

GLOBAL FORUM 2022
Higher Education Leadership for Democracy, Sustainability, and Social Justice
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Dublin City University

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

ANNICK ALLAIGRE

President of the University of Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis since 2016, Allaigre has been a full professor at this same university since 2007, after a first experience at the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour from 1991 to 2007. She is a specialist in contemporary Hispanic literature, particularly in the field of poetry, which has led her to successively address questions of poetics, psychoanalytical approaches, gender studies and translation as a tool of analysis and as a revelation of meaning. She has given courses or lectures on issues the UAM Iztapalapa (México DF), Universidad Veracruzana (Xalapa, México), UDELAR (Montevideo, Uruguay) Universidad de San José (Costa Rica), Universidad de Alicante, Universidad de Barcelona, Universidad de Valencia, Universidad de Sevilla, Universidad de Zaragoza. She leads a university with 23,000 students, which is mainly focused on Arts, Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences. Its location in the northern sector of the Île de France makes it a university committed to the social promotion of its students.



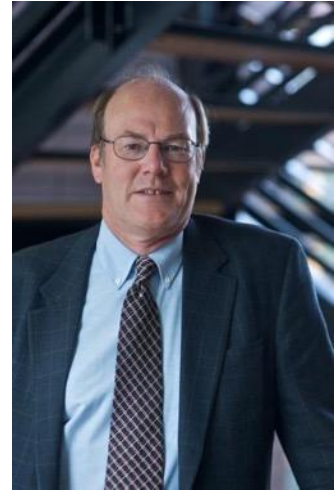
AHMED BAWA

Ahmed Bawa is the Chief Executive Officer of Universities South Africa. Until 2016, he was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Durban University of Technology. He also served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Durban Centre of the University of Natal (later the University of KwaZulu-Natal). He is a theoretical particle physicist with PhD from Durham University. At the City University of New York, he was faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Hunter College and was Associate Provost for Curriculum Development. As a Program Officer with the Ford Foundation, he led the African Higher Education Initiative in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt and Palestine. He serves on a number of advisory boards such as the South African Institute of Distance Education, the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research of South Africa, and the Higher Education Support Programme of the Open Society Foundation. In addition to high-energy physics, his areas of interest include higher education and development, the social ownership of universities, and science and society.



SJUR BERGAN

Sjur Bergan was Head of the Council of Europe's Education Department until February 1, 2022 and led the Council of Europe projects on Competences for Democratic Culture and the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees. He represented the Council of Europe in the Bologna Follow Up Group and Board since 2000 and chaired three successive working groups on structural reforms in 2007 - 15. Sjur was a member of the editorial group for the Council's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue and a main author of the Lisbon Recognition Convention as well as of recommendations on the public responsibility for higher education; academic freedom and institutional autonomy; and ensuring quality education. Sjur Bergan is series editor of the Council of Europe Higher Education Series and the author of *Qualifications: Introduction to a Concept* and *Not by Bread Alone* as well as of numerous book chapters and articles on education and higher education policy. Sjur was also one of the editors of the *Raabe Handbook on Leadership and Governance in Higher Education* (2009 – 15) and one of the session coordinators at the Bologna Process Researchers' Conferences in 2015, 2018 and 2020. He is the recipient of the 2019 European Association for International Education Award for Vision and Leadership.



ENIDA BEZHANI

Ms. Enida Bezhani, an Albanian-Canadian national, is a Senior External and Community Affairs Professional, with extensive experience in international management. Currently, she is a Member of the Administrative Board of the University of Tirana, Albania. She has taught in and managed various educational programs both in Albania and Canada. Most recently, she was the Head of the Bologna Follow-up Group Secretariat and is currently cooperating with the Council of Europe on its Education Strategy. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce and Senior Governmental Affairs Country Adviser for the Trans Adriatic Pipeline project in Albania. Ms. Bezhani holds an M.A in American History from Indiana University, USA and a B.A in English Linguistics, with combined studies from the University of Tirana and Roosevelt University, USA. She is a Fulbright, Soros Foundation and DAAD scholarships awardee and Member of the Fulbright Alumni Board.



RUI BRANCO

Rui Branco is an Associate Professor (with Habilitation) at the Department of Political Studies, NOVA University Lisbon and a senior researcher at IPRI/NOVA. His research focuses on comparative social and labour policies. He has published in journals such as Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Social Policy, New Political Economy and South European Society and Politics. He has contributed chapters in books published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Cornell University Press, Notre Dame University Press, and others.



MINISTER THOMAS BYRNE

Thomas Byrne was appointed Minister of State for European Affairs for the Government of Ireland in July 2020. He was educated at St. Mary's Diocesan School in Drogheda and holds an LL.B. Law degree from Trinity College, Dublin. He qualified as a Solicitor in 2001, completed his apprenticeship with McCann FitzGerald Solicitors in Dublin, and worked in the EU and Competition Law Department in the firm. He returned to practice closer to home in Feran & Co. Solicitors until his election to Dáil Éireann in 2007. Thomas was first elected to Dáil Éireann to represent Meath East in 2007. From 2007 to 2011 he was a member of the Oireachtas Committees on Justice, Equality and Defence, Social Protection and on Finance and the Public Service. In 2011 Thomas was elected to the Seanad for the Cultural and Educational panel. He served as a Senator from 2011 to 2016, during which he was the Party Spokesperson on Public Expenditure and Reform. In 2016 Thomas was again elected to Dáil Éireann. From 2016 to 2020 he served as the Party Spokesperson on Education. In 2020 he was appointed as Minister of State for European Affairs by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin.



NANCY CANTOR

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark, is recognized nationally and internationally for emphasizing the role of universities as anchor institutions in their communities, especially by forging diverse, cross-sector collaboratives and leveraging publicly engaged scholarship to advance racial equity and equitable growth. As a social psychologist, she has focused on understanding how individuals perceive and think about their social worlds, pursue personal goals, and regulate their behavior to adapt to life's most challenging social environments. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and member of the National Academy of Medicine, she is co-editor with Earl Lewis of the Princeton University Press book series *Our Compelling Interests*.



KATHERINE CONWAY-TURNER

Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., began her tenure as the ninth president of Buffalo State College in 2014. As president of SUNY's largest and only comprehensive college in an urban setting, her vision for Buffalo State is to be "Buffalo's College" through engagement, excellence, and social responsibility. She serves on the Distinguished Alumnus Award Search and Selection Committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Association of American Colleges and Universities' Presidents' Trust, the review and selection panel for the American Council on Education Fellows Program, the Division III President's Council, NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and is a Pathway Program mentor for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Conway-Turner is vice chair and commissioner for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, vice chair of the board of Campus Compact, and member of the executive board of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. She earned her Ph.D. and master of arts degrees in social psychology, and her bachelor of arts degree in microbiology, all from the University of Kansas.



MARTINA DARMANIN

Martina Darmanin is currently serving as the President of the European Students' Union (ESU). Martina joined ESU in 2019, as Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator. She has an academic background in the field of Health Sciences and holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Malta. Martina's journey in the student movement started on the institutional level within the Malta Health Students Association (MHSA) and progressed onto the national and international levels of student representation through Malta's Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU). Within the European Students' Union, her main focus is on the social dimension of higher education with an emphasis on policy development, advocacy, and project coordination on access to higher education, social mobility, and student participation in the governance of higher education. On behalf of ESU, she currently also serves as the Vice President of the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLLP) and Youth Representative on the Board of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).



ROSARIO DEL PILAR DIAZ GARAVITO

Rosario del Pilar Diaz Garavito is a Sustainable Development Goals activist, Member of the Youth Advisory Board Member for the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and Founder & Executive Director of The Millennials Movement a youth led organization that engages youth in 16 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Currently she serves as Elected Focal Point for the Children, Adolescent and Youth Group of the Latin American and the Caribbean Civil Society Participation Mechanism Mes CLAC / MGCY, for the formal review of the 2030 Agenda at the United Nations. Rosario is a Fellow for the LAC Women Empower Program 2022-2023 of the Ban Ki Moon Center and was awarded as Obama Foundation Scholar 2019-2020, graduating from the Master's Program on International Development and Policy at the University of Chicago. Rosario collaborates with different initiatives and UN regional offices on youth related affairs; she is a specialist in sustainable development, climate justice and youth policies.



JOSEFINA EWINS

Josefina Manetta Ewins, a participant in the Masters in Public Administration Program at Rutgers University–Camden, focuses on ensuring an equal and equitable community through policy and activism. During her time as an undergraduate at Rutgers–Camden (Class of 2022), she served on different leadership boards and organizations and was the Executive Senator for her university’s Student Government. As a Bonner Civic Scholar, she has focused on transitional racial justice through oral history on the topic of policing and education systems within Camden, NJ, and on bettering the RUC and surrounding community. Josefina had been recognized on her campus as one of the Remarkable 31 for being student-focused on the campus community in advancing gender equality in all its forms through scholarship, campus action, community and professional service, teaching, and creative work. Josefina officially begins her graduate school journey in the Fall of 2022 and is an Eagleton Institute of Politics Graduate Fellow. She looks forward to a life of activism for marginalized communities and creating a space to amplify the voices of systemically oppressed groups.



RYAN FEENEY

Ryan Feeney is the Director of Public Engagement at Queen’s University Belfast, reporting to the President and Vice-Chancellor he is the institutional executive lead for the university’s political, civic, business and community engagement programmes and is responsible for Queen’s Social Charter and Civic and Social Responsibility functions. Prior, he was Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement at the Police Service of Northern Ireland and executive lead for public policy and political engagement. He was formerly Head of Public Engagement at Queen’s University (2016-2019) and Head of Community Development, Strategy and Public Affairs at Ulster GAA (2009-2015). He is a former Visiting Professor at Ulster University and served as an independent member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Ryan is a graduate of Business and History from St. Mary’s University College, Queen’s University Belfast and holds an MA in History and Politics from Ulster University and an LL.M in Law, Governance and Public Policy from Queen’s University. He is currently undertaking a Doctorate of Governance at the Whitaker School, Institute of Public Administration, National University of Ireland.



PAM FREDMAN

Pam Fredman is the current President of the International Association of Universities the global network of Higher Education Institutions and organizations created under the auspices of UNESCO. Her academic background is Professor of Neurochemistry at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and has been active in many of scientific and scholarly contexts. She has extensive experience from academic leadership and between 2006-2017 acting rector at the University of Gothenburg and as chair of the Swedish rector conference 2009-2014 and thereby member of the council of European University Association, EUA, and the EUA Research Policy Working Group. Pam Fredman has participated in political initiatives and policy development in Sweden and engaged in promoting HE as a common good and its relevance for a democratic and sustainable societal development. She is the chair of the Swedish leadership courses for vice chancellors and deans.



MATJAŽ GRUDEN

Matjaž Gruden is Director of Democratic Participation at the Council of Europe, which includes Council of Europe activities and programmes in the area of education, including education for democratic citizenship, youth cooperation, culture and cultural heritage, landscape and biodiversity. The Directorate also includes the Platform for the protection of Journalists, the Eurimages film fund and the North-South Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity. He previously served as Director of Policy Planning, Deputy Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General, political adviser and speechwriter for the Secretary General and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Prior to his career at the Council of Europe, he was a diplomat at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, posted in Brussels. He holds a law degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, as well as a post-graduate degree in EU law from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.



IRA HARKAVY

Ira Harkavy is Founding Director of the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania. His research and teaching focus on the history and practice of urban university-community-school partnerships and the democratic and civic missions of higher education. As Netter Director since 1992, Harkavy has helped to develop academically based community service courses as well as participatory action research projects with Penn's local community of West Philadelphia. Harkavy is Chair of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy and Founding Chair of the Anchor Institutions Task Force. His publications include *Dewey's Dream: Universities and Democracies in an Age of Education Reform* and *Knowledge for Social Change: Bacon, Dewey, and the Revolutionary Transformation of Research Universities in the Twenty-First Century*.



MINISTER SIMON HARRIS

Simon Harris TD is the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for the Government of Ireland. He previously served as Minister for Health from May 2016 to June 2020, and as Minister of State at the Departments of Finance PER and Taoiseach with Special Responsibility for the OPW, Public Procurement, and International Banking (incl IFSC) from 2014 to 2016. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann in the 2011 General Election and was the youngest member of the 31st Dáil. During that term, Simon served as a member of the Public Accounts Committee, Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Secretary of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party and Co-Convenor of the Oireachtas Cross Party Group on Mental Health. Prior, Simon was a member of both Wicklow County Council and Greystones Town Council. He has also served his community as Chairperson of the County Wicklow Policing Committee, Chairperson of the Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum, Board Member of Wicklow Tourism and Member of Wicklow Vocational Educational Committee. Simon's involvement in politics began after he established an Autism support and lobby group in County Wicklow to seek to give a voice to people living with Autism and their families and to articulate their concerns and needs.



MAIJA INNOLA

Maija Innola is Senior Ministerial Adviser at the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. She has lengthy experience of preparing and implementing policies and strategies in the higher education sector both nationally and internationally. Maija Innola is Chair of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) since 2021 and a member of the Bologna Follow-up Group. Maija Innola holds a MA degree in History from the University of Helsinki. She has also completed a study programme in Administration and Management of Higher Education.



DAIRE KEOGH

Professor Daire Keogh began his term as President of DCU in July 2020. He previously served as Deputy President of the University (2016-2020). Prior to that, he was President of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra (2012-2016), and played a key role in its incorporation with DCU. Daire has published extensively, on the history of popular politics, religion and education in Ireland. A former Government of Ireland Senior Research Fellow, he is currently Principal Investigator of an Irish Research Council funded project to publish the extensive correspondence of Cardinal Paul Cullen. He is a founding member of the European Quality Assurance Register Committee, the body charged by EU Governments with monitoring quality assurance in higher education across the continent. H Daire is a graduate of the National University of Ireland (BA), the Gregorian University Rome (BPh), the University of Glasgow (MTh) and the University of Dublin (PhD).



MARCELO KNOBEL

Marcelo Knobel was the 12th Rector of the University of Campinas (Unicamp), in Brazil, where he is a Full Professor of Physics. He held other leadership roles, including: Executive Director of the Unicamp Exploratory Science Museum, Vice-Rector for Undergraduate Programs, Vice-President of the Brazilian Physics Society and Executive Director of the Brazilian Nanotechnology National Laboratory (LNNano). Knobel has already published more than 300 scientific papers, in addition to numerous opinion pieces in both national and international newspapers and magazines. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials (Elsevier), Knobelisan Eisenhower Fellow (2007), Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2009) and Lemann Fellow (2015). He is Member of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory.



LETICIA IVONNE LÓPEZ VILLARREAL

She studied a Master's degree in education with specialty in teaching-learning processes and a Doctorate degree (PhD) in Social Sciences at Tecnológico de Monterrey. A Master's degree in Cultural, Social and School Services Management at the University of Florence in Italy. She has been a teacher in secondary, High School and Higher Education in different educational institutions such as the MaterInstitute, Tecmilenio University, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey University, on topics of: humanities, social sciences, entrepreneurship and social responsibility. She has collaborated in the development and consolidation of different projects and social initiatives. She founded the organization of Little Mexican Giants A.C. that protects the human rights of girls, boys and adolescents who live in residential care in Nuevo León, through which it has contributed to generation of public policy in favor of this population. She is currently Director of the Center for Solidarity and Philanthropy at the University of Monterrey.



LIVIU MATEI

Liviu Matei is a professor of higher education and public policy, and head of the School of Education, Communication and Society at King's College London. He taught at universities in Europe and the U.S, consulted extensively in the area of higher education policy and conducted applied policy research projects for the World Bank, UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; for national authorities and universities from Europe and Asia. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia and serves on the editorial boards of the *Internationalisation of Higher Education Journal* and the *European Journal of Higher Education*. His primary areas of expertise include university governance, funding, internationalization of higher education, academic freedom and university autonomy, and quality assurance. He is the founder of the Global Observatory on Academic Freedom.



DAVID MAURRASSE

David J. Maurrasse, Ph.D. is the Founder and President of Marga Incorporated, a consulting firm founded in 2000 providing strategic advice and research to philanthropic initiatives and community partnerships. Marga coordinates the Anchor Institutions Task Force, an action-oriented learning community promoting the role of anchor institutions in mutually transformative community partnerships. Marga also coordinates the Race and Equity in Philanthropy Group (REPG), which is a network of foundations addressing policies and practices on racial equity and various aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Since 2000, Dr. Maurrasse has been affiliated with Columbia University, where he currently serves as Adjunct Research Scholar at the Earth Institute and Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs. Maurrasse is the author of numerous books, most recently, *Strategic Community Partnerships* (2021), and starting with *Beyond the Campus: How Colleges and Universities form Partnerships with Their Communities* (2001). Maurrasse has also held positions at Yale University and the Rockefeller Foundation.



ANDREW MONTAGUE

Andrew Montague is a former Lord Mayor of Dublin, was a councillor on Dublin City Council from 2004 to 2019, and is currently a consultant carrying out research into community development; town planning; and crime and antisocial behaviour. Andrew lives in Ballymun, one of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Ireland, and a 20 minute walk from the entrance to DCU. Andrew chairs the Ballymun Drugs Task Force, which leads the response to drug and alcohol misuse in the Ballymun community. He's the author of the 2021 report, "Ballymun –A Brighter Future. A plan to tackle the underlying causes of addiction and crime and to tackle open drug dealing". During his time as an elected councillor Andrew set up and chaired Dublin's cycling committee, and he introduced the Dublin bikes scheme – one of the first bike share schemes in Europe, and one of the most successful.



RONALDO MUNCK

Ronaldo Munck is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for Engaged Research at Dublin City University and a member of the Council of Europe Task Force on The Local Democratic Mission of Higher Education. Professor Munck was the first Head of Civic Engagement at DCU and drove the 'third mission' alongside teaching and research. As a political sociologist Professor Munck has written widely on the impact of globalisation on development, changing work patterns and migration. Recent works include *Migration, Precarity and Global Governance* and *Social Movements in Latin America: Mapping the Mosaic*. He is a lead author of Amartya Sen's International Panel on Social Progress Report, 'Rethinking Society for the 21st Century'.



SIBONGILE MUTHWA

Sibongile Muthwa is the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. Pivotal to her approach to her portfolio of responsibilities as Vice-Chancellor, is positioning transformative and transformational leadership, both at the University and in the broader higher education arena nationally. Through her leadership, Nelson Mandela University has positioned itself to be in service of society, explicitly in pursuit of social justice. Prior to becoming Vice-Chancellor and Principal in 2018, she was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support at Nelson Mandela University. Before that Professor Muthwa served as Director General of the provincial public service of the Eastern Cape. She chairs the Ministerial Task Team on Sexual Harassment and Gender Based Violence and Harm in South African Universities; and is a member of the Presidential Human Resource Development Council of South Africa. She also previously served as a Trustee of South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID); and as the Deputy Chairperson of the South African Financial and Fiscal Commission. She is current Chairperson of Universities South Africa (USAf), a membership organization representing the leadership of South Africa's 26 Public Universities.



JIM NYLAND

Professor Jim Nyland took up the role of Associate Vice-Chancellor (Queensland) at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in October 2011. Previously, he has held academic appointments at the University of Queensland, where he was the Director of Corporate Education and Director of UQ Business School Downtown. Prior to this he was Manager and Principal Advisor in the Vice-Chancellor's Office for Engagement at Griffith University and has held managerial positions in a number of universities in the UK. He holds a doctorate in Education and has published research covering curriculum change, the nature of learning and the impact of modernity on educational opportunity. Professor Nyland's work has been international in scope and he has developed programs in the UK and Australia as well as keynote academic papers in Ireland, Strasbourg, and South Africa. He is President of Engagement Australia, Editor of the Australian engagement journal *Transform: the Journal of Engaged Scholarship*.



ENRIQUE OCHOA

Lic. Enrique Ochoa has a BA in Political Science (University of Buenos Aires-UBA), with a postgraduate degree in International Relations and Negotiations (University of San Andrés and FLACSO Argentina). He studied at the University of Bologna (Representation in Buenos Aires) and won a scholarship for the Workshop for Young Latin-American Leaders in "Leadership, Democracy and Social Development" of the Inter-American Development Bank. He has 15 years of experience as a consultant to the Ministry of Education of Argentina, specializing in the promotion of service-learning projects. He builds up his career as a professor at the School of Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires, in the Programme of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences of CIEE-FLACSO. Since the creation of CLAYSS, he has been in charge of the International Relations of the organization, and the coordination of training activities and support for Higher Education Institutions. Since 2016 he has held his position as Executive Director, coordinating areas and programmes, and reporting directly to the Board of Directors.



KIM OSBORNE

Kim Osborne is the Executive Secretary for Integral Development at the Organization of American States, with responsibility for the Development Pillar; one of the four pillars of the organization. Appointed by the OAS Secretary General, she was confirmed by member states in January 2017. Since then she has been leading the Organization's hemispheric development agenda and with a specific focus on building resilience and competitiveness with programs in education, innovation, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, climate adaptation, among others. She simultaneously holds the position of Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development spearheading the OAS' Cooperation and Partnerships for Development program, the Development Cooperation Fund, the OAS Scholarship and Training Program and the Scholarships Capital Fund. Ms. Osborne is also responsible for coordinating Policy Dialogue on development, overseeing over 12 Meeting of Ministers and High-level authorities in the Hemisphere. For over two decades, Mrs. Osborne has dedicated herself to the socio-economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean region, pioneering programs in tourism and small business development. She believes strongly in promoting an alliance model for development that maximizes multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation in all its modalities. Mrs. Osborne is a daughter of Dominica.



YADIRA PINILLA

Yadira Pinilla is a senior specialist in the Department for Human Development, Education and Employment at the Organization of American States (OAS). She was a former advisor to the Director for Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions of the OAS and has over 25 years of experience in international affairs and multilateral diplomacy. She has worked extensively with UN agencies, regional organizations, donors, and civil society organizations in promoting a critical role for multilateral peacebuilding. Ms. Pinilla has held political advisory positions for both the Assistant Secretary General and Secretary General of the OAS. Ms. Pinilla has been working with the University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center on the formation of a Learning Community for Higher Education Associations and Leaders in the Latin American and Caribbean region. She holds a MA in Conflict Management in Public Policy (1995) and a BA in Latin American Studies (1988) from George Mason University, graduate diplomas in peacebuilding from American University and Eastern Mennonite University. She is originally from Bogota, Colombia.



SNJEŽANA PRIJIĆ-SAMARŽIJA

Snježana Prijić-Samaržija is a full professor at the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka. Her research interests include social philosophy, epistemology, applied ethics, gender studies, and feminist epistemology. She is the founder and first director of the University of Rijeka Foundation, and the initiator of the process of establishing the Center for Advanced Studies in Southeast Europe in Rijeka. Before her Rector's term, Professor Prijić-Samaržija acted as the Vice-Rector for Students and Studies for 8 years. During 15 years of active participation in university governance, she was a member of numerous national and international committees, advisory bodies, and higher education bodies in the domains of strategic governance and higher education leadership. She is currently the President of YERUN and a member of the YUFE Strategy Board. At the University of Rijeka, she introduced new directions of development, emphasizing the social responsibility of higher education, community-based learning, and research, human resources strategies in research and ranking policies, quality assurance, student-centered teaching, and digital transformation of universities.



VILLANO QIRIAZI

Villano Qiriazhi, who has more than 20 years of experience in the Council of Europe's intergovernmental cooperation sector, has led the organization's Education Department since February 2022. He graduated from Tirana University with a degree in Philology in 1988. He has extensive experience in the development of Council of Europe policies on quality inclusive education, democratic citizenship and human rights, digital citizenship education, preventing fraud in education, history teaching, and language policies. Since 2012, he has been in charge of the activities of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee on Education and the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education. In this capacity, he has been in charge of the conception of several official texts of the Committee of Ministers, the coordination of several publications, and the establishment of European networks in the fields of digital citizenship education and ethics, transparency, and integrity in higher education.



DENISE ROCHE

Denise Roche is the Advocacy Manager with Scholars at Risk's European office—SAR Europe—hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland. She leads the advocacy work to promote and protect academic freedom, including coordinating the activities of the European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy. Prior to joining SAR Europe in July 2020, Denise held a number of legal and policy positions across Ireland's private, public and non-for-profit sectors, including with the Women's Council of Ireland, the Law Reform Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Irish Mission to the United Nations in New York, and was as a Judicial Fellow of the High Court. Denise is a qualified solicitor, holds an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice from Northumbria Law School, England, and a BCL (International) Degree from University College Cork, Ireland.



G. GABRIELLE STARR

G. Gabrielle Starr, a scholar of English literature, neuroscience and the arts, took office as the 10th president of Pomona College in 2017. Starr is a national voice on access to college for students of all backgrounds, the future of higher education, women in leadership and the importance of the arts. Her writing has appeared in the New York Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Washington Post and The Financial Times. Previously, Starr served as dean of NYU's College of Arts and Science. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in women's studies at Emory University before going on to Harvard University to earn her doctorate in English and American literature.



HILLIGJE VAN'T LAND

Dr. Hilligje van't Land serves the global higher education community as Secretary General of the International Association of Universities (IAU) - global NGO with UNESCO Associate Status. IAU celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2021. For over two decades, she has fostered the key role of higher education in societal transformation. She supervises the overall programme activities of the IAU, develops its strategic plans, and oversees the everyday work of the secretariat. Hilligje van't Land strongly believes in the importance of international cooperation and intercultural understanding and has developed multilateral projects related to higher education and beyond. She represents IAU in various committees including at the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the UN as member of the High Level Advisory Board to the UNESCO Futures of Education Initiative and Mission 4.7 and TES & the UNESCO ESD for 2030 Programme; the Council of Europe ad hoc Working Group on the Local Mission of the University, sub group on higher education policy to the steering committee for education, Steering Committee for Best Practice Programme in Promoting Academic Integrity, work on Competences for a Democratic Culture; the Advisory Board of Sulitest; Advisory Board of the Observatory of Academic Freedom (GOAF - Soros Foundation).



NYEEMA WATSON

Dr. Nyeema C. Watson is the vice chancellor of diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement at Rutgers University–Camden, where she oversees efforts to build an inclusive campus community while connecting the resources of the university with communities in Camden and across southern New Jersey. Dr. Watson is an experienced leader in civic and community engagement, higher education administration, anchor institution partnerships, student success initiatives, policy and program development, and research on issues relating to minority children and youth who live in high poverty areas. Working with students, faculty, and staff, Watson leads Rutgers-Camden efforts to establish diversity, equity, and inclusion as a key institutional value that can be seen through recruitment, retention, the curriculum, and civic and community engagement. The Office of Civic Engagement focuses on engaged civic learning, volunteerism and service, community-based research, and integrated partnerships focused on addressing local issues. Under her leadership, Rutgers University–Camden has become nationally recognized as a leader in the field of civic engagement.



RENÉE T. WHITE

Dr. Renée T. White is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The New School in New York City, where she is also a professor of sociology with tenure. With more than 25 years of experience working in higher education, Dr. White previously served as provost and a professor of sociology at Wheaton College in Massachusetts and as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Simmons University. Dr. White is the editor of four books, including the acclaimed *Spoils of War: Women of Color, Cultures, and Revolutions* and the recently published *Afrofuturism in Black Panther: Gender, Identity, and the Re-Making of Blackness*. She has served as editor of the *Journal of HIV/AIDS Prevention in Children and Youth*, and is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education*. She serves as a Strategic Leader for VisionForward — a national coalition working to advance gender equity through women’s leadership. Dr. White holds an AB with honors from Brown University and an MA and PhD from Yale University, where she was awarded a Mellon Foundation doctoral fellowship.

