Philanthropy in Education: Global Trends, Regional Differences and Diverse Perspectives

The symposium series *Philanthropy in Education: Global Trends, Regional Differences and Diverse Perspectives* is a new initiative launched and co-sponsored by NORRAG, the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation and the Open Society Foundations. It seeks to facilitate greater understanding and collaboration between philanthropic organizations, national policymakers, representatives of international organizations and academics working in the field of education.

As the number and type of philanthropic organizations continue to grow across the world and they become more influential actors in the education and development sector, there is a demand to deepen collective knowledge of the sector. Arguably, education and health are the two sectors that attract the largest amount of financial support by individuals, corporations and foundations. Furthermore, international organizations tend to highlight the importance of cooperating with new partners to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. While some studies have highlighted the complementary role that philanthropic institutions play in the distribution of public goods, such as education, other studies have raised concerns related to equity, accountability, neutrality, effectiveness and efficiency. The symposium series provides a forum to discuss empirical research on philanthropy and education. In addition, it provides a space to share studies that explore socially responsive and effective giving of individuals, corporations and foundations.

In addition to facilitating engagement between actors, the symposia seek to enrich the current body of research and invite researchers, practitioners and/or policy makers to submit papers that explore philanthropic activity in the education sector. Perspectives from any education/philanthropy related discipline are encouraged, as are diverse methodologies. While not required to fall into one of these categories, papers may be related to:

a. Philanthropy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
b. The private sector and philanthropy
c. Philanthropic and government engagement across the North-South divide
d. Challenges and opportunities for philanthropy in education looking forward
e. Multilateral agencies and philanthropic engagement
f. Fostering collaboration between stakeholders (philanthropic organizations, national policymakers, international organizations and academia)
g. The emergence of new philanthropy actors in emerging economies
h. Individual giving in support of schools and higher education (including alumni giving)
i. Case studies

Papers presented at the symposia will be published online and widely disseminated by the initiators of the series. In addition, an edited volume on global trends in philanthropy in education will be prepared in which the contributions of the keynote speakers will be made available to a broad audience.
Programme Outline of the Series

The series *Philanthropy in Education: Global Trends, Regional Differences and Diverse Perspectives* consists of an inaugural symposium (held in Geneva, November 2017), six regional symposia (in Francophone Africa, India, People’s Republic of China, North America, Anglophone Africa and Brazil), and a closing symposium (held in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, May 2019). In addition to the overall symposium theme, the regional symposia will address topics that are relevant for the specific region. A Call for Papers will be issued a few months before each event in collaboration with the co-organizers and co-sponsors of the regional symposium. The symposia and themes are tentatively scheduled as follows:

**November 2017**  
Inaugural Symposium I in Geneva, Switzerland  
*Philanthropy in Education: Setting the Stage for Analyzing Global Trends, Regional Differences and Diverse Perspectives*

**February 2018**  
Symposium II in Francophone Africa (possibly in Côte d’Ivoire)  
*Private Sector Support for Vocational Skills Development in Francophone Africa*

**May 2018**  
Symposium III in India  
*Supporting the Right to Education Act in Basic Education*

**September 2018**  
Symposium IV in People’s Republic of China  
*Philanthropy in Higher Education*

**November 2018**  
Symposium V in North America (possibly in New York)  
*Individual Giving: The Role of Shared Visions*

**February 2019**  
Symposium VI in Anglophone Africa (possibly in South Africa)  
*Learning from the Health Sector in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region*

**March 2019**  
Symposium VII in Brazil  
*Public-Private Partnership in Education for the Marginalized in Latin America*

**May 2019**  
Closing Symposium VIII in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates  
*Philanthropy in Education: Reflections and Implications for Understanding Global Trends, Regional Differences and Diverse Perspectives*

For more information about the co-sponsors of the series:

- [www.norrag.org](http://www.norrag.org)
- [www.opensocietyfoundations.org](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org)
Inaugural Symposium I in Geneva - Call for Papers

Location and Dates
Hosted at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva, Switzerland
22-24 November 2017

Abstract Submission Details
Language: English
Length: 200-300 words (excluding title, author information and references)
Format: Word Document
Deadline: 24 May 2017

Both quantitative and qualitative research is welcome. Additionally, all abstracts should include the following:

1. Title
2. Background: Explains the purpose of the work and provides a brief description of the problem/research question addressed
3. Methods: Indicates the theoretical-methodological approach used
4. Results: Clearly presents primary findings of the study
5. Conclusion: Briefly discusses the main outcome of the study in relation to the research question
6. Relevance to philanthropy in education

Abstracts proposals should be emailed to philanthropyineducation@gmail.com. Please also include paper title, author name(s), title(s), institution affiliation(s) and contact email(s) in a separate Word document.

All abstracts will be compiled and sent to a committee for blind review. Participants will be responsible for their own travel expenses. A limited number of travel grants (up to USD 1,000) will be made available for selected presenters from the Global South.

Key Deadlines
Abstract Deadline: 24 May 2017
Notification of Acceptance: 1 July 2017
First Draft of Paper Deadline: 9 September 2017
Final Paper Deadline: 10 January 2018

The deadline for submitting the first draft of the paper is 9 September 2017. If accepted, failure to submit a draft by this date will result in cancellation of conference participation.