

International Conference on Humanities and Higher Education: Generating Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities

19-20th November 2018
CosmoCaixa Science Museum
Barcelona



**Welcome to the GUNi
International Conference
on Humanities and Higher
Education: Generating
Synergies between Science,
Technology and Humanities**



Dear colleagues,

There is a growing concern on the future of the humanities in the higher education system and in our societies at large. At the same time, we are witnessing deep changes and transformations in our societies, which require facing great challenges when it comes to thinking about the meaning and value of human experience. We understand that humanities are not a set of disciplines to preserve, but a set of essential activities because of them depends the capacity to elaborate the sense and the value of the human experience in times of change.

It is in this context that the Global University Network for innovation is organizing the GUNi International Conference on Humanities and Higher Education: Generating Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities, which aims to be an international meeting debating on the role of the humanities, and the interrelation between humanities, science and technology in the 21st Century with a special focus on Higher Education.

The main objective of the Conference is to open a worldwide debate on the current role of humanities in the social, academic and scientific areas and on their importance to boost a more equitable, responsible and democratic society.

The Conference is gathering representatives from different countries and from diverse areas of knowledge and fields (education, research, public institutions, and organizations) in order to debate on the role of the humanities in the world.

This International Conference is conceived as an integral part of the process of elaboration of the 7th GUNi Higher Education in the World Report (to be published in 2019) which is part of the series “Higher Education in the World Report”, a collective work published as a result of global and regional analysis. Each edition reflects on the key issues and challenges facing higher education and its institutions in the 21st Century to overcome societal issues.

This Conference is a unique opportunity for all the agents involved, who I would like to sincerely thank for their participation, to start a process of debate and action both in Catalonia and internationally and within universities, research centres governments and businesses to reflect on the role of the humanities in the 21st Century.

Yours sincerely,

Josep A. Planell
President of GUNi and Rector of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC)

About GUNi

The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) is an international network created in 1999 within the framework of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, by UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-BarcelonaTech (UPC) after UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE) to give continuity to and facilitate the implementation of its main decisions. Since 2014, the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) hosts its secretariat and presidency. GUNi's headquarters are located in Barcelona.

GUNi is a network that is currently composed of more than 210 members from 78 countries, and which includes the UNESCO Chairs in Higher Education, higher education institutions, research centres, and networks related to innovation and the social commitment of higher education.

GUNi has regional offices in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States and Europe.

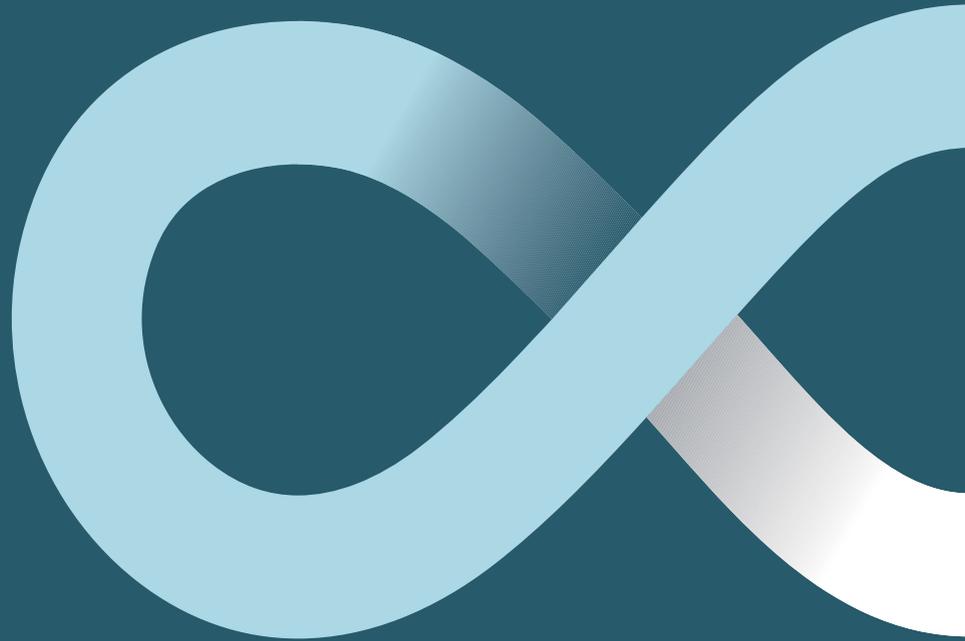
“Higher education is a key sector for taking forward education for sustainable development and science for sustainability”

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

“Higher education and research play a strategic role in the new knowledge society. In this context, GUNi promotes rigorous analysis and debate concerning the challenges for universities and research, in collaboration with UNESCO and the United Nations University and with institutions from around the world”

Josep A. Planell, President of GUNi and Rector of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC)

Conference Programme



Monday, 19th November 2018

08:30 Registration
& Welcome Coffee

09:30 INTRODUCING
THE CONFERENCE with
the performance of Reactable
live! — Auditorium

Josep M. Vilalta, *GUNi Director
and Executive Secretary of the Catalan
Association of Public Universities (ACUP)*

David Bueno, *Professor of Genetics
at Barcelona University (UB) and former
researcher at Oxford University*

Josep Casanovas, *Professor
of Simulation at Polytechnic University
of Catalonia (UPC) and researcher at
Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)*

Marina Garcés, *Philosopher and
Professor of Philosophy at the Open
University of Catalonia (UOC)*

10:00 KEYNOTES — Auditorium

Knowledge resistance and other global
challenges in research and education,
in the humanities and elsewhere

Arne Jarrick, *Professor of History
at Stockholm University (SU)*

Robotics meets the humanities:
Some initiatives for ethics education
and dissemination

Carme Torras, *Research Professor at
the Spanish Scientific Research Council
(CSIC) and Head of the Perception and
Manipulation group at the Robotics
Institute in Barcelona (UB)*

11:00 GLOBAL CHALLENGES
THAT REQUIRE SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND
HUMANITIES TO BE
INTEGRATED: IMPLICATIONS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
AND WORLDWIDE
APPROACHES — Auditorium

Ahmed Bawa, *Theoretical physicist
and CEO of Universities South Africa*

Marcelo Knobel, *Rector at University
of Campinas Brazil (Unicamp)*

Josep A. Planell, *President of GUNi
and Rector of the Open University
of Catalonia (UOC)*

Iman El-Kaffass, *Sr. Adviser at the
Association of Arab Universities (AAU)*

Chair/moderator: Josep M. Vilalta,
*GUNi Director and Executive Secretary
of the Catalan Association of Public
Universities (ACUP)*

12:00 SYNERGIES BETWEEN
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND HUMANITIES: THE MIT,
VIRGINIA TECH AND UPC
CASES — Auditorium

Daniel Breslau, *Associate Professor
and Chair of the Department of Science,
Technology and Society at Virginia Tech*

Meritxell Martell, *Founder and Director
of Merience and representative of
TEACHENER Polytechnic University
of Catalonia (UPC)*

Piotr Stankiewicz, *Assistant Professor
at Nicolaus Copernicus University and
Director of Educational Research Institute
in Warsaw*

Brian Subirana, *Director of the MIT
Auto-ID lab, Research Scientist at MIT
and teacher at Harvard University*

**12:30 OFFICIAL OPENING
WORDS** — Auditorium

Josep A. Planell, *President of GUNi and Rector of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC)*

Lluís Baulenas, *General Secretary at the Inter-University Council of Catalonia (CIC)*

Itaf Ben Abdallah, *Senior Advisor on Higher Education and Research at the Union for the Mediterranean (UpM)*

Ignasi López Verdeguer, *Director of the Department of Science at “la Caixa” Banking Foundation*

13:00 POSTER WALK and LUNCH

14:30 KEYNOTES — Auditorium

Fostering Epistemological Diversity Through Place-based Approaches to Research and Teaching

Sarah Hunt, *Professor in the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies and Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia (UBC)*

Higher Education in the New Era

Federico Mayor Zaragoza, *President of Fundación Cultura de Paz*

**15:15 HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS
PRESENTATION**

Escola Massana, the power of the "and". Crafting thoughts and matter in a cookie — Auditorium
led by David Bueno, Josep Casanovas and Marina Garcés

Pep Tornabell, *Architect, Professor at the B.A. and Design at Escola Massana, co-founder of CODA and co-promoter of La Deriva*

Ada Fontecilla, *student of the Bachelor Degree in Arts and Design at Escola Massana*

15:30-17:30

WORKSHOP 1
Humanities beyond Higher Education — Alpha room
led by Marina Garcés

Tahar Labassi, *Professor of Linguistics at the Department of English at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, University of Tunis*

Susana Arias, *Coordinator of the Barcelona Humanities Institute*

WORKSHOP 2
Education with a humanistic approach, teaching for the future — Beta room
led by David Bueno

Daniel Breslau, *Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Science, Technology and Society at Virginia Tech*

Fernando Giráldez, *Professor of Physiology at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)*

Manale Adnane, *Student of Architecture at the Euromediterranean University of Fes*

WORKSHOP 3
Research and Impact: bridging the gap in diverse knowledge fields — Gamma room
led by Josep Casanovas

Gemma Derrick, *Director of the Centre for Higher Education Research & Evaluation and Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University*

Ismael Ràfols, *Research fellow at Ingenio (CSIC-UPV) and visiting professor at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) of Leiden*

**19:15 OFFICIAL CONFERENCE
DINNER at the Maritime
Museum of Barcelona**

Tuesday, 20th November 2018

**09:00 Registration
& Welcome Coffee**

**10:00 KEYNOTE: THE CRITICAL
POSTHUMANITIES**
— Agora room

Rosi Braidotti, Philosopher and Distinguished University Professor at Utrecht University and director of the Centre for the Humanities in Utrecht

Chair/Moderator: Marina Garcés, Philosopher and Professor of Philosophy at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC)

**10:45 HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS
PRESENTATION**

Escola Massana, the power of the “and”. Crafting thoughts and matter in a cookie — Agora room
led by David Bueno, Josep Casanovas and Marina Garcés

Pep Tornabell, Architect, Professor at the B.A. and Design at Escola Massana, co-founder of CODA and co-promoter of La Deriva

Berta Ballestín, student of the Bachelor Degree in Arts and Design at Escola Massana

11:00-13:00

**WORKSHOP 4
Gender & Equality:
transdisciplinary approaches
of gender** — Beta room
led by Marina Garcés

Josep Joan Moreso, Professor of Legal Philosophy at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and President of the Catalan Agency for University Quality (AQU)

Irene Jorge, Project Manager at the Technology Transfer Centre of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC)

**WORKSHOP 5
Sustainability & Ethics:
Higher Education
contributing to the world
challenges** — Tau room
led by David Bueno

Marco Armiero, Director of the Environmental Humanities Laboratory at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm

M.T.Bakare-Odunola, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and a lecturer at the University of Ilorin-Nigeria

Alireza Omidbakhsh, Director of Cultural and Social Affairs at the University of Allameh Tabataba’ and Professor of Literature and Culture

**WORKSHOP 6
Humanities towards a more
equitable, responsible
and democratic society**
— Gamma room
led by Josep Casanovas

Paul Benneworth, Senior researcher at the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (University of Twente) and NORCE (Kristiansand, Norway)

Joana Ferrer, Doctor in Philosophy and Education Sciences and Graduate in Law

13:00 POSTER WALK and LUNCH

**14:00 DIGITAL EXPERIENCES
FOR HUMANS: ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE AND
THE SEVEN LIBERAL
ARTS** — Agora room

Pau Alsina, *Professor at the Arts
and Humanities Department, Open
University of Catalonia (UOC)
and Director of the Artnodes Journal*

Ventura Barba, *Executive Director
at Advanced Music - Sónar*

Josep M. Ganyet, *CEO at Mortensen
and Professor at Pompeu Fabra
University (UPF)*

**15:00 WRAP-UP SESSION,
NEXT STEPS and
FAREWELL** — Agora room

Josep M. Vilalta, *GUNi Director
and Executive Secretary of the Catalan
Association of Public Universities (ACUP)*

The Conference Venue

The Conference takes place at the CosmoCaixa Science Museum Barcelona. Formerly known as the Science Museum of Barcelona, it closed for renovations in 1998 and reopened in 2004 under its current name. The museum belongs to "La Caixa" Foundation and it features a variety of exhibitions, permanent and temporary, related to environment, nature, science, and space.

Registration to the Conference includes free entrance to the museum, which hosts a wide variety of activities. Highlights of exhibitions include the Flooded Forest, which recreates 1000m² of an Amazonian rainforest ecosystem; the Geological Wall, comprising seven spectacular sections of real rock which illustrate the world's different geological structures; and the Room of Matter, an enthralling journey through the evolution of matter and life on our planet, with experiments, real pieces and living beings. Finally, the exhibition "Robots. Humans and Machines" puts forward a series of questions around the artificial human being, which is intended to be seen up to which point the development of robots will be crucial to society of the 21st century.

A combination of keynote talks will be held at the Auditorium and Agora room and the parallel thematic workshops, held in smaller rooms -Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Tau rooms-, are bound to make an engaging and participative event. This conference will also allow for networking, all under one roof in the heart of the Mediterranean: Barcelona.

Address: Carrer d'Isaac Newton, 26, 08022 Barcelona

[Online map](#)



Registration and information

You will be able to pick up your registration pack, including the Conference Programme and name badge, at the Registration/Information desk, which will be located at floor -1. Please note that you should pass by the registration desk both days of the Conference.

Security

Barcelona is no more dangerous in terms of theft than any other large European city. However, please keep an eye on your bags and wallets and never leave bags on the back of chairs in a bar or similar venue. Should you have any security issues; the conference team will be on hand to help you. Please do not leave personal belongings in the auditorium when the sessions are on. Keep them with you at all times or leave them in the lockers.

Internet access

There will be a free WiFi internet connection in all Conference areas. Please search "Free guest WiFi (browsing only)".

Lockers and personal belongings

If you wish to leave personal belongings, please use the lockers located at the main entrance of the Museum.

Name badges

On checking in at the Conference registration desk, you will receive a conference package, including your name badge. You must wear your badge at all times during the conference. If you are not wearing your badge you may be asked to show identification and evidence that you have been registered. It will also be required for free entrance to the Maritime Museum of Barcelona.

Photography/Recording Waiver

Photographic, audio and video recordings will be made of the conference. By entering the event premises, you give consent to the use of your photograph, likeness and video or audio recordings in which you appear, whole or in part, without restriction or limitation, for any educational, promotional or distribution purpose. If you have any questions on this regard, the Conference team will be on hand to help you.



Refreshment breaks

Complimentary coffee, tea and water will be available throughout the day. Light snacks and pastries will also be served in designated areas for the Conference attendees. Vegan options will also be on the menu.

Official Conference Dinner

The Official Conference Dinner will be held in the restaurant of the medieval shipwards of the emblematic Maritime Museum of Barcelona (address: av. Drassanes, s/n. Barcelona) on the 19th November 2018 at 19.15h. Free entrance at the Maritime Museum will be offered to the Conference participants before the dinner.

Transport to the Official Conference Dinner: transfers from the Conference venue to the Official Conference Dinner will be arranged. The buses will depart between 17.30h and 18h in front of the main entrance of the Museum (Isaac Newton street, 26). [Online map](#)

The Official Conference Dinner will be offered by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat and served by the Norai project, a socially responsible initiative promoted to provide employment to young people at risk of social exclusion. Norai is a project of proximity to the area where it is located, the Raval district and the Ciutat Vella District, neighbourhoods with a strong singularity and where there are social inequalities. The project also features a strong cultural dimension by promoting research and recovery programs for culinary culture, encouraging locally based consumption and engaging in information activities to foster this intangible heritage.

Higher Education in the World Report 7 (HEIW7)

Humanities and Higher Education: Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities

Higher Education in the World (HEIW) is a collective work published as part of the GUNi Series on the Social Commitment of Universities. It is the result of a global and regional analysis of higher education in the world. With a specific subject chosen for each edition, the Report reflects on the key issues and challenges facing higher education and its institutions in the 21st century. More than 380 internationally renewed authors from 67 countries have contributed in the GUNi Reports. 19.000 copies have been distributed in 130 countries.

One of the **current topics** in which GUNi is working on is “Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities”. In relation to this topic, GUNi has organized the current Conference, together with the Higher Education in the World Report 7 (HEIW7), which will be published in 2019. The Report will be devoted to the future of the humanities and the relation between science and humanities in the 21st Century.

The current Conference and the HEIW7 count with the support of a local and an international **advisory committee**, composed by 10 experts working on this

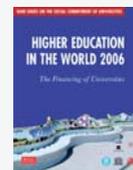
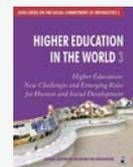
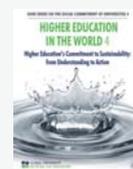
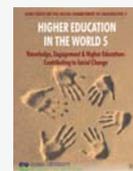
topic and is intended to be a space of debate, collaboration and sharing of expertise from different regions of the world, cultures and perspectives.

Open call!

The current GUNi Conference is a space to showcase cases of excellence and good practice in integration and synergies between humanities, science and technology in higher education institutions and research centres.

We are making an open call to submit your experiences and good practices on this topic to be published in the HEIW7 Report. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please send an email expressing interest to info@guninetwork.org and we will contact you with further details.

**Do you want to contribute?
Submit your proposal!**



Conference Guide



GUNi Partners:



GUNA GLOBAL UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR INNOVATION

ACUP ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA D'UNIVERSITATS PÚBLIQUES



Conference sponsored by:



ACUP ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA D'UNIVERSITATS PÚBLIQUES

With the collaboration of:



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
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