

Aurora Symposium on Global Citizenship

27 - 29 May, 2026
Programme

AURORA



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General Information

The Aurora Symposium on Global Citizenship will take place from 27 to 29 May 2026 at VU Amsterdam, bringing together scholars, educators, students, and societal partners from across Aurora universities and beyond.

The Symposium provides a collaborative platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and co-creation, focusing on the role of higher education in addressing pressing global challenges. It reflects Aurora's mission to foster social responsibility, inclusivity, sustainability, and active citizenship, positioning universities as key actors in shaping resilient and equitable societies.

Participants will engage in a dynamic and interdisciplinary programme combining academic research, policy dialogue, and practice-based approaches, with a strong emphasis on interaction, reflection, and the co-development of practical and actionable solutions.

Within this framework, the Symposium contributes to strengthening connections between education, research, and society by promoting stakeholder engagement, sharing innovative practices, and supporting the development of sustainable cooperation formats and communities of practice across institutions and sectors.

The Symposium is initiated within the framework of the Aurora 2030 Programme Work Package 4 ('Teaching and Learning for Societal Impact') and serves as a platform for the dissemination and implementation of innovative educational approaches related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global citizenship education. It supports the exchange of practices, fosters co-creation and service learning, and contributes to the development of an open academic community, with a focus on translating knowledge into practice and ensuring tangible outcomes.

In addition, the Symposium provides targeted support to Aurora's Work Package 7 (Capacity Building and Community Engagement programme), particularly through its contribution to the Capacity Development Programme in Central and Eastern Europe and the development of the Karazin Peace Education Hub. It provides a structured space for engagement with associated partners, enabling knowledge exchange, strengthening participation, and supporting the operational embedding of activities within the wider Aurora framework.

Thematic Fields

The programme is structured around three interconnected thematic fields that reflect the core priorities of the Symposium:

1. **Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice**

This theme explores the role of higher education in promoting peacebuilding, conflict transformation, human rights, and social justice. It addresses global and local challenges, including war, inequality, and societal resilience.

2. **Community Engagement and Civic Participation**

Focusing on the relationship between universities and society, this theme highlights civic engagement, participatory approaches, and the role of higher education institutions in fostering democratic values and community impact.

3. **Education for Global Citizenship**

This theme examines innovative pedagogies, curricula, and institutional strategies that support the development of global citizenship competencies, including critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and ethical responsibility.

These thematic areas are interwoven throughout the programme, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and cross-sector collaboration.

Programme Content

The Symposium offers a rich and diverse programme combining different formats to maximise interaction and knowledge exchange.

The event opens with a **plenary session and keynote presentations**, setting the stage for the thematic discussions. Across the three days, participants can engage in:

- **High-Level Panels** addressing strategic and policy-oriented perspectives
- **Parallel Sessions** featuring paper presentations and panel discussions
- **Workshops** focused on practical approaches, tools, and methodologies
- **Interactive Panel Discussions and Special Events** encouraging dialogue and co-creation
- **Poster Session** showcasing emerging research and innovative practices

The programme is designed to balance academic rigor with participatory formats, ensuring opportunities for both formal presentation and collaborative exchange.

The programme includes **regular coffee breaks, networking opportunities, lunches, and social events**, such as the Opening Reception and Welcome Dinner, designed to foster informal exchange and collaboration among participants. Participants are encouraged to actively engage in discussions, workshops, and interactive formats throughout the Symposium.

Each day follows a structured rhythm combining plenary moments, parallel tracks, and networking opportunities, culminating in a **closing session and award ceremony** on the final day.

We hope the many activities listed below inspire you until we meet in person for the conference!

Warmly,

The Symposium Program and Organisational Committees

Symposium Program Committee (in alphabetical order)

- Prof. Hans Akkermans, VU Amsterdam
- Prof. Laurence Beierlein, Paris-East Créteil University
- Prof. Freek Colombijn, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Frederique Demeijer, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Sabina Di Prima, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Albina Dioba, Copenhagen Business School
- Prof. Jaroslav Franc, Palacký University Olomouc
- Dr. Oleksandr Khyzhniak, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Laura Lema Silva, Paris-East Créteil University
- Dr. Marije Luitjens, VU Amsterdam
- Prof. Olena Mykolenko, Karazin University
- Dr. Selma Porobic, Palacký University Olomouc
- Dr. Sarju Sing Rai, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Denyse Snelder, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Cheah Wai Shiang, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
- Prof. Marjolein Zweekhorst, VU Amsterdam

Symposium Organisational Committee (in alphabetical order)

- Chiara Cardigliano, Aurora Central Office
- Mark Jeffreys, VU Amsterdam
- Anna Klas, Aurora Central Office
- Dr. Oleksandr Khyzhniak, VU Amsterdam
- Alexander Lindemans, Aurora Central Office
- Sofia Martino, VU Amsterdam
- Esmee Paques, VU Amsterdam
- Dr. Sarju Sing Rai, VU Amsterdam
- Prof. dr. Marjolein Zweekhorst, VU Amsterdam

Practical Information

The Symposium will be held on the campus of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The campus is located in the Zuidas district and is easily accessible by public transport, bicycle, and on foot.

- **Dates:** 27–29 May 2026
- **Venue:** [VU Campus, De Boelelaan 1105](#), 1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands (specific rooms indicated in the programme)
- **Registration:** Opens daily from 12:00 on 27 May and from 09:30 on subsequent days
- **Format:** On-site event with interactive sessions
- **Language:** English

How to get here

The venue is approximately 10 minutes on foot from Amsterdam Zuid railway station, which offers direct national and international train and metro connections. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is only 5 minutes by train from Amsterdam Zuid. Nearby public transport stops include:

- **Tram:** VU Amsterdam (lines **5** and **25**)
- **Metro and train:** Amsterdam Zuid (metro lines **50**, **51**, **52** and national rail)
- **Bus:** VU Medisch Centrum and De Boelelaan/VU (GVB lines **62** and **463**, with additional regional services). [Plan your trip easily via 9292](#).

All symposium events take place in the **Main Building (HG)**. The main entrance is on de Boelelaan or the entrance on Campus Square. [See the campus map on the VU website](#).



Opening Keynote Speakers

Prof. Robert G. Bringle

Robert G. Bringle, Ph.D., Phil.D., is currently Chancellor's Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University Indianapolis. He served as Executive Director of the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning from 1994-2012. His work resulted in an expansion of service-learning courses, a curriculum for faculty development, a Community Service Scholars program, an America Reads tutoring program, and a HUD Community Outreach Partnership Center.

Dr. Bringle was awarded the Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning, the IUPUI Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Legacy of Service Award from Indiana Campus Compact, and the Distinguished Research Award from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement. The University of the Free State, South Africa, awarded him an honorary doctorate for his scholarly work on civic engagement and service learning.



Prof. Augustin K. N. Aoudji

Prof. Augustin Aoudji is a Full Professor of Agroeconomics at the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin). His work examines the transformation of agricultural and food systems in Africa, with a focus on value chain development, agroecological transition, agripreneurship, and skills-oriented higher education reform. Trained as an agronomist and rural development economist, he has served as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (2022–2025) and is currently Deputy Director of the Laboratory of Agroeconomics and Agribusiness.

Alongside his research, Augustin Aoudji is engaged in teaching and curriculum innovation, particularly in competency-based approaches and the professional development of young agronomists. He has coordinated or contributed to numerous international research and capacity-building initiatives across Sub-Saharan Africa. His publications explore youth employability, innovation in agribusiness, and the socio-economic drivers of sustainable food systems. He is committed to bridging science, education, and practice to support inclusive development in the Global South.



Prof. Dr. Ali Arnaout

Prof. Dr. Ali Arnaout studied technical business administration at the University of Stuttgart and did his doctorate at the Controlling chair of Prof. Dr. Péter Horváth.

His professional stations over more than 30 years included roles in international strategy and controlling consulting, in international asset and investment management, as long-time CFO & CIO at Germany's largest cruise line and Managing Director of the German Travel Security Fund in Berlin.

Since 2022, he has been professor and program director for International Management at Wismar University, and since end of 2024 coordinator of the ERASMUS+ project "EUComplianceM4UA".

His research activities are compliance management education and life-cycle profit management in the context of sustainable development.



Attendee Affiliations

University or institution (alphabetical)	Names
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University	Gulmira Abdiraiymova Dana Burkhanova Nazym Shedenova
Aurora Central Office	Alexander Lindemans Chiara Cardigliano Ramon Puras Anna Klas
Avans hogeschool	Anne Rietveld
Center for International Education at Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine	Olena Shapovalova
Central Ukrainian National Technical University	Nataliia Shalimova
Chernihiv Polytechnic National University	Anatoliy Prystupa Natalia Kholiavko
Copenhagen Business School	Pelin Sürmeli Maribel Blasco Albina Dioba
Çukurova University	İlke Şanlıer
Hochschule Wismar University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design	Ali Arnaout Anna Fomenko
Hogeschool Utrecht	Alma Mustafić
Indiana University	Robert Bringle
International Foundation for Educational Policy Research	Taras Finikov
Jordan University of Science and Technology	Mohammed Al-Hammouri Wafaa Taan

University or institution (alphabetical)	Attendees	
Justus Liebig University Giessen	Dr Robert Craig	
Kyiv School of Economics	Kostyantyn Kyrychenko	
Leiden University	Pius Mosima	
Makerere University	Joanne Kisaka	
Mediterranean University of Albania	Florjan Bombaj Anastas Angjeli Greta Angjeli	
Netherlands Defence Academy	Jori Kalkman	
NGO Peace by Peace	Anne de Graaf	
Palacký University Olomouc	Ningxin Han Andy Andy Jarmila Zimmermannová Pavel Flekac Božena Bednaříková Alena Vyskocilova	Eva Šerá Komlossyová Lenka Dušková Hynek Melichar Renáta Sedláková Maxim Tomoszek Jaroslav Franc
Pattimura University	Karina Sung Marthen Matakupan Nancy Mshalwat	
Radboud Universiteit	Nina Sneijers Susanna Linden Luz Blanco Davelaar	
Sciences Po	Erika Vodvářková	
Sumy National Agrarian University	Larysa Kalachevska Marharyta Lyshenko	
Tribhuvan University	Sandhya Pathak	
Ukrainian Catholic University	Oleh Pasko Yaroslav Prytula	

University or institution (alphabetical)	Attendees
Universität Innsbruck	Oswald Jenewein Judith Goetz
Universität Münster, Deutschland	Julia Wandhöfer
Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Marina Claverías Fernández Eva de Mingo Fernández Jordi Salvadó Torres Eva de Mingo-Fernández Aparecida de Sousa Damasceno
Université Paris-Est Créteil	Laurence Beierlein Elda Asllani
University Federico II of Naples	Paolo D'Angelo Chiara Arreghini Gabriel Vernacchia Ole Bentz
University of Abomey-Calavi	Augustin Aoudji Elvire Line Sossa
University of Balearic Islands	Aurora Ferrer Juan
University of Duisburg-Essen	Haag Sandra Tomasz Waliczko Daniel Courtney Christian Karl Karsten Altenschmidt
University of Hildesheim	Aliaksei Zhurauliou
University of Iceland	Auður Pálsdóttir
University of Sussex	Anke Schwittay
University of Tartu	Dmytro Khutkyy
V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University	Iryna Kuzina Alina Kalashnikova Olena Mykolenko Iryna Shteimiller Zarif NazYROV

VU Amsterdam

Aletta Kraneveld	Lenka Hora Adema
Almina Karya Odabasi	Loek Haaijman
Alp Köksoy	Maaïke Matelski
Amber Mers	Maddie Chambers
Anahi Flores	Maiza Campos Ponce
Andreea Iorga	Marc Lamain
Anna Bon	Margrethe Jonkman
Boonlert Randy anak Peter	Marie-Anne van Reijen
Cheah WaiShiang	Mariëtte Diderich
Cyril Tjahja	Marije Luitjens
Deepika Bhandari	Marina de Regt
Denyse Snelder	Marise van Amersfoort
Dora Achourioti	Marjolein Zweekhorst
Durwin Lynch	Mark Jeffreys
Eduardo Urias	Marleen Westerhof
Ellen Bal	Mary Cassidy
Esmee Paques	Mina Dashtbali
Fernie Maas	Miranda van Holland
Florian Heine	Morgan Deneubourg
Frederique Demeijer	Nada Ababou
Geertje Tijlma	Neele van den Bongardt
Govert Buijs	Nieke Elbers
Hans Akkermans	Noy Dragushansky
Henk van den Heuvel	Nthabiseng Shongwe
Hermien Soselia	Oleksandr Khyzhniak
Hosna Shewly	Pahal Agrawal
Hussein Zeidan	Panagiota (Yota) Christidou
Jaap Boter	Renate Hartog
Jan-Jorrit Hasselaar	Reyka Lycklama a Nijeholt
Jaro Pichel	Robert Larruina
Jasper Oosterveld	Sabina Di Prima
Jeroen Geurts	Sarju Sing Rai
Joana Meroz	Sofia Martino
Joesp Ufi	Sylvia van de Bunt
John Hogan	Tanisha Ganesh
Joris van Wijk	Warren Dansou
Jorn Dormans	Wendelien Tuijp
Joshua Nooij	Wolfgang Wagner
Kees Boersma	Zeel Kikani
Laura de Groot	

Symposium Overview

Day 1

Time	Wednesday 27 May, 2026
12:00 - 13:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee (venue: Foyer)
13:00 - 15:00	Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speeches @ AULA
15:00 - 15:10	Group Photo
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee-break and Networking (venue: Foyer)
15:30 - 17:00	Parallel Sessions
17:00 - 17:30	Coffee-break and Networking (venue: Foyer)
17:30 - 18:30	Parallel Sessions
18:30 - 19:30	Opening Reception (venue: Foyer)

Day 2

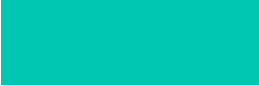
Time	Thursday 28 May, 2026
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Coffee (venue: Foyer)
09:30 - 10:00	Open Poster Session and Meet the Authors (venue: Foyer)
10:00 – 12:00	High-Level Panel I (venue: Auditorium)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (venue: Foyer)
13:00 – 14:30	Parallel Sessions
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee-break and Networking (venue: Reception rooms - behind AULA - Boelelaanzijde)

15:00 – 16:30	Parallel sessions
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee-break and Networking (venue: Reception rooms - behind AULA - Boeelaanzijde)
17:00 – 18:00	Parallel Sessions
18:00 – 19:00	Symposium Dinner (venue: Reception rooms - behind AULA - Boeelaanzijde)

Day 3

Time	Friday 29 May, 2026
09:30 - 10:00	Welcome Coffee (venue: Foyer)
10:00 – 11:30	High-Level Panel II (venue: Auditorium)
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch (venue: Foyer)
12:30 – 14:00	Parallel Sessions
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee-break and networking (venue: Foyer)
14:30 – 15:30	Parallel Sessions
15:30 – 16:30	Closing and Award Ceremony (venue: Auditorium)

Colour codes

	Workshop
	Panel Discussion
	Paper Presentation
	Special Event

Parallel Session Structure

The parallel sessions that take place simultaneously each day are listed below. Please pay attention to the time and venue of each and plan accordingly.

Wednesday 27 May

Time	Venue	Session
15:30 - 17:00	HG-05A33	Paper Presentation 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
15:30 - 17:00	HG-05A36	Paper Presentation 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation
15:30 - 17:00	HG-06A37	Paper Presentation 3: Education for Global Citizenship
15:30 - 17:00	HG-05A37	Special Event 1: Interactive Panel Discussion
17:30 - 18:30	HG-05A37	Workshop 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
17:30 - 18:30	HG-05A36	Workshop 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation
17:30 - 18:30	HG-06A37	Workshop 3: Education for Global Citizenship

Thursday 28 May

Time	Venue	Session
13:00 - 14:30	HG-07A33	Paper Presentation 4: Community Engagement and Civic Participation
13:00 - 14:30	HG-05A36	Panel Discussion 1: Education for Global Citizenship
13:00 - 14:30	Agora 2	Panel Discussion 2: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
13:00 - 14:30	HG-05A37	Special Event 2 Presentation Session: Education for Global Citizenship
15:00 - 16:30	HG-07A33	Paper Presentation 5: Education for Global Citizenship
15:00 - 16:30	HG-05A36	Paper Presentation 6: Education for Global Citizenship

15:00 - 16:30	HG-05A37	Special Event 3 - An embodied workshop
15:00 - 16:30	Agora 2	Special Event 4: Interactive Panel Discussion (joint initiative with WO&MEN@VU)
15:00 - 16:30	HG-06A33	Workshop 4: Education for Global Citizenship
17:00 - 18:00	HG-06A33	Workshop 5: Community Engagement and Civic Participation
17:00 - 18:00	HG-05A37	Panel Discussion 3: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
17:00 - 18:00	HG-05A36	Workshop 6: Education for Global Citizenship
17:00 - 18:00	Agora 2	Special Event 5: Interactive Panel Discussion - Education for Global Citizenship

Friday 29 May

Time	Venue	Session
12:30 - 14:00	Forum 3	Panel Discussion 4: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
12:30 - 14:00	HG-05A37	Paper Presentation 7: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
12:30 - 14:00	HG-05A36	Paper Presentation 8: Education for Global Citizenship
12:30 - 14:00	HG-02A36	Workshop 7: Community Engagement and Civic Participation
14:30 - 15:30	HG-05A37	Workshop 8: Education for Global Citizenship
14:30 - 15:30	HG-05A36	Workshop 9: Education for Global Citizenship
14:30 - 15:30	HG-02A37	Workshop 10: Education for Global Citizenship
14:30 - 15:30	Forum 3	Workshop 11: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice
14:30 - 15:30	HG-02A36	Special Event 6: Brainstorming Session

How to Find the Venues

Elevators

- For uneven floors (0-3-5-7-9-11) use the elevators to the left upon entrance (elevator group B). Follow signs on the walls.
- For even floors (0-4-6-8-10) use the elevators to the left upon entrance (elevator group A). Follow signs on the walls.

Rooms

Venues for the various sessions have alphanumerical codes that indicate their location.

For example: **HG-09A33**:

- **HG**: the first two letters of the room number stand for the building you have to be in. **HG is the main building**.
- **09**: the first two numbers after the letters, shows us which floor you have to be on. 01 for example, is the first floor, and 09 is the ninth.
- **A**: this letter stands for the wing of the building. For example, the main building has several wings which are named with a letter.
- **33**: last but not least, you have the number of the room you have to be in. 33 in this case, stands for room 33 in wing A, level 09 at the main building.

How to find the Agora 2 (3rd floor)

- Reach the 3rd floor using the elevators to the left upon entrance or the stairs.
- Walk through Foyer 1, the Agora 2 will be up the staircase on the right.

How to find the Auditorium, AULA, and Foyer (1st floor)

- Reach the 1st floor through the main stairs to the right upon entrance (the elevators do not stop on the 1st floor!)
- Follow the directions to the Auditorium, AULA, and Foyer.

How to find the Forum rooms (1st floor)

- Reach the 1st floor through the side stairs to the right (pass coffee corner in the direction to wing D).
- Follow the directions to the Forum room you need.

Session Overview

Wednesday, 27 May, 2026

Opening Symposium

13:00 - 15:00. Venue: AULA

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Marjolein Zweekhorst (VU Amsterdam)

13:00 - 13:05	Opening remarks
13:05 - 13:10	Welcome from President dr. Margrethe Jonkman (VU Amsterdam)
13:10 - 13:15	Welcome from Aurora Secretary-General dr. Ramon Puras (Aurora)
13:15 - 13:55	Opening keynote presentation Prof. Robert G. Bringle (Chancellor's Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Philanthropic Studies, Indiana University)
13:55 - 14:05	Intermezzo
14:05 - 14:30	Keynote presentation: "Universities as Civic Anchors: Lessons from Benin for Global Citizenship Education" Prof. Augustin K. N. Aoudji (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
14:30 - 14:55	Keynote presentation: "Why the World Needs More Risk Takers: Educating Responsible Global Citizens" Prof. Ali Arnaout (Hochschule Wismar, Germany)
14:55 - 15:00	Closing remarks

Parallel Sessions

15:30 - 17:00	Paper Presentation Session 1 Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice Venue: HG-05A33	
Peace, conflict, and social justice in the Mediterranean: a novel methodological approach to the economics of peace	Anastas Angjeli, Greta Angjeli, Florjan Bombaj (Mediterranean University of Albania)	
Beyond Visibility: Soft Power, Hyperpolitics, and the Quest for Equitable Intercultural Communication	Ole Bentz (University Federico II of Naples)	
The peacebuilding glass ceiling: Why community-led NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot break the structural barriers to macro-level peace	Lenka Dušková (Palacký University Olomouc)	

Pluralizing energy governance: Rights of Nature and global citizenship

Aparecida de Sousa Demasceno
(Universitat Rovira i Virgili)

Conflict and Migration: Mobility and Social Identity in Group Contests

Florian Heine (VU Amsterdam)

Effective university model in times of war for strong societal resilience: relevant training, analytical research, societal impact. Lessons from Kyiv School of Economics

Kostyantyn Kyrychenko
(Kyiv School of Economics)

15:30 - 17:00	Paper Presentation Session 2 Topic 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation Venue: HG-05A36	
Strategizing the future through the past - A historical exploration of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam's role in shaping societal change	Laura de Groot & Amber Mers (VU Amsterdam)	
Participatory democracy and democratic innovations in Ukraine	Iryna Kuzina (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)	
Orchard Meadows - Connect How Civic Engagement is Reviving a Cultural Landscape	Haag Sandra (University of Duisburg-Essen)	
Educating In and On the Digital Transformation – A Digital Humanism Perspective	Laurence Beierlein (Université Paris Est Créteil)	
Global Citizenship	Julia Wandhöfer (Universität Münster)	
STREETWISE	Geertje Tijsma (VU Amsterdam)	

15:30 - 17:00	Paper Presentation Session 3 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-06A37	
Teaching Against Anti Gender Mobilization: Critical Media Literacy for Global Citizenship	Judith Goetz (Universität Innsbruck)	
Do Not Leave Your Values at the Door; The Permissibility of Activism in the Lecture Hall	Joshua Nooij (VU Amsterdam)	
Defining Institutional Social Entrepreneurship Competencies: A Systematic Literature Review	Pelin Sürmeli (Copenhagen Business School)	

From National Identity to Global Citizenship: Innovative Experiments in Experiential Learning in Arts & Culture Higher Education

Joana Meroz & Cyril Tjahja (VU Amsterdam)

Decoding Morphological Manipulation: Enhancing Media Literacy for Global Citizenship

Božena Bednaříková (Palacký University Olomouc)

Educating Global Digital Citizens An Experiential Framework for Democratic Participation

Paolo D'Angelo & Chiara Arreghini (University Federico II of Naples)

15:30 - 17:00	Special Event 1 – Interactive Panel Discussion Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A37
<u>From Living Labs to Learning Outcomes: Using the LOUIS Competence Framework</u>	Facilitators: Auður Pálsdóttir (UI) Maxim Tomoszek (UPOL) Denyse Snelder and Sabina Di Prima (VU Amsterdam)

17:30 - 18:30	Workshop 1 Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice Venue: HG-05A37
<u>Relating to Conflict and Polarisation: From Reflection to Analysis to Action</u>	Marise van Amersfoort & Lenka Hora Adema (VU Amsterdam)

17:30 - 18:30	Workshop 2 Topic 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation Venue: HG-05A36
<u>Future Citizenship 2030: A Participatory Scenario Lab on AI, Civic Participation and Societal Resilience</u>	Christian Karl (University of Duisburg-Essen)

17:30 - 18:30	Workshop 3 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-06A37
<u>Peace as Practice: Linking Staff Development, Curriculum Transformation and Community Engagement in the EUPeace Alliance</u>	İlke Şanlıer (Cukurova University), Robert Craig (EUPeace & Justus Liebig University Giessen)

Thursday, 28 May, 2026

High Level Panel I

10:00 - 12:00

Venue: Auditorium

How Universities Contribute to Development of Global Citizenship and Community Engagement

Moderator: Dr. Sarju Sing Rai (VU Amsterdam)

In this session, we will explore how Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam contributes to the development of global citizenship and community engagement through the *Broader Mind* course and its Community Service Learning programme. Following this, our colleagues from Benin and Uganda will present their universities' strategies. Together, we will engage in a deeper discussion on the similarities and differences between these strategies across different global contexts. By reflecting on shared experiences and challenges, we aim to identify key lessons learned that can support all of us in strengthening global citizenship and community engagement within higher education.

Prof. Govert Buijs	The Broader Mind Course at VU Amsterdam
Prof. Marjolein Zweekhorst	Community Service Learning at VU Amsterdam
Dr. Frederique Demeijer	VU Amsterdam (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Dr. Elvire Sossa	University Abomey-Calavi (Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Dr. Joanne Kisaka	Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda)
Nthabiseng Shongwe & Zeel Kikani	Students at VU Amsterdam

09:30 - 18:00	Poster Presentations Venue: Foyer upper level
09:30 - 10:00	Meet the Authors
Algorithmic Monetization vs. Human Rights: Establishing Legal Corrective Mechanisms for the Protection of Democracy and Rule of Law	Ningxin Han (Palacký University Olomouc)
Chernihiv Polytechnic National University in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Challenges and Resilience	Anatoliy Prystupa, Nataliia Kholiavko (Chernihiv Polytechnic National University)
AI in peacebuilding	Aliaksei Zhurauliou (University of Hildesheim)
Resolving Conflicts to Build the System: Attractors for Engagement in Organizations and Communities	Alina Kalashnikova (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)

From higher education to social change: service-learning as a pathway to inclusive careers	Teresa Torres-Coronas, Jordi Salvadó Torres (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
The pro-community university as a catalyst for civic participation and local resilience: Ukraine Case	Svitlana Lukash (Sumy National Agrarian University)
Fostering Global Citizenship and Ethical Practice: A Service-Learning Model for Transformative Reflection in Social Work Education (URV). <i>Please note, this poster will finish at 15:30</i>	Marina Claverías (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
Making a Nobel Peace Prize Nomination	Wolfgang Wagner, John Hogan (VU Amsterdam)
Global synergy of the IMA university network through COIL: overcoming challenges in times of crisis	Larysa Kalachevska (Sumy National Agrarian University)
The DIGISOC Master's Experience: A Laboratory for Experiential Learning in Global Citizenship	Chiara Arreghini Paolo D'Angelo (University Federico II of Naples)
Linguistic inclusion for diverse perspectives	Jasper Oosterveld (VU Amsterdam)
Universities that make changes, Ukrainian Case: resilience-quality-impact	Kostyantyn Kyrychenko (Kyiv School of Economics)
Musical preferences for global citizenship education	Aurora Ferrer (University of Balearic Islands)
Karazin Peace Educational Hub	Zarif Nazyrov & Iryna Shteimiller (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)
Transdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Higher Education: A Case Study of the Sustainable Development Centre of KazNU-PolyU	Gulmira Abdiraiymova (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)

Parallel Sessions

13:00 - 14:30	Paper Presentation Session 4 Topic 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation Venue: HG-07A33
Resilient community energy in wartime Ukraine: the role of community engagement	Albina Dioba (Copenhagen Business School)
Inclusive Internationalization of Medical Education: Global Health in an Indonesian Archipelago	Mariette Diderich, Karina Sung, Marthen Matakupan, Nancy Mshalwat, Ischa Hagedoorn & Daisy Wijk (VU Amsterdam & Pattimura University)
Global Citizenship: a Dutch Emic Perspective	Susanna Linden, Luz Blanco Davelaar, Nina Sneijers (Radboud University)
Designing Inclusive Public Engagement in Higher Education Settings: The International Haná Model	Pavel Flekač, Alena Vyskočilová (Palacký University Olomouc)
Social and Community Development: The ICT4D Plug-In Principle	Anna Bon, Cheah WaiShiang, Francis Saa-Dittoh, Auke Schuringa, André Baart, Hans Akkermans (VU Amsterdam)

13:00 - 14:30	Panel Discussion 1 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A36
<u>Fragmented or Unified? Exploring internationalisation strategies and organisational approaches to foster Global Citizenship education at HEIs</u> Moderators: Denyse Snelder and Sabina Di Prima	
Panelists: Dr. Olena Shapovalova - Director of the Ukrainian State Center for International Education, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Prof. Wil Hout - Professor of Governance and International Political Economy, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam Dr. Marleen van der Kooij - IHE Delft, Platform for International Education (PIE) Prof. Augustin Aoudji - Professor of Agroecoeconomics at the University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin Dr. Ellen Bal - Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Social and Cultural Anthropology Prof. Jaap Boter - Associate Dean of Internationalisation, School of Business and Economics (SBE)	

13:00 - 14:30	Panel Discussion 2 Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice Venue: Agora 2
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Societal Resilience in Times of War: Universities, Citizens and the Whole-of-Society Approach in Europe

Joint initiative with the VU Centre Defence and Resilient Society

Moderator: Prof. Kees Boersma (VU Amsterdam)

Panelists:

Dr. Jori Kalkman

Netherlands Defence Academy

Prof. Dmytro Khutkyy

Head of the University of Tartu Ukraine Centre and Research (Tartu University)

Prof. Kati Orru

Expert on societal resilience, civil preparedness and citizen participation in crisis management (Tartu University)

Prof. Taras Finikov

Provides firsthand expertise on sustaining higher education systems, civic cohesion, and institutional resilience during wartime in Ukraine. (President of the International Foundation for Educational Policy Research)

13:00 - 14:30	Special Event 2: Presentation Session Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A37
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Interdisciplinary Community Service Learning in Action!

Frederique Demeijer and master students from course “Interdisciplinary Community Service Learning 2: Addressing Challenges through Transdisciplinary Research” (iCSL2)

Through this session, you will learn about students’ journey throughout this inter- and transdisciplinary course from VU Amsterdam with students from Aurora universities, about this community engaged education course itself and on the three themes of this year: 1) Food System Transformation; 2) Inclusive City Making, and 3) Inclusive Citizen Science.

15:00 - 16:30	Paper Presentation Session 5 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-07A33	
	Choosing the Right Career: University Students' Intentions and Self-Directed Career Management in Times of War-Induced Crisis	Olena Mykolenko (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)
	Service-Learning as a Peace-Building Practice in Nursing Education: Fostering Global Citizenship through Community Engagement	Eva María de Mingo-Fernández (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
	Transforming Learning Management System into Social Learning Platform with Competency Passport	Andy Andy (Palacký University Olomouc)
	A Global Campus Model for Architecture & Urbanism: The Alpinestudio International Program	Oswald Jenewein (Universität Innsbruck)
	Fostering Global Citizenship through Scenario-Based Roleplay in Higher Education	Joris van Wijk (VU Amsterdam)
15:00 - 16:30	Paper Presentation Session 6 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A36	
	When Competencies Multiply: Reorienting competency-based Education Toward Meaning	Hussein Zeidan (VU Amsterdam)
	New Forms of International University Collaboration Under Wartime Constraints	Yaroslav Prytula (Ukrainian Catholic University)
	Narrative Practices in University Education Rethinking the Teaching of Sociology and Social Work	Nazym Shedenova (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)
	Managing Life Responsibly: Integrating Compliance, Ethics, and Sustainable Management Education for Global Citizenship	Anna Fomenko (Hochschule Wismar University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design)
	<u>Street Art as Boundary Object: Advancing Inter- and Transdisciplinary Learning for Global Citizenship</u>	Geertje Tijsma (VU Amsterdam)
	Spiritual practice, platform distancing, and civic engagement among Czech university students	Jaroslav Franc, Damian Guzek & Renáta Sedláková (VU Amsterdam)

15:00 - 16:30	Special Event 3 An embodied workshop Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A37
<u>Social Presencing Theater for Making Systems Felt: Global Citizenship Education through 4D mapping</u>	
Jaro Pichel, Karya Odabasi & Frederique Demeijer (VU Amsterdam)	

15:00 - 17:00	Special Event 4 Interactive Panel Discussion Venue: Agora 2
Joint initiative with the WO&MEN@VU Moderator: Dr. Marina de Regt	
<u>Women in War Zones: Solidarity Across Borders</u>	
<i>Beyond the headlines, women sustain life, resist violence, and build solidarity across borders.</i>	
Mina Khani (Iran) Saba Hamzeh (Yemen) Ruaa Ahmed (Sudan) Htet Oo Wai (Myanmar)	

15:00 - 16:30	Workshop 4 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-06A33
<u>The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., India, and African communitarian philosophy as foundational pillars for global citizenship</u>	
Sylvia van de Bunt (VU Amsterdam)	

17:00 - 18:00	Special Event 5 Interactive Panel Discussion Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: Agora 2
Moderator: Dr. Sarju Sing Rai	
Marjolein Zweekhorst	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Jaroslav Franc	Palacký University Olomouc
Anke Schwittay	University of Sussex
Maribel Blasco	Copenhagen Business School
Cheah WaiShiang	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
Olena Mykolenko	Karazin University

17:00 - 18:00	Panel Discussion 3 Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice Venue: HG-05A37	
<u>Ethnographic Impact for Social Justice Project</u> Moderator: Maaïke Matelski (VU Amsterdam)		
Emerging Opportunities, Persistent Inequalities: Indigenous Migration in Urban Bangladesh		Ellen Bal & Hosna J. Shewly (VU Amsterdam)
Muwalladeen activists and the struggle for social justice in Yemen		Marina de Regt (VU Amsterdam)
Navigating uprootedness while resisting dictatorship: experiences of young migrants in Thailand since Myanmar’s 2021 military coup		Maaïke Matelski (VU Amsterdam)
17:00 - 18:00	Workshop 5 Topic 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation Venue: HG-06A33	
<u>Context matters: Making the hidden shapers of Community. Service Learning explicit</u>		Karsten Altnschmidt (University of Duisburg-Essen) & Frederique Demeijer (VU Amsterdam)
17:00 - 18:00	Workshop 6 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A36	
<u>Transformative learning using LOUIS competence framework</u>		Auður Pálsdóttir (University of Iceland)

Symposium Dinner (18:00-19:00)

Venue: Reception rooms - behind AULA - Boelelaan zijde
Music welcome by Daphne Biron and Sarah Verhulst (the VU-Orchestra)

The VU-Orchestra is a student orchestra based on the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It contains conservatory students and students from other disciplines. Last January, the VU-Orchestra performed Stravinsky's Petrosjka in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. More information about this concert can be found in the [concertagenda on the website](#)

Friday 29, May, 2026

High Level Panel II

10:00 - 11:30

Venue: Auditorium

The Role of Universities in Peace and Justice

Moderator: Dr. Marije Luitjens

Panelists:

Prof. Jeroen Geurts VU Amsterdam

Prof. Jan-Jorrit Hasselaar VU Amsterdam

Prof. Anne de Graaf Founder: NGO Peace by Peace

Alma Mustafić Member of the research group 'Access to Justice' at the Hogeschool Utrecht (HU)

Erika Vodvárkova Alumni AUC/VU

09:30 - 16:30

Artist Exhibition

by Rostyslav Fomenko (15-year-old Ukrainian refugee)

Venue: Foyer

Through his artworks, Rostyslav reflects on how life, identity, and perception transform within a globalized world. His works engage with themes of peace, identity, homeland, displacement, and belonging, while also emphasizing the importance of preserving Ukrainian identity, culture, and heritage within an increasingly interconnected global environment.

12:30 - 14:00

Panel Discussion 4

Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice

Venue: Forum 3

Lessons from South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Relevance for Peace and Reconciliation in Contemporary Conflicts

Moderators: Henk van den Heuvel & Simbarashe Maguchu (VU Amsterdam)

Participants will examine the legacy of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as a model for addressing past atrocities, rebuilding trust, and supporting peaceful coexistence in post-conflict societies.

Panelists:

Harry Wels VU Amsterdam

Anzanilufuno Munyai University of the western Cape

Olena Shapalova Center for International Education at Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

12:30 - 14:00	Paper Presentation Session 7 Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice Venue: HG-05A37
Restorative Justice as a Response to Interpersonal Harm and Conflict in Academia. Best Practices, Challenges and Opportunities for Culture Change	Nieke Elbers (VU Amsterdam)
A Normative Model of Global Citizenship: David Held's Cosmopolitanism	Gabriel Vernacchia (University Federico II of Naples)
Identity-Based Illiberal Politics as an Obstacle to Global Citizenship: Lessons from Central Europe	Hynek Melichar (Palacký University Olomouc)
(Not)Killing It: The Role of Humour in Peacebuilding	Erika Vodvářková (Palacký University Olomouc)
Local Capacities for Peace in Higher Education: Rethinking Peace Education through Dialogue Centers	Bente Bo Rosé & Frida Császár (VU Amsterdam)
12:30 - 14:00	Paper Presentation Session 8 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A36
New Materials from a Consumer Behaviour Perspective: Why is it Important for the Circular Economy?	Jarmila Zimmermannová (Palacký University Olomouc)
Resilience and Rights: Social Protection for Global Citizenship	Marharyta Lyshenko (Sumy National Agrarian University)
Teaching Against Anti Gender Mobilization: Critical Media Literacy for Global Citizenship	Judith Goetz (Universität Innsbruck)
Building Competencies for Social Justice and Societal Impact through Interdisciplinary Education and Quality Assurance (Ukrainian Experience)	Nataliia Shalimova (Central Ukrainian National Technical University)
Preparing Global Citizen: Medium of Instruction and Nepalese Students' Readiness for International Higher Education	Sandhya Pathak (Tribhuvan University)

12:30 - 14:00	Workshop 7 Topic 2: Community Engagement and Civic Participation Venue: HG-02A36
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<u>The Importance of Community Service Learning in the face of AI</u>	Galoeh Adrian Noviar, Jeroen Meulenbrugge & Marjolein Zweekhorst (VU Amsterdam)
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14:30 - 15:30	Workshop 8 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A37
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<u>Digital Design and Global Citizenship Education</u>	Tomasz Waliczko (University of Duisburg-Essen)
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14:30 - 15:30	Workshop 9 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-05A36
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<u>Between National Narratives and Global Citizenship: Education Policies in Post-Conflict Western Balkans</u>	Elda Asllani (Université Paris-Est Créteil)
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14:30 - 15:30	Workshop 10 Topic 3: Education for Global Citizenship Venue: HG-02A37
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<u>Teaching Food Systems Transformation as Global Citizenship: Practices, Institutional Conditions, and Networked Scaling</u>	Eduardo Urias (VU Amsterdam)
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14:30 - 15:30	Workshop 11 Topic 1: Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice Venue: Forum 3
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<u>Guided Reflection to Enhance Social Justice</u>	Prof. Robert G. Bringle (Indiana University)
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14:30 - 15:30	Special Event 6 – Brainstorming Session Venue: HG-02A36
“Academic Freedom in Practice: Learning from Scholars at Risk at VU Amsterdam”	Mina Dashtbali, VU Amsterdam Pius Mosima, Leiden University Bogdana Cherniavska, Ukraine Legal Network

Closing and Award Ceremony

15:30 - 16:30	Closing and Award ceremony Venue: Auditorium
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Award Ceremony Categories: “BEST POSTER”, “BEST PRESENTATION”, “BEST WORKSHOP”

Free microphone for sharing experience and strategising next steps.

Wrap up and closing remarks.

Get Connected

During registration (from 12:00 on 27 May, 09:30 onwards on subsequent days), participants may receive an individual visitor login and password upon request.

Participants from universities affiliated with Eduroam are advised to use the Eduroam wireless network..



IT Instructions

Every room is equipped with a projector and a desktop. If you prefer to use your own laptop for your presentation, the projector is equipped with:

- USB-C cable
- HDMI cable
- USB-A input

If you need any help to set up your presentation, follow the instructions below:



Thank you for attending!

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