



Webinar

15 January 2025

13.00 - 15.00 UTC/GMT+4

**The Responsibility
of the University**

Research Project

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1. How to join the webinar

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The event will be broadcasted.

Please, click here to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84929945723?pwd=q8xNOz351UxUXFXSti0veKsmk7AbaG.1>

Meeting ID: 849 2994 5723

Passcode: 657380

2. Introduction to the webinar

Responsible and Responsive University - Research Project

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The purpose of the session is to describe the motivation for and nature of the Magna Charta Observatory's Responsive and Responsible University research project and to showcase two of the six studies. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Fundamental values are at the heart of the Magna Charta Universitatum. In 2020 the original 1988 Magna Charta Universitatum was revised and a significant new section on universities' responsibilities to society was added. This was welcomed, but it was appreciated that it would have more impact if insight and support could be given to universities to ensure that they were implementing it effectively. The MCO's Living Values Project already enables universities to review and enable their values to be better known and achieve greater impact in practice. In 2022 the MCO launched its 'Responsive and Responsible' University research project to explore factors which were enabling universities to put their values into practice in the ways in which they serve society.

Following a panel on the reason for establishing the research project and the nature of it, the session features learning from two projects.

The first project has researched university and local community engagement with regard to the role that the social sciences and humanities university, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), has played in a Ukrainian war crisis situation. It has looked at university identity, values, mission and vision as depicted in the strategic university documents, adherence to Magna Charta Universitatum principles of institutional autonomy and academic freedom and humanist traditions that transcend geographical and political frontiers with regard to Russia's caused war in Ukraine were examined. The war crisis situation prompted the implementation of the third university mission – community engagement and service to society – by sharing and analysing the case from Lithuania on supporting the Ukrainian people.

The Wroclaw Medical University project is a study of how the University responded to the migration crisis after the outbreak of Russian aggression in Ukraine in February 2022. It was a comprehensive strategic response, led by the centre of the university, which included all departments of the university. As well as supplying advanced expertise (for example designing vaccination programs for refugees) and help in war crimes documentation such coordinated activities allowed for a targeted, effective, and quick response to the needs of refugees and the local community. This would not have been possible without good cooperation with the city and the social environment, including other universities and institutions as well as associations and non-governmental organizations.

The session will conclude with discussion with participants both about the current studies and the future of the research project.

3. Programme

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13:00 - 13:10 Opening of the Event:

Nino Doborjginidze – Rector, Ilia State University

David Lock - Secretary General, Magna Charta Observatory

13:10 - 13:55 First Panel – General Approach, Conceptual Frame, Methodology

Giga Zedania - Chair, MCO Research Committee/Director, CAS, Ilia State University

Chris Brink - MCO Research Committee/ Emeritus Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University

John Davies – MCO Research Committee/ Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Anglia Ruskin University

14:00 - 14:30 Second Panel – Case Studies

Nomeda Gudeliene - Advisor to the Rector, Mykolas Romeris University

Agata Strządała - Assistant Professor, Wrocław Medical University

14:30 – 15:00 Concluding Discussion

4. Speakers' bios

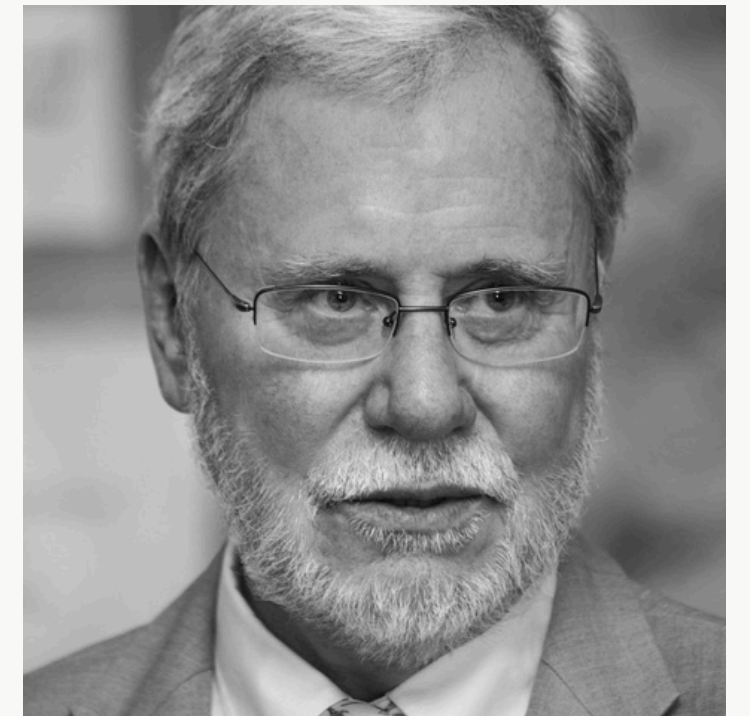
Professor Chris Brink is Emeritus Vice-Chancellor (President) of Newcastle University in England, former Rector of Stellenbosch University in South Africa, and former Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) of the University of Wollongong in Australia.

Earlier he was Head of Mathematics and Coordinator for Strategic Planning at the University of Cape Town, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian National University. He was Convenor of the sector-wide Research Assessment Exercise 2020 in Hong Kong and currently convenes RAE 2026.

Chris Brink is known as a champion of the idea of a civic university. His books include *The Soul of a University: Why excellence is not enough* and *The Responsive University and the Crisis in South Africa*.

Before entering university management he held the A-rating of the National Research Foundation. He is a logician with a Cambridge PhD, an interdisciplinary DPhil, Master's degrees in mathematics and philosophy, and a Bachelor's degree in computer science. He has served in an advisory or assessment capacity for various universities and organisations, and contributes to a number of international executive leadership programmes in higher education.

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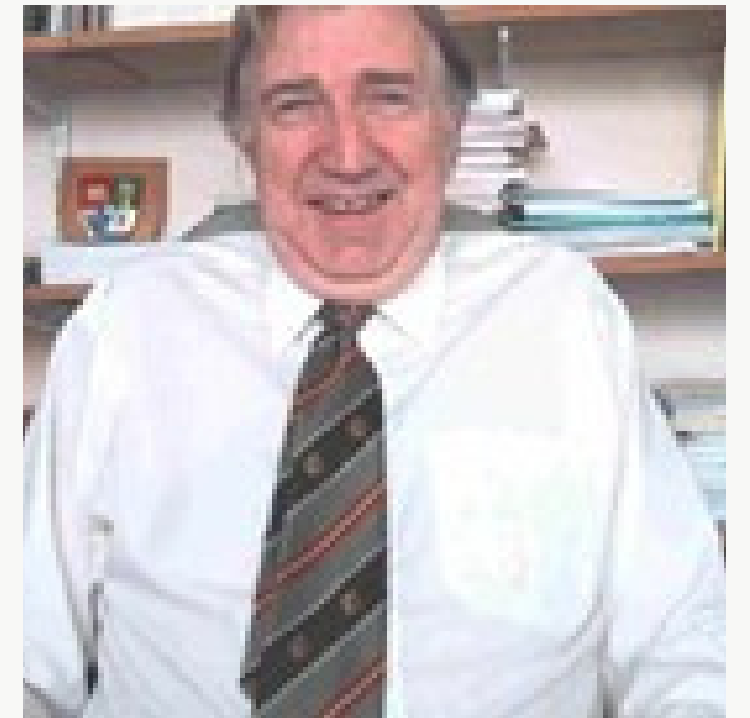
Chris
Brink

4. Speakers' bios

Emeritus Professor John L. Davies has a career which includes senior institutional management and international research teaching and consultancy in over 66 countries, in the field of higher education management, latterly at the University of Bath, UK. He is a former Pro-Vice Chancellor at Anglia Ruskin University (Research and Knowledge Exchange) and at La Trobe University (Quality Assurance).

He is currently active in HE consultancy specialising in all aspects of sustainable university development, including 10 Catholic universities and the pontifical system. He has a long experience of setting up and working with QA agencies, including AVEPRO as a Commission member.

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John
Davies

4. Speakers' bios

Nino Doborjginidze, Ph.D. in Linguistics (1988), graduated from the Department of Classical Philology of the Tbilisi State University in 1982. During 1996-2000 she was a fellow of EKD and KAAD-'s Foundation at the Göttingen Academy of Sciences (the Institute of Patristic Studies); from 2000 through 2001 held Alexander von Humboldt International Scholarship and between 2002 and 2003, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation George Forster scholarship at the Gottingen Academy of Sciences for writing the monograph in the German language.

In 2006 and from 2008 to 2012 she had joint scholarships of Gottingen Academy of Sciences and the Humboldt Foundation. At different times, she was an invited researcher at several German universities and the historical archives of Propaganda Fide, Italy.

Since 2022, Nino Doborjginidze has been serving as the Rector of Ilia State University. Prior to this role, she held the position of Vice-Rector at Ilia State University from 2017 to 2021.

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Nino
Doborjginidze

4. Speakers' bios

Dr. Nomeda Gudeliene has abroad educational background in social sciences and humanities, holds PhD in management and currently serves as the Advisor to Deputy Rector on Sustainable Development. For over 12 years she worked as the head of MRU Research and Innovation Centre: managed the development of research and innovation system, established institutional research strategies and programs, was at the forefront at enhancing social innovations as MRU priority research area and developing its management system Social Innovations Laboratory Network MRU LABs, built and maintained relations with national and international partners, implemented projects. Dr. Gudeliene was the coordinator of the 7FP project and international conference Horizons of Social Sciences and Humanities held during Lithuanian Presidency to the European Council. Due to the conference, social sciences and humanities were included into Horizon 2020 funding structures. She has also been a team member of over 10 international projects including: European Reform University Alliance (ERUA); Establishment of Rectors Conference in Azerbaijan (ECAR); Elevating the Internationalization of Higher Education in Moldova; Internationalization and Virtual Exchange: Borderless between EU and Asian countries; Area Based Collaborative Entrepreneurship in Cities (ABCitiEs); Preserving Youth Mental Wellbeing in Wartime Migration crisis; Empowering Residential Child Care through Interprofessional Learning (ERCCI), etc. Dr. Gudeliene is also a national representative for the European Commission COST Actions: Voice of Research Administrators: Building a Network of Administrative Excellence; and Constitution-Making and Deliberative Democracy. Her research interests include public governance, challenge-based education, strategic and network management. Currently dr. Gudeliene focuses on the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDG) in institutional, national and international settings and serves as European Climate Pact Ambassador.

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Nomeda
Gudeliene

4. Speakers' bios

David Lock has had a varied career in international higher education and university leadership. As Director of International Projects at the UK's Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, David was responsible for instigating and delivering projects with over 30 different countries, some at Governmental level. Projects have included major programmes for Rectors and Ministry Officials to implement national HE reform and autonomy strategies over several years and building partnerships between universities in different countries. Until October 2007 David was the founding Registrar and Acting Chief Executive of the British University in Dubai where he structured, built and then led the University following its legal creation by the Ruler of Dubai as a not-for-profit provider of Higher Education to UK standards. Prior to going to Dubai David was Secretary to the University of Huddersfield and Registrar and Secretary to the University of Hull in the UK for a total of 14 years. A teacher and Chartered Secretary by background, David has served on a number of international bodies and undertaken a range of consultancy assignments including international development and UK HE governance projects. He is Chairman of the Gulf Education Conference and serves on the International Advisory Committee of the British Council. He has been appointed Secretary General of the Magna Charta Observatory in September 2014.

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David Lock

4. Speakers' bios

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Professional Summary: Dr. Agata Strządała is an academic specializing in medical humanities with contributions to the ethical discourse on animal experimentation and the historical understanding of eugenics. She holds teaching positions at Wrocław Medical University and previously at Opole University, and has been an active member of the Local Ethical Committee for Experiments on Animals in Wrocław since 2014.

Education:

- Ph.D. in Cultural Studies, Wrocław University, 2007
 - Dissertation: "From Galton to Watson: Changes in the Understanding of Eugenics in the 19th and 20th Century" (Published in 2010, in Polish)
- M.A. in Cultural Studies, Wrocław University, 2002

Academic Positions:

- Lecturer, Department of Medical Humanities, Wrocław Medical University(2007-)
- Lecturer, Opole University(2008-2018)

Professional Involvement:

- Member, Local Ethical Committee for Experiments on Animals, Wrocław (since 2014)

Book:

- From Galton to Watson: Changes in the Understanding of Eugenics in the 19th and 20th Century, Opole University Press, 2010 (in Polish)

Dr. Strządała's work bridges the intersection of cultural studies and medical ethics, providing critical insights into the evolution of eugenics and the ethical dimensions of scientific experimentation.



Agata
Strządała

4. Speakers' bios

Giga Zedania was a Rector of Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia) from 2014 to 2022.

Before, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Head of the Quality Assurance Service at Ilia State University, where he has been teaching first as associate and then as full professor since 2006. He studied philosophy, sociology and cultural studies in Georgia, USA, Hungary and Germany, obtaining his PhD from Ruhr University Bochum.

His publications range from European intellectual history to the socio-political transformation of the South Caucasus.

He served as the President of Black Sea University Network (2016-2018).



Giga
Zedania

5. The Magna Charta Observatory

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The Magna Charta Observatory is the global guardian of fundamental university values and assists universities and higher education systems to operate effectively in accordance with them for the benefit of students, staff, society and universities themselves.

Over 900 universities from 86 countries have signed its statement of fundamental values since 1988.

The MCO supports a global community of universities through values. It assists universities pro-actively and through supportive actions when difficulties are encountered.

The MCO was founded by the University of Bologna and the European University Association. It is a non-profit organisation and is based in Bologna. It is funded by the University of Bologna and donations from signatories.

Why MCO is needed

The MCO provides assistance for universities who want to be at the forefront of understanding and implementation of the fundamental values.

It has developed the Living Values project which can be used by universities to enable them to put their values into practice more effectively.

MCO reviews and reports when circumstances do not allow universities to operate autonomously.

MCO helps Countries to enable their universities to be more aware of the significance of fundamental values for the development of their higher education systems.

MCO assists key stakeholders when fundamental values, especially academic freedom, are not being upheld.

MCO seeks to promote a deeper understanding of the importance of values and their operation in different contexts.

MCO helps universities learn from other situations that can enrich practice. As institutions operate more globally the importance of mutual understanding and shared values helps to build stronger partnerships through trust.

Autonomy is a journey - not a destination. Journeys have different starting points, progress at different speeds and experience different operational constraints.

MCO Strategic plan



[Click to read the Magna Charta Observatory strategy for 2020-2025](#)

6. The MCU 2020

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The Observatory has prepared a new version of the Magna Charta Universitatum: the MCU 2020. The text (in English) has been adopted by the MCO's Governing Council.

The new MCU removes nothing from the original fundamental values to which universities signed up. It strives to be responsive to and resonate with contemporary challenges and concerns.

Its tone recognises that the pursuit of the fundamental values has worth along with their actual attainment, which, in practice, is a constant quest.

It recognises the more global nature of what universities do and the wider range of local responsibilities which they have.

The text of the MCU 2020 is here below.

It has been launched at the occasion of the XXXIII MCO anniversary on 16 June 2021.

Preamble

The Magna Charta Universitatum, a declaration and affirmation of the fundamental principles upon which the mission of universities should be based, was signed in 1988 on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna. The first principle was independence: research and teaching must be intellectually and morally independent of all political influence and economic interests. The second was that teaching and research should be inseparable, with students engaged in the search for knowledge and greater understanding. The third principle identified the university as a site for free enquiry and debate, distinguished by its openness to dialogue and rejection of intolerance.

The Magna Charta Universitatum recognised that universities upholding these principles could take many forms under the combined influence of culture, geography and history. Despite being explicitly the product of a specific moment in European development the document envisaged a networked world in which knowledge and influence should cross cultural boundaries in the pursuit of human understanding.



The world has since become interconnected in ways unimaginable at the time of the original declaration. Universities have proliferated around the globe, dramatically increasing in variety as well as scope and mission. Globally the number and diversity of students seeking a university education has increased, as have their reasons for doing so and the expectations of their families and communities. The number of publications has increased enormously while trust in academia is being eroded by a loss of confidence in expertise. In the sway of new technologies, modes of learning, teaching and research are changing rapidly; universities are both leading and responding to these developments.

Despite these changes, the potential of higher education to be a positive agent of change and social transformation endures. The principles laid out in the Magna Charta Universitatum are as valid today as they were in 1988, and they are the necessary precondition for human advancement through enquiry, analysis and sound action. The dramatic changes outlined above require the global academy to identify responsibilities and commitments that the signatories agree are vital to universities around the world in the Twenty-First Century. That is the reason for this new declaration.

Principles, Values and Responsibilities

Universities acknowledge that they have a responsibility to engage with and respond to the aspirations and challenges of the world and to the communities they serve, to benefit humanity and contribute to sustainability.

Intellectual and moral autonomy is the hallmark of any university and a precondition for the fulfilment of its responsibilities to society. That independence needs to be recognised and protected by governments and society at large, and defended vigorously by institutions themselves.

To fulfil their potential, universities require a reliable social contract with civil society, one which supports pursuit of the highest possible quality of academic work, with full respect for institutional autonomy.

As they create and disseminate knowledge, universities question dogmas and established doctrines and encourage critical thinking in all students and scholars. Academic freedom is their lifeblood; open enquiry and dialogue their nourishment.

Universities embrace their duty to teach and undertake research ethically and with integrity, producing reliable, trustworthy and accessible results.

Universities have a civic role and responsibility. They are part of global, collegial networks of scientific enquiry and scholarship, building on shared bodies of knowledge and contributing to their further development. They also are embedded in local cultures and crucially relevant to their future and enrichment. While they are immersed in and connected with global developments, they engage fully with and assume leading roles in local communities and ecosystems.

Universities are non-discriminatory spaces of tolerance and respect where diversity of perspectives flourishes and where inclusivity, anchored in principles of equity and fairness, prevails. They therefore commit themselves to advance equity and fairness in all aspects of academic life including admissions, hiring and promotion practices.

Education is a human right, a public good, and should be available to all. Universities recognise that learning is a lifelong activity with tertiary education as one part of a continuum. Within that one part, universities serve diverse learners at all stages of their lives.

Universities acknowledge that individuals and communities, often due to inequitable circumstances, have difficulty gaining access to higher education or influencing the modes and matter of academic study. To realise human potential everywhere, universities deliberately seek ways to welcome and engage with diverse voices and perspectives.

By signing the Magna Charta Universitatum 2020 universities declare their commitment to the original declaration and to upholding and advancing the Principles, Values and Responsibilities stated above, to strengthen the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and promoting health, prosperity, and enlightenment around the world.

Approved by the Governing Council 12 March 2020

7. How to become a signatory of the MCU 2020

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In order to apply to become a signatory of the MCU2020, you are kindly asked to read the Admission Policy, fill the Application Form that you can download from the MCO website (link for your convenience: <http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum/sign-the-magna-charta>) and email it with the following documents to the Magna Charta Observatory Administrator at magnacharta@unibo.it.

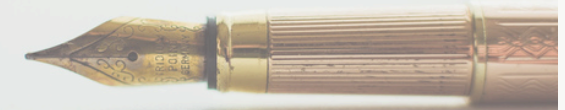
Documents to be attached:

- a) A formal request to become a signatory signed by the senior academic post holder (Rector, President or Vice-Chancellor)
- b) Evidence in the form of certified minutes from the senior academic body and the ultimate governing body that the application has their full support
- c) Statements of support from 3 universities, at least two of which should be outside their own country, which are already signatories of the Magna Charta Universitatum.

The Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory reviews request to sign the MCU during its Winter/Spring meeting, before the 2025 signing event, that will be held in London, UK on 11th-13th November 2025.

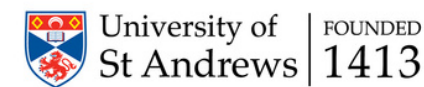
Please send us the listed required documents within the 15th of March, to be reviewed within next Ceremony of November 2025.

The Application Form and the required documents have to be drafted in (or translated into) English.



8. Supporters of the MCO - 2024

'The MCO thanks its supporters whose donations enable it to implement its strategy and serve universities



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The MCO depends
on donations
to undertake
its work.
To make a
donation, please,
click here

9. MCO Contact details

Magna Charta Observatory

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www.magna-charta.org



Secretariat

DAVID J. LOCK

Secretary General

CARLA PAZZAGLIA

Events organizer & Administrator

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Thank you!

LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS.