



Event details

Date and time: Thursday 25 November 2021, 08:00 – 09:30 (UTC -4, Caracas)

Format: Zoom webinar. Prior registration is required.

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OY5nFqwUReWtG45mHdzdNg

Target audience: General public, policymakers, higher education practitioners/researchers/students

Languages: English/Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation

Background: The futures of higher education

UNESCO's International Institute for Higher Education (UNESCO IESALC) has initiated a project on the [Futures of Higher Education](#) to stimulate creative and imaginative thinking and ideas about the futures of higher education to 2050 and beyond. The project takes a global perspective, nurturing discussions around the role of higher education as part of UNESCO's larger [Futures of Education](#) initiative through consultations with higher education experts, the general public, and youth.

Recent years have seen phenomena such as the growth of private providers and privatization of publicly funded higher education, the development of accreditation systems, increased access, and shifts in how higher education is funded. Challenges and opportunities external to higher education systems include demographic shifts, political change, economic crisis, war and conflict, and, as we have seen recently, global pandemics.

At this webinar, UNESCO IESALC will launch a new report based on the public consultation: *Pathways to 2050 and beyond: Findings from a public consultation on the futures of higher education*. The public consultation ran for 10 weeks between May and August 2021 and was available online in multiple languages. The results of the public consultation demonstrated a rich variety in people's hopes and concerns for 2050 and beyond, with the 1,200 respondents from almost 100 countries putting forward multiple ideas for higher education and its contribution to better futures for all.

Webinar objectives

The objectives of the webinar launching the new report *Pathways to 2050 and beyond* are to:

- 1) Share the four pathways to 2050 and beyond that form the roots from which higher education in the futures will grow
- 2) Outline some of the key findings from responses to the public consultation on the futures of higher education
- 3) Invite responses to the report and comments on the futures of higher education from a range of global perspectives
- 4) Advocate for new calls to action based on the findings from the public consultation

Agenda

Thursday 25 November 2021	
<i>Times shown are UTC -4 (Caracas); please check your local time zone</i>	
08:00 – 08:10	Welcoming remarks Andrew Augustine, Chair, UNESCO IESALC Governing Board Sobhi Tawil, Director, Future of Learning and Innovation, UNESCO
08:10 – 08:30	Launch of the report <i>Pathways to 2050: Findings from a public consultation on the futures of higher education</i> Emma Sabzalieva, Dana Abdrasheva, Eglis Chacón, José Andres Cuadros, Daniela Gallegos, Luz Gamarra Caballero, Daniel Leis, Bosen Lily Liu, Diana Morales Research & Analysis team, UNESCO IESALC
08:30 – 09:00	Global perspectives on the futures of higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mpine Makoe, Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Open Education Practices/ Resources and Research Professor in Open Distance eLearning at the University of South Africa• Sherry Duan, Senior Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO International Centre for Higher Education Innovation (ICHEI), China• Carmela Chávez Irigoyen, PhD, Specialist on International Higher Education Systems, National Superintendency of Higher University Education (SUNEDU), Perú
09:00 – 09:25	Question and answer session (English/Spanish)
09:25 – 09:30	Closing and participant photo

Global perspectives speakers



Mpine Makoe is the Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Open Education Practices/ Resources and a Research Professor in Open Distance eLearning at the University of South Africa (UNISA). She is actively involved in distance education associations nationally, regionally, and internationally and she is a member of the University of the Futures Network. Mpine is a sought-after scholar and has published extensively in technology enhanced distance learning and related fields. She has also done consultancy work for the Commonwealth of Learning facilitating the development of ODeL policies in Africa.



Sherry Duan is a Senior Programme Officer at International Centre for Higher Education Innovation (ICHEI), a UNESCO category 2 centre located in China. She works closely with higher education institutions (HEIs) and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to plan, organize and implement ongoing projects and activities. Prior to ICHEI, she has experiences with several international organizations in the U.S., Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China, working on higher education. She holds a master's degree in International Educational Development from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Dr **Carmela Chávez Irigoyen** is a Specialist on International Higher Education Systems at Peru's National Superintendency of Higher University Education (SUNEDU) and PhD in sociology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Her areas of interests include the sociology of higher education and comparative educational policy studies. She has studied institutional reforms, transformations in private higher education and gender gaps in higher education. She is also member of the Peruvian Society of Educational Research (SIEP).

For any questions about the event, please contact Emma Sabzalieva, Senior Policy Analyst, e.sabzalieva@unesco.org.