



Universities' Responsibilities to Society

Webinar
29 September 2021
15.00 - 16.30 CET

Agenda

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1. How to join the webinar

In order to join the zoom meeting, we kindly ask you to download the zoom app (link for your convenience <https://zoom.us/download>).

The web browser client will download automatically when you join your first zoom meeting, but in order to avoid technical problems, we kindly ask you to do it in advance.

There are 3 ways to join the Zoom meeting:

1. From the Zoom app on your desktop
2. Through the link via your email invitation
3. From the Zoom website

Once you have signed in with your username and password, you will have to enter

the meeting ID: 874 8155 0045

the password: 182874

PLEASE, DON'T SHARE THESE INFORMATION WITH ANYBODY. Only registered participants are allowed to enter.

Please, keep your audio and video off.

You will first be placed in a waiting room. Following authorisation you will be placed in the virtual meeting room.

IMPORTANT: Please, rename your profile. Your name that appears under your picture has to be the same as you used to register for the webinar, so that we can recognize you. Thank you.

In case you would like to submit questions, please, write them on the Chat.

2. Introduction to webinar series

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Welcome to the MCO webinar *Universities' Responsibilities to Society*

This is the first of a programme of webinars which follows the launch of the new Magna Charta Universitatum (MCU 2020) which took place on-line on 16-17 June 2021

Invitations to register for up-coming webinars and the next anniversary will be sent by email.

3. Introduction to the webinar

Universities' Responsibilities to Society

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The first of the principles set out in the new Magna Charta Universitatum 2020 (MCU 2020) is:

"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."

MCU 2020 goes on to say that to fulfil their responsibility universities require 'a reliable social contract with civil society.'

But what does that look like in practice in the many different countries and cultures from which MCU signatories come?

The purpose of this webinar is to start answering this question in a way that will give insight and inspire universities to consider further their social contract with civil society.

4. Programme

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14.45 Opening access to participants at Zoom

15.00 Introduction by the moderator

Giga Zedania, Rector of Ilia State University, Georgia, Chair of the Magna Charta Observatory's Research Committee

15.05 Keynote Speech

Academic responsibility and universities' role in society

Chris Brink, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle, UK, member of the Research Committee of the Magna Charta Observatory

15.25 Case Study: AIUB - Bangladesh

Carmen Z. Lamagna, Vice-Chancellor of the American International University -Bangladesh

15.40 Case Study: the University of Manchester

Nalin Thakkar, Vice-President, University of Manchester, UK

15.55 Case Study: University Social Responsibility Network

Robert Hollister, Senior Advisor to the University Social Responsibility Network

16.10 Q&A

16.30 End of the webinar

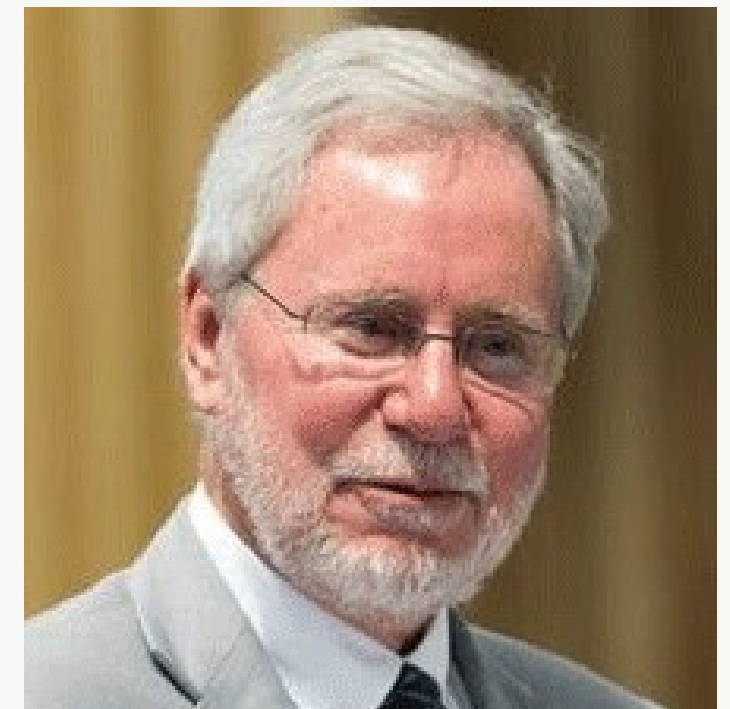
5. Speakers' bios

Professor Chris Brink served as Vice-Chancellor (President) of Newcastle University in the UK from 2007 till 2016, as Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University in South Africa from 2002 until 2007, and as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) of the University of Wollongong in Australia from 1999 until 2001. Before that he was Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Cape Town, and served as the University's Coordinator of Strategic Planning. Other positions include a Senior Research Fellowship at the Australian National University in the 1980s. Before moving into management he held the prestigious A-rating of the National Research Foundation, which ranked him as one of South Africa's leading scientists.

Chris Brink is known as a champion of the idea of a civic university, which he has articulated in two key questions: 'What are we good at?' and 'What are we good for?'. For his work with the city he was awarded the Freedom of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. During his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University twice won the national THELMA (the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award), as well as the Athena SWAN Silver Award for the advancement of gender equality. He is the author of *The Soul of a University: Why excellence is not enough* (Bristol University Press, 2018) and the editor of *The Responsive University and the Crisis in South Africa* (Brill/Sense Publishers, 2021).

Currently he serves on the University Grants Committee in Hong Kong, where he convened the sector-wide 2020 Research Assessment Exercise. He is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. He has served in an advisory or assessment capacity for various universities and organisations.

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Chris Brink

5. Speakers' bios

Vice Chancellor, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) (1997-present).

Born in Manila, Philippines on December 1, 1956, Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Adamson University, Manila in 1978, passed the licensure examination for Chemical Engineers on the same year, she obtained her Masters degrees from the Philippines and a Doctoral degree from California. Under her guidance, the University, from its inception has earned eminences as a higher seat of quality education in Bangladesh and abroad within a short period of its establishment in 1995. From 70 students, the current student population is more than 10,000 under the Faculties of Science and Technology, Engineering, Business Administration and Arts and Social Sciences.

Dr. Lamagna's achievements as an educator and manager may be gleaned from the positions she has in prestigious international bodies. She was the Treasurer (2011-2014) and Board member (2017-present) of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), Administrative Board Member (2017-present) of the International Association of Universities (IAU), with the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) as an ex-officio board member (2010-2018) having served as the first female President for 2008 to 2010, AUAP Advisory Council member for 2021. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of Adamson University, Manila Philippines from 2008 to 2018.

Dr. Lamagna was one of the awardees in the 2006 Presidential Award for Overseas Filipinos. The award ceremony was held in Malacanan Palace, Manila, Philippines last Dec. 7, 2006. She delivered the acceptance speech on the said occasion on behalf of the 48 Presidential awardees. She was also one of the 75 alumni awardees in the Adamson University Jubilee celebration held in the University Auditorium last February 8, 2007.

Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, was selected as top 100 women of the world under the education category by the International Alliance for Women (TIAW) held on October 18, 2012, in Canadian High Commission, Washington DC. The Filipina Women Network (FWN) awarded Dr. Lamagna one of the 100 most influential Filipina in the world under the category of "Builders" for 2014, the ceremony was held during the Forum Summit in Shangrila Hotel, Makati, Philippines on October 5-7, 2014. Dr. Lamagna's research interests are relevant topics/challenges on Higher Education.

The humble story of Dr. Lamagna, being the first woman Vice Chancellor in Bangladesh has inspired women to take actions in support of women's empowerment and advancement in society. Her extraordinary accomplishments in promoting women through education-based programs, initiatives or personal action in a developing country like Bangladesh have earned for her the most coveted recognition.

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Carmen Z.
Lamagna

5. Speakers' bios

Nalin Thakkar is Vice President and Professor of Molecular Pathology at the University of Manchester and Consultant Histopathologist at the Manchester Universities NHS Foundation Trust. In his University role, Nalin is responsible for social responsibility, equality diversity & inclusion, environmental sustainability and non-financial compliance & risk. He is also currently a Non-Executive Director of the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.

Nalin has previously served as a member of the University of Manchester's Board of Governors, Non-Executive Director of the UK Health Research Authority, National Research Ethics Advisor and Member of Ethics Committee of the Royal College of Pathologists.

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Nalin
Thakkar

5. Speakers' bios

Robert M. Hollister is Professor Emeritus, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University, and Senior Advisor to the University Social Responsibility Network. An influential pioneer in the engaged university movement, the focus of his work is to encourage and support universities to move beyond the ivory tower. As the first chair of his home department, he built it into a top graduate program, widely recognized for educating “practical visionaries.” As founding dean of the Tisch College of Civic Life (2000 to 2011), he led the creation and development of Tufts University’s uniquely comprehensive university-wide program to prepare students in all fields for lifetimes of active citizenship.

In 2005, Professor Hollister co-led organization of the conference in Talloires, France, of university heads from around the world that launched the Talloires Network. He then guided the growth and development of the Network, and from 2011-2016 served as its Executive Director. The Network now numbers 417 member universities in 79 countries and is a premier global coalition advancing university social engagement and social responsibility.

Professor Hollister is co-editor of *University Social Responsibility and Quality of Life: A Global Survey of Concepts and Experiences*, co-author of *The Engaged University: International Perspectives on Civic Engagement and of Development Politics*, and co-editor and contributing author of *Governing, Leading and Managing Nonprofit Organizations*; *Cities of the Mind*; *Neighborhood Policy and Planning*; and *Neighborhood Health Centers*

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Robert M.
Hollister

5. Speakers' bios

Giga Zedania is the Rector of Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia) since 2014.

Before this appointment 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).

He is member of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory and Chair of its Research Committee.

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Giga
Zedania

6. The Magna Charta Observatory

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

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7. The MCU 2020

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.

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MCU²⁰²⁰

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

8. 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 2022 signing event (date and venue to be confirmed).

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



9. Supporters of the MCO - 2021

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



The MCO depends on donations

to undertake its work.

To make a donation,

[please, click here](#)

10. About USRN

About the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN)

Universities are increasingly regarded as playing a broader role than fulfilling the responsibility of educating youth and developing knowledge. The rapidly changing environment that universities operate in requires institutions to engage more in contributing to the betterment of society through the integration of social responsibility into institutional management, teaching, research, services and public activities. University Social Responsibility (USR) extends the traditional mission of universities in an endeavour to develop solutions for economic, social, and environmental problems in society.

Based on the belief that universities have obligation to work together to address the economic, social, cultural and environmental challenges in the world and to find solutions so as to make our world more just, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable, the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) was established in 2015, bringing together a group of thought leaders to exchange ideas, resources, practices of varied scope and scale to steer global discussion and development of USR in higher education.

USRN Member Institutions

The University Social Responsibility Network was inaugurated in November 2015. Currently, there are 16 member institutions in the Network. It is expected that a few more member institutions will join the Network by the end of 2021.

USRN Member Institutions:

- Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan
- Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, U.K.
- Peking University, China
- Simon Fraser University, Canada
- The University of Manchester, U.K.
- University of Haifa, Israel
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Washington University in St. Louis, U.S.A.
- Beijing Normal University, China
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Sichuan University, China
- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong SAR (Chair)
- Tufts University, U.S.A.
- University of New South Wales, Australia
- University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Yonsei University, Korea

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11.

MCO Contact details

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Secretariat

DAVID J. LOCK

Secretary General

CARLA PAZZAGLIA

Events organizer & Administrator

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12.

Feedback

Thank you for attending our webinar: We hope you have appreciated it.

We would like to know your opinion, and we would be very thankful if you can reply to a few questions, that you can find here:

<https://forms.gle/cUhjxobr9z7SNPtJA>



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Thank you!

**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS.**