

newsletter

Urban fabric and society: which policies for the future?

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Each year on the 8th of March, the world celebrates International Women's Day to commemorate the achievements of ordinary women and to recognize their right to participate fully and equally in political, economic, social and cultural development and progress. This celebration originated from women's struggles for equality in industrialized countries at the turn of the 20th century and was officially recognized and launched by the United Nations during International Women's Year in 1975.

Thirty years later, Member States of the United Nations and international UN organizations, including UNESCO, are in New York reviewing the progress that has been made on respect for the rights of women and gender equality since the Fourth (and last) World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, in 1995.

For its part, UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector has recently initiated projects for action oriented research, awareness-raising and capacity building in order to:

- Understand the impact of globalization on women's socio-economic, political, and cultural conditions and rights, and identify possibilities and obstacles that affect women's access to and enjoyment of human rights and the right to development.
- Analyse the socio-cultural institutions, laws, norms, practices, and values that inhibit equality or that help to reproduce violence against women and identify the policies and cultural norms that reduce gender disparities and help to achieve equality and development.



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- • Examine the ways that women and gender relations are involved in and affected by global tensions and armed conflicts, and promote women's involvement in conflict resolution, peace-building and reconstruction.

In implementing this strategy we have developed a number of projects, such as the establishment of a Palestinian Women's Resource Centre in Ramallah that will primarily support the promotion of research-based policies and help to institutionalize and ensure women's human rights. A similar type of research centre is also being proposed for Iraq.

In the Great Lakes Region in Africa, our principal focus is to promote women's involvement in post conflict peace-building and reconstruction, and to examine how a new order can contribute to women's empowerment and advancement.

Our project on women in the judiciary in Latin America and the Caribbean seeks to analyse the factors that have an impact on women's mobility in the higher courts of justice and to promote awareness of affirmative action policies that would allow for social justice and equality.

Another project envisages the strengthening of women's studies programmes in Asian universities and research centres to facilitate gender-sensitive and disaggregated research, and policy formulation and programme implementation that lead to the advancement of women's human rights and participation.

This contribution to the cause of women in different regions of the world upholds a long-established tradition in UNESCO. Since its creation, the Organization has focused on women's participation in public life and the need for the education of women and girls at all levels as a means of enhancing democratic participation in society and in development.

This issue of the *SHS Newsletter* is dedicated to women, whose struggle has contributed to civilize our planet.

Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General
for Social
and Human Sciences



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The quarterly *SHS Newsletter* provides information on the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of social and human sciences. It is available both in printed and electronic form (www.unesco.org/shs).

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© UNESCO, 2005
ISSN: 1814-2982

Director of publication:
Pierre Sané
Editor: Gillian Whitcomb
Editorial assistant:
Rosemary Wiltshire-Romero
Design and layout:
Atelier Takavoir – Paris
with Anne Drezner
Printing: Stipa – Montreuil

Ethics and nanotechnology

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS: A PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION

UNESCO has undertaken a feasibility study on international action in the field of environmental ethics. The study will initially establish the state-of-the-art in environmental ethics and prepare proposals for action, including the elaboration of a declaration of environmental ethical principles. To set up direct dialogue with relevant interlocutors of civil society, SHS organized a seminar at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (Brazil) on 27 January 2005. Not only did this allow for discussion of a policy paper prepared for the occasion, but it also provided the opportunity to liaise with relevant stakeholders in the international arena and resulted in the establishment of a network. The proposals will now be presented to the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) during its Fourth Ordinary Session, from 23 to 25 March 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand. After further elaboration, proposals will be submitted to UNESCO's General Conference at its 33rd session. ¶

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As with any new technology, the current international debate on the risks and benefits brought by nanotechnology raises ethical issues, some of which are common to many other technological fields but others are quite specific.

To keep abreast of the advances in science and technology, UNESCO promotes studies in order to anticipate new areas of ethical concern.

At the 5th World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, SHS was invited to promote international reflection and discussion at the seminar organized by the Brazilian NGO Research Network in Nanotechnology, Society and the Environment (RENANOSOMA) on 28 January 2005 (see page 24). Participants included speakers from the European Union, St. Lawrence University (USA), the Center for Responsible Nanotechnology (USA), and the ETC Group (Canada). The Seminar was entitled “New technologies for a new world: is nanotechnology a solution?”

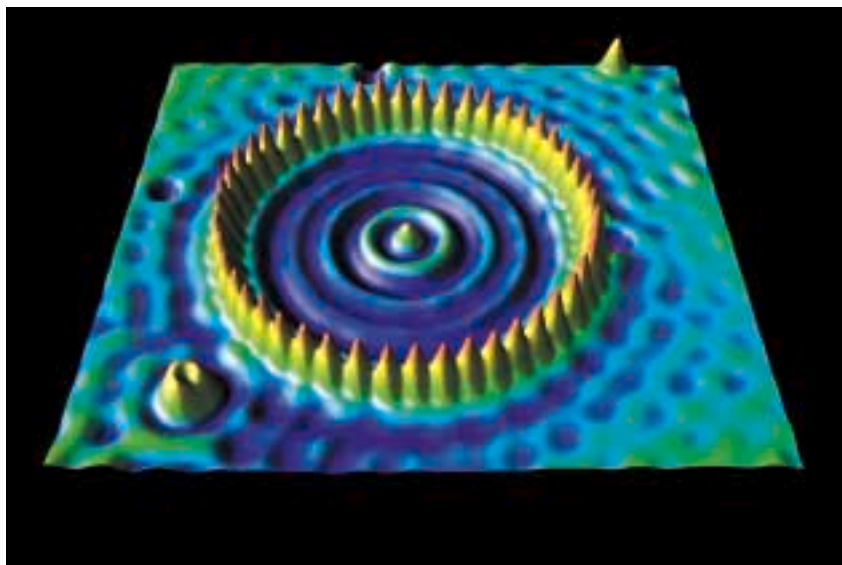
The fact that a precise definition of nanotechnology has become a controversial issue may be more positive than we think. Like other emerging technologies, nanotechnology is located in the interface between basic and applied research. A commonly employed notion

is that nanotechnology is research carried out at the nanoscale (10⁻⁹ metres, or one billionth of a metre). Researchers and policy makers in the United States have given a more functional definition: “nanotechnology is the creation of functional materials, devices and systems through control of matter on the nanometer length scale, exploiting novel phenomena and properties (physical, chemical and biological) present only at that length scale”.

The SHS work plan for nanotechnology and ethics is about to be finalized and in July 2005 an expert group will be established to examine the ethical issues in relation to nanotechnology and to explore potential areas for international concerted action. The working group will analyse the state-of-the-art in this field and its possible ethical implications, and make recommendations regarding potential action UNESCO – with its advisory committee COMEST – could take in the area of nanotechnology ethics. ¶

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ETHICS ROTATING CONFERENCE GOES TO MEXICO

Approximately 200 experts and members of the Colegio Nacional de México attended the Symposium “Towards a universal declaration on universal norms in bioethics”, held in Mexico City on 24 November 2004. This was part of the series of rotating conferences “Ethics Around the World”, whose main purpose is to present the activities of UNESCO’s programme in ethics of science and technology and bioethics and provide an opportunity for debate with national specialists about the draft of the universal declaration on bioethics.

The symposium was opened with a presentation of UNESCO’s work in the field of ethics of science and technology and bioethics and an explanation of the process of elaborating a declaration. Following this, Mme Michèle Jean, Chairperson of the

International Bioethics Committee (IBC), explained the IBC’s activities in the drafting process, underlining how complex yet constructive the process was. During the second part of the Symposium, several prominent Mexican experts expressed their views on the third draft of the universal declaration. This was followed by an intense debate, open to the public and led by Mr Martínez Palomo, member of the IBC, during which favourable and divergent views were confronted in order to explore and clarify the scope, terms and future application of the declaration.¶

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MOSCOW HOSTS MEETINGS ON ETHICS

As part of the series of regional ethics teaching expert meetings, organized by the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, a conference was held in Moscow on 19 and 20 January 2005. The aim was to present various ethics teaching programmes in the field of ethics of science and technology; to take first steps in creating a network of ethics teachers; and to work out future cooperation such as the establishment of an international programme on ethics. The experts came from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and the Ukraine. This conference was particularly important since it brought together ethics teachers of the region for the first time since *perestroika*. The conference was followed on 21 January by a Regional Consultation Meeting in Bioethics, chaired by Prof. Boris Yudin. UNESCO presented its activities in the field of bioethics and on the elaboration of a universal declaration on universal norms in bioethics (see page 5). The fourth outline of the declaration had been translated into Russian to facilitate discussion. The day-long debate was intense, with active participation of all the experts. At the end of the meeting, they expressed their pleasure that this

exchange of ideas had been made possible, and endorsed the preparation of the universal declaration.¶

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IBC EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

A one-day, extraordinary session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 28 January 2005. The meeting was called to discuss finalization of the draft declaration relating to universal norms on bioethics which will be submitted for adoption to the General Conference in October 2005.

IBC President, Mme Michèle Jean, chaired the meeting. The session took place following the close of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) 4th session and the IBC/IGBC joint session held from 24 to 27 January 2005. In his address to the IBC extraordinary session, Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura gave a brief outline of the work already accomplished by the IBC and then went on to say that the aim of the draft declaration is to establish principles and procedures to guide Member States’ policy and legislation in matters relating to bioethics.¶

www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics

Michèle Jean: the drafting of a declaration

Michèle Jean, Canada's former Deputy Minister of Health (1993-98), is Chairperson of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee (IBC). She is a historian and has acquired a wealth of experience in the field of ethics in science, particularly as member of the International Institute of Research in Ethics and Biomedicine (IIREB). In this interview, Mme Jean talks about the development of bioethics and of the latest initiative to be launched by UNESCO in this field: the drafting of a declaration relating to universal norms on bioethics.

Bioethics is a relatively recent discipline that has already greatly evolved. What was its aim initially?

At its very beginning, bioethics sought to cover everything concerning the life sciences – the environment, animals, etc. With time and practice we saw the sphere of activity focusing on the biomedical, that is, on the doctor-patient relationship and also with the invention of new technologies, on problems relating to decision-making in the medical profession. For example, at what stage should one turn off the life-support machine of a person who is brain-dead? New technologies have posed doctors a number of questions to which they had no answer. Philosophy at that time could not respond to those questions.

But nowadays bioethics also has a bearing on other fields...

Over the years, bioethics has focused on the biomedical field and has widened that scope to include the social sciences – law, anthropology, sociology, etc. – in order to be able to examine the problems linked, notably, to the development of genetics and genomics. There, we have issues that concern not merely the doctor-patient relationship and the health system: for example, DNA tests in a criminal investigation. In addition, if one tackles certain public health issues with different cultural communities, one is often confronted with problems that are both of an anthropological as well as medical nature. That is why the social sciences are increasingly being associated with bioethics.

How would you define bioethics?

Let me give you a practical definition. To my mind, bioethics covers three sectors. First, the clinical sector. This includes issues relating to clinical research, epidemiology and the doctor-patient relationship, etc., with which hospital ethics committees are often faced. Second, there is the field of basic research which has expanded in recent years to include molecular biology, pharmacogenomics, nanosciences and genomics. Third – and I think this is very important – bioethics covers everything to do with the development of public health policies. The clinical or basic research sectors depend on the allocation of funds, that is, the action of

Interview



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decision-makers and political authorities. We have to find a way to make use of them in this field of bioethics. When you look at these three fields, you are faced with major challenges. How can we reconcile the individual's interests – the patient and also an individual involved in research on population genetics – with the interests of the community?

The International Bioethics Committee (IBC), chaired by you, has been given the mandate to draft an instrument relating to universal norms on bioethics. For whom is it intended?

The declaration aims to provide a framework that can be followed by States when they are setting out their policies, legislation, outlines of good conduct and codes of ethics. It is an instrument to help countries develop their own documents and instruments adapted to their respective cultures and traditions, etc. The challenge is not to lapse into cultural relativism but to produce an outline that is coherent and can be of service to all UNESCO Member States.

Why do we need universal points of reference?

We need them because science is increasingly universal. For example, teams of scientists are often made up of researchers coming from a variety of countries in different parts of the world. And, of course, there has been abuse. The aim of the declaration is to say: science is important, research is important and health systems are important, and we want every-



→ thing to take place with integrity and transparency, showing due respect for the person or group of people concerned. By providing this framework, we want scientists and health and social science professionals to be able to integrate ethical dimensions into their practices. The aim is for bioethics not to be secondary but to form a basic part of the parameters that determine the quality of a project, an operation and the doctor-patient relationship. In this age of globalization, we must somehow *globalize* ethics and set common points of reference.

Take, for example, a country where you have to go through an ethics or bioethics committee and respect certain rules in order to bring a scientific project to a successful conclusion. In order to get round such constraints, nowadays the project is merely transferred to a country that does not have such a structure! In some developing countries, researchers from other countries can collect precious information – particularly on DNA – that will be exploited and used to register patents without the “donor” country reaping the slightest benefit.

The text of this future declaration as it stands at present, is based on a series of fundamental principles, the first and foremost being the principle of human dignity. Can one really define this principle?

The idea is very complex and I don’t think we will be able to give a precise definition. Human dignity can take various forms in different cultures. Others before us have tried to define it but one inevitably comes to definitions that prevent this principle from retaining its universality.

So what is the point?

Human dignity is a concept to be found in several international texts, notably in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the thinking of some philosophers, like Kant. Basically, the advantage of this principle is to bring to the fore a conception of what is human. If we don’t take human dignity into consideration, then what is the point of talking about principles such as autonomy or informed consent? Human dignity includes several things such as a certain respect and a certain tolerance, etc. I think this concept makes up the view or objective we must strive for, so that we could then have a clearer definition of further principles.

But does such a pluralistic approach not run the risk of weakening the instrument?

Indeed, as I’ve just said, we must not fall into the trap of cultural relativism where everything is everywhere and it’s all right to do anything in the name of cultural diversity. That is why we specify in the declaration that there must be no undermining of the values of justice, human dignity and human rights in the name of cultural diversity. Nothing that is implemented must run counter to the general, fundamental principles we are defining. And yet we can – in the way we work and in relation with spirituality and religion – we can move forward in different ways to put these same principles into practice.

The principle of solidarity also takes up a large part of the declaration. What is the declaration’s aim in this connection?

Before getting down to this declaration, we had already produced a report on international cooperation and solidarity. In all the reports and advisory notes of the IBC – because it isn’t only declarations we produce – we call for this principle. It has many implications for health systems, the public health arena and research.

Solidarity means, for instance, sharing research findings. We must make sure that data collected in certain countries cannot be used without those countries being able to benefit from the results. Many ways can be found of sharing the benefits. Particularly through publishing research or establishing mechanisms for sharing resources and funding which take into account the needs of countries that lack vaccines, etc. There are countries at the moment without any basic healthcare or access to medication for certain illnesses such as AIDS, while other countries are already talking about transhumanism and various ways of altering human beings! Right now what is really important is reducing the inequities in these fields. This is a basic issue of solidarity and sharing of resources – financial and intellectual, as well as technology transfer.

One of the aims of the declaration is to prevent the stigmatization and discrimination of a person or group of persons on the grounds of their physical, mental, social or genetic characteristics. Could you give some recent examples of cases where advances in science have resulted in that kind of risk?

New risks came to light with the development of genetics. For example, if you study the “susceptibility” of a given population to certain illnesses, there is the risk of sections of that population being stigmatised. People who are more vulnerable than others to develop an illness because of their genetic characteristics may find they are refused

↳ UNESCO and bioethics: towards universal norms

UNESCO created the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) in 1993, at a time when the study of genomics and genetics was beginning to develop. The newly established IBC – although at that time, it had no formal structure – was called upon to draft a declaration on the human genome and human rights. The Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights was drafted by the IBC and adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 1997, and approved by the United Nations in 1998.

In 1998, the IBC was granted a formal structure with statutes, rules and formal working procedures. That same year the Intergovernmental Committee on Bioethics (IGCB) was established, composed of representatives of 36 UNESCO Member States. These two Committees work in cooperation, producing advisory notes, recommendations and proposals which are then submitted to the Director-General for consideration by UNESCO's governing bodies.

In 2003, the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data was adopted. The same year, both Committees were given the mandate of drawing up an instrument relating to universal norms on bioethics. This draft, which deals with the human being – as a moral subject having responsibilities vis-à-vis animals, the environment and the biosphere – will be submitted to UNESCO's General Conference in October 2005.

employment or cannot take out an insurance policy because of the likelihood of their becoming ill at some stage in their lives. How can we ensure that on the one hand epidemiological research – which can benefit from the study of the genetic data of populations – can advance, and on the other, ensure that it does not lead to people being stigmatized? And there is also the issue of community dimensions of consent, for example. If you decide to do a DNA test, it may perhaps reveal certain susceptibilities in your family and thus the family would be affected by the findings. But at the same time we must not “generalize” everything: the individual is made up of genetics, yes, but there are also phenotypes, and the education he/she has received, and his/her surroundings, etc.

The draft declaration emphasizes that advances in science should always tend towards promoting the well-being of individuals and of the human race in general. Might there not be instances where the interests of the individual are in contradiction with those of the community?

The great challenge of bioethics consists precisely in trying to reach a balance between these interests. Here's an example: if you have some medication that costs us \$20,000 per annum, per person, in a State-funded public health system,

you will perhaps be obliged not to subsidize that medication because it is too costly and therefore would harm the whole system. There are community interests that must be weighed against those of the individual. I myself studied the question of compensation for hepatitis C in Canada when I was Deputy Minister of Health. We were faced with the problem of deciding whether to give financial help to people with this illness, some of whom had perhaps contracted it through an error on the part of the State and others had contracted it in different ways. Are you then going to compensate every single person and thus create a precedent that is going to jeopardize your whole health system? There are difficult choices to be made when one is with an Administration. Bioethics helps guide our choice of options.

But on a specific issue, such as the one you have just mentioned, how could the declaration have helped in settling the issue?

When we talk about acting for the well-being of a person or persons, the declaration will not necessarily resolve the issue because not everywhere has the same level of social acceptance. But we are hoping to deliver an outline that, when we come to analyse these questions, will help bring about the best possible decisions in any given situation based on the fundamental principles drawn from the declaration.

The declaration has introduced some new or emerging principles such as the principle of accountability. Why have such a principle?

This principle is particularly important given the current context of the advances in science. It touches on all aspects of the issue of the integrity of scientists and their responsibility, and also the responsibility of the individual. It is not often mentioned, but as individuals in society we also have a certain responsibility – with regard to our health, our behaviour, what we eat and how we live – so as not to have a negative impact on the health system or harm our fellow citizens. One often hears “my freedom ends where yours begins” – it's all a matter of balance.



“...we must somehow *globalize* ethics and set common points of reference.”

→ **The procedural principles are among the new ideas introduced by this text. Of what do they consist?**

Alongside the fundamental principles and their derivatives, we have also tried to define a group of “procedural” principles. Basically, these also constitute a group of values which aims to determine certain working methods in order better to apply the fundamental principles and derivatives. They apply to principles such as honesty, integrity, transparency and openness, as well as some rational methods employed by scientists. As a scientist, you might say “I am being fair” and yet perhaps you are not being clear, perhaps you are not explaining what you are doing to anyone, perhaps you haven’t proved that your scientific information is complete, etc. So it’s at the level of implementation of the fundamental principles and derivatives that we have introduced this procedural principles category.

All these principles are still very general. Are you not afraid the declaration might become a mere list of good intentions? What use is it really?

The declaration also recommends some fairly concrete measures such as setting up ethics committees, and public debate, etc. On all these issues, we must engage in public debate and establish a dialogue with scientists and civil society, to see how far we want to go and how we can function. All that is very concrete – there need to be ethics committees, there need to be ethics education programmes for scientists and health professionals, genetic advice programmes must be developed, etc. With regard to UNESCO, it is going to develop the procedures of implementation of the declaration, procedures of evaluation and monitoring – all of that will make the declaration come into being. UNESCO is also planning to support the setting up of data banks which will help people to know what is going on in certain countries and help other countries develop their own capacities supported by the practical examples of what goes on elsewhere.

In its preamble, the text of the future declaration refers to a whole series of instruments listing achievements in international law. Given that the declaration will be submitted to Member States for their approval, might this not run the risk of all these achievements being undermined?

The instruments mentioned in the preamble have already been adopted and, as such, cannot be challenged. I think it is useful to have a reminder of these instruments because those who will be using this declaration do not necessarily know about them simply because they may be working in very diverse sectors. Now the question as to whether the declaration itself will fall short of what is set out in the preamble – I certainly hope not! We can be sure that when the Member States come to study the declaration – I happened to notice it in the case of the adoption of the Declaration on Human Genetic Data – it will mean that some States will react, depending on what is happening in their own countries, with regard to their own legislation and type of government. So it may sometimes happen that the interventions of certain Member States fall short of our expectations with regard to the instruments mentioned in the preamble, but there are always other countries that can counteract such views. States generally show plenty of goodwill because they want this work to be useful. They want the declaration to be usable at both national and international level. The declaration should not be an empty shell.

This declaration is for establishing ethical principles to be applied to recent scientific advances. Is it really possible to establish norms that follow today’s pace of science?

Of course, science is developing very rapidly, but in my opinion that is precisely why we need to elaborate this declaration. Besides, the plan is for the declaration to be reviewed subsequently in the light of scientific progress and some of the aspects that may not have been touched on, could be the subject of further study. Indeed, some scientific fields like, for example, genetics, have developed enormously over the past few years. There are some codes of ethics that do not mention this and now therefore warrant revision. But I do not think we should give up simply because science is moving too fast. On the contrary, I think we must continue to develop and maintain ethical frameworks that can be useful. With a good ethical framework, we can follow scientific developments and make any necessary adjustments as we go along – particularly through reports and advisory notes. Nor should we forget that bioethics must be based on a solid, scientific framework; it cannot give opinions on unfounded perceptions. ¶

Interview by **Jeanette Blom**, j.blom@unesco.org

International Coalition of Cities against Racism

UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY PARTNERSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2004 UNESCO continued to chair the transversal inter-agency group “Human Rights and Gender” established in Mali in 2002 within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This consultation framework enabled a synergetic process to begin between a number of UNESCO projects and projects at several other UN Specialized Agencies within the fields of human rights promotion and good governance.

In November 2004, a joint workshop was therefore organized by UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO. This workshop enabled the main actors of the Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty to be trained, as well as civil society and UN representatives, in a human rights based approach. Following the training session, the same participants attended an analysis workshop. This enabled them to take the first steps in the revision of the document, foreseen for 2005. The UNDP/UNESCO/UNICEF partnership should be renewed this year. ¶

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The initiative for the creation of an *International Coalition of Cities against Racism*, which UNESCO launched in March 2004, saw the inauguration of the first Regional Coalition on 10 December 2004: the *European Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination*. The aim of this initiative is to create a solid global framework for the struggle against racism in all its forms by building a network of interested cities through exchanging experiences and expertise. It was first launched regionally so as to take better account of the specificities and priorities of each world region.

The European Coalition was launched during the Fourth European Conference of Cities for Human Rights, held in Nuremberg, Germany, on 9 and 10 December 2004, where representatives of 140 cities attended. Fifteen cities – Badalona, Barcelona and Madrid (Spain); Gap, Lyon, Paris and Pontault-Combault (France); Bologna, Pescara and Santa Maria Capua Vetere (Italy); London (United Kingdom); Erlangen and Nuremberg (Germany); Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina); and Stockholm (Sweden) – have already signed the Declaration of Intent. After approval by the municipal authorities, these cities will join the network whose Ten-Point Plan of Action was drafted by a meeting of experts in July 2004. Other cities have expressed interest in the network and should soon be joining the Coalition.

In developing this project, UNESCO set up cooperation links with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

In 2005 and 2006, UNESCO will initiate the following coalitions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, North America, Asia and the Pacific, and the Arab States. And finally, in 2007, the International Coalition should come into being via a meeting involving all regions. ¶

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➡ Ten-Point Plan of Action

The signatory cities undertake to integrate the Plan of Action within their strategies and action programmes and to commit to it the human, financial and material resources required for its effective implementation.

The Plan covers the following ten areas of action:

1. Greater vigilance against racism
2. Assessing racism and discrimination and monitoring municipal policies
3. Better support for the victims of racism and discrimination
4. More participation and better informed city dwellers
5. The city as an active supporter of equal opportunity practice
6. The city as an equal opportunities employer and service provider
7. Fair access to housing
8. Challenging racism and discrimination through education
9. Promoting cultural diversity
10. Hate crimes and conflict management.

GUATEMALA – SMALL NGOS SHOW THE WAY

The December 2004 issue of *Le Monde de l'éducation* carried a 6-page article on the little known associations or groups of people working behind the scenes in Guatemala.

Under UNESCO auspices and with financial aid from the Organization's Education for Children in Need programme (see *SHS Newsletter 06*), these associations are helping the country in its slow recovery from decades of civil war.

As with other countries, poverty drives people into the towns and cities in search of work. These people have usually had little or no schooling, and very often don't speak Spanish. How can they find a job if they don't speak the language? So these internal migrants have merely moved from rural to urban poverty. The Government of Guatemala now recognizes the importance of bilingual schooling in Spanish and Ki'che' or Spanish and Q'eqchi' or another of the 23 different languages spoken in the country. Until recently such schools were run privately on a semi-professional basis, but now there are even 'alternative' schools like Yampu in San Pedro Ayampuc, which provides a Mayan education – not just language, but mathematics and the natural sciences as well.

It is eight years since the end of the civil war but the scars are still very apparent. One association – Caja Ludica – is trying to bring healing through music, writing and art. For children and young people living on the streets this offers an alternative to gangs, drugs and trafficking. Artistic expression is also the method used by Cuarto Mundo with painting and street theatre.

The new Guatemala has many urgent issues to deal with: poverty, corruption, inequality, demographic explosion – all are interconnected, but at the moment the infrastructure is insufficient to tackle all the problems at once. So with UNESCO backing, these small associations are stepping in at local level to help street children kick their crack or glue-sniffing addiction and get back into society and back into school, showing that education is the way out of poverty. ¶

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FINANCIAL AID FOR CHILDREN IN MALI AND NIGER

Four national associations – two in Mali and two in Niger – will be receiving financial aid from UNESCO in 2005-2006 for children's aid projects. The overall amount – us \$200,000 – comes from the Children in Need programme (see *Newsletter 06*).

Two projects in Mali

- *The Mali Association for the fight against mental disability* strives to improve the living conditions of mentally disabled children and their families. The Association works for the children's well-being through functional rehabilitation in institutions and in the home, through sensitization of their social environment and continuing activities with knowledge transfer to local reference groups, as well as promoting their basic rights – the right to health, education and social integration.
- *Children's foundation in the towns of Ségou (2005) and Mopti (2006)* Capacity-building for help centres, improving reception conditions for children in difficult circumstances, giving them appropriate training and strengthening their technical and material know-how to help their integration into society and the workplace. The 2006 project in Mopti will also assist the child's return home to live with his family.



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Two projects in Niger

- *Association against child labour in Niger – 2005* This Association takes care of young child workers or trainees, in order to give them additional professional training, teaches them to read and write, and instructs them on health and hygiene issues and HIV/AIDS.
- *Nigerien Family Welfare Association – 2005 and 2006* This Association provides education and training support for poor, often homeless children in Dosso and Niamey. It supports the children's reintegration into society and helps improve their well-being in these two urban communities. ¶

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Philosophical Dialogues

SAN JOSE HELPS ITS CHILDREN IN NEED

In December 2004, the UNESCO Office in San José, Costa Rica, signed the first contract with the NGO “Defensa de los Niños - Internacional” (DNI). DNI will implement a new project entitled “Alternatives to improve the well-being of children and adolescents working and/or living in the streets of San José”. The funds will come from UNESCO’s “Children in Need” extra-budgetary project, which has raised some US \$ 25 million to fund projects in 80 countries since it was established in 1992.*

The San José project, which will last two years, has among its major objectives to: guarantee access to quality education and to all types of health services for the young people concerned; address the needs of those affected by cases of violence, abuse of authority, sexual and/or economic exploitation, etc.; promote the reintegration of these children and adolescents into their family group; provide alternative spaces for conviviality; and foster the development of alternative strategies of income-generating activities that will allow the families to reach a decent standard of living. ¶

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Top: Professor Bhuvan Chandel of India
Above: Professor Fatma Haddad-Chamakh of Tunisia

The UNESCO project entitled *Inter-regional Philosophical Dialogues* was launched in 2004 with the aim of promoting philosophical reflection and dialogue between the various world regions, such as the Arab world and Asia, Africa and Latin America, Africa and the Arab world, Western and Eastern Europe, and so on. The Philosophical Dialogues fall within the UN Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations. The objective is to foster greater mutual understanding of the world traditions of philosophical thought, as well as to encourage intellectual partnerships in exploring the contemporary challenges to philosophical research and study in the different regions.

Asia and the Arab world

The first activity of the project, *Inter-regional Philosophical Dialogues: Asia and the Arab World*, was inaugurated with a two-day conference, which took place on 16 and 17 November 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters. Some 30 philosophers from these two regions discussed

the main themes that the project could address, as well as possible activities. Philosophers tackled such questions as: Why is an interregional philosophical dialogue important today? In what way could a philosophical dialogue between the Arab world and Asia contribute to the development of the study of philosophy? What are the necessary elements required for such a dialogue? What are the objectives in establishing such a dialogue? On which themes should such dialogues focus? How could the two traditions of thought be promoted in the two regions?

The philosophers from Asia and the Arab world also took part in a round table on the occasion of the third UNESCO Philosophy Day, held on 18 November 2004, where they discussed their views on the philosophical tradition of the other region.

Further debates

UNESCO plans to hold further philosophical debates between different regions to discuss the Organization’s main programme priorities, for example Education for All, Bioethics, Knowledge Societies, Cultural Diversity, Ethics of the Environment and the Fight against Poverty, as well as key topics discussed at the last World Congress of Philosophy: globalization and accountability, equality, individual and collective action, identity and justice, etc.

The follow-up to this initiative will be carried out in cooperation with UNESCO’s main partners, and in particular with UNESCO Chairs of Philosophy. ¶

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* See *SHS Newsletter* 06

Dossier

Urban issues



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↳ A few facts and figures

In the overview to *State of the World's Cities 2004/5*, the UN-HABITAT report sets out the following indicators on urbanization and the economic contribution of cities:

- It is estimated that 50% of the world population will be living in urban areas in 2007.
- The world's urban population will grow from 2.86 billion in 2000 to 4.98 billion by 2030.
- Urban growth in middle- and low-income countries accounts for about 2 billion of this increase, suggesting that urban growth on a weekly basis will be close to 1 million persons, or a city the size of Hanoi or Pittsburgh each week.
- Urban-based economic activities account for more than 50 per cent of GDP in all countries. ¶

www.unhabitat.org

To this can be added the following information contained in the *World Urbanization Prospects : The 2003 Revision*, published in 2004 by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs:

- Population growth will be particularly rapid in the urban areas of less developed regions, averaging 2.3 per cent per year during 2000-2030. In contrast, the urban population of the more developed regions is expected to increase very slowly, averaging 0.5 per cent per year.
- The proportion of the population living in urban areas is expected to increase to 82 per cent by 2030.
- Three-fourths of all governments (79 per cent of developing countries and 65 per cent of developed countries) report that they are dissatisfied with the spatial distribution of their populations. Developing countries are also more likely to have adopted policies to ameliorate spatial distribution. ¶

www.unpopulation.org

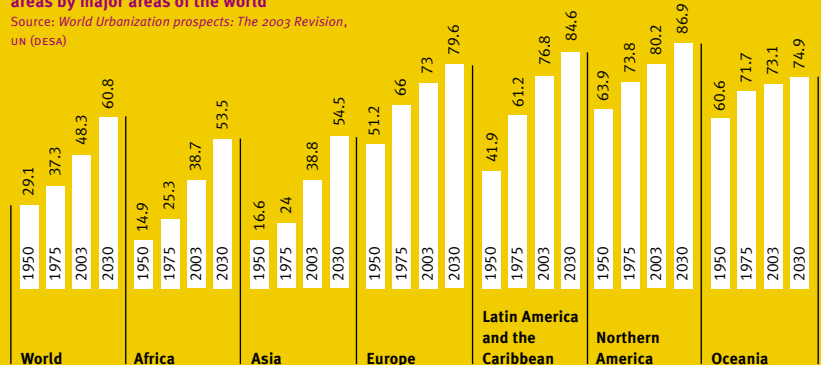
“ Many of society's inequities and ills are also becoming more and more urban. We see stark contrasts: contrasts in wealth and opportunity; contrasts in urbanization patterns; and contrasts between housing costs and the salaries offered by labour markets. The same cities that offer so many riches are also places of extreme poverty, exploitation and disease, drug abuse and crime.”

Kofi Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Percentage of population residing in urban areas by major areas of the world

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision*, UN (DESA)



Capacity building for urban experts and practitioners

With investment in urban real estate, infrastructure and renovation becoming one of the driving forces behind economic growth, the physical landscape and social structure of the city are being irrevocably altered. Cities are therefore called upon to have a different and more influential role in the 21st century.

This transformation and the evolution of the urban conditions which define cities occur at a very rapid rhythm. The trends in economic development, the role of new information technologies, migration, trade and cultural exchange between cities, all of these will undoubtedly make the emerging global network of cities as important as the political relations between nation-states.

It is therefore critical that urban experts and practitioners engage in meaningful discussions, so as to ensure that cities are prepared to step into heightened roles.

The question for architects, urban planners and mayors is how to plan and manage infrastructure and development without constraining growth, while simultaneously promoting the social and economic benefits of proximity and complexity in compact urban systems. The aspirations are clear, but the actual impact on the social economy of urban communities has yet to be understood.

Trans-disciplinary teamwork

Spatial planning is essentially trans-disciplinary teamwork involving different professionals and actors in complex processes. The planner's role evolves following the development of society and of planning laws and policies. These vary according to the different political and social structure of each country. Compared to other disciplines, the distinctive difference is that spatial planners must focus primarily on the interests of society as a whole, the settlement or the region as an entity, and the longer-term future. Spatial planners should analyse, draft, implement and monitor development strategies, supporting policies, programmes and key projects.



Mexican inhabitant participating in the planning of his house.

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➔ The UNESCO-ITESO Chair in Housing Management and Socially Sustainable Urban Development

The activities of the ITESO University Chair (Guadalajara, Mexico) centre on the interdisciplinarity and innovative teaching at the University's Housing and Urban Development Department. In addition, the activities comprise a master's degree; an annual international seminar; a university expert study on local governments and residents' associations, and publishing the findings.

The prime objectives are the opening up of training and knowledge production possibilities around urban development, the reformulation of urban policy and building partnerships between the university and the regions' economic and social life through the creation of small businesses and local urban workshops) in order to try out new consulting techniques among the various city actors.¶

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Capacity building

Research and exchange will, it is hoped, help the next generation of urban professionals and practitioners better understand these relationships and successfully connect the physical arrangement of the built environment with social sustainability in cities.

If there is no investment in capacity-building and in the intellectual and technical means available to local public officials, urban agglomerations will continue to produce the anomie we see today. UNESCO activities on the training of young city professionals began almost 30 years ago from lengthy study with architects and in association with the International Union of Architects (IUA).

This area of work concerns production and management professionals of urban spaces: ideas people, technicians, producers and managers. The aim is to respond to social demands (via NGOs

and residents' associations) and policies (via the local authorities), through universities and professional associations in direct contact with urban management.

Awareness-raising for all concerned

There are three basic principles that SHS is trying to bring to the fore with all urban actors:

- The right to the city for everyone
- Environmental sustainability
- Cultural diversity

SHS therefore encourages the training and education of city professionals, architects, urban planners and landscape specialists along three main lines:

- The IUA/UNESCO Charter on the training of architects. The updated text will be presented to the 23rd World Congress of Architects in Istanbul, in July 2005, as well as to University Accreditation Committees and Schools of Architecture.

- Annual on-site workshops for young urban specialists, organized with different urban NGOs such as ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners). The next workshop will be held in Bilbao in October 2005.

- On-site workshops like the *maisons laboratoires* set up with French universities in some Mediterranean cities.

SHS gives additional support to city professionals through two Prizes and UNESCO Chairs that help decision-makers become better acquainted with university research findings, and an international network. ¶

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UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environment

Established in July 2003, the UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environment at the University of Montreal (Canada) concentrates especially on research, the internationalization of teaching, and inter-university cooperation in landscape and environment.

Together with IFLA, SHS has already undertaken several activities to raise awareness about the landscape among national, regional and local actors around the Mediterranean. One of the aims was to help establish a course in landscaping in countries where the urban environment situation is of particular importance and where the public has shown a real will to strengthen institutional management capacities and local sustainable development.

The Chair's first on-site international workshop (25 November to 5 December 2004) took place in a suburb of Marrakesh. It established a regional landscape and city observatory and it also provided municipal authorities with the opportunity of learning about alternatives for planning and development of the municipality. ¶

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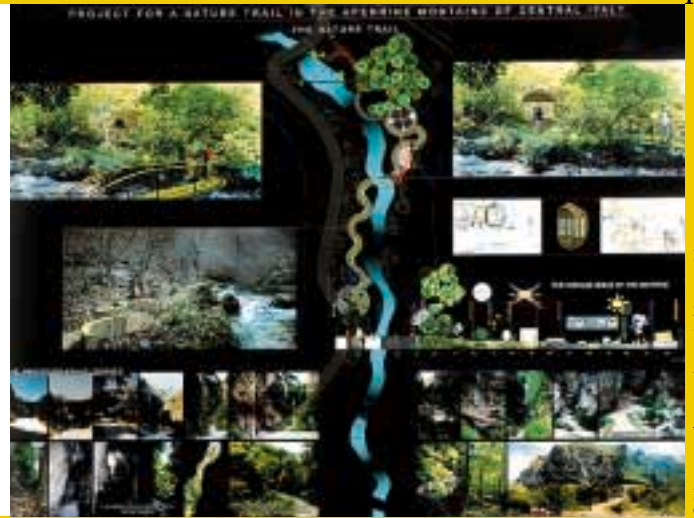
↳ UNESCO Prize for Landscape Architecture

In partnership with the International Union of Architects, the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), and the International Society of City and Regional Planners, UNESCO gives two prizes to young city professionals:

- The UNESCO/IFLA Prize for Landscape Architecture, established in 1989, with an endowment of US \$3,500, is awarded annually and open to architecture students all over the world.
- The UNESCO Prize for Architecture, biennial and with an endowment of US \$7,000, was established in 1969 to reward architecture students from all over the world. ¶

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Nature trail in the Apennine mountains, Italy.
Project by Virginia Pianotti (La Sapienza University, Rome),
2nd prize, UNESCO / IFLA Landscape Architecture Prize, 2004.

Dossier

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Contrast of periods and styles
in São Paulo, Brazil.

↳ Latin American network of city professionals

In 2000, SHS embarked on contributing to bringing university curricula in line with the evolutions in society, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, by launching the international project “City Professionals”.

This project deals with the problems raised by the disparity between university training, changing professional practices regarding the production and management of urban space, and developments in the job market. It aims not only to adapt study programmes to the challenges currently facing city professionals, but also to improve the development and use of techniques and skills, and enhance the ability of institutions to develop appropriate responses to the new methods of planning and urban governance, such as teamwork among the different professional sectors involved in this field.

Based on a small selection of innovative educational experiments being carried out in Latin American universities, the project’s objectives are to:

- encourage the renewal of higher education curricula and research based on ongoing innovative training courses in universities;
- contribute to strengthening links between higher education, knowledge creation, professional practice, public policies and civil organizations advocacy; and
- test new methods of urban planning development and management in order to define new regulation and consultation mechanisms between the different urban actors.

The City Professionals network is composed of 11 universities, 2 professional organizations, 2 NGOs, and 2 IGOs in 7 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France and Mexico (See *SHS Newsletter 03*). ¶

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Urban governance and policies

One of the areas chosen by SHS for the study of social transformations is urban development. SHS concentrates particularly on urban policies through interdisciplinary networks of comparative, international research. This approach focuses on the in-depth analyses of urban development processes.

There has been urban planning in industrialized countries for over fifty years, but almost nowhere has this met with unqualified success. To give just one example, large sectors of the world's cities are built with neither technical nor professional help and without any public regulations. The proportion of these haphazard but permanent cities in developing countries is often as much as 60% of the built-up area. Urban studies in the Western world have until now clearly been looking at the generation rather than redistribution of wealth and public services; at functional specialization rather than a general mix; at segregation rather than cohesion; and, finally, at power-wielding agents rather than residents' participation. With globalization of the economy imposing other ways of doing business, urban management has had to cope with decentralization, the emergence of new actors and new partnerships as well as redefining the role of the State in the regulation of available space.

Urban policy / Urban governance

In contrast with government, which presupposes unity at the centre of power, urban governance defers to a power that is scattered among countless bodies involved in public action. It works through a series of processes, procedures and practices linked to the distribution of power among the many actors and institutions in the decision-making processes. The study of urban policies centred on governance is an attempt to respond to the current situation re contemporary urban public action. This action is concentrated on the promotion of public holdings, with civil society and political actors, as well as newcomers on the scene who wish to become involved in the political process through non-governmental means. Nowadays there is a growing interdependence at local, regional and global level, which calls for implementation of improved techniques for programming and management policies based on public regulation and giving a prominent position to towns and local authorities.

In this context, there are two major challenges guiding SHS's action: developing knowledge capable of contributing to the formulation and implementation of new urban



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Urban landscape and nature. Top: Quito, Ecuador. Above: youth in a street of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

policies, with the emphasis on democratic governance as the basis, and capacity-building for residents, technicians and decision-makers in the urban domain. Here are three examples of current research projects:

Cities, the environment and social relations between men and women

This project started in 1997. It is coordinated by the Swiss MOST¹ Liaison Committee, with the support of the Swiss Development and Cooperation Directorate, and is monitored by UNESCO's MOST Programme. The project comprises a comparative research-action network of city suburbs in eight countries: Burkina Faso and Senegal in Africa; Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and the Dominican Republic in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Bulgaria and Romania in Eastern Europe.

The two operational thrusts of the study aim to help build housing where men and women have equal say in decision-making:

- influencing the development of long-term public policy in the urban environment and integration of a "gender" perspective;
- creating and consolidating a network of researcher-actor expertise.



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New York city, USA.

The study grew out of the realization that of those who are particularly affected by bad urban living conditions, exclusion, change in the family structure, and men's and women's socio-economic roles, it is women who mobilize in order to confront these pressing problems, often providing innovative solutions.

Urban research programme for development

The first phase of this project, initiated by France's Priority Solidarity Fund (*Fonds de solidarité prioritaire*), was carried out between 2001 and 2004. Coordinated by GEMDEV (Association for developing scientific interests in the study of globalization and development), the project's action focuses on new ways of working for urban development in all the "priority solidarity" countries as defined by France's cooperation programme: sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, countries around the Mediterranean basin and the Caribbean.

Thirty-two teams of people from North and South, grouping together experts, practitioners and decision-makers took part, and most joined in at the development stage of practical research in order to contribute to innovative public policy trials in the areas in question. The programme stresses the importance of public decision-making and planning in urban areas, the power-knowledge link, social and spatial cohesion and alternative models of public control. The main lines that stand out from the findings of the first three years are participatory urban management and the political dimension of urban development which introduces the issue of the scale of connections between what is local and what is international.²

Districts of the world

The project "Quartiers du monde" (Districts of the world) centres on citizen participation: young people of differing social classes building participatory urban governance. Through comparative research-action, the project analyses the mechanisms of regulation and community organization at local district level. It aims to ascertain how economic degradation affects areas of social cohesion. The main line of action builds opportunities for dialogue between cities, districts and local authorities involved in the project. The primary aim is to create partnerships between the towns and cities and the parties involved in the project.

Eighteen city districts in eight countries actively take part in the network: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, France, Mali, Morocco, Senegal and Spain. The project, coordinated by the "Quartiers du monde" association, has among its partners ENDA (Environmental Development Action in the Third World) and other NGOs, as well as local governments and the French Government's Inter-ministerial Directorate of Cities.¹

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1. Management of Social Transformations Programme.

2. See SHS Newsletter 05.

Sign and emblem of a citizens' association in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

International cooperation

What are the conditions that allow for sustainable urban development and, more particularly, social sustainability? The reply to this important question calls for lengthy research which is essential for all urban development policy.

As with any undertaking, it is a question of analysing urban phenomena, the sometimes divergent interests of the various city actors, and the social, political, professional and environmental procedures. This needs to be carried out by researchers and decision-makers working together.

Only then, based on the acquired knowledge and experience, can human settlements be improved, through partnerships with the various actors – local authorities, universities, the private sector, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations – by focusing programmes on the residents, who are the prime actors of urban development.

UNESCO works as a catalyst for research and action, facilitating knowledge transfer, mobilizing efforts around urban policies thanks to partnerships with the academic world, university teachers and researchers, international urban dwellers' NGOs such as HIC, COHRE and ENDA, regional or city associations such as the World Association of United Cities and Local Governments and the Council of Europe, bilateral cooperation and particularly through close ties with the other United Nations agencies that have the expertise and experience of working on urban projects such as UN-Habitat, UNDP and UNICEF.



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➔ Including children and youth in decision-making

More than half of all children in industrialized countries live in urban areas, and the same will soon be true in the developing world. Yet most cities do not take heed of young people's ideas and perceptions of their environment. This is the reason behind UNESCO's "Growing Up in Cities" (GUIC) project. It is a research and action project that involves young people (from 8 to 18) in looking at and evaluating their local environment. Originally started in 1970 at the initiative of Kevin Lynch, GUIC was relaunched in 1994 in 8 cities on five continents, and is presently expanding in a number of new countries — with most recently Canada, Lebanon and the USA (in New York city).

From the research side, the interest is in understanding how young people perceive, value and use the urban environment; how they shape and transform urban spaces; and how the urban environment shapes and transforms their lives. From the action side, the interest lies in developing stronger environmental awareness among young people; an appreciation for planning and design; and active engagement in improving their communities. Each project site is committed to involving young people in a community change action, based on priorities that they identify. The project engages young people as co-researchers, not as "research subjects", using participatory action/research methods.

The project involves university-based researchers coordinated by Cornell University (USA), community-based organizations, and local decision-makers who share a commitment to youth participation and social change.¶]

Nadia Auriat

www.unesco.org/most/guic



➔ Social challenges of urbanization in Africa

The growing team of African researchers from Benin, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Mali have embarked on a study of towns in Africa. This undertaking is being carried out with UNESCO's Dakar Office, coordinated by the MOST Programme's Vice-President for Africa, Professor Charly Mbock.

The research team's first phase of work contributes to mark out this basically moving field of African cities, where structural contradictions and managerial insufficiencies, existential violence and fights for survival criss-cross.

The study enables us to measure the scope of the efforts needed, both at the level of conception of general urbanization policies and architectural creativity, as well as the taking into account of the traditional, collective cultural capital in urban management.

Structural poverty or, more precisely, poverty structuring, in African towns leads almost inevitably to poor management of urban populations who simply become victims of poverty. For most African countries, the city or town turns out to be a place of multi-faceted impoverishment whereas it should, as it is in so many dreams, be a place of enrichment. ¶

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There are several areas in particular that touch on a variety of issues of urban living throughout the world:

- the position of women and children, especially the most disadvantaged, and their participation in the process of improving life in the city
- city living and the social mix in historical city centres
- development of new democratic rules for urban and regional governance
- human rights in the city
- raising public awareness of urban problems

Multidisciplinarity and participatory action are absolutely essential in order to tackle such complex issues. The partnerships that have been set up provide cities with innovative tools, with opportunities for fruitful exchange and with links opening onto more efficient collaboration.

Initiatives are followed through, conclusions drawn and projects become operational models: each experience can thus benefit all cities throughout the world. The added value of the network idea lies in the promotion and transfer of results. ¶

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© Maps Geosystems Lebanon

➔ Small historical coastal cities

Half the world's population lives in cities of fewer than 500,000 inhabitants; the great majority are coastal cities. Future demographic growth will be concentrated in these small towns and cities.

How can municipalities lacking adequate technical services face up to all the different pressures that befall coastal areas: sea pollution, seawater infiltrating the water table, degradation of the coastline, the decline of traditional crafts and activities such as fishing, the rapid growth of the seaside tourist industry with its high consumption of land and natural resources, the historical districts densely populated either by penniless migrants or – at the other end of the scale – real estate speculation because of “gentrification” and the transformation of town and city centres for tourism purposes, and the lack of training and employment infrastructures, etc.

UNESCO's intersectoral initiative “Small historical coastal cities”, launched in 1996, is attempting to create, thanks to partnerships between cities and universities, technical expertise forums, providing experience and knowledge on five cities: Essaouira (Morocco), Mahdia (Tunisia), Omisalj (Croatia), Saïda (Lebanon, see photo above) and Jableh (Syria).

This initiative is based on the results of the MOST Programme's research on rural to city migration in the Arab States region. It contributes to the network researching on the role of intermediary towns facing global urbanization.

The initiative provides an illustration, given the specific geographical context of coastal zones, of the major reception role played by small or medium-size towns for migrant populations from rural areas, and regulator of the interregional and national urban networks. The International Hydrology Programme's (IHP) priorities for sustainable management of fresh water resources and sustainable development of coastal regions have also been taken into account. ¶

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➔ Social sustainability of historical districts

From gentrification to forced eviction – how should economic competitiveness be reconciled with social sustainability in historical districts? This issue was one of many discussed during the World Urban Forum held in Barcelona (September 2004). In answer to this question, SHS has launched a comparative international research network.

Gentrification processes are now increasingly threatening the social cohesion and inclusiveness of historical districts leading in some cases to brutal social transformations and eventually to forced evictions. Inhabitants are being driven out of historical towns and, more particularly, out of the historical urban centres. The sudden rise in rents and real estate speculation force the tenants to abandon the struggle and leave their houses, their neighbourhoods and their usual environment. It is as though town centres where the socio-economic pressure is high become a real centrifugal force, whose victims are the residents and citizens belonging to the most disadvantaged economic groups.

The social conflict concerning the exercise of rights to city centres plays an important part in the fight between cities' demands for integration/evolution and rejection of social and cultural blending. All real estate operations must take into consideration the firm principle of the inhabitants' right to live in the town.

These issues will be tackled by the Social Sustainability in Historic Districts Research Centre at Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada). The centre will be created in 2005 in cooperation with the MTA Nita Alapitvany Foundation of Budapest (for the Central European cities), and with experts selected by UNESCO's regional offices in Mexico and Beijing. A "best practices" website will be created by UN-Habitat. Results should enable SHS to identify some indicators and the main parameters of social sustainability in historical districts facing urban revitalization projects at the end of 2007. ¶

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➔ Further reading

Small historical coastal cities

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- *Petites villes côtières historiques: Développement urbain équilibré entre terre, mer et société*. Actes du séminaire international à Saïda, Liban, 28-31 mai 2001, 374 p. UNESCO, 2002. (in French only)

Les mots de la ville (City Words Series, in French only)

- *Nommer les nouveaux territoires urbains*, Hélène Rivière d'Arc (Ed.), 279 p., Paris, UNESCO / Éditions de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, ISBN: 92-3-203788-2, 2001.
- *Les divisions de la ville*, Christian Topalov (Ed.), 469 p., Paris, UNESCO / Éditions de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, ISBN: 92-3-203852-8, 2002.
- *Parler en ville, parler de la ville : essais sur les registres urbains*, Paul Wald, François Leimdorfer (Eds.); 276 p., Paris, UNESCO / Éditions de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, ISBN: 92-3-203937-0, 2004.

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- **N° 55:** *From Istanbul 1996 to Venice 2002: Socially Sustainable Revitalization of Urban Districts*. Architects Speak Out, 127 p., UNESCO, 2004.

In French only:

- **N° 51:** *La citoyenneté à travers la participation*, Débora Nunes, 104 p., Projet pilote à Vila Verde, Brésil. Méthode d'intervention participative dans les quartiers populaires, UNESCO, 2001.
- **N° 52:** *Une médina en transformation : travaux d'étudiants à Mahdia*. Tunisie, École d'architecture de Nantes, 238 p., Paris, UNESCO, 2003.

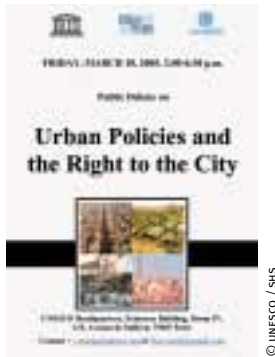
Children, youth and cities

- *Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth. A Manual for Participation*, David Driskell, 208 p., illus., Paris, UNESCO, London, Earthscan, ISBN: 92-3-103815-X, 2002.
- *Growing Up in an Urbanising World*, Louise Chawla (Ed.) 254 p., Paris, UNESCO; London, Earthscan, ISBN: 92-3-103817-6, 2002.

Women and urban issues (in French only)

- *Femmes dans les crises urbaines : relations de genre et environnements précaires*, François Hainard, Christine Verschuur (Eds.), 303 p., Paris, UNESCO / Éditions Karthala, ISBN: 2-84586-216-4, 2001.
- *Femmes et politiques urbaines. Ruses, luttes et stratégies*, François Hainard, Christine Verschuur, Paris, UNESCO/Karthala, 103 p., ISBN: 92-3-203885-4, 2004.

Urban policies for *all* urban dwellers



SHS is developing, in close cooperation with UN-Habitat, a research based on the international agenda “Urban Public Policies towards the Right to the City”. This implies working for a new social contract under which all urban dwellers – women and men, girls and boys of any nationality, ethnicity or faith – know their “Right to the City”.

For the past five years, SHS has worked on cities as “Arenas of accelerated social transformations”. It has focused on defining and understanding urban processes in social transformations at the local, national and international levels and it has used an interdisciplinary approach for urban professionals’ capacity building and for the sensitization of municipalities to sustainable urban development. This has provided an important basis for the further diagnosis of conditions and strategies in support of the rights of urban dwellers, individually and collectively. And it has led to the elaboration of a new plan of action for SHS in the field of urban issues.¹

The notion of “The Right(s) to the City” was first formalized in 1995 in a Conference on the “City of Solidarity and Citizenship”.² The participants in this conference – international researchers, governmental and non-governmental representatives and urban professionals –

stressed the need to create solidarity and multicultural cities, to commit to the humanization of the urban environment and to teach urban dwellers their rights.³

Context: World urbanization and globalization

The universal goals and aspirations for peace and social stability, economic prosperity, health and education will not be attainable without due consideration of the issue of urban poverty, gender inequality, cultural and ethnic intolerance and other forms of social exclusion.

At national level, cities need to be guided in their rapidly expanding roles and responsibilities by appropriate public policies and legislation. More important, however, is the pressing need for specific laws and policies that recognize sustainable urbanization as the key to local and global sustainable development, and enable and empower local authorities and their partners to contribute effectively to both.

At international level, the contribution of cities and their partners to social and economic development and environmental protection argues in favour of their stronger presence and more prominent role in international law, conventions and negotiations. At UN-level, a rights-based approach is included in the target of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 11: to promote sustainable urbanization and a commitment to poverty reduction as well as the effective participation of traditionally disenfranchised and marginalized groups in urban environmental policy, planning and management.

There are already examples of national and international efforts. For example, Brazil has embedded the notion of “The Right(s) to the City” in its Constitution with the enactment of Federal Law No. 10.257, entitled “City Statute”.

A Franco-Brazilian dialogue was started in São Paulo in June 2004 entitled “The International Observatory on the Right to the City”. This shows that governments can incorporate the principles and values of good urban governance and social inclusion in national legislation.

Another initiative was launched by the international NGO COHRE⁴ which drafted a project for a World Charter on “The Right to the City”, presented at the Social Forum of Quito in July 2004. The Charter proposes to construct a sustainable model for urban societies based on principles of solidarity, liberty, equality, dignity and social justice. The major aspects of this proposal emphasize respect for different urban cultures and the balance between urban and rural environments.⁵

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1. The draft strategy was elaborated in tandem with a Concept Paper on ‘The Right(s) to the City’, which is an inventory of the theoretical work and existing documents relating to ‘The Right to the City’, by Henri Lefebvre, 1968, in his text, *Le droit à la ville*, and the proposed World Charter of the Rights to the City.

2. “Towards the City of Solidarity and Citizenship”, UNESCO Round Table, 11-12 October 1995.

3. For further reading: *International Social Science Journal*, “Cities of the Future; Managing Social Transformations (March 1996, N° 147).

4. Centre of Housing Rights and Evictions (Headquarters in Geneva)

5. This text is available in English, French and Spanish at: www.unesco.org/shs/socialtransformations.

MEDIA ELECTION COVERAGE IN IRAQ

UNESCO recently launched a project to support fair, safe and professional media election coverage in Iraq. Funded by the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund, the aim of the project is to further human rights and principles of democracy and press freedom. It is part of the overall UNAMI/OHCHR Human Rights Strategy for Iraq, of which UNESCO has been declared lead agency for the media section. The real strength of human rights lies not in their expression, but rather in their application. As freedom of expression is the cornerstone

of any democracy, UNESCO promotes transparency and accountability in Iraq by supporting:

- advocacy to encourage full, fair and efficient disclosure of information to journalists covering the elections;
- training to enhance professional election reporting;
- training on the safety of journalists and their right to work without threat;
- production and distribution of an election guide for Iraq that includes principles of professional reporting during elections, journalists' rights, election processes, contacts, background documentation and safety information as well as briefing notes on international human



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rights law with emphasis on freedom of expression. First launched at the end of 2004, the project's main action was taken before and after the 30 January elections for the National Assembly. It is being implemented over a three-month period, ending in March 2005, by UNESCO's

Sectors for Social and Human Sciences and for Communication and Information, UNESCO partners and civil society. ¶

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EXPERIENCES EXCHANGED BETWEEN BURKINA FASO, MALI AND SENEGAL

A subregional workshop for exchanging experiences on "Decentralization, Human Rights and Local Governance" was held in Bamako from 16 to 18 December 2004. Participants were those involved in the project: UNESCO/Luxembourg Cooperation "Training in Human Rights, Citizenship and Local Democracy in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali". Among those

attending were Government representatives from Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, development partners, local government and civil society representatives, and academics. The meeting fell within the framework of the above-mentioned project (see *SHS Newsletter 06*). The SHS Regional Unit, the UNESCO/BREDA Office in Dakar and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Bamako, in partnership with the Ministries responsible for decentralization, as well as local communities of the three

countries concerned – all contributed to the workshop's organization. The exchanges and debate over the three-day meeting enabled participants not only to learn how the decentralization process was going in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, and to see the steps that have already been taken as well as the results of the project, but also to share their experiences on decentralization and human rights. There were many exchanges on the implementation strategy of the UNESCO/

Luxembourg project in the three countries. Thanks to this workshop, new partnership synergies have emerged which will ease the project's implementation on the ground. A report of the workshop is available on request. ¶

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Migration without borders

What would happen if border controls were to be suppressed and people granted the right to move freely throughout the world ?

To answer this question, UNESCO's Section on International Migration has been working on the Migration without Borders project (see *SHS Newsletter 04*). Some fifteen migration experts from all regions of the world were asked to analyse the implications of this scenario. The result is a stimulating source of critical thinking on current migration policies. Below are the summaries of two of the articles, which will be part of a forthcoming book. The full texts are available on the website (see address below).

The borders and boundaries of mobility

Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, from Sciences Po in Paris, analyses the major issues surrounding human mobility in an era of globalization. Migration has become a truly global phenomenon affecting all regions of the world and playing a key role in an increasingly international economy. More and more people are on the move and, even though the need for migration is often stressed, both governments and the public opinion see migration as costly and risky, and remain convinced of the necessity to close their borders. The author highlights the paradoxes of contemporary borders, which are constantly challenged by flows of goods, capital, information and people, but nevertheless remain at the core of States' sovereignty. She argues that the challenges raised by migration call for a deep rethinking of policies and practices in this field. While the right to emigration is recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one could eventually envisage a comprehensive "right to mobility" that would include both emigration and immigration. In a world of flows, mobility becomes a central resource, access to which should be guaranteed to all human beings.

Europe without borders – rhetoric, reality or utopia?

Jan Kunz and Mari Leinonen, from the University of Tampere (Finland), provide an overview of the challenges of free movement in the European Union, the only area in the world in which sovereign States make large-scale efforts to lift restrictions on the circulation of people. They show that migration flows between EU countries remain low and that mobility concerns above all academics, professionals and business people, and much less workers. This illustrates how the often-expressed fears of unmanageable migration waves turned out to be ungrounded: the 2004 enlargement of the EU to ten new member States raised these fears, as did the accession of Spain, Greece and Portugal in the 1980s, while similar arguments are already expressed in connection with the debates on Turkey's membership. The authors show how mobility is hindered not only by State borders, but also by socio-cultural and linguistic boundaries, as well as by the lack of information on opportunities abroad. Moreover, free movement represents a challenge to social security systems and to the welfare State, as the relative lack of coordination and the complexity of the EU agreements on these issues discourage people to leave their country. In other words, free movement is not only about opening the borders, it is also about creating a socially and culturally more coherent space.¶]

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FILM-MAKERS AND MIGRANT WORKERS

For Human Rights Day (10 December) and International Migrants' Day (18 December), the Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences joined with the UNESCO Beijing Office to present the film "Jingzhe" by Chinese film director Wang Quan'an. Over 300 people attended the showing and participated in the debate that followed.

The "Together with Migrants" project invites Chinese film-makers to present films on the daily challenges faced by migrant workers in China, in order to raise public awareness on the issue.* "Jingzhe" – meaning the moment of the first clap of Spring thunder awaking all life on earth – is one such film.

"Jingzhe" tells the story of a young woman whose impoverished family arrange for her to marry in exchange for a dowry. She flees her village for the nearest town, finds a job and meets a young man who is unfaithful. Disillusioned with love and life in the town, she returns to her village, to farm work, goes through with the marriage and has a child.¶]

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* See *SHS Newsletter 06*

UNESCO at the Fifth World Social Forum



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Poster designed by UNESCO for the World Social Forum.

For the fourth time, UNESCO took an active part in this year's World Social Forum (wsf) which was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from 26 to 30 January 2005.

Once again, the wsf showed it was capable of organizing the largest global civil society gathering. This year it was even more cosmopolitan with the participation of over 140,000 people from 119 countries. Most of the participants were young people. The majority of the 2000 organizations and institutions represented were university research and development centres; for the first time, they outnumbered the activist NGOs, social and political bodies, unions and religious groups. Another first this time was that some international organizations had been invited: the IMF, the World Bank, FAO, UNICEF, UN-Habitat and UN Volunteers (UNV). These organizations joined the ranks of UNESCO, ILO and UNDP that have consistently attended previous wsf meetings.

“Thematic spaces”

This year, the Forum was structured around eleven “thematic spaces” resulting from broad public consultation and in line with the democratic participation principle that guides the Forum, thus giving more coherence to the whole event. Each space had its own meeting rooms for the various activities, facilities

for the public and a wall for pasting the final theme proposals (on the last day there were more than 350 proposals displayed). UNESCO co-organized activities linked to the following themes: “Human Rights”, “Social struggles and democratic alternatives”, “Common economic policy”, “Defending diversity” and “Ethics, *Weltanschauung* and spiritualities”.

The Forum, or “movement of movements”, remains one of the most important meeting places for reflection and proposals on redirecting globalization's focus towards the human being and defending the values of solidarity, justice, peace, human rights, cultural diversity and knowledge diversity.

Civil society, an indispensable category of actors

The regular presence and participation of UNESCO in the wsf has now been vindicated with the United Nations' willingness to recognize civil society as an indispensable category of actors to successfully handle the reform of the system through strengthening renewed partnerships and confronting the new issues of a more democratic, plural governance in the sphere of international cooperation.

After five years, the public space for exchange and dialogue that the wsf stands for, is on the way to becoming institutionalized as is the case for any social or political issue. The pathways of wsf's development will be marked out together with its partners and with the usual conflicts along the way – the essence of society.¶

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AN ONLINE SERVICE FOR DECISION-MAKERS

1994 saw the creation of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme. It is one of the few intergovernmental scientific programmes that ensure promotion of comparative, interdisciplinary, international research in the social sciences. MOST particularly encourages political analysis touching on subjects linked to international migration and cultural diversity, urban development, global governance, democracy and human rights, and poverty eradication. The programme also maintains close ties with the UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN inter-university cooperation networks. Through their training and research activities in the social sciences, these links combine to contribute to the transfer of knowledge and encourage global academic solidarity.

Strengthening links between research and decision-making

Since 2003, UNESCO's MOST programme has turned more specifically towards strengthening the ties between research in the social sciences and policy-making. Its main mission is to promote an empirical culture of formulating policy at national, regional and international level. The programme also plays a unique interface role between UNESCO and its partners in the research, support and decision-making fields.

It is precisely these orientations that are reflected in the



Online journal

updated Internet site inaugurated by MOST at the start of this new year. The idea being to ensure knowledge management and network interconnections in the service of strategy formulation, it puts forward ideas on content and services especially designed to help decision-makers respond appropriately to complex social issues.

Personalized information

The programme has developed advanced methodologies for putting together information. A key aspect of this new site is an online service, providing rapid access to pertinent, comparative information in an interactive and intuitive way. Users will be able to create research profiles based on subject category, produce personalized reports by selecting content within the actual original documents and easily build up personalized bibliographies. This innovative tool for knowledge management will also let users compare similar cases and evaluate the applicability of available policy options.

This value-added service comes within UNESCO's mandate to facilitate policy cooperation, knowledge sharing and international cooperation. ¶

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“Managing Migration and Diversity in the Asia Pacific Region and Europe”

International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS), vol. 6, n° 2

A series of recent events, including the continued war on terrorism, have focused world attention on issues related to migration, integration and multiculturalism. They have demonstrated that while domestic factors play a crucial role in the formulation and implementation of national policies, international developments have a significant impact on the ways nation-states develop their responses to migration and on the integration of migrant populations. Given these events, and the realization that our global society is increasingly interconnected, it is crucial to further develop a substantial body of social science research that goes beyond “methodological nationalism”, not only to broaden the analytical perspectives of social science research but also to contribute to international policy responses to migration and cultural diversity based on human rights.

It is in this context that the new thematic issue of UNESCO's *International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS)*, released in December 2004, takes up the debate on contemporary challenges in managing migration and integration. Previous issues (Vol. 5, No 1 & 2) have highlighted the differences in patterns of cultural diversity in industrialized and post-colonial countries. The current articles highlight problems and policies concerning the entry and settlement of migrants and their descendants both in the Asia-Pacific region and in Europe. The cases are brought together to broaden the perspective of social science migration research.



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- “Crossing Borders: Race, Migration and Borders in South-East Asia”, by Amarjit Kaur
- “Is State Sovereignty Declining? An Exploration of Asylum Policy in Japan”, by Hideki Tarumoto
- “Will Migrant Remittances Continue Through Time? A New Answer to an Old Question”, by Elizabeth Grieco
- “Theorizing Return Migration: the Conceptual Approach to Return Migrants Revisited”, by Jean-Pierre Cassarino
- “Alive and Kicking? Multiculturalism in Flanders”, by Dirk Jacobs
- “The Management of Multiculturalism: Coming to Terms with the Multiplication of Experienced Difference”, by Hans Siebers¶

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All articles from the *International Journal on Multicultural Societies* can be downloaded from the UNESCO website at www.unesco.org/shs/ijms



Studies on Human Rights 2004 – Struggle against Discrimination

Studies on Human Rights is an annual publication of research papers on different aspects of human rights. The theme of the 2004 edition – the struggle against discrimination – was chosen as part of UNESCO's follow-up to the 3rd World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa in 2001.

In this first issue, seven authors from Africa, Asia, the Arab States and North America denounce the different forms of discrimination encountered in certain countries and regions around the world: xenophobia, racism, racial discrimination, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Studies on Human Rights (in English only) may be obtained from SHS's Division of Human Rights and Struggle against Discrimination. ¶

The publication is also available online:

www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights/promotion

The International Social Science Journal (Issue 182 – December 2004) Explorations in Open Space The World Social Forum and cultures of politics

Editorial advisers for the issue: Chloé Keraghel and Jai Sen

We are living through a time of the rise of dramatically new politics, including civil politics at local, national, transnational and global levels, and new global networks among refugees, migrants and religious groups. One of the most prominent manifestations of world civil politics is the World Social Forum,

which held its first world meeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January 2001. Based on issue analysis and diagnosis, the Forum aims to encourage the formulation of alternative proposals and strategies to neo-liberal *pensée unique* and to all forms of fundamentalism.

The dramatic growth in numbers attending the world event – from around 25,000 in 2001 to over 100,000 in 2004 – attests to the relevance of the Forum to people all over the world.

While it calls itself “Social”, the Forum is a fundamentally political idea and promotes a specific vocabulary, grammar and culture of politics. This issue aims at a wide-ranging, critical, and insistently plural exploration of the idea and notion of “open space” as a political-cultural concept, focusing on the Forum and its self-defined culture(s) of politics. In these terms, the Forum represents both an important experiment and something of a paradox. On the one hand, it offers a rich vision of an “open space” for movements that challenge empires and celebrate diversity and plurality. On the other hand, the open space is circumscribed by a specific conception of politics and a specific ideological orientation. Is multiplicity sustainable within and in relation to a single, “unique” larger idea? Can the culture of “open space” politics operate coherently both within the Forum and in its relations with the world it seeks to change? ¶

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www.unesco.org/shs/issj

Two new SHS brochures

SHS has recently produced two brochures on the UNESCO's work in the field of social and human sciences: *Strategies and actions* and the *Guide to Partnerships*.

Strategies and actions gives an overview of the work of the Sector and the programmes and projects carried out at Headquarters and in the Field.

The *Guide to Partnerships* describes proposals for eight different types of partnership: providing advice, hosting events, assisting research, coordinating networks, providing experts, funding activities, funding fellowships and assisting in communication.

Both publications are available in English and French, and are accessible online:

www.unesco.org/shs/partnership

www.unesco.org/shs/programme



International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus

**5-9 September 2005
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

www.unesco.org/shs/ifsp

Effective use of rigorous social science is essential if society is to meet the challenges of contemporary transformations. For this to be possible, the gap must be bridged between academic social science and policy communities. In conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Argentina, and with the support of a wide range of academic, policy, and NGO partners, UNESCO (through its MOST programme) proposes an innovative format to build precisely that bridge.

Good social science, effectively used, is the key to meeting the challenges of social transformations

The first truly global society in human history faces major challenges that bring its character, its democratic potential and its very survival into play. The challenges, furthermore, are largely shared. They may derive from common dynamics of urbanization, demographic and technological change, or anthropogenic environmental transformation. Equally, distinctively local processes may be linked through an increasingly dense web of global exchange.

Yet at precisely the moment when enhanced capacities for action are needed, there is a lack of confidence in our knowledge of the challenges we face and in our ability to respond. Mass urbanization, which brings with it both great benefits and colossal problems, appears to be an unstemmed tide rather than a collec-

tive process subject to deliberate control. The success of mass education in bringing literacy to the greater part of the world population comes up against the need to rethink its very nature in the light of new technologies and modes of learning. The development of an increasingly coherent regime of international legal regulation has successfully incorporated the many new States that have attained independence over the last fifty years, but also shaken traditional conceptions of sovereignty without offering a clear alternative image of statehood. And we watch, often fatalistically, as growing wealth produces growing inequality, as if we lacked the knowledge to understand why and the capacity to achieve change.

Rigorous social science is usable social science

In all these areas, and more, the challenge for policy is, inseparably, a challenge for the social sciences. Only rigorous analysis of social dynamics can equip policy-makers, or those in civil society who aspire to shape policy, with the means to ascertain why well-intentioned reforms may fail, what might be the effect of proposed action, and how socially desirable goals might best be achieved. Conversely, in the absence of analytical rigour, the field is opened for prejudice, dogma and spurious “common sense”, which may well aggravate the very problems they purport to address.

The fact that relevant and rigorous social science thus continues to be ignored in major policy decisions relating to its core area of competencies is less a failing of social scientists or of policy-makers than an inadequacy in the relation



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The challenges of a truly global society far exceed the fields of social science, but without social science they simply could not be met.

between them. Social scientists and policy-makers, inevitably and entirely correctly, ask different questions, operate on different timescales, and are judged by different criteria. Nonetheless, they relate to the same society, and the knowledge of it that social science seeks is precisely the knowledge that policy needs in order to be effective and democratically accountable.

What is at stake therefore, is to bridge the gap between social science and policy, by making policy concerns meaningful in social science terms and the knowledge produced by social science meaningful in policy terms. What are needed, in other words, are appropriate forms of translation.

An innovative institutional format for policy-relevant social science

The purpose of the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus is to provide an innovative space for precisely such an exercise in translation.



→ Its International Steering Committee brings together representatives of professional social science bodies and networks, national and international funding agencies, and concerned NGOs. While its standards are those of academic excellence, it is not designed as an academic conference, as its purpose is to bring together social science and policy in the search for a common language and shared terms of engagement.

The Forum will focus on **four key thematic areas** where social science expertise is crucial to effective policy intervention:

- social policies;
- decentralization and urban issues;
- global issues and dynamics;
- regional integration processes.

It will combine plenary sessions with high-profile keynote speakers, major thematic seminars bringing together international experts, workshops convened by academics, activists and policy-makers in response to an open call for papers, and closed consultation meetings to facilitate liaison between the key stakeholders at the policy-research interface.

Participation costs:

Governments, organizations

and institutions: us \$150

Researchers and private individuals:

us \$50

Students: us \$10

Journalists: no charge

Closing date for registration:

30 June 2005

Call for workshop proposals

Proposals for workshops to be held at the Forum are eligible from academic institutions, governments, non-governmental and international organizations, and other relevant institutions. Workshop proposals submitted on a purely individual basis cannot be considered for inclusion in the programme. Individual paper proposals are not eligible under this call.

Workshop proposals should address the relations between policy issues and social science research with respect to one of the four themes of the Forum (see opposite). Workshops may be proposed for a minimum of one half-day slot and a maximum of six half-day slots.

It should be noted that no financial support can be provided by the International Steering Committee for workshops held at the Forum.

Submission of Proposals

For information on how to submit a workshop proposal please consult www.unesco.org/shs/ifsp

On this site you will also find descriptions of the four themes, registration forms and forms for workshop proposals.

Closing date for submission of proposals: 15 April 2005

Contact

- for information concerning the submission of workshop proposals: ifspworkshops@unesco.org
- for all other information:
 - UNESCO, SHS/SRP/POC
 - 1 rue Miollis
 - 75732 Paris CEDEX 15, France
 - e-mail: ifsp@unesco.org

APRIL

4-6 April: First intergovernmental meeting of experts aimed at finalizing a draft of a declaration on universal norms on bioethics. Paris, France. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

5 April: Seminar on "Gender and Globalization", organized within the series *Gender in the Social and Human Sciences*. Paris, France. (v.moghadam@unesco.org)

19 April: Peace building activities organized within the project *Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin*. Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

MAY

2-3 May: International conference on Human Security in Central Asia: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. (peace&security@unesco.org)

10 May: Seminar on "Gender and the World Summit on the Information Society", organized within the series *Gender in the Social and Human Sciences*. Paris, France. (v.moghadam@unesco.org)

10 May: Peace building activities organized within the project *Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin*. Yunnan Province, China. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

10-11 May: Conference on International Migration in Central Asia. Almaty, Kazakhstan. (p.fernandez@unesco.org)

16-17 May: Symposium on Scientific Research in Human Beings and Public Health Policy. Bogotá, Colombia. (a.saada@unesco.org)

16-18 May: First Bioethics Days. Dakar, Senegal. (c.marias@unesco.org)

17 May: Peace building activities organized within the project *Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin*. Yangon, Myanmar. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

18 May: Information and Training Workshop on Bioethics for the Andean Countries. Bogotá, Colombia. (a.saada@unesco.org)

25-27 May: International Seminar: "From the Philosophy of Biology to the Philosophy of Ecology: Evolutionism, Ecology and Ethics". Paris, France. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

30 May-1 June: Empowering Women in the Great Lakes Region: Violence, Peace and Women's Leadership. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (v.moghadam@unesco.org)

JUNE

7 June: Seminar on "Gender and Citizenship", organized within the series *Gender in the Social and Human Sciences*. Paris, France. (v.moghadam@unesco.org)

14 June: Peace building activities organized within the project *Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

19-22 June: 11th Bolivian National Congress on Bioethics. La Paz, Bolivia. (a.saada@unesco.org)

21-23 June: Second intergovernmental meeting of experts aimed at finalizing a draft of a declaration on universal norms on bioethics. Paris, France. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

23 June: Training Workshop for the REDBIOETHICA Network. La Paz, Bolivia. (a.saada@unesco.org)