



Faculty of Theology
Institute of Social Ethics ISE

Building a Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility – the Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context

under the patronage of UNESCO



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Aims

Who is responsible for stopping and preventing climate change? What can be done against global inequality and poverty? Can universal norms (e.g. human rights) be justified? How can global justice be linked with local traditions, cultural diversity and values based on religion and world views? Which chances and challenges arise for society from an ethical perspective as a result of the growing use of artificial intelligence and increasing digitization and robotization? Present and future generations are confronted with these and similar ethical challenges on a local, national, regional and global level. Ethics affects every facet of human being and activity. In science and research, all disciplines are confronted with ethical issues.

«Building a Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility – the Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» is organized under the patronage of UNESCO and enables those active in the fields of science and research to examine moral questions and ethical topics of today and tomorrow in a global context – beyond the boundaries of academic fields, cultures, traditions, religions and world views – and to search together for solutions and the possibilities of implementing them. This involves critical analysis, constructive discussions and the consideration of different perspectives.

This practical and action-oriented dialog forms an ideal breeding ground for nurturing a constantly expanding, global network of committed decision makers of today and the future who exchange knowledge, advise, work together and carry out joint research. The guiding principle of this endeavor is «Know how, act now».

Topics

- Climate change
- Flight and migration
- Digitization and robotization, plus the use of artificial intelligence
- Inequality and poverty
- Global justice and human rights
- Business, finance and entrepreneurship
- Biomedicine

Unique value propositions

«Building a Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility – the Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» has the following unique value propositions – all of which are founded on the basic principle of «Know how, act now»:

- To train the participants in critical analysis, respecting different perspectives and holding a constructive debate on moral questions and ethical topics of today and tomorrow in a global context.
- To bring those active in the fields of science and research together to discuss moral questions and ethical topics – beyond the boundaries of academic fields, cultures, traditions, religions and world views – and to promote this exchange on a long-term basis in order to also achieve globalization in the interdisciplinary discourse on ethics.
- To form a constantly expanding, global network of committed decision makers who have their finger on the pulse thanks to their active participation and, moreover, are able to anticipate new topics and developments of ethical relevance.

Thanks to its solid foundations in the Institute of Social Ethics ISE at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne and the patronage of UNESCO, «Building a Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility – the Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» benefits from international partnerships with a range of different universities, including:

- Yale University (USA)
- Asian Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies Chennai (India)
- Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies Nairobi (Kenya)
- University of Cape Town (South Africa)
- University of Sydney (Australia)
- University of Tokyo (Japan)

Target group

PhD and Doctoral students as well as MA students from around the world and from different disciplines can apply to take part in «Building a Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility – the Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context». They do this by demonstrating their interest in present and future ethical issues in a global context and by having specific plans on how they can achieve a positive effect by implementing the skills learned at the Summer University in their individual situation and academic work, not to mention what they would bring to the global and interdisciplinary network of people involved in the fields of science and research. The students are the ones who fill the guiding principle of «Know how, act now» with meaning and implement it accordingly.

Faculty

The faculty of the «Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» is both interdisciplinary and international. It brings together experts from international organizations, science and research, business, arts, and interfaith and intercultural dialog.



Building a Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility

Globalization also demands a global, interdisciplinary discourse on ethics and networking of the committed decision makers of today and the future. The project focuses on promoting the development and sustainable expansion of a «Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility» with ten specific measures:

1. Interactive teaching and learning methods towards a practical interdisciplinary discourse
2. Specific program points used for targeted networking
3. Joint networking activities with a specific follow-up in mind
4. Active mentorship – participants act as mentors to each other and contribute their respective expertise and neutral perspectives in an advisory capacity to two final papers
5. Implementation of joint projects with an ethical relevance based on the fundamental knowledge learned during the Summer University
6. Annual conferences towards continuous thematic and project-related dialog
7. Participation of alumni at research seminars at the ISE
8. Regular online exchange events
9. Online work and research platforms
10. Continuous interaction with the faculty through consultation and regular discussions on possible joint research projects and study/research partnerships

Desired impact

Skills and responsibilities

- Participants use specific methods and instruments of ethics to deal with moral dilemmas and to master ethical challenges in their respective fields of study.
- In dialog with the faculty and each other, participants gain specific skills in the field of ethics.
- Alumni address moral questions and ethical topics in their working environment and advise others in these topics and questions.
- Alumni become ambassadors for the professional and thorough handling of contemporary ethical challenges and moral questions in a global context and thus bring their newly acquired skills into the macrosocial discourse so that their respective occupational, geographical and cultural contexts can also benefit.

Continuous networking

- The «Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility» promotes a continuous worldwide networking of skills, together with exchanges and advice between those active in the field of science and research.
- Mentorship requires commitment, involvement and responsibility towards third-party projects, and gives the mentor a sense of ownership with regard to the respective project.
- Alumni carry out projects of ethical relevance together based on the fundamental skills learned as part of the Summer University.
- Together with the faculty, alumni develop interdisciplinary research projects and outline international study and research partnerships.

Widespread impact

- The entire content of the «Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» is made accessible to distance learning students in the form of online podcasts.
- Two evening events open to the public will take place as part of the «Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context», and will also be broadcast to a wider audience via live stream.
- The commitment of the alumni in their respective occupational, geographical and cultural contexts results in the promotion of snowball effects.
- Accompanying communication and media work as part of the «Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» in the respective contexts of the alumni increase interest and awareness of ethical challenges and moral questions in a targeted manner.
- Thanks to the patronage of UNESCO, the «Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» takes up a promising international position that directly benefits Switzerland as a research hub.



Scope

The «Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context» is organized under the patronage of UNESCO and takes place from June 3–8, 2019. It offers a specific program for PhD and Doctoral students and a specific program for MA students. The participants will achieve an internationally recognized certificate and 3 ECTS credits will be rewarded for

- preparation work (20 hours),
- active participation to the courses (30 hours) and
- the final paper (25 hours) on the action-based clarification of an ethical issue that is relevant for one's own context and implementing the results accordingly – accompanied by two other participants as mentors.

Contact

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