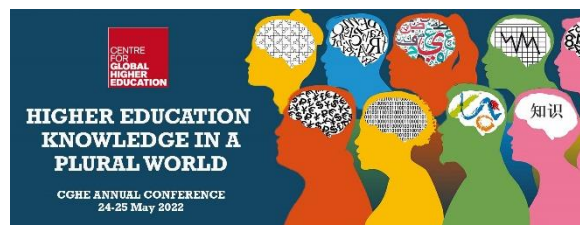


CGHE Annual Conference 24-25 May 2022: Session details



KEYNOTE: Reinventing Higher Education for an Inclusive World

24 May 2022, 1.50-2.50pm (UK)

Adam Habib, Director of SOAS University of London

Universities continuously speak of the importance of inclusive, equitable and quality education. Yet daily we institutionally behave in a manner that deepens inequalities and institutional divides. Global partnerships, scholarships and mobility across the world are features of the globalisation era. Yet the brain drain not only persists, but has escalated dramatically, weakening institutions in many parts of the developing world.

Higher education and the business models that underpin it must be fundamentally reimagined if they are to rise to our current challenges. This reinvention requires at its core a new methodology of global partnership, one that is more rooted in institutions than individuals. It requires joint teaching programs, co-curriculum and split-site scholarships that would enable students to gain scientific knowledge, develop a global consciousness, have access to new equipment and funding networks and yet be sufficiently rooted in institutions of the developing world to allow for this knowledge and skills to be deployed within local contexts. It requires co-financing and co-ownership of research centres and institutes between multiple universities in the North and South.

This is essentially a call for an academy of the commons. For centuries, we have pretended that science has no boundaries. Yet every day we establish institutional and national boundaries that constrain science, knowledge and innovation. We need to break down these boundaries, borrow and learn from each other in a collaborative and equal manner. Lessons learnt and innovations developed in particular contexts could lead to changes in the rest of the world. A global academy of the commons needs to be built so that we collectively understand how innovation can play a part in creating a more inclusive world.

*Professor Adam Habib is an academic, activist, and public intellectual. He is Director of SOAS University of London and previously VC and Principal of University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in South Africa. He holds qualifications in Political Science from the University of Natal, Wits and City University of New York. Professor Habib is a co-founder of the African Research Universities Alliance, an affiliation of research-intensive universities on the continent. He has published numerous edited books, book chapters and journal articles over the last three decades in the thematic areas of democratisation and its consolidation in South Africa, contemporary social movements, philanthropy, inequality, giving and its impact on poverty alleviation and development, institutional reform, changing identities and their evolution in the post-apartheid era, and South Africa's role in Africa and beyond. His most recent books include *South Africa's suspended revolution – Hopes and prospects* and *Rebels and Rage. Reflecting on #FeesMustFall*.*