



8<sup>th</sup> International Higher  
Education and Research  
Conference

**Buenos Aires**  
25-27 September 2012

# Agenda

## Day One: Tuesday 25 September 2012

---

8:00 – 9:00

**REGISTRATION**

9:00 – 9:45

**Welcome and opening**

Chair: **Yamile Socolovsky** (CONADU, Argentina)

Welcoming Remarks:

**Carlos de Feo** (CONADU, Argentina)

**Hugo Yasky**, President of EI Latin America and General Secretary of the Argentine Workers Central Union (CTA)

**Alberto Sileoni**, Ministry of Education, Argentina

Opening Address: **Fred van Leeuwen**, General Secretary, Education International

9:45 – 11:00

**Plenary Session 1:**

***Higher Education and Research in Latin America: Regional and Global Implications***

This session will map the issues and challenges confronting higher education and research staff in Latin America. Speakers will reflect on the implications of recent policy developments, regional integration, and ways to build EI's membership in the sector across the region.

Chair: **David Edwards** (Education International)

Presenters:

**Carlos de Feo** (CONADU, Argentina)

**Pablo Gentili** (Secretario Ejecutivo de CLACSO, Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales)

**Combertty Rodriguez Garcia** or **Gabriela Bonilla Pacheco** (EI Latin American Regional Office)

11:00 – 11:15

**BREAK**



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación



8<sup>th</sup> International Higher  
Education and Research  
Conference

Buenos Aires  
25-27 September 2012

11:15 – 12:15

### Plenary Session 2

#### *The State of the Sector: Key developments and emerging challenges*

This interactive session will update participants on EI's higher education and research work programme since the last conference in 2010, and identify upcoming issues. Topics to be addressed include developments within UNESCO, OECD, World Bank and the WTO; the impact of the global recession on the sector; the growth in precarious employment; responding to attacks on academic freedom and trade union and human rights; and efforts to build membership in the sector. Following a brief presentation, participants will be given ample opportunity to comment on the work plan.

Chair: **Ingrid Stage** (DM, Denmark)

Presenter: **David Robinson** (Education International)

12:15 – 13:30

### LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:45

### Plenary Session 3

#### *The Vandals at the Gate: Defending the profession in an age of austerity*

Higher education and research is increasingly under pressure from austerity measures. Even in countries where the impact of the global economic recession has been less pronounced, many governments and private sector actors are using the "crisis" to roll-back terms and conditions of employment, attack trade union and professional rights, and implement unpopular reforms such as privatization and commercialization. Speakers in this session will reflect on how these austerity measures are affecting the sector and discuss ways that higher education and research unions can more effectively defend the profession through organizing, mobilizing, and political action.

Chair: **Ilze Trapenciere** (LIZDA, Latvia)

Presenters:

**John McDonald** (AFT, United States)

**Kathy Taylor** (UCU, United Kingdom)

**José Campos Trujillo** (FE.CCOO, Spain)

**Sarah Raymundo** (ACT, Philippines)



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación



8<sup>th</sup> International Higher  
Education and Research  
Conference

**Buenos Aires**  
25-27 September 2012

14:45 – 15:00 BREAK

15:00 – 16:00

#### Plenary Session 4

##### *The Price of Knowledge: Tuition Fees and the Financing of Higher Education and Research*

As mandated by Congress, this session will explore the issue of tuition fees and funding of higher education and research. A sub-group of affiliates has prepared a draft policy statement on the subject which was circulated ahead of the conference. Panellists will be asked to respond to the statement and discuss ways that unions and student organisations can work together to realize the principles in the policy.

Facilitator: **David Edwards** (Education International)

Panellists:

**Sylvain Marois** (FNEEQ-CSN, Québec)

**Andreas Keller** (GEW, Germany)

**Gil Vicente Reis de Figueiredo** (PROIFES, Brazil)

**Taina Moisander** (European Students' Union)

**Reiner Limonta** (Organización Caribeña y Latinoamericana de Estudiantes) **TBC**

16:00 – 17:30

#### Discussion Groups 1

Delegates will be divided into small break-out groups to discuss key issues arising out of the first day of the conference.

1. The state of the sector: trends and emerging challenges
2. Defending the profession in an age of austerity
3. Tuition fees and financing

19:00

OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED BY EI



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación



8<sup>th</sup> International Higher  
Education and Research  
Conference

**Buenos Aires**  
25-27 September 2012

## Day Two: Wednesday 26 September 2012

---

9:00 – 10:30

### Plenary Session 4

#### *Promoting Equity and Diversity*

Trade unions have been at the forefront of struggles to secure equity for members of marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples, women, visible/racial minorities, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer persons. In the higher education and research sector, systemic discrimination has created barriers to access, employment, governance, and inclusion. This session will focus on how these barriers can be overcome and how affiliates can more effectively promote equity both in the workplace and within their unions.

Chair: **Jack Nightingale** (AFT, United States)

Presenters:

**Jeannie Rea** (NTEU, Australia)

**Gloria Ramírez** (Senator, Colombia)

**Lied Ragnhild** (UEN, Norway)

**Nikosana Dolopi** (SADTU, South Africa)

10:30 – 10:45

BREAK

10:45 – 12:15

### Plenary Session 5

#### *Rankings, Assessment and Quality: The Politics of Accountability*

This session examines the growth in accountability tools such as research assessment exercises, national and global rankings of institutions, and the OECD's proposed assessment of higher education learning outcomes (AHELO). Presentations and case studies will consider the impact of these developments upon staff, students and higher education systems. Panellists will be asked to consider how EI and its affiliates may more effectively respond to the challenges posed by these accountability initiatives.



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación



8<sup>th</sup> International Higher  
Education and Research  
Conference

**Buenos Aires**  
25-27 September 2012

Chair: **Max Roy** (FQPPU, Quebec Canada)

Presenters:

**Atilio Pizarro** (UNESCO)

**Sandra Grey** (NZTEU, New Zealand)

**Lily Eskelsen** (NEA, United States)

**12:30 – 14:00**

**LUNCH BREAK**

**14:00 – 15:30**

**Plenary Session 6**

***Defending Research and Researchers in the Public Interest***

This session will explore emerging issues related to research policy. Participants will consider the employment and professional status of researchers in various countries. Panellists will also be asked to consider the impact of the increasing priority many states are placing on the commercialization of university research over basic research and research within the social sciences and humanities. Discussion will focus on ways that EI and its affiliates could better defend the integrity and independence of research.

Chair: **Tapani Kaakuriniemi** (FUURT, Finland)

Presenters:

**Dominique Lassarre** (UNSA, France)

**Wayne Peters** (CAUT/ACPPU, Canada)

**Mike Jennings** (IFUT, Ireland)

**Pedro Sanllorenti** (CONADU, Argentina)

**15:30 – 16:00**

**BREAK**

**16:00 – 17:30**

**Discussion Groups 2**

Participants will be divided into small break-out groups to discuss key issues arising out of the second day of conference. Topics to be addressed include:

1. Promoting equity and diversity
2. Accountability, rankings and assessment
3. Research integrity and the status of researchers

**19:00**

**RECEPTION AND DINNER HOSTED BY CONADU**



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación



8<sup>th</sup> International Higher  
Education and Research  
Conference

**Buenos Aires**  
25-27 September 2012

## Day Three: Thursday 27 September 2012

---

9:00 – 10:30

### Plenary Session 7

#### ***Building International Solidarity: Development Cooperation amongst Higher Education and Research Unions***

This session will explore how higher education and research affiliates are assisting one another in building capacity, increasing their representation, and defending trade union and human rights. Panellists will be asked to identify key priorities and to map ways that EI and its affiliates could more effectively facilitate solidarity initiatives. A brief presentation will be followed by group discussion.

Chair: **Nadine Scott** (CUT, Jamaica)

Presenters:

**Christian Addai-Poku** (NAGRAT, Ghana)

**Dr. Miguel Ángel Beltrán** (Colombia)

**Nicolas Richards** (Education International)

**Pierre Girouard** (CSQ, Quebec Canada)

10:30 – 11:00

**BREAK**

11:00 – 12:30

### Plenary Session 8

#### ***Report from Workshops***

Rapporteurs will briefly highlight the main conclusions from each discussion group, followed by a presentation of a draft of the main conference report. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the main conclusions. The final conference report, adopted by consensus, will be forwarded to the EI Board.

Chair: **Grahame McCulloch** (NTEU, Australia and EI EXBO)

12:30 – 13:00

### Closing Session

Chair: **Graham McCulloch** (NTEU, Australia and EI EXBO)

Closing Remarks:

**Carlos de Feo** (CONADU, Argentina)

**David Robinson** (Education International)



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación