

*Bear in mind that this is a living document

OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS 2021



March 10th to April 9th 2021

www.obrealglobalinfocus.obsglob.org

@OBREAL_

WELCOME TO OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS 2021

WHO WE ARE

OBREAL Global is a membership organisation of diverse, internationally-oriented academic and research institutions, as well as individual researchers and professionals from Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

What do we propose? Promoting dialogue and synergies between governmental, academic and social sectors, taking into account the specificities and heterogeneity of each region around the world.

What are our objectives? Creating cross-regional and truly global bridges for enhanced development in the higher education and research

What do we do to reach our objectives? We generate collaborative multi-regional projects that aim at impacting in the discussion and formulation of innovative approaches to international policy and policy development in the area of research and higher education.

WHAT IS OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS 2021?

OBREAL Global and its members are launching the first edition of OBREAL Global in Focus, a programme of virtual events and activities aimed at connecting higher education and research institutions worldwide.

OBREAL Global in Focus 2021 is dedicated to the theme '**Charting the course for South-South-North cooperation and beyond**'. It will feature presentations, panel discussions and debates linked to the activities of OBREAL Global's regional Chapters in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, India and Africa. OBREAL Global in Focus 2021 will be an opportunity to learn about the results and progress of our projects and our efforts **to promote South-South-North dialogue**. It is a concentrated platform for events that will engage our members, partners, and the wider global community in a dialogue on current priorities in higher education and research, as shared by diverse regions.

OBREAL Global in Focus editions will explore, more deeply, four areas of knowledge production to which we are committed:

- The multidimensionality of higher education and research policy reform processes.
- Higher education and research in the framework of regional/continental integration.
- Flexibilisation, internationalisation and modularisation of learning processes in higher education.
- The South-South-North perspective as a political construct for equitable global collaboration.





**WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING
OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS
2021?**



Week 01.

MARCH 10th

15h CET/ 17h EAT/ 10h BOT/ 19:30h IST

Kicking-off OBREAL Global in Focus 2021: Charting the course for South-South-North cooperation and beyond.

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish

This webinar will provide an introduction to OBREAL Global's mission, notably that of promoting and facilitating South-South North Cooperation in the higher education and research sectors. It will provide an introduction to the events and activities sponsored by OBREAL in Focus 2021, framing the activities with a keynote speech and panel discussion involving OBREAL Global members from different regions.

MARCH 11th

14h CET/ 16h EAT/ 09h BOT/ 18:30h IST

Europe and Africa in strategic partnership: What's new in higher education?

Webinar organized by the HAQAA2 Initiative.

*Interpretation provided in English and French

This online event will take an in depth look at the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and provide updated information on EU support for higher education integration on the African continent, in line with the African Union Continental Strategy for Education (CESA) and the related African harmonisation objectives. It is part of a webinar series support by the HAQAA Initiative (see below), an EU funded endeavour that, amongst other objectives related specifically to quality assurance capacity development, is supporting Africa-EU policy dialogue around harmonisation processes in the higher education sector. The webinar will take stock of current EU initiatives supporting the higher education sector at continental level in Africa and debate their importance in the run up to the forthcoming Africa-EU summit. This comes at a time when Africa is increasingly in the spotlight when it comes to research, innovation and higher education, as an important partner to tackle global challenges ranging from climate change to health.

MARCH 12th

14h CET/ 16h EAT/ 09h BOT/ 18:30h IST

Modularisation and flexibilisation of learning. Skilling and Reskilling in the global context.

Webinar organised by the DIESSEL Initiative.

* Interpretation provided in English and Spanish

Many sectors of society and industry are currently undergoing radical changes regarding their processes and their use of enabling technologies, with digitalisation and automation at the forefront. This puts large pressure on securing the right competence of the staff. To handle this combined problem of lack of relevant skills and low employability, Industry as well as Academia are faced with the challenge of skilling young graduates entering the labour market and re-skilling of older personnel.

There is a growing consensus that HEIs must adopt an open and flexible approach with respect to the status and equivalence of courses, diverging away from the traditional academic model. HEI must also consider their lifelong learning agendas, and how they approach skilling/reskilling, in a new context.

'Microcredentials' and modularisation of learning are tools and approaches that HEI may employ to face this challenge. In this webinar, we will discuss the problem from a global perspective and explore, through concrete cases, the potential and the limits of modularisation, micro-credentials and the general flexibilization of learning when it comes to skilling/reskilling.

Week 02.

MARCH 16th

14h CET/ 16h EAT/ 09h BOT/ 18:30 IST

Challenges for higher education reform in South Africa. Public launch event: HERE-SA

Webinar organized in the framework of the Erasmus+ Project HERE-SA.

*This webinar will be conducted in English.

What are the current challenges facing teaching and learning in South African universities? How can more coherent and effective approaches to Work-Based Learning, entrepreneurship education and teaching for the Fourth Industrial Revolution be achieved?

And how can a more fluid dialogue between university practice and policy making be accomplished? The HERE-SA project, supported by the Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education programme and co-coordinated by THENSA and OBREAL Global, explores these very issues, piloting a network of Higher Education Reform Experts for South Africa. The public launch of the project will provide insight on South Africa's current higher education environment as well as the opportunities that the project will provide for both South African HE development and EU-South African university partnership.





MARCH 18th

16h CET/ 18h EAT/ 11h BOT/ 20:30h IST

Structure, organisation and institutional management of university research: Exchange of good practices and collaboration

Co-organised by the OBREAL Global Chapter Central America, CSUCA, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Mimir Andino project.

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and Spanish

The Central American University Council (CSUCA), chair of the OBREAL Global Central American Chapter, is currently organising a virtual workshop series on key development challenges for the Central American university sector in the lead up to its University Congress in June 2021. Amongst the issues to be explored are capacity building in research. As part of its cooperation with the EU-LAC Foundation and also in conjunction with the Erasmus+ CBHE project 'Mimir Andino' coordinated by the Association of Colombia Universities (ASCUN), OBREAL Global is co-hosting this webinar with CSUCA and the aforementioned partners, the first of a series exploring university research management in the Central American context.

Week 03.

MARCH 23th

13:30h CET/ 15:30 EAT/ 08:30h BOT/ 18h IST

Perspectives and challenges for universities in local development

Webinar organised in the framework of the Erasmus+ Project VitaGlobal. *Simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish will be provided.

Panel with university and industry representatives of the Mercosur region, the Western Cape (South Africa) and Porto (Portugal), regions that are represented in the Vita Global project. Panelists will provide specific examples of regional/local development strategies from the regions targeted, and comment on how teaching, learning and research are articulated with these strategies, across diverse sectors. They will also explore the concept of 'extension' or the university third mission in Latin America, Europe and South Africa, and how this relates to local development strategies of universities.

The Vita Global project is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education project that connects universities in diverse parts of the world - Latin America, the European Union, South Africa and Georgia - around the common theme of internationalising the curricula through modular approaches to study programmes. It does this through the lens of the viticultural sector and its link to local regional development.

MARCH 25th

16h CET/ 18h EAT/ 11h BOT/ 20:30 IST

Innovation of teaching and learning and the relationship to quality assurance

Co-organised by the OBREAL Global Chapter Central America, CSUCA and the EU-LAC Foundation.

*Simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish will be provided.

The Central American University Council (CSUCA), chair of the OBREAL Global Central American Chapter, is currently organising a virtual workshop series on key development challenges for the Central American university sector in the lead up to its University Congress in June 2021. Amongst the issues to be explored are innovation in teaching and learning and its link to quality assurance. This webinar will explore current challenges, strategies and practices for innovating teaching in the current pandemic context. Speakers from further afield in Latin America and Europe will provide counter perspectives and also ideas on capacity building for Central American universities.

MARCH 26th

16h CET/ 18h EAT/ 11h BOT/ 20:30h IST

Joint study programmes for regional integration: Perspectives from the Caribbean

This webinar is co-organised by Universities Caribbean who is the chair of the OBREAL Global Caribbean Chapter.

*Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish will be provided.

Universities Caribbean (UC) aims to foster one Caribbean voice for the diverse, multi-lingual university sector in the region, connecting it with global partners to tackle common challenges related to climate, health, security, cultural heritage and resilience. UC is embarking on a project to develop a regional study programme, rooted in the diverse strengths and perspectives of its members as well as Caribbean identity. The webinar will explore the topic of joint study programmes, providing voices from the Caribbean and further afield in Europe and South America on their strategic importance for fostering regional cohesion and collaboration.



Week 04.

MARCH 29th

15h CET/ 17h EAT/ 10h BOT/ 19:30 IST

Trends in digitalisation and internationalisation: Perspectives from South America

*Simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish will be provided.

The opportunities and challenges offered by digitalisation in higher education are numerous. They require thorough exploration, so as to be assess what needs the university sector has and how capacity building, both of university teaching staff and administrative and technical staff, can be best shaped. The OBREAL Global South America Chapter has made this issue a priority, launching in December 2020 a series of focus groups in Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil dedicated to exploring university needs for capacity development, both for optimising online learning more generally and especially for leveraging it for international academic collaboration. This webinar will present the preliminary outcomes of the research conducted and discuss its implications for both South America and other world regions grappling with similar issues.



Week 05.

APRIL 6,7,8 & 9

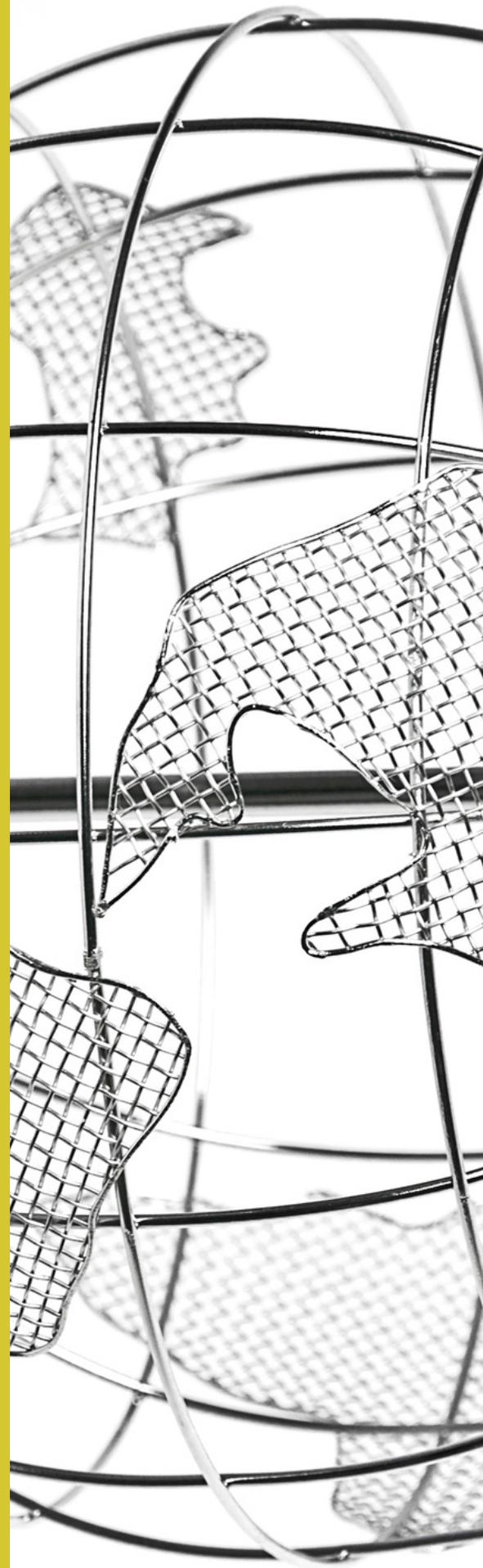
The SIU/AIU Annual Conference on Internationalisation of Higher Education (IHE 2021)

Symbiosis International (Deemed University) - SIU - and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), with the support of the OBREAL Global Indian Chapter, are happy to announce the fifth edition of their annual international conference on Internationalisation of Higher Education (IHE 2021). This SIU-AIU IHE series of conferences is a prominent annual international event on internationalisation of higher education, providing a platform for Indian vice chancellors, senior academics, faculty and experts from India and across the world to engage with critical ideas, policies and structures that would support HEIs to internationalise their curricula and campuses.

The tumultuous year that has gone by provides the background and impetus for this year's conference. Titled 'Reimagining Internationalisation : Blended Education as a Catalyst', IHE 2021 will bring together academics, university administrators, practitioners, vice chancellors and policy makers to discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as they face what is likely to be one of the greatest ruptures for higher education in recent times. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, and interactions with faculty and experts from across the world, IHE 2021 offers an opportunity to reimagine what the future of internationalisation of higher education can be. Lockdowns across many countries will continue, safety of travel and the need for social distancing will continue, and the urgent need to incorporate online/virtual technologies into course delivery will only heighten.

Through the sessions at IHE 2021, experts will discuss and deliberate over practical and viable solutions to this changing learning ecosystem and receive inputs and insights that will support their planning for the coming academic years. Not often do we get an opportunity to review and reimagine (and maybe completely overhaul) our 'role' in society. This promises to be one such opportunity.

[Download the full program of the conference](#)





HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS 2021 ACTIVITIES?

Participating in OBREAL Global in Focus events and activities is open to all interested parties and easy!

We have set up a website (<https://obrealglobalinfocus.obsglob.org/>) where you will be able to see detailed information about each event and also download the event programme. You will find the registration system on the same website.

This system works as follows:

Registration should be done in 3 simple steps:

1. Enter your personal data (name, surname, country, and email).
2. Next, enter the details of your institution and if you are involved in any OBREAL GLOBAL initiative, project or Chapter.
3. Finally, indicate for which OBREAL GLOBAL in Focus events you would like to register.

Once you have completed these three steps, you will receive a registration confirmation email with all the necessary details to be able to connect to each of the selected events. In addition, we will send you a reminder the day before each event.

HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH OBREAL GLOBAL?

Remember that we are at your disposal and we want to make things easier for you so that you can register without any problems. Please do not hesitate to contact us at support@obreal.org in case you have any doubts or problems.

HOW CAN I REQUEST A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION IN OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS 2021?

To apply for a certificate, you must participate in at least 75% of the events. In the registration form itself you will see an option to request a certificate of participation. Just check this option and we will contact you to deliver the certificate of participation.



**FOR OBREAL GLOBAL
MEMBERS**

FOR OBREAL GLOBAL MEMBERS

OBREAL Global in Focus 2021 will finish with two exclusive activities for members of the OBREAL Global association.

We will celebrate our **OBREAL Global General Assembly** in the framework of the SIU AIU Annual Conference on Internationalisation of Higher Education (IHE 2021) on the **9th of April**.

OBREAL Global members will receive an invitation to the Assembly together with the documentation that we will present and discuss (accessions, work plan, etc).

Also in the framework of the SIU AIU Annual Conference on Internationalisation of Higher Education (IHE 2021) and the Indian Chapter of OBREAL Global, on the **10th of April** we will hold an **OBREAL Global Board meeting and a meeting with the Chairs of our Chapters** to discuss and evaluate the main results of OBREAL Global in Focus 2021.

It will be the opportunity to reflect on the conclusions from OBREAL Global in Focus and discuss the agenda and activities for the rest of 2021.

This meeting is restricted to the OBREAL Global Board, the Chapter Chairs and the institutions hosting the support offices of the Chapters in India, South America, the Caribbean, Central America and Africa.

If your institution is interested in joining OBREAL Global, we will be happy to give you all the information you need! Please contact us at support@obreal.org

Please, note that this programme is a living document.

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MEMBERS
ONLY

OBREAL GLOBAL IN FOCUS 2021



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