

## **Agenda**

2021 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Virtual Conference

### **DAY 1: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21**

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome and introductory remarks**

**Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

9:30 – 10:45 **Global Perspectives on Catalyzing Action Against Air Pollution**

Access to clean air is a human right. Yet 90% of the world's population suffers from poor air quality and only half of the world's population has access to information about the air they breathe. This plenary session will bring together five air quality advocates from South Africa, Kenya, India, Mongolia, and Albania to share key lessons learned about the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and examples of how to utilize these collaborations in order to fight air pollution.

**Chisato Fukuda Calvert**, OpenAQ (Moderator)

**Melusi Molefe**, City of Durban eThekweni Municipality

**Josephine Mbandi**, AfriSTEM Connection

**Farah Kazi**, Director, Campaigns at Waatavaran

**Azjargal Tsogsaikhan**, Breathe Mongolia — Clean Air Coalition

10:45-11:00 **2021 SciTech and Human Rights FutureGen Scholars and Student Essay Competition Winners**

#### **FutureGen Scholars**

**Margaret Sanders**, University of Connecticut

**Hamza Woodson**, Carroll Community College

#### **Student Essay Competition Winners**

##### **Graduate Student Winner**

**Marco Travaglio**, The University of Cambridge

Essay Title: "Solving the standstill: Right to science as a vehicle to global migration policies"

##### **Undergraduate Student Winner**

**Quinn White**, Smith College

Essay Title: "Will Telehealth Revolutionize Access to Mental Health Care?"

##### **Honorable Mention**

**Kalyani Ramadurgam**, Stanford University

Essay Title: "AI and Human Rights: An Argument for the Field's Tech Revolution"

**Honorable Mention**

**Zahra Ravat**, Queen Mary University of London (Barts' and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry)

Essay Title: "The political clout of healthcare professionals: lessons from Myanmar"

**Honorable Mention**

**Patrick Schumacher**, State University of New York at Albany

Essay Title: "An analysis of potential policies to increase access to health care for unauthorized immigrants in the United States"

**Honorable Mention**

**Garrett Williams**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Essay Title: "A Letter Addressing the Ambiguity of Human Privacy Rights in the Quantum Revolution"

11:00 – 12:15 **Building a DNA Bridge to Reunify Separated Migrant Families**

Family separation, whether caused by armed conflict, repressive regimes, disasters, or immigration policies, is traumatic for children and parents. A well-defined, replicable, scalable, and sustainable framework to collect and manage sensitive DNA data is urgently needed to support the reunification of separated migrant families in a manner that is secure, ethical, and humane. No technology, including DNA analysis, is capable of reuniting all families; however, this inherent limitation cannot and should not serve as a rationale to avoid applying scientific tools to support the prompt reunification of parents and children whose whereabouts are unknown.

**Sara Katsanis**, Lurie Children's Hospital (Moderator)

**Elizabeth Barnert**, The David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles

**Jennifer K. Wagner**, Pennsylvania State University

**Richard Selden**, ANDE Corporation

**Thomas J. White**, Human Rights Center, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley

12:15 – 1:00 **Break**

1:00 – 2:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Building bridges: Digital rights & social justice within the covid-19 pandemic**

Many human rights and social justice organizations/movements haven't had time or resources to explore how data & digital rights (DDR) relate to their work. State and private sector responses to the Covid-19 pandemic have these groups to work remotely, question data collection processes, and witness the ways that basic needs and human rights are tied up in digital cables. Whether it's LGBTQI+ rights groups with concerns about contact tracing, racial justice groups seeking information about healthcare, or migrant rights movements worried about remote access to education and employment, how do these activists approach systemic problems hand-in-hand with DDR movements?

**Quito Tsui**, The Engine Room

**Bárbara Paes**, The Engine Room

**Amarela Ribeiro**, Researcher

**Peace Muge**, The Engine Room

- **A One-Stop COVID-19 Pandemic Response for Diverse Urban Underserved Communities**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted social inequality in the U.S., including access to healthcare, economic stability and mobility, and the democratic process. Skepticism about vaccines, governmental agencies and subjection to a distribution system that has historically favored predominantly Caucasian communities with abundant resources has resulted in a human rights crisis that requires creative and urgent responses. We will present a case study describing a unique partnership between a public university, healthcare systems and county and state agencies to provide free on-campus COVID-19 testing, vaccinations and research including genomic sequencing of COVID-19 variants, to promote public health in underserved communities.

**Lauretta A. Farrell**, Kean University

**Celina Edwards**, Kean University

**Robert Pyatt**, Kean University

**Jeffrey Toney**, Kean University and Sigma Xi

- **Advocating for the Rights of Scientists, Engineers and Health Professionals: Challenges, Opportunities, and Impacts**

Scientists and researchers are under threat in many contexts worldwide, from the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan to the ongoing crises in Haiti to crackdowns on sharing scientific information and other freedoms. During this workshop, meet colleagues from around the world, learn the latest information about these and other ongoing crises, and jointly develop strategies and actions to support scholars at risk and defend the human

rights and welfare of scientists.

2:30 – 2:45 **Flash Presentation: Global Survey of the Social Responsibilities of Scientists**

**Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

2:45 – 4:00 **Equity, diversity, and inclusion: Whither human rights?**

Systemic racism, health inequities, and other disparities are prominent in the public eye, but how are they connected to human rights? Many organizations and practitioners are seeking to understand how to frame equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) as a part of human rights initiatives. This session will address this issue through three interrelated components: An academic leader will provide an overview of connections between EDI and human rights; representatives of scientific organizations including the American Psychological Association, the American Political Science Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science will discuss their organizational efforts to address EDI with a human rights lens; and an applied practitioner will explain how on-the-ground EDI work can be based upon a human rights framework.

**Shari Miles-Cohen**, American Psychological Association (Moderator)

**Anna Spain Bradley**, University of California Los Angeles

**Maysa Akbar**, American Psychological Association

**Kimberly A. Mealy**, American Political Science Association

**Travis York**, Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity & Diversity, AAAS

**Jacqueline Patterson**, Chisholm Legacy Project

4:00 – 5:30 **Networking sessions**

Engage with colleagues and meet others with similar interests as part of virtual discussions led by Science and Human Rights Coalition members and partners on the following themes:

- **The right to science**  
In 2020, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment Number 25, an authoritative interpretation of the human right to science. Other documents (such as the September 2021 report on toxics and the right to science by UN Special Rapporteur Marcos Orellana) have made important contributions to articulating what the right means in practice. What are the next steps for advancing the right? Meet the organizers of a new coalition dedicated to supporting the right to science.
- **Collaborations between scientists and frontline communities**

Collaborations between scientists and frontline communities are critical for dealing with today's most urgent issues, from climate change to COVID-19. What are positive practices that you have seen in your work and community? What are ways to connect the work that many of us are already doing?

- Integrating human rights education into STEMM education  
Integrating human rights education into STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) education is pivotal for advancing understanding of the connections between science and human rights. Join us for a discussion of what works, what doesn't, and how we can build partnerships between human rights educators and STEMM educators.
- How to better support scientists during the pandemic  
The pandemic has taken a toll on us all. What are the specific concerns of people working in the sciences? How can the Coalition and the scientific community more broadly respond to these problems and address the pandemic's disproportionate impacts on women, people of color, and marginalized communities?

7:00-8:00     **After Hours: Student and Early Career Networking**

## **DAY 2: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

9:00 – 9:15     **Welcome**

9:15 - 10:30    **Human Rights Education in Science Classes**

Join RFK Human Rights' Training Manager, Laura Osterndorf, and Speak Truth to Power Lead Educator, Stephanie Thliveris, to explore the intersections between scientific thought and social issues, along with the importance of applying concepts and practice through a lens of human rights. Stephanie will share her experience as a scientist and teacher and explore social influences that guide the framework of scientific exploration. She will also introduce how stories of human rights defenders might be used in science classrooms.

**Laura Osterndorf**, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
**Stephanie Thliveris**, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

10:30 – 10:45   **Break**

10:45 – 12:15   **Concurrent Sessions**

- **International Social Justice and Climate Change**

Addressing climate change will require cooperation across sectors and borders. Scientists play a key role in bringing forward the technical solutions to address this threat, but it is imperative that their benefits are enjoyed across in countries at all levels of development. This workshop participants will break into 2 groups with 2 discussion leaders: a scientist and a representative from an international climate justice organization from an emerging economy. Participants discuss the challenges facing that specific community and identify ways scientists and these nonprofits can work more cooperatively to ensure that the benefits of climate change solutions are equitably distributed.

**Robert C. Wingfield, Jr.**, Fisk University (Moderator)

**Joyce Msuya**, UN Environment Programme

**Makoma Lekalakala**, Earthlife Africa

- **Building Back Better Everywhere: Health Inequities, SDGs, the Right to Science**

According to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, inequality has become the defining quality of the 21st century with the COVID-19 pandemic laying bare how unequal we are within and between countries. Understanding and addressing histories of discrimination in benefitting from scientific advancement (the human right to science) and access to vaccines and cures (SDGs) requires listening to those invested in marginalized communities. Psychologists with experience working with the disability community, with immigrants, with the indigenous community and with the African diaspora will articulate these issues in a format that will be structured and solution focused, allowing for meaningful collaboration with participants.

**Art Blume**, Washington State University

**Roseanne L. Flores**, Hunter College

**Jin Hashimoto**, Consulate-General of Japan

**Brigitte Khoury**, American University of Beirut

**Neal S. Rubin**, Adler University (Moderator)

- **Taking Science to Capitol Hill: Evidence-Based Science-Policy Partnerships**

The pandemic has exacerbated existing human rights issues, necessitating broad structural reform. One way to achieve such reform is by bolstering relationships between scientists and policymakers, but existing efforts to do so are rarely evaluated rigorously. This interactive plenary session details three communication strategies that have been empirically shown to improve legislators' research engagement: being an "honest broker," effectively establishing credibility, and using storytelling

to convey research. Attendees will be guided through drafting a fact sheet outline and email for distribution to policymakers. By using evidence-based strategies for improving engagement, attendees can increase their impact by supporting policymakers' research use.

**Jessica Pugel**, Research-to-Policy Collaboration  
**Toria Herd**, Research-to-Policy Collaboration  
**Cagla Giray**, Research-to-Policy Collaboration  
**Elizabeth C. Long**, Research-to-Policy Collaboration  
**Mary A. Fernandes**, Research-to-Policy Collaboration  
**Max Crowley**, Pennsylvania State University  
**Taylor Scott**, Research-to-Policy Collaboration

12:15 – 1:00 **Break**

1:00 – 2:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Laboratory Science and Respect for the Ancestors**  
The continual development of analytical laboratory techniques certainly advances research on human remains, but it also perpetuates harm against these communities when such techniques are utilized without informed consent. Laboratory scientists, unlike social scientists, often do not receive the training which allows them to understand the ethical concerns surrounding such research. Research involving human remains in the United States disproportionately impacts Native American Ancestors and descendant communities. Because of this, this session discusses harms caused by laboratory analysis of ancestral remains and suggests strategies for addressing and proactively avoiding such harms in future collaborative work with affected individuals and communities.

**Aimée Carbaugh**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
**Sherri Clemons**, Wyandotte Nation  
**Rebecca Hawkins**, Algonquin Consultants  
**Krystiana Krupa**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- **Technology and Human Rights: The Decoders Project**  
Artificial intelligence is a powerful technology that can be used to undermine human rights. With misuse, intentional or otherwise, some technology can harm people's rights. This workshop will explore the human rights risks associated with the use of Facial Recognition Technology and how it threatens our right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Learn how a network of volunteers from around the globe and tech companies are working together to help gather missing data that can be used to advocate for greater human rights protections.

**Cynthia Gabriel Walsh**, Amnesty International USA (Moderator)  
**Michael Kleinman**, Amnesty International USA  
**Arielle Newton**, Amnesty International USA

- **Creating Opportunities in the Future of Engineering and Human Rights**  
This workshop builds on the University of Dayton's (UD) Human Rights Center & Studies Program, and ETHOS (Engineers in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities of Service Learning) Center "Engineering and Human Rights" partnership. The goals are to create an engineering minor, invest in engineering and human rights research, and advance vocational pathways for engineers, including by contributing their skills, techniques and expertise to human rights, peace, sustainable development and humanitarian organizations. The workshop will engage participants in relevant topics, methods, concerns, and organizations that would enhance collaborations between engineering and human rights in both academic and practitioner realms.

**Kelly Bohrer**, University of Dayton  
**Shelley Inglis**, University of Dayton  
**Timothy Reissman**, University of Dayton  
**Robert Brecha**, University of Dayton

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 4:00 **Poison and Power: The Fight for Water: Cross-disciplinary experiential learning**  
The Moral Courage Project (MCP) is a program of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center and PROOF: Media for Social Justice, a New York-based NGO. MCP prepares undergraduate students to conduct immersive fieldwork at domestic sites of human rights crisis. MCP's most recent effort addresses the struggle to secure clean and affordable water in Michigan and Appalachia. For "Poison and Power: The Fight for Water," the students interviewed a diverse array of individuals to share a story about community resistance grounded in both empirical data and lived experience. Our participants will share our cross-disciplinary model for experiential learning.

**Natalie Hudson**, University of Dayton  
**Leora Kahn**, PROOF: Media for Social Justice  
**Glenna Jennings**, University of Dayton  
**Joel R. Pruce**, University of Dayton  
**Claire Sullivan**, University of Dayton

4:00 – 4:30 **Closing**

**Theresa Harris**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

4:30

**Conference Adjourns**

Thank you for attending this year's conference!

*The views and opinions expressed at the conference sessions are those of the presenters. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions, views, or policy positions of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) or its members.*