COALITION CALENDAR

April 8: Call for Volunteers: Contribute to the Conference Compendium

Each spring, the Coalition publishes summaries and videos of sessions from the previous year's AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference as a resource for students, educators, and other audiences interested in science and human rights. This resource would not be possible without the hard work of volunteers. Would you like to contribute to the upcoming edition? If so, please sign up here by April 8. All volunteers who complete a session summary will receive free registration for the 2022 Conference. Compendia from previous conferences are available here.

June 16: Proposal Deadline for 2023 AAAS Annual Meeting

AAAS has announced that its 2023 Annual Meeting will be held virtually and in-person in Washington, D.C., from March 2-5, 2023. The theme for the event is "Science for Humanity." The deadline to submit a proposal is June 16, and more information is available here.

October 17-19: AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference

The 2022 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference will be held on October 17-19. Public health conditions permitting, the current plan is for a hybrid event, with some sessions online and other events in person at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. More information about this year's conference theme and the call for session proposals coming soon.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Coalition Members Respond to Russian Invasion of Ukraine

In response to Russia's attack on Ukraine, a dozen Coalition member associations issued statements, wrote petitions, expressed solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and shared resources:

- American Anthropological Association
- American Association of Geographers
- American Educational Research Association
- American Mathematical Society
- American Philosophical Association
- American Physical Society
- American Political Science Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Sociological Association
- Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
- Linguistic Society of America
- Society for the Study of Social Problems

See the "Science and Human Rights in the USA" and "International News" sections later in this newsletter for information about how scientists and scientific organizations around the world are responding to the Ukraine crisis.

SRCD Governing Council Denounces Texas Anti-Trans Directive

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) issued a statement in support of age-appropriate, evidence-based standards of care for transgender youth and to criticize recent action by Texas state officials over gender-affirming medical care. In its statement, SRCD noted that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton recently issued a new interpretation of Texas state law to say certain types of gender-affirming medical care is child abuse. A subsequent directive by Texas Governor Greg Abbott emphasized the duty of licensed professionals who have direct contact with children to report suspected instances of minors receiving gender-affirming care or face criminal penalties. He also directed the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and other state agencies to investigate parents of these children. In January, SRCD issued an evidence-based brief on gender-affirming care and its importance to youth's health and well-being.

2021 Conference Recordings Online
Recordings of the majority of sessions from the 2021 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference are online on the AAAS YouTube channel, including workshops on digital rights and social justice, collaborations between engineering and human rights, and more. You can watch the recordings as a playlist here.

CALLS FOR INPUT
Mar 28: Call for Input: UN Report on Mercury, Small-Scale Gold Mining, & Human Rights
The UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights is seeking input from States and other stakeholders to inform his thematic report on mercury, artisanal, and small-scale gold mining and human rights. The report will be presented to the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council in September 2022. The deadline to submit input has been extended to March 28, and further information may be found here.

April 4: Call for Input on the Development of a Federal Scientific Integrity Policy Framework
The White House of Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is seeking public input by April 4 on the development of a Federal Scientific Integrity Framework, a cross-agency effort, led by the OSTP, to establish regular assessment and iterative improvement of scientific integrity policies and practices across the federal government. In January 2022, the Scientific Integrity Task Force released a report, *Protecting the Integrity of Government Science*, the first government-wide assessment of agency scientific integrity policies and practices. The Task Force is now seeking input on how it can ensure that a Framework for Scientific Integrity is as robust, inclusive, and effective as possible. Both the report and Framework will guide federal agencies in improving their scientific integrity policies and practices. Full details, including how to provide input, may be found here.

April 18: Call for Input: Countering Disinformation in Protection of Human Rights
The UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights is seeking input for a report to be presented to the UN General Assembly on examples of initiatives for countering disinformation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and an assessment of such initiatives. Input is due by April 18, and further information may be found here.

Apr. 25: Call for Input: UN Report on the Impact of Toxics on Indigenous Peoples
The UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights is seeking input (through completion of a questionnaire) on how toxics have affected Indigenous peoples' rights and how States are taking steps to eliminate the effects of toxic exposure on Indigenous peoples. The information is for a report to be presented to the UN General Assembly in October 2022. Deadline for submitting input is April 25 and further information may be found here.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
April 7: Head of Human Rights Education at Amnesty International

Amnesty International is seeking a Head of Human Rights Education to develop and manage the organization's human rights education work around the world. Applications are due by April 7, and more information may be found here.

April 8: **Constellation Prize Award Ceremony**
The Constellation Prize, which honors engineers and their collaborators whose work embodies the ideals of environmental protection, social justice, human rights, and peace, is holding its annual award ceremony on April 8. You can register for the virtual event here and find more information about the Constellation Prize here.

June 15: International Council of Psychologists Human Rights Award
The International Council of Psychologists (ICP), an international professional association of psychologists with the goal of supporting human rights, dignity, justice, and international cooperation for peace and understanding, is accepting nominations for its new Human Rights Award. Nominations are due by June 15, and more information is available here.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Scholars at Risk, National Academies, Others Declare Support for Ukraine
Scholars at Risk (SAR), the Committee on Human Rights (CHR) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the Presidents of the National Academies, and the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN) have each issued statements in support of Ukraine and to offer assistance for the Ukrainian people, including displaced scholars and the higher education community (SAR, IHRN) and the medical community (CHR, IHRN and the Presidents of the National Academies). The Presidents of the National Academies also offered assistance to the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and pledged to assist in restoring the scientific, engineering, and healthcare capacities that are needed in rebuilding Ukraine. See their statements below.

- Scholars at Risk
- The Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the Presidents of the National Academies
- Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies

Separately, *Science & Diplomacy*, the online publication of the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy, featured a roundtable of four U.S. scientists and former diplomats who spent several decades involved in scientific collaborations with the former U.S.S.R., Russia, Ukraine, and post-Soviet states to obtain their views on how U.S. scientists and the U.S. government can best help Ukrainian scientists and Russian scientists opposed to the Russian invasion.

U.S. Gov't Renames, Broadens Focus of China Initiative Over Researchers' Concerns
U.S. Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen announced late last month that the U.S. government will end the "China Initiative," a program launched in 2018 to address security issues related to China over U.S.-funded intellectual property, technology, and research. The program was criticized by civil rights groups, academics, and scientists over concerns of racial/ethnic bias, a chilling effect on international research collaborations, and the federal government's investigative practices for disclosure requirements by researchers. The program is now part of a larger initiative, "A Strategy for Countering Nation-State Threats," to reflect a broader focus to include not only China, but other countries, such as Russia, Iran, and North Korea, which pose national security threats and are involved in economic espionage, intellectual property violations, cyber threats, and other such practices. In outlining the strategy, Olson said that particular attention

was paid to address concerns by scientists and researchers involving academic integrity, research security, and the federal government's investigative practices. A recent article in *Science* outlines the key issues.

US Gov't Releases Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool; Seeks Public Input
In line with the Biden Administration's climate policy and related directives, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) launched last month the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), which is designed to help federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. The tool provides socioeconomic, environmental, and climate information to inform decisions that may affect these communities. The current version of the tool is in a public beta form and will be updated based on feedback and research. The public may submit written comments through the *Federal Register* and directly on the CEJST website. The CEQ also engaged the public through a series of training and public listening sessions, which it held this month, with the next public listening session (online) scheduled for April 15.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ukraine is a Test Case for the International Criminal Court and User-Generated Evidence
The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim A.A. Khan QC, provided an update on March 15 on his office's ongoing investigation into the situation in Ukraine, which included onsite visits in Ukraine and Poland and the continued gathering of documentary, digital, forensic, and testimonial evidence. Earlier this month, the ICC established a dedicated portal through which any person with information relevant to the Ukraine situation can contact ICC investigators. A recent article in *Just Security*, an online forum for the analysis of national security, foreign policy, and rights issues, explains how the situation in Ukraine presents a test case for the ICC's ability to absorb and analyze massive amounts of user-generated evidence— evidence recorded on a smartphone by an ordinary citizen—in a complicated information environment.

Articles Examine Responses of the Scientific Community to Ukrainian Situation
Several recent articles in *Science* highlight responses and actions taken by the scientific community since the start of the Ukrainian crisis. See article links below.

- Few Journals Heed Calls to Boycott Russian Papers
- World's Largest Particle Physics Lab Suspends Political Ties with Russia
- Western Nations Cut Ties with Russian Science, Even as Some Projects Try to Remain Neutral
- 'It looks like Iron Curtain 2.' Arctic Research with Russia Curtailed after Ukraine Invasion
- After Invasion, Ukrainian Researchers Turn into Resistance Fighters and Refugees
- 'A Step to Nowhere': Russian Scientist Organizes Protest of Ukraine War

UN Secretary-General Stresses Urgent Need for Climate-Change Mitigation Measures
UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed the urgent need to step up climate adaption and mitigation measures following the release of a report, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report sums up the most recent research on the impact on human-induced climate change, the vulnerability and exposure of ecosystems and people, and the capacities and limits to adapt to climate change. One of the report's main conclusions is that climate adaptation and mitigation measures are proceeding too slowly to address the major impacts of climate change. The report emphasized that if global warming reaches 1.5°C in the near-term (2021-2040), it would cause unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards and present multiple risks to ecosystems and humans.

"I have seen many scientific reports in my time, but nothing like this," said the UN Secretary-General in a February 28 press briefing. "Today's IPCC report is an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership. With fact upon fact, this report reveals how people and the planet are getting clobbered by climate change. Nearly half of humanity is living in the danger zone—now. Many ecosystems

are at the point of no return—now. Unchecked carbon pollution is forcing the world's most vulnerable on a frog march to destruction—now."

The report is the second part of the IPCC's sixth major assessment on climate change. Three Working Groups of the IPCC are contributing three separate reports to the assessment. The first report was released last August, and the second report, outlined in this story, was released in late February. An IPCC Working Group is now meeting from March 21 to April 1, 2022, to finalize the third report. A final synthesis report of all three contributions is due later this year in September in time to inform the 2023 Global Stocktake by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Next year (2023) is when countries will review progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement, including the goal of keeping global warming to well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

European Commission Adopts Proposal for Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence
Late last month, the European Commission adopted a [proposal](#) for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence to require companies to identify and, where necessary, prevent, end, or mitigate actual or potential adverse human rights and environmental impacts. The measures would apply to companies based in the European Union (EU) and non-EU companies doing business in the EU as defined by the directive. The proposal will now be presented to the European Parliament and the European Council for approval. Once adopted, EU member states will have two years to transpose the Directive into national law and communicate the relevant texts to the European Commission.

Open Access Article Fees, New NIH Data-Sharing Policy Raise Equity Concerns
Two recent articles in *Nature* examine issues of equity as they relate to open-access publishing and a new data-sharing policy for grants funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The first [article](#) reports findings from a study that showed that open-access papers have significantly fewer lead authors from low-income regions than do paywalled articles. The study examined more than 37,000 articles published in 38 pairs of "mirror" journals, referring to hybrid journals containing both open-access and paid articles, and "parent" journals, which contained mostly paid articles. The findings suggest that fees that journals charge to publish articles via open access pose a barrier for authors in low- and middle-income countries.

The issue of open access with respect to scientific data was raised in another *Nature* [article](#), which examined a new NIH policy, to take effect in January 2023, which will begin requiring most of the 300,000 researchers and 2,500 institutions that the NIH funds annually to include a data-management plan in their grant applications and to eventually make their data publicly available. The article says that the data-sharing policy could set a global standard for biomedical research, but there are concerns over logistics and equity.

Bahraini Engineer and Human Rights Activist Released from Prison
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine [reported](#) late last month that Khalil al-Halwachi, a Bahraini electrical engineer and human rights activist, was released from prison after serving seven years of a 10-year prison sentence. He was a founding member of the Islamic Action Society, an opposition political society that was eventually dissolved by the Bahraini government in 2012. In 2014, he was arrested on charges of terrorism-related offenses for his peaceful expressive activities as a vocal opposition leader and human rights advocate. He was released as a result of criminal sentencing reforms that allow prisoners to be considered for alternative sentencing in non-custodial settings. His daughter [spoke](#) at the AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference in 2020.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES
Articles Examine a Lack of Progress in Addressing Systematic Racism in Healthcare

A two-part article series in *STAT*, an online publication on health, medicine, and the life sciences, examines the lack of progress in addressing racial inequality in the U.S. healthcare system since the publication of a landmark report, *Unequal Treatment*, 20 years ago, which was the first major report to point to longstanding systemic racism as a major cause behind health disparities in the U.S. The report was authored by the Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care of the National Academies' Institute of Medicine. The first article examines the history behind the report and looks at current data to come to the conclusion that little progress has been made. The second article provides examples from organizations seeking to address these health disparities through specific projects and initiatives.

Report: Use of Biometric Identification Technologies in Europe in Policing and Border Control
Statewatch, a non-profit volunteer group monitoring civil liberties in Europe, has issued a new report that examines the development and deployment of biometric identification technologies by police and border forces in Europe and the negative implications of the technology in exacerbating existing problems with discriminatory policing and profiling.

Duke Law Releases Tracker of Human Rights Impact from Gov't COVID-19 Actions
The Duke Law International Human Rights Clinic has launched a tracking system to evaluate the human rights implications of measures taken by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tracker, called *Catalyzing Rights: Index of Advances during COVID-19*, includes judicial decisions, legislation, orders, policies, practices, and regulations from local to national levels. Twenty categories of human rights are included to reflect those rights that have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to include a diverse range of rights. The tracker is intended to be an evolving project with measures added on a continuing basis. See here for more information.

Summary of NIH Workshop on Ethical, Legal Implications of Gene–Environmental Research
The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, one of the institutes of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), posted a summary of a January 2022 workshop it organized with the National Human Genome Research Institute, also a NIH institute, which discussed the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of research examining how the environment interacts with human genetics. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ELSI issues that will require greater attention as gene–environment interactions research expands.

Recorded Webinar: Academic Displacement: Latest Developments and Mitigation Strategies
The MESA Global Academy, part of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), a network of scholars in the humanities and social sciences, held a webinar, *Academic Displacement: Latest Developments and Mitigation Strategies*, to discuss recent developments in academic displacement, including the situation in Afghanistan, as well as the latest strategies to support these scholars and promote knowledge production.

Podcast Episode: Improving the Use of Forensic Science in the Courtroom
A recent podcast features Jed Rakoff, a senior federal district judge for the Southern District of New York, who discussed weaknesses in eyewitness identification and forensic science and offered thoughts on how judges, policymakers, and others can reform the use of these methods and get stronger science into the courtroom. Rakoff co-chaired the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Eyewitness Identification, which wrote the 2014 report, *Identifying the Culprit: Assessing Eyewitness Identification*. He also served on the National Commission on Forensic Science from 2013 to 2017. The podcast was organized by *Issues in Science and Technology*, a quarterly journal published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and Arizona State University.

Women in Data Science Conference Included Talks on Data Science, Equity and Human Rights
The Women in Data Science Worldwide Conference held earlier this month at Stanford University featured several talks relating to data science and human rights issues. Maria Gargiulo, a statistician with the Human

Rights Data Analysis Group, presented *Estimating Undocumented Human Rights Violations in Conflict Settings*. Alex Hanna, Director of Research at the Distributed AI Research Institute (DAIR), presented *Beyond Bias: Algorithmic Unfairness, Infrastructure and Genealogies of Data*. A panel discussion, *Algorithms and Data for Equity,* featured several experts, including Jessica Granderson, Director for Building Technology at the White House Council on Environmental Quality.