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

19-20th November 2018
CosmoCaixa Science Museum
Barcelona

www.guninetwork.org
#GUNiHumanities
info@guninetwork.org
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)
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)

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)

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 (AArU)

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, VIRGINIATECH 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

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

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

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

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

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!
This brochure is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

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