

Webinar
18 September 2020
15.00 - 16.15 CET

**What lessons are
we learning from
Covid-19?**

Agenda

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1. Instructions to participate in the webinar

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In order to join the zoom meeting, we kindly ask you to manually 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 write
the meeting ID: XXX
the password: XXX

Please, keep your audio and video off.

You will first go to the waiting room where you will be authorized to enter into the virtual meeting room.

IMPORTANT: Your username (that appears under your picture at the access) should be the same you used to register to 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

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Welcome to the webinar *What lessons are we learning from Covid 19?*

This is the first of four MCO webinars which will take place before the next MCO Anniversary *University values and responsibilities: responding to the challenges of the future* which will be held in Bologna, Italy on 16-17 June 2021 and will also be on-line.

During the event, the new Magna Charta MCU2020 will be launched and universities will have the opportunity to sign it.

Details about the MCU2020 and how to sign it are below.

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

3. Introduction to the webinar

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What lessons are we learning from Covid 19?

Covid -19 struck in early 2020 and has disrupted universities across the globe. Universities have endeavoured to maintain services to students and staff and serve society as well as possible within the various safety guidelines. The effects have been different in different parts of the world. Has the pandemic affected the rights and responsibilities of students and staff? Has it affected universities' fundamental values?

Programme

- 14.30 Opening access to participants at Zoom
- 15.00 Introduction by the moderator, Sijbolt Noorda, Chair of the MCO Governing Council
- 15.10 The international system perspective, by Eva Egron-Polak, MCO Governing Council member & former Secretary General of IAU, International University Association
- 15.30 The perspective of a leading University with first hand responsibility for thousands of staff and students, by Francesco Ubertini MCO President and Governing Council member & Rector of Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna.
- 15.50 Q&A
- 16.10 Tribute to Eva Egron-Polak who stands down after completing 8 years as a member of the MCO Council.
- 16.15 End of the webinar

4. Speakers' bios

Eva Egron Polak. Member of MCO Governing Council and former Secretary General of the International Association of Universities

Born in Prague, Czech Republic, Eva Egron-Polak studied French Literature, Political Science and International Political Economy in Canada and in France. She was Secretary General of the International Association of Universities from 2002 until 2017. Prior to becoming IAU Secretary General, she worked for nearly two decades at Univesities Canada, holding various positions including as Vice President, International. During the mid-1990s, on leave from Canada, she worked as Director of Cooperation at IAU. Today, as a higher education consultant, she continues to serves as an IAU Senior Fellow.

During her tenure at IAU, she developed many activities and services, especially in internationalization, leadership development as well as promoting equitable access and success in higher education, ethics, academic values and higher education's responsibility to society. She has undertaken reviews of higher education institutions and systems in countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

She is a member of many Boards and international advisory committees of organizations such as the Magna Charta Observatory, the Global Access to Postsecondary Education initiative, the Global Centre for Higher Education, StudyPortal and the University Granada. She has consulted for the OECD, the European Commission and the World Bank.

Eva Egron-Polak co-authored two editions of the IAU Global Survey Report on Internationalization of Higher Education (2010 and 2014), the study on Internationalization of Higher Education for the EU Parliament (2015), and numerous articles and book chapters on higher education policy. She is the recipient of the Palmes academique from the Government of France and holds a Doctorate honoris causa from Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania and McMaster University, Canada.

Her mandate as Governing Council member started on September 22nd,2012 and her second mandate will expire the 21st September, 2020.

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Eva
Egron-Polak

4. Speakers' bios

Born in Perugia on 6 February, 1970, he moved to Bologna to study at the University, where he graduated in Civil Engineering cum laude and was awarded a PhD in Mechanics of Structures in 1998. He became a university researcher in 2000 and Associate Professor in 2001. Since 2007 he is Full Professor of Mechanics of Solids and Structures at the University of Bologna and since 2015 he has been a member of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of Bologna. From 2007 to 2015 he held the position of Head of Department and from 2012 to 2015 he was a member of the Academic Senate of University of Bologna. Among his previous positions, he was President of UniAdrión (2017-2018), President of Bologna University Press, Board member of the Centro Ceramico, member of the Technical Committee on Computational Solid and Structural Mechanics, European Community on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences (2010-2014) and Executive Council member of the Italian Group of Computational Mechanics (2006-2013). He is member of the Board of Rectors of UnaEuropa - University Alliance Europe, board member of European University Association, president of Federico Zeri Foundation, of Bologna Business School, and of Fibra - Fondazione culturale Italo Brasiliana. He is Board member of the Italian University Rectors Conference and President of the Magna Charta Universitatum Observatory. He currently teaches the first module of Mechanics of Solids and Structures for the 1st cycle Degree Programme in Civil Engineering. His research activity focuses on various aspects of them mechanics of solids and structures, with theoretical and applied contributions in many fields of Engineering. These include in particular a) numerical modeling and structural analysis; b) smart structures and innovative materials; c) historical structures and innovative materials; and d) structural monitoring and diagnostics. He coordinates a large research group that is very active on the international scene and has participated in different roles in many national and European research projects. He is author of more than 70 papers in international journals and more than 200 papers in national and international conference proceedings. His mandate as Governing Council member started on March 4th, 2016 and his second mandate will expire the 31st October, 2021.

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Francesco
Ubertini

4. Speakers' bios

Sijbolt Noorda is the Chair of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory.

He is president emeritus of the University of Amsterdam, past president of the Association of Dutch Research Universities and a former board member of the European University Association.

Presently he chairs the board of Codarts (Rotterdam University of the Arts), as well as the board of International Baccalaureate, the board of Muziekgebouw aan het IJ (Contemporary Music Hall, Amsterdam) and the board of De Groene Amsterdammer (independent weekly).

Furthermore he is a member of the International Advisory Board of Amsterdam University College, Universität Tübingen, the Berlin Universities, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and ITMO University, St Petersburg.

He is editor-in-chief of the Dutch-Flemish Journal for Higher Education Th&ma. He lectures and writes on higher education issues and regularly reviews Higher Education Institutions in the European Higher Education Area.

He has served on various executive and non-executive boards in the domains of Higher Education & Research, Public Radio & Television, Performing Arts & Moving Image, Health Service, High Performance Computing, Not-for-profit Publishing and Social Services.

His academic field is cultural history of religions in Europe. He holds degrees from Free University Amsterdam, Utrecht University and Union Seminary/Columbia University, NYC.

His mandate as Governing Council member started on June 14th, 2013 and his second mandate will expire on June 13th, 2021.

Both speakers and the moderator were members of the group which drafted MCU 2020 – the newly adopted Magna Charta which can be seen at <http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum/mcu-2020>

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Sijbolt
Noorda

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.



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.

Its formal launch has been delayed by the Covid -19 emergency but it will be launched globally at the next 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.

MCU
2020

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

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 2020 signing event (now delayed to June 2021), that will be held in Bologna, Italy on 16th-17th June 2021.

Please send us the listed required documents within the 5th of November 2020, to be reviewed within next Ceremony of June 2021.

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



8. MCO Contact details

Magna Charta Observatory

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Email: magnacharta@unibo.it

www.magna-charta.org



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Secretariat

DAVID J. LOCK

Secretary General

CARLA PAZZAGLIA

Events organizer & Administrator

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Feedback

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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/tHtMZhHBRByGVsDPA>



Thank you!

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