for Higher Education, UNESCO (10 minutes)</p>

With sincere gratitude to all at the
University of South Africa (UNISA) for hosting
this two-day conference.