

UNESCO Chair in Science Communication for the Public Good



Australian National University

UNESCO Chair on Science Communication for the Public Good

CONNECT, INTEGRATE AND EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT NATURE, EQUITY AND PROSPERITY IN MEANINGFUL AND TRANSFORMATIVE WAYS

About the Chair

The UN 2030 Agenda sets an ambitious goal: to transform deep-rooted inequalities within and between nations while securing the planet's long-term sustainability. Science, engineering, technology and innovation are critical to achieving this vision. But these fields are increasingly being asked to interact with other disciplines, engage with society, transform policy agendas, and ultimately, rethink how sustainable futures and the global good are imagined and acted upon.

What do these evolving expectations mean for how science informs policy, the directions of technological innovation and our approach to environmental challenges? Researchers and innovators working towards the 2030 Agenda are now tasked with addressing these critical questions while engaging inclusively with diverse

perspectives, priorities, values and forms of expertise. But how can they do so ethically and reflexively?

This Chair aims to build capacity in different areas from research to policy to public engagement to grapple with these complexities of changing the way we produce and use knowledge in service of more sustainable and equitable futures.

Supported by the Australian National University, the Chair is based in the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS), a global leader in science communication, science-society relations, responsible innovation and the science-policy interface. The Chair works closely with aligned groups, notably the ANU Responsible Innovation Lab (RI Lab), and other members of CPAS.

People

Chair-holder:

Professor Sujatha Raman

Research Fellows:

Dr Rini Astuti

Dr Faranak Hardcastle

Dr Dan Santos

PhD students:

Rita Agha

Christer de Silva

Indigo Strudwicke

Bernice Wu

Senior Communications Officer:

Daniela Tan

Contact us or find out more at

bit.ly/unesco_chair_scicomm





Thematic areas of the UNESCO Chair

Knowledge Transitions:

How can knowledge arising from lived experience be recognised and integrated with various forms of expert knowledge and policy advice? What kinds of transformations might be possible and necessary in order to bridge Western and Indigenous knowledge-systems? We are addressing these questions in relation to diverse areas ranging from environmental conservation and science policy to menstrual care.

Technological Transitions:

How can the low-carbon energy transitions unfolding at present better integrate concerns about the social and environmental injustices arising from the need to secure critical minerals? How can emerging technologies of synthetic biology and artificial intelligence be designed, deployed and maintained to build more equitable societies and rethink economic prosperity in the process? These are some of the questions we are tackling under this theme, informed by relational ethics and responsible innovation.

Cultural Transitions:

How can we address all of these challenges in a way that grapples with implicit cultural expectations? How can we build the vocabularies and imaginative tools for making concrete the transformation of knowledge practices and innovation systems? We are seeking to contribute to this endeavour under this theme.

The Contextualization Deficit

REFRAMING TRUST IN SCIENCE FOR MULTILATERAL POLICY

Read the paper at

bit.ly/thecontextualizationdeficit



Concerns about the combined impact of declining levels of trust in science and increasing misinformation about science have become among the most discussed topics in science and policy circles. The multilateral system is alarmed by what is perceived as significant threats to its capacity to address global challenges.

This paper addresses this crucial problem by reviewing what research and practice in science communication and aligned fields have learned about trust in science in recent years, and the implications of that body of knowledge for policy-makers.