

**Call for Proposals
for a hybrid on-campus & online conference**

HDCA Conference 2022

“Capabilities and Transformative Institutions”

**Antwerp, Belgium
20-22 September 2022**

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Conference Theme: Capabilities and Transformative Institutions

How can we organize today for the world of tomorrow? Covid-19 has taught us that we are not ready. We have re-discovered our common vulnerability – not only to a virus, but also to problems and difficulties arising from policy mismatch, institutional hiccups, authoritarian backlash and the effects of increasing national and international inequality. Divided we have stood, unable to act well in concert. How can we improve the structures of living together and face the challenges ahead to build a more just and sustainable world? The HDCA Conference 2022 puts this question center stage.

Institutions, social arrangements, or the structures which emerge from our social ways of living, have been considered from many perspectives through the range of disciplines that engage with the capability approach. The conference will provide an opportunity to let these various understandings speak to and learn from each other.

We invite work on capabilities and institutions related to three overarching issues:

First of all, we invite contributions that explore the interrelation between institutions (economic, political, social, cultural) and people's opportunities to be and do what they value, with a special emphasis on how institutions may have an unequal impact on different social groups. Sen's early work on the role of democracy in preventing famines and, more generally, on the way in which economic and political incentives may exacerbate or **overcome social divisiveness**, both within and across national borders, points to the importance of this issue.

Secondly, diverse disciplines and strands of the literature provide different angles from which to discuss individual agency in relation to social structure and our **ability to act in concert**. It is not only that human sociability is *intrinsically* rewarding (regardless of the material benefits provided by different social structures), but also—as authors like Paul Ricoeur, drawing on Hannah Arendt, argue—that the “structures of living together” play a *constitutive* role in situating both ourselves and others as distinct yet equivalent beings and in **shaping structures of solidarity**. Further contributions to this debate can inspire us to find new ways to transform unjust structures and unsustainable ways of living.

Thirdly, institutions organize collective decision-making. In the work of both Martha Nussbaum and Amartya Sen, considerable room is made for “**government by discussion**” as a crucial link between individual ideas about the good life and reasoned social choice. The reflection on ways to deepen democracy and to promote participation at multiple levels of decision-making has been part and parcel of the development debate in the Global South. In the Global North, this reflection has recently taken another turn, with the emergence of what has been called “polaritics”, the related debates on the potential of the New Media to contribute to or challenge democratic decision-making, and on the impact of economic inequality on democracy.

While the conference call is open to all types of contributions that engage with the broader theme of human development and capabilities, we would especially like to invite papers that engage with one of the above three broad areas.

We invite scholars, activists, policymakers, practitioners, and students working in the area of human development and capabilities to Antwerp, Belgium. We look forward to hosting participants from a wide range of research themes, topics, methods, professions, and regions to engage in innovative conversations with each other, and to find new synergies in advancing the core aims of the Human Development Paradigm. We especially welcome those who are new to the field, introducing us to fresh ideas and perspectives. We would also like to expressly invite participants from the Global South, from ethnic minorities and from Indigenous peoples.

In addition, the conference will also host a number of sessions organized by the coordinators of the different [thematic groups](#) and [regional networks](#) of the Human Development and Capability Association.

‘This Year’s Hosts: Welcome to University of Antwerp!

The [UAntwerp](#) has an important research and teaching tradition in social justice and active pluralism in the social and human sciences. The Conference has been set up in such a way that all social and human science faculties participate in it. We can also count on the [The University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp \(UCSIA\)](#), well versed in building bridges between academia and wider society in the area of social justice.

This Conference will also celebrate a (postponed) 20th anniversary year of [the Institute of Development Policy \(IOB\)](#). The Human Development & Capability Association stands for a multi-dimensional vision of development, as it gives central attention to human agency as both the end and the means of development and as it assigns a constitutive role to public debate and deliberation in the development process. In this, it provides for the core ingredients of the work the IOB has been cultivating over the last two decades.

The conference venue is located at a mere 10 minute walk from the old city center of [Antwerp](#), with many opportunities to relax, have dinner or simply stroll around. Throughout history, and today, Antwerp connects to the world through its inland port, with direct yet sheltered access to the North Sea. During the pre-conference you will have the opportunity to explore one or more traces of the traditions that have been shaping the city.

Program Committee

Alejandra Boni, Ingenio, CSIC Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Bea Cantillon, Faculty of Social Sciences UAntwerp, Belgium

Koen De Feyter, Faculty of Law, UAntwerp, Belgium

Melanie Walker, Higher Education & Human Development, University of the Free State, South Africa

Guido Erreygers, Faculty of Business & Economics, UAntwerp, Belgium

Faith Mkwanzzi, Higher Education & Human Development, University of the Free State, South Africa

Elaine Unterhalter, Centre for Education & International Development (CEID), UCL, United Kingdom

Tom De Herdt, Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerp, Belgium (Conference Chair)

Organizational Committee

Tom De Herdt, Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerp

Vicky Verlinden, Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerp

Joelle Dhondt, Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerp

Hans Debacker, Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerp

Charlotte Teunis, Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerp

Barbara Segaert, University Centre Saint-Ignatius, Antwerp (chair)

Confirmed Keynote Speakers



[Martha Nussbaum](#)

University of Chicago



[Achille Mbembe](#)

Wits Institute for Social and Economic
Research, University of the Witwatersrand



[Bas van Bavel](#)

Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University



[Bonny Ibhawoh](#)

Centre for Peace Studies, McMaster University



[Sunita Narain](#)

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE),
University of Delhi



[Marc Fleurbaey](#)

Paris School of Economics



[Julia Steinberger](#)

School of Earth and Environment, University
of Leeds.



[Priscilla Claeys](#)

Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience,
Coventry University

Types of proposals for parallel sessions

In addition to keynote lectures and other plenaries, the conference will accommodate **eight** types of sessions. Except for the poster sessions, **all of them can take place either in-person in Antwerp, or online, at the end of day 2 or early day 3 of the conference:**

1. **Academic paper sessions**, for which single papers can be submitted. Each paper will be presented in a session with 2 or 3 other submissions (25 minutes per paper including Q&A). Please send an abstract of 500-1,000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.

2. **Research and Action sessions**, for which a set of presentations can be submitted, describing and analysing a particular field of action and the way it links with the human development paradigm and/or capability approach. Each session will include 3 or 4 other presentations (20 minutes per presentation including Q&A). Please send an abstract of 500-1,000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords for the whole set of presentations. In addition, an abstract of 500-1,000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords, should accompany each single presentation. A coordinator will act as the contact person for all presenters.

3. **Thematic panel sessions**, for which a set of presentations on a single theme related to this year's conference theme or to the subject of one or more of the HDCA's thematic groups is submitted. Panel proposals are welcome from the thematic group coordinators as well as from people unaffiliated with them. We particularly welcome interdisciplinary panels and panels that combine academic perspectives with those of practitioners. Each thematic panel should have a maximum of three presentations. It is also possible to propose two panels on the same theme. Each theme must have a coordinator who submits a panel abstract of up to 1,000 words, plus 3-5 keywords. In addition, an abstract of 500-1,000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords, should accompany each presentation. The coordinator will act as the contact person for the thematic session(s) and the other panel presenters. (NB: If not all of the papers in the proposed panel session are evaluated favorably, the approved papers will be regarded as individual submissions and may be allocated to the sessions listed in point 1.)

4. **Author-meets-critics sessions**, in which an author presents a summary of a recent book or larger piece of research. Each author should send a 500-word synopsis of the relevant book or research project, along with 3-5 keywords. The submission should also include the names of one or two confirmed discussants. Discussants can be researchers, but we particularly encourage including at least one practitioner (or organization) as proposed discussants.

5. **Roundtables**, which are intended to engage policymakers or (non-)governmental stakeholders, or to organize discussions with practitioners about practical approaches to dealing with the problems that are the focus of the conference. Please send a 500 - 1,000 word abstract, plus 3-5 keywords. Also include information on the roundtable participants, affiliations, and whether the participation of each of them has been confirmed. Submissions can be academic-led or practitioner-led.

6. **Young-scholar-meets-senior-scholar sessions**, intended for graduate students to present their research plan or work in progress (proposals should be 500-1,000 words, with 3-5 keywords). Senior scholars, including HDCA Fellows, will provide feedback and chair the discussion.

7. **Documentaries**. If you would like to present and discuss your film or documentary during this conference, please send in a proposal with background and motivation (500-1000 words).

8. (not available online:) **Poster exhibition**, for which dedicated time slots will be available in the program so that authors can communicate their ideas to the circulating audience. Posters could present a research project, some completed fieldwork, a case study, or an early-stage research proposal. Please send an abstract of 300-600 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.

Please note:

- 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).
- Since we expect a large number of submissions, each person is allowed to be involved in a maximum of two proposals and these must be for different types of sessions (e.g. full paper and thematic panel)
- The same proposal may not be submitted more than once to different kinds of sessions, for example, full paper, poster, and young scholar.
- For panel proposals, the panel organizers may not substitute a non-reviewed paper if a presenter withdraws.

The **main criteria for evaluating the various kinds of submissions** are:

- Novelty/originality
- Clarity and structure
- Significance/impact/relevance to/engagement with the capability approach and/or human development
- Methodology/methods or practical application
- Fit with the conference theme

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

Kuklys Conference Prize

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 not been awarded their degree before 30 June 2022 and are presenting a paper at the 2022 HDCA conference under their sole authorship are eligible to be considered for this prize. If you wish for your paper to be considered, indicate so on the online submission form.

To compete for this prize, **the full paper must be submitted by 15 July 2022**. The winner of the 2022 Wiebke Kuklys Prize will be awarded a cash amount (the purpose of which is to contribute to the student's graduate work, for example, in the form of equipment or book purchases or conference attendance). The name of the winner will be announced at the closing plenary session of the conference, which the author must attend either online or on-campus.

The Kuklys prize is annually awarded at the HDCA conference for the best conference paper written by a graduate student. It is aimed at promoting the work of graduate students in the field of human development and the capability approach. It is named in memory of Wiebke Kuklys, who, as an Economics PhD student at Cambridge University, advanced the capability approach by exploring the application of new statistical techniques. Wiebke studied in Germany, Chile, and England, and combined an open mind for new ideas with a concern for the most vulnerable people and she believed that high-quality research could contribute to making the world a better place to live in. Wiebke died in June 2005, at the age of 33, only a few months after receiving her PhD degree. Her dissertation was published posthumously by Springer under the title "Amartya Sen's Capability Approach: Theoretical Insights and Empirical Applications."








Previous Winners

- 2019 - Matthias Kramm, "When a River Becomes a Person"
- 2018 - Juan Fernando Bucheli, "Marginal Youth: Quality of Life and Spatial Exclusion in Bogota"
- 2017 - Julio Alejandro Cáceda Adrianzen, "Moral Obligations as the Third Aspect of the Notion of Capabilities"
- 2016 - Morten Fibieger Byskov, "Are capabilities content-independently valuable? A reply to Carter"
- 2015 - Raj Patel, "The Natural and the Social in the Metrics of Justice"
- 2014 - Annie Austin, "Practical reason in hard times: the effects of economic crisis on the kinds of lives people in the UK have reason to value"
- 2013 - Oscar Garza Vazquez, "From the Idea of Justice to the Idea of Injustice: Mixing the Ideal, Non-ideal and Dynamic Conceptions of Injustice"
- 2012 - Agnese Peruzzi, "Understanding social exclusion in a longitudinal perspective; A capability based approach"
- 2011 - Nicolai Suppa, "Does capability deprivation hurt?"
- 2010 - Donna Vaughan, "Development, Rights, and Indigenous Australians – A Critique Of Australian Government Policy Using The Capability Approach"
- 2009 - Stacy Kosko, "Parental Consent and Children's Rights in Europe: A Balancing Act"
- 2008 - Suman Seth, "A class of Association Sensitive Multidimensional Well-being Indices"
- 2007 - Jose Manuel Roche, "Monitoring Inequality among Social Groups: A Methodology Combining Fuzzy Set Theory and Principal Component Analysis"
- 2006 - Constanze Binder, "Context Dependency of Valuable Functionings: How Culture Affects the Capability Framework"

Conference Format and Timeline

We plan the conference in a hybrid format, in such a way that we stimulate people to come to Antwerp and participate in person in the Conference while also providing for increased access to HDCA members unable to attend.

In practice, this means that 4 of the 6 keynote events will be livestreamed, as well as the 2 public lectures by Martha Nussbaum and Achille Mbembe. Further, we provide for completely online sessions of the thematic groups and regional networks in a first “Global Dialogue Day” (19 September). Finally, a variety of in-person parallel sessions will be organized during days 2, 3 and 4, in-between the different plenary sessions, whereas the parallel sessions of day 3 late afternoon and day 4 early morning will be completely in online modus.

	Open access	Participation through online platform	On-campus participation
Global Dialogue Day		19 Sept	
Public events (2) (Martha Nussbaum, Achille Mbembe)	2	2	2
Plenary sessions (6)		4	6
Parallel Sessions (6)		21 Sept pm 22 Sept am	20-22 Sept
Poster exhibition			
Documentaries			
Meeting facilities			
Conference Dinner			
HDCA Membership and Journal subscription			

In case the Covid-19 situation does not allow us to organize an international campus event, we will switch to a completely online conference mode. A final decision about the conference format will be taken before 1 May 2022.

HDCA Summer School

During the days preceding the conference (17 and 18 September 2022), the HDCA will be holding a two-day summer school for graduate students working with the capability approach. Senior HDCA academics will present the basics of the capability approach and discuss cutting edge topics and developments. There will also be opportunities to get group feedback on research projects. Further details will be communicated closer to the event (please check online at www.hdca2022.org).

Pre-Conference Events Day

Immediately before the conference (Monday 19 September 2022), participants can opt for some guided walks around one of the formative intellectual currents, socio-economic communities or cultural groups that currently make up the fabric of the city.

The HDCA thematic and regional groups will also offer various seminars. Further details will be communicated closer to the event (please check online at www.hdca2022.org).

Conference Sustainability

In keeping with the theme of the conference, we will make special efforts to run the conference as sustainably as possible:

- The Conference program will not be supplied on paper format but through Whova, an electronic conference app available on smart phone, tablet or laptop, just as previous years;
- Meals will be plant-based and as much as possible made from locally sourced ingredients;
- We strongly encourage all participants to bring their own reusable drinking cups or bottles;
- The UAntwerp Catering Services has its own sustainability policy concerning leftover foods.
- We very much encourage participants to consider offsetting their CHG emissions (as the HDCA is committed to doing);
- We suggest that guests combine their conference visit with an extended stay in Europe, thereby preventing further flight emissions for additional holiday or business trips.

Conference Accessibility and Inclusiveness

We aim to make our conference as inclusive and accessible as possible, not only in terms of physical space and materials provided (e.g. program, presentations, and nametags) but also with regard to presentation pedagogy and session design (e.g. we encourage presenters to think about how they plan to interact with the audience and to think about what audiences at this particular conference may be able to contribute to conference sessions).

We are working on the possibility to add subtitles in Spanish and French to the keynote events.

We will make every effort to make the conference accessible to (young) parents and families. Because of liability and insurance issues we are not able to provide in-house childcare, but we can provide a separate lactation/breastfeeding area for those who prefer breastfeeding in a more private environment, and extra storage facilities for parents (e.g. for food, etc.). Young parents are of course more than welcome to wear their baby at all times in the conference facilities. If you have childcare needs, please indicate so on the proposal submission form and we will be in touch directly once your proposal has been approved.

For further suggestions how we can make the 2022 gathering more accessible and inclusive, please contact us by email (hdca2022@uantwerp.be). Conference goers with special requirements are especially encouraged to get in touch.

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. For more information on the journal and on how to submit your paper, please see the [journal webpage](#).

Conference Registration, Fees, and Scholarships

Online conference and summer school registration will open around 1 May 2022. For the conference, separate fees are foreseen for those wishing to attend in-person and for those wishing to attend online only (please note that in-person attendees will of course have full access to all livestreams as well). Applicants from low and middle-income countries are eligible for reduced registration fees, as per this schedule:

	Live	Online
Resident in High Income Country		
Early bird	\$320	\$120
Standard	\$360	\$180
Concessions ^o + students early bird	\$150	\$60
Concessions ^o + students standard	\$200	\$90
Resident in Low or Middle Income Country		
Early bird	\$100	\$60
Standard	\$150	\$90
Concessions ^o + students early bird	\$50	\$30
Concessions ^o + students standard	\$75	\$60

^o NGO worker or similar or unwaged

The conference registration fee includes a one-year HDCA membership, including a year's subscription to the *Journal of Human Development & Capabilities*.

Summer School:

Graduate Students: US\$80

Scholarships:

The HDCA has a limited number of scholarships to attend the conference in Antwerp or online. They will be awarded based on merit and need to either

- early career scholars presenting single-authored papers at the 2022 HDCA Conference or
- scholars residing in low- and mid-income countries presenting papers at the 2022 HDCA Conference (for jointly authored papers to qualify for scholarship funds both authors must reside in a low- or middle-income country)

The amount of each scholarship will be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, final amounts have tended to be capped at US\$1,000, and the average amount awarded has been US\$500.

To apply for one of these scholarships, please download and complete the scholarship application form after you have received the referees' review of your abstract **by 15 April 2022**. All scholarship applications must be received by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee **by 30 April 2022**.

How to Submit Your Proposal

Please submit your proposed poster, paper, or panel online from 1 December 2021 (<https://www.conftool.org/hdca2022>)

If you encounter any problems, please contact the conference organizers by email (hdca2022@uantwerp.be).

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

Important Deadlines

Extended deadline: 23 February 2022 – Closing date for submission of proposals

15 April 2022 – Announcement of acceptance/rejection

30 April 2022 – Deadline for scholarship applications

1 May 2022 – Opening of conference registration and final decision on conference format

15 June 2022 – Deadline for conference registration at early-bird rates

15 July 2022 – Deadline for paper submission for Kuklys prize

15 August 2022 – Final deadline for conference registration at standard rates

15 August 2022 – Submission of full papers/posters/presentations