



Human Development &
Capability Association



Call for Papers, HDCA Conference 2019

‘Connecting Capabilities’

September 9th - 11th 2019, London, United Kingdom

Hosted by

University College London



in partnership with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Birkbeck, the University of East London (UEL) and the London International Development Centre (LIDC)



Conference theme

The theme for the HDCA 2019 conference in London (9-11 September 2019) is *Connecting Capabilities*. We have chosen this theme because we think connection is an important capability that needs further consideration.

March 2019 is the date currently scheduled for Brexit. In some ways this is a national political difficulty and time of uncertainty for the UK. But in other ways Brexit reflects themes that resonate internationally – not least the impact of globalisation and the emergence of greater xenophobia and more authoritarian forms of democracy in many parts of the world. The theme of connecting capabilities gives us an opportunity to think against this grain, using ideas and networks on human development and putting the capability approach to work in new ways.

We invite contributions (scholarly papers, round table presentations, posters) that help us consider better ways of connecting capabilities as articulated by people in different places, shaped by spatial contexts, or as explored in a range of practices, such as research, policy, practice and social action. The ways in which one kind of capability, for example in education or work, might support others, for example, in health, around equalities or any other area of capability expansion, is an area of particular interest, as are connections between disciplines drawing on human development and the capability approach. We welcome papers on connection as a particular form of capability, and on the capability for collective action as a particular formation of group capabilities.

We call for papers that present academic work in these areas drawing on conceptual discussion, empirical investigation, or critical reflection. We anticipate that bringing together scholarly work of this nature will help support the building of open, inclusive, equitable relationships in the face of conditions that drive separation and division. We are particularly interested in considering how the capability approach can help in thinking through some of the questions of connecting across social divisions of race, class, gender, age, and nationality, connecting across conventional academic/practice/social activist demarcations, and connecting educational processes with research and policy. New research on spatiality, relational capabilities, decolonisation, sustainability, and the capability of connection are of particular interest as are explorations of partnerships with civil society drawing on human development and the capability approach. We welcome contributions on how we can better facilitate interdisciplinary research and new kinds of partnership between communities of practice in supporting this.

The HDCA conference aims to bring together people from all over the world and from different disciplines and fields interested in the capability approach and human development. Papers on the 2019 conference theme on *Connecting Capabilities* should engage with at least one of the six strands of work on connection we outline below or discuss core areas of work associated with HDCA topics.

Work on connecting capabilities can address one or more of the following:

1. Connecting peoples' capabilities – exploring connections across social divisions of, for example, race, class, gender, age, and nationality
2. Connecting places to expand capabilities - considering spatial, locational and discursive settings that cross between global, national, regional and local sites
3. Exploring connection as a capability and considering capabilities generated through forms of collective action
4. Consideration of the processes entailed when one group of capabilities enhances another and what insight this gives to key issues associated with capability approach research
5. Connecting disciplines to enhance scholarly and evaluative work drawing on human development and the capability approach
6. Connecting research, policy and practice, drawing on the human development and capability approach, connecting academic and activist communities, or working with different formations of civil society

Work on core HDCA themes is also welcome, including but not limited to:

- Philosophical and ethical foundations and implications of the capability approach
- Methodological issues in operationalising the capability approach
- Capability measurement and empirical analysis
- Human rights and development
- Policy analysis, evaluation, and economics related to capabilities and agency
- Contributions from psychology to understanding human capabilities
- The capability approach and arts policy and practice
- Health inequalities, disability and aging
- Equalities and inequalities for children and youth
- Education, rights, equalities and capabilities
- Urban capabilities
- Transparency, accountability, global governance and public policy
- The environment and sustainable development
- Creating social and economic impact in development and public policy using the capability approach

Confirmed keynote speakers and plenary panels

- Martha Nussbaum
- Vandana Shiva (Sen Lecture)
- Leif Wenar (Nussbaum Lecture)
- Panel with activists and practitioners reflecting on using the capability approach including Gautam Bhan, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, and Johannes Krassnitzer, UNDP

Programme Committee

Co-ordinators: Elaine Unterhalter, Centre for Education and International Development (CEID), University College London and Ingrid Robeyns, University of Utrecht
Alex Apsan Frediani, Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London
Mario Biggeri, University of Florence
Tania Burchardt, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), London School of Economics
Caroline Hart, University of Sheffield
Ann Mitchell, Catholic University of Argentina (UCA)
Rosie Peppin Vaughan, Centre for Education and International Development (CEID), University College London
Meera Tiwari, University of East London
Sridhar Venkatapuram, King's College London

Conference organisation

Contributions to the conference can take a number of forms. Abstracts should be submitted via the website (see below 'How to Submit Your Proposal').

- **Full academic paper sessions**, for which single papers can be submitted. They will be presented in a session with 2 or 3 other papers (25 minutes per paper including discussion/questions). Please send an abstract of 500-1000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.
- **Thematic panel sessions** are submitted as a whole under a single theme that is related to this year's conference theme or to the theme of one or more of the HDCA's thematic groups. Panel proposals are welcome from the thematic group coordinators as well as from people unaffiliated with the thematic groups. The thematic panels should have a maximum of three papers. Each panel must have a coordinator who submits a panel abstract of up to 1000 words with 3-5 keywords. In addition, an abstract of 500-1000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords, should accompany each of the component papers of the proposed panel. The coordinator will act as the contact person for the panel session and the other panel presenters. Note that the standards for evaluating panels will be the same as for the full academic papers. If not all of the papers in the proposed panel session are evaluated favourably, then the approved papers will be regarded as individual papers and may be allocated to other sessions.
- **Author meets critics sessions** in which an author presents a summary of a recent book or large piece of research. Each author should send a 500 word synopsis of his or her book/research project with 3-5 keywords and include the names of one or two confirmed discussants.
- **Practitioner and scholar dialogue** in which either a group of practitioners (social activists, policy makers, policy users) present a recent initiative in social engagement and a scholar working on the theme responds OR an author presents a summary of a recent piece of work and a group of practitioners respond. Each author and group of practitioners should send a 500-word synopsis of his or her project and the key area for discussion with 3-5 keywords and include the names of one or two confirmed discussants.
- **Roundtables** are intended to engage policymakers or practitioners to organise discussions about practical approaches to dealing with the problems that are the focus of the conference.

Please send a 500-1000 word abstract and a list of 3-5 keywords. Also include a list of the roundtable participants, affiliations and whether or not his/her participation has been confirmed.

- **Poster presentation sessions** for which dedicated time slots will be available in the program, so that authors can clarify their poster to the circulating audience. Posters could present a research project, some fieldwork done, a case study, or an early-stage research proposal. Please send an abstract of 300-600 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.
- **Young scholar meets senior scholar sessions** in which graduate students present their research plan or work in progress (proposals should be 500-1000 words, with 3-5 keywords). Senior scholars, including HDCA Fellows, will provide feedback and chair the discussion.

Please also note the following

1. Since we expect a large number of submissions for the conference in London, **each person is allowed to be involved in a maximum of two paper proposals** and these must be for different types of sessions (e.g. full paper and thematic panel).
2. The **same proposal may not be submitted more than once** to different kinds of sessions, for example, full paper, poster and young scholar.
3. You will be required to identify the broad theme for your proposal to enable us to allocate it to reviewers (for example, education or health).
4. For panel proposals, if a presenter withdraws then the panel organisers may not substitute a non-reviewed paper.

While the papers may come from any discipline and may be theoretical, applied, or policy-based, **every paper must engage with, apply, extend, criticise, or offer insights specifically relevant to the capability approach and/or the human development paradigm.**

Each proposal will be peer reviewed by panels appointed by the programme committee. The **main criteria for evaluating the various kinds of submissions** will be; novelty/originality; clarity and structure; significance/impact/relevance to/engagement with the capability approach and/or human development; methodology and methods; fit with the conference theme.

Kuklys Prize for best paper from a graduate student

At the conference, the HDCA will award the annual *Wiebke Kuklys Prize* for the best paper presented by a graduate student. All graduate students who have been awarded their degree before 1st September 2019 and are presenting a paper at the 2019 HDCA conference **under their sole authorship** are eligible to be considered for this prize. If you wish your paper to be considered for the prize, this must be indicated on the submission form. Please note, if you are competing for this prize, **the full paper must be submitted by 15th of July 2019**. The winner of the 2019 Wiebke Kuklys Prize will be awarded a cash amount with the aim of contributing to the student's graduate work, by allowing her/him to buy equipment or books, or to attend a conference. The name of the winner will be announced at the closing plenary session of the conference, which the author must attend.

UCL Grand Challenges Prize

University College London (UCL) will award two prizes of £500 each for presentations at the conference that demonstrate meaningful engagement between academics and practitioners in using the capability approach and reflecting on the conference theme of *Connecting Capabilities*. Submissions for the **UCL Grand Challenges** prizes must be received by 15th July 2019. The format of a submission for the prize will comprise no more than 500 words giving:

- i) Title of presentation at HDCA 2019 and names of presenter(s), clearly identifying academic(s) and practitioner(s) involved

- ii) An overview of how the project to be presented at the conference has identified and worked on a contemporary global challenge drawing on the capability approach, exploring the theme of connection
- iii) A description of range of activities undertaken
- iv) A description of how the £500, if awarded, would be spent, the expected outcomes from this and what future activities are envisaged

Full details of how to apply for these prizes can be found on the conference website. Please indicate when submitting an abstract for the conference that you wish to apply for one of these prizes.

HDCA Summer School

The HDCA will be holding a two-day summer school for doctoral students working with the capability approach in the days prior to the annual conference. Senior HDCA academics will work with participants to deepen knowledge and understanding of multiple forms and applications of the capability approach and to develop critical enquiries into a range of subjects and methodological approaches relevant to human development. There will be opportunities for participants to present and discuss their own research. Further details, including dates, will be made available in due course.

Pre-conference events

A programme of events to introduce participants to a range of social and arts initiatives in London concerned with human development will take place over the three days prior to the conference. HDCA Thematic groups will also organise meetings during the preconference programme. On Sunday 8th September 2019 conference participants are welcome to join a number of organised walks around London. These will include *Black history walks*, an *East London* walk, and a walk through Bloomsbury and Soho. Events for the pre-session programme can be submitted to the conference organisers via one of the HDCA Thematic group coordinators (see <https://hd-ca.org/thematic-groups>).

HDCA Journal

We encourage papers presented at the conference to be submitted for publication in the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*. This HDCA-owned journal is a peer reviewed multi-disciplinary journal for people-centred development. See the journal webpage for more information on the journal and on how to submit your paper: <https://hdca.org/publication-and-resources/journal-of-human-development-and-capabilities>.

Conference Registration, Fees & Scholarships

On-line conference registration will open in April 2019. Students and scholars from low- and mid-income countries will pay a significantly reduced registration fee, and some concession rates will be available for participants from high-income countries.

Registration rates are as follow:

Resident in a high-income country

- Professional, high-income country, early (\$390)
- Professional, high-income country, standard (\$440)
- Concessions (non-profit organisation NGO worker or similar; unwaged) high income country, early (\$195)
- Concessions (NGO worker or similar; unwaged) high income country, standard (\$245)
- Student, high-income country, early (\$195)
- Student, high-income country, standard (\$245)

Resident in a middle or low-income country

- Professional, low- or mid-income country, early (\$195)
- Professional, low- or mid-income country, standard (\$245)
- Concessions (NGO worker or similar; unwaged) low or middle income country early (\$90)
- Concessions (NGO worker or similar; unwaged) low or middle income country standard (\$130)
- Student, low- or mid-income country, early (\$90)
- Student, low- or mid-income country, standard (\$130)

*Organisational registration**

- Organisational registration early (\$440)
- Organisational registration, standard (\$550)

*This registration rate is available to not for profit organisations such as NGOs and grass roots organisations, except universities. An organisational registration allows an organisation to identify up to three staff members, who could each attend for one day. Organisational registration for the conference does not give an organisation institutional membership of the HDCA. Please note the registration fee for individuals (but not organisations) provides a year's membership in the HDCA, which includes a year's subscription to the *Journal of Human Development & Capabilities*.

Scholarships

The HDCA and the local organising committee will award a limited number of scholarships to scholars with limited or no resources to attend the conference. The demand for scholarships usually far exceeds the available funds and therefore we encourage only those who really need financial support to apply. Details will be made available in due course on the conference website: <https://hdca.org/conferences/2019-hdca-conference-london-uk>. Applications for scholarships must be made by 15th February 2019.

In addition, early career researchers (ECRs) employed by an Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) member institution outside the UK (<https://www.acu.ac.uk/membership/acu-members/>) can apply for an ACU Early Career Academic Grant to attend. These grants provide funding of up to £2000 for ECRs to participate in overseas conferences. Applications will open in February 2019. See details here: <https://www.acu.ac.uk/scholarships/early-career-academic-grants/>. Proof of submission of an abstract to the HDCA will be sufficient for consideration for the award.

How to Submit Your Proposal

Please submit your proposal for the conference, via the submission site **by February 15th 2019** (<http://www.conftool.org/hdca2019>) using the appropriate form. The submission portal will open on December 10th 2018. If you encounter problems with the online submissions system, please email the conference organisers at: hdca2019@ucl.ac.uk

In order to ensure academic quality, all submissions will be reviewed by two reviewers, at least one of whom is an HDCA Fellow or a senior researcher in the field.

Important deadlines

February 15, 2019 - Submission of proposals and scholarship applications

April 15, 2019 - Announcement of acceptance/rejection

June 15, 2019 - Deadline for conference registration at early-bird rates

July 15, 2019 - Submission of full papers/posters and entries for the UCL Grand Challenges and Kuklys prizes

August 22, 2019 - Final deadline for conference registration at standard rates