



Divided Societies: Negotiating the Past, Present and Future
Virtual Conference
26-27 January 2022 (afternoon CET)

Societies around the world are increasingly struggling with the emergence of deep rifts among their populations. Topics such as Covid-19, Brexit, #MeToo and climate change can quickly become polarising, stifling debate and preventing meaningful action to address common problems. Societal conflicts are not simply a challenge for political actors but have a direct impact on our daily lives and how we deal with one another. This conference will examine the role that negotiating our past, present, and future can play in overcoming social divisions. Organized by the Institute for Global Negotiation in collaboration with the Chair of Political Philosophy and the Centre for Ethics at the University of Zurich, the goal of the conference is to link junior researchers and professionals with senior practitioners and academics to discuss contemporary topics in the field of global negotiation. To this end, the virtual conference will comprise of one keynote speech, and three expert-led panel discussions centred on the overarching theme of “Divided Societies: Negotiating the Past, Present, and Future”.

Programme

Wednesday, 26 January 2022		Thursday, 27 January 2022	
14:00-14:30	Introduction to the Conference IGN Team	14:00-14:15	Introduction Day 2
		14:15-15:45	Panel 2: Negotiating the Present: Willem Ellis, Research Fellow, Centre for Ethics, Gender & Africa Studies, University of the Free State Moderated by Max Horder, Princeton University
15:00-16:30	Panel 1: Negotiating the Past: Re-establishing Trust by Creating a Shared History Salwa el Gantri, Head of Tunisia Office of International Center for Transitional Justice Moderated by Myriam Sauter, Institute for Global Negotiation	16:00-17:30	Panel 3: Negotiating the Future: The Potential of Citizens Assemblies to Overcome Political Deadlock Graham Smith, Professor of Politics and Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD), University of Westminster and Chair of the Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (KNOCA) Moderated by Jack R. Williams, Institute for Global Negotiation
		17:30-18:00	Concluding Session, IGN Team

Description of Panels

Negotiating the Past: The panel considers ways to deal with historic wrongdoing within a society and how trust between social groups as well as between members of the society and political and legal institutions can be rebuilt.

Negotiating the Present: The panel looks at ways of overcoming social conflict through conflict transformation and dialogue drawing on the experience of post-apartheid South Africa.

Negotiating the Future: The panel examines the potential for citizens assemblies to overcome future societal conflicts by moving away from political posturing and fostering solution-orientated collaboration instead.

Structure of Panels

- Each panel is scheduled to last approximately 90 minutes.
- Structure: one expert, 3-4 panellists (junior professionals/researchers), one moderator of the discussion.
- Topics: the IGN team will facilitate an exchange via email/call beforehand to connect the participants with the expert and to discuss how the sub-topic will be tackled
 - o Moderator introduces panel to audience.
 - o Expert opens the panel with a 25-30 minutes presentation of the topic.
 - o Panellists have approximately 3 minutes for their opening statements/reactions to the expert's presentation.
 - o Panel discussion is open and guided by the moderator (ca. 30-45 minutes).
 - o Remaining time: the audience is invited to put questions/make comments.
 - o Concluding remarks by the Expert or Moderator.

Expert Panellists



Salwa El Gantri, Head of the Tunisia office for the International Center for Transitional Justice

Salwa El Gantri is the Head of the Tunisia office for the International Center for Transitional Justice. An expert in gender and transitional justice, she has 17 years of experience in the fields of democracy, human rights, and transitional justice. Prior to joining for ICTJ, she worked for other organizations in Egypt and Tunisia such as the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights and she is an accredited Master Trainer on Human Rights from Raoul Wallenberg Institute on Human Rights & Humanitarian Law.



Willem Ellis, Research Fellow, Centre for Ethics, Gender & Africa Studies, University of the Free State

After having obtained a B.Proc. Degree from the University of the Free State, Willem became involved in conflict transformation work during South Africa's political transition in 1994, working for the National Peace Secretariat and the Free State Centre for Citizenship Education and Conflict Resolution. In 2004 he received a Masters degree in Governance and Political Transformation from the UFS.

As an academic and short learning programme presenter, he is involved with a variety of departments and centres at the UFS - lecturing a variety of topics relating to conflict, alternative dispute resolution, security, governance and development. As a consultant he acts as a mediator and consults with NGOs on issues of social entrepreneurship and NGO governance. He obtained a postgraduate certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from the University of Pretoria's GIBS Business School in 2014. His current research interests lie in the fields of Infrastructures for Peace (I4P) and conflict sensitive development.



Graham Smith, Professor of Politics and Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD), University of Westminster, Chair of the Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (KNOCA)

Graham Smith is an expert on democratic theory and practice, particularly participatory democratic institutions on which topic he has authored a number of books including: *Can Democracy Safeguard the Future?* and *Democratic Innovations: Designing Institutions for Citizen Participation*.

Graham has previously served as a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Senior Visiting Scholar on the Democracy Program at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School and Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. Currently he is an Honorary Fellow at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the RSA.