

COALITION CALENDAR

October 17-19: 2022 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference (Hybrid)

The 2022 [AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference](#) is coming up in just a few weeks! This year's event will be held in hybrid format, with attendees able to participate virtually or in person at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. You can [view the draft agenda here](#).

New! The conference early registration discount has been extended through September 27. Visit <https://aaassciencetechhumanrights.org/> to sign up.

Oct. 27-30: Global Alliance Conference: Coming Together for Action & Policy Institute

The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice will hold its biennial interdisciplinary forum on behavioral health, social justice, and healthier communities on October 28–30 in Baltimore, Maryland. This year's theme is *New Directions for Behavioral Health: Building Socially Connected and Just Communities*. Further information may be found [here](#). A separate two-part workshop preceding the forum on October 27 will focus on effective communication strategies for policy setting and advocacy. Further information may be found [here](#).

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

2022-23 Coalition FutureGen Scholars Named

Congratulations to the 2022-23 SciTech and Human Rights [FutureGen Scholars](#): Julia Bauer and Hana Kamran (Davidson College), Zainub Dhanani (Stanford School of Medicine) and Amber Mundy (Virginia Commonwealth University)! We will share more information about the Scholars and their projects in a future newsletter. Coalition members will hear from this year's group of Scholars and the 2021-22 recipients as part of a panel on [day 1 of this year's conference](#).

American Psychological Association Adopts Racial Equity Action Plan

The American Psychological Association (APA) [has adopted](#) a [Racial Equity Action Plan](#) that outlines the next steps the association and psychology should take to prioritize and operationalize the commitments made in the association's 2021 apology for its role in contributing to racism. The plan follows APA's issuance of a [formal apology](#) in October 2021 for the association's role and that of psychology in contributing to systemic racism. The plan is divided into five sections: (1) knowledge production; (2) health; (3) APA/workforce; (4) training of psychologists; and (5) education. Each section lays out priority actions and concludes with a summary of social impact and innovation.

AmStatNews Special Issue on Community Impact of Statisticians and Data Scientists

AmStat News, a magazine of the American Statistical Association (ASA), features a [special issue](#) on the impact that statisticians and data scientists have in their communities. The special issue features multiple articles, including on democratizing data science to serve the public good, facilitating data literacy as a tool for community health and social justice, and community-based research and analytics on a variety of topics, such as privacy issues and ethical challenges.

CALLS FOR INPUT

Oct 3: UN Seeks Input on Human Rights and Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is [seeking input](#) for a report on the human rights implications of and good practices and key challenges in affordable, timely, equitable and universal access to and distribution of quality, safe, efficacious and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and the impact on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Input is due by October 3, and further information may be found [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING

Diversifying Genomic Research to End “Parachute Science”

A recent [article](#) outlines a research project for a health study conducted by Oxford University with participants and scientists from Mexico that seeks to diversify genomic databases. The project provides an example of avoiding so-called “parachute science” or “helicopter research,” which is when researchers from wealthier nations visit low- and middle-income countries to collect data and samples, analyze them back at home, and publish the results with little or no involvement of local scientists. The article outlines a research project by Oxford that sequenced and analyzed the DNA of 150,000 people from Mexico City as part of a health study in which Mexican epidemiologists actively participated in the research with a plan (still to be realized) that once genetic data are ready, the data will be available to the public with free and preferential access to Mexican scientists. The project is part of a global effort to make genetic collections and biobanks more diverse. The article outlines this project and others and examines the questions that international research partnerships create, such as who owns the data, whom to share it with, and what for.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sept 29: Webinar: Censorship and the Right to Information during the Pandemic

The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Committee on Human Rights is continuing its fall [webinar series](#) on the threats and attacks faced by scientists and health professionals during the pandemic. The next webinar, [Censorship and the Right to Information during the Pandemic](#), takes place on September 29 from 10:00-11:00am ET. You can [register for the webinar here](#).

Oct. 2: Call for Proposals for Grant Requests: Community Resource Exchange

The Coalition for Human Rights in Development, a global coalition of social movements, civil society organizations, and grassroots groups working together to ensure that development is community-led and protects human rights, is calling for proposals for grant requests through its [Community Resource Exchange \(CRE\)](#). The CRE facilitates collaborations and co-develop strategies with and among communities defending their rights in the context of international investments and development projects. Proposals must be received by October 2, and decisions are expected to be made by December 2022. The proposed budget should not exceed \$5,000. Further information may be found [here](#).

Oct. 14: Job: Executive Director, Linguistic Society of America

The Linguistic Society of America (LSA) is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for the oversight and management of the association with the LSA Board, strategic planning and implementation, financial administration, employment and management of staff, membership retention and recruitment, publications and the LSA website, meetings, grants management, communications, and external representation. Applications are due October 14, and further information may be found [here](#).

Oct 15: Job: Executive Officer, Society for the Study of Social Problems

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Officer. A detailed list of responsibilities may be found [here](#). Chief responsibilities include ensuring that the vision and mission of the Society is clear and guides the actions of the organization; overseeing day-to-day operations; serving as the organization’s chief ambassador and organizational leader; cultivating

relationships with other organizations engaged in social justice work; and performing other duties and responsibilities in support of the organization. Interested SSSP members in good standing may apply. Applications are due October 15, and further information may be found [here](#).

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

HHS Issues Proposed Rule on Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [has issued a proposed rule](#) to implement the non-discrimination parts of the Affordable Care Act. The proposed rule covers a variety of non-discriminatory measures in healthcare, including requiring that providers of Medicare Part B (the federal health insurance program for medical services for individuals 65 or older) are subject to non-discriminatory measures for purposes of civil rights enforcement and to revise nondiscrimination provisions to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The proposed rule also seeks to address discrimination related to pregnancy, including pregnancy termination, and addresses discrimination that occurs in clinical algorithms used in healthcare decision-making. A [recent article](#) summarizes the proposed rule. Public input on the proposed rule is due by Oct. 3.

Study Shows Relationship of Racial Segregation, Lead Exposure, and Test Scores

A recent [article](#) in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* describes the findings of a study that examined the relationship between racial residential segregation, lead exposure, and standardized fourth-grade test scores. The study found that: (1) non-Hispanic Black children were more likely to experience multiple adverse exposures in early childhood and (2) among non-Hispanic Black children, high levels of racial residential segregation augmented the detrimental effect of elevated blood levels on reading test scores.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Secretary-General Calls for Action To Address Climate Change, Other Global Issues

UN Secretary-General António Guterres [called](#) for greater action to address climate change, inequalities, and other global issues in an address before world leaders gathered for the opening day of the UN General Assembly's high-level debate this week (September 20). "Our world is in big trouble," he said. "Divides are growing deeper; inequalities are growing wider; challenges are spreading farther... we need hope... we need action across the board." He cited a need for better "global architecture" to address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, the war in Ukraine, worsening financial situations in developing countries, realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, rising hate speech, and misuse of digital surveillance. In particular, he called the climate crisis "the defining issue of our time," and said that confronting it must be the first priority of every government and multilateral organization. "And yet climate action is being put on the back burner despite overwhelming public support around the world," he said. "Global greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed by 45% by 2030 to have any hope of reaching net zero by 2050," he said, adding that emissions are going up at record levels and are on course to increase 14% this decade.

UN General Assembly President Stresses Science, Human Rights To Tackle Global Issues

Convening the UN General Debate of the UN General Assembly this week (September 20), UN General Assembly President Csaba Kőrösi [called](#) for "solutions through solidarity, sustainability and science" to address what he calls "the most consequential moment of the last four decades," to address a myriad of global issues, including climate change, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical uncertainty. He said that advancements in science cooperation and climate diplomacy are on hand to address climate change, "but we have to want to put them in practice." Noting that the importance of the International Panel on Climate Change in supporting political decisions to combat the climate crisis, he recommended replicating its success in the areas of water, energy, food, and biodiversity as "a universally accepted, empirical starting point for action." He added that he plans to launch a series of consultations with the scientific community

to support various UN initiatives. These include preparing the [Sustainable Development Goal Summit](#) in 2023, the [UN Water Conference](#) (the first such conference since 1977 to address access to safe water, water usage, and wastewater) and the [Summit of the Future](#) in 2024. He also underscored the importance of universal respect for the rule of law in these efforts, saying that when human rights come under threat, “it is our smoke signal, our call to action.”

UN Names New High Commissioner for Human Rights

[Volker Türk](#), currently Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, has been [appointed](#) as the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, effective October 17, 2022. He succeeds Michelle Bachelet, who served as High Commissioner from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2022.

UN Acting Commissioner for Human Rights Cites Troubling Macroeconomic Data

Nada Al Nashif, UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, [cautioned](#) against the impact of inflationary pressures and other macroeconomic conditions on human rights in low-to-middle income countries. Speaking earlier this month before the UN Human Rights Council at its biennial discussion on the right to development, she cited International Monetary Fund forecasts that advanced economies should experience average inflation rates of 6.6% in 2022, well below the 9.5% rate expected in poorer nations. She added that although the world’s richest countries saw employment rates return or exceed pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021, most middle-income countries are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Referring to data from the World Bank, she said that an additional 75 to 95 million people are expected to live in extreme poverty this year, compared to pre-pandemic projections. “The confluence of crises has created spin-off effects on food and nutrition, health and education, the environment, peace and security, further undermining progress towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda [the [UN’s Sustainable Development Agenda](#)] and jeopardizing sustainable recovery from the pandemic,” she said.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Present Plan to Address Disinformation, Support Human Rights

Dmitry Muratov and Maria Ressa, co-awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021, presented a 10-point plan calling on governments and technology companies to protect data privacy, curb the spread of online disinformation, and safeguard journalists as a means to support human rights. The plan, which was presented at the Freedom of Expression Conference at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway, earlier this month, is endorsed by eight other Nobel Prize laureates. The plan calls on democratic governments to: (1) require technology companies to carry out independent human rights impact assessments to be made public and make transparent related practices, such as content moderation, algorithm impacts, data processing, and integrity policies; (2) protect citizens’ right to privacy with data protection laws; and (3) commit funding and assistance to independent media and journalists under attack.

The plan also calls for the UN to establish a Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General focused on the safety of journalists. Other recommendations are addressed to the European Union. The plan is outlined [here](#) and video of the full Freedom of Expression Conference [here](#).

Physicians for Human Rights Reports on Healthcare Attacks in Ukraine

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) [reports](#) data from the World Health Organization show that at least 500 attacks on healthcare have occurred since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February. The WHO’s System for Surveillance on Attacks on Health Care includes incidents of violence and obstruction that impact health facilities, health professionals, patients, health transports, and medical supplies.

UN Recognizes Young Leaders Advancing Sustainable Development Goals

The UN has [awarded](#) the 2022 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which recognizes work in contributing to the realization of the SDGs. Every two years, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth picks out young change-makers. The current cohort of 17 young leaders, aged 17 to 29, were chosen following an open call for applications earlier this year, which resulted in more than 5,400 applications from over 190 countries. The young leaders work in a variety of areas, including human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

The UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers and the United States: An Analysis of Key Themes

The AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program recently published a new report that assesses the U.S. scientific enterprise as it relates to the standards set out by the [UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers](#). The report focuses on five themes: science and society; science in national policy and decision-making; science as a common good; inclusive and non-discriminatory work and access to education; and the freedoms, rights, and responsibilities of researchers. The full text [may be found here](#).

Research Paper on the Human Right to Science

The South Centre, an intergovernmental organization of developing countries to promote their common interests in the international arena, has published a [research paper](#), which examines the right to science and trends and challenges in realizing this right. The paper is entitled "The Human Right to Science: From Fragmentation to Comprehensive Implementation?"

United States Institute of Peace Issues Learning Agenda

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), an independent institute focused on global and U.S. national security, has issued its [learning agenda](#) as part of a requirement under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, which requires all U.S. agencies to establish a learning agenda composed of policy-relevant questions that are central to an agency's mission and strategy. USIP's learning agenda includes 12 strategic questions that it believes are critical to international peacebuilding and that were formulated in consultation with experts within and beyond USIP. The learning agenda includes evidence-based papers that examine various topics, such as the effectiveness of external support for nonviolent action, participation of religious actors in peace processes, and the factors that facilitate or impede the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding at the local level.

PEOPLE

Dr. Héctor Delgado Retires as Executive Officer of SSSP

Dr. Héctor Delgado [stepped down](#) as Executive Officer of Coalition member, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, in early August. Thank you, Dr. Delgado, for your many years of service to SSSP and the Coalition.

Alyson Reed Steps Down as Executive Director of LSA

Alyson Reed is stepping down after 14 years as Executive Director of Coalition member the Linguistic Society of America. Katha Kissman is now serving as LSA's Interim Executive Director. Welcome, Katha, and thank you, Alyson, for all your contributions to the Coalition.

Publisher: AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

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