Welcome to the Equality Matters Symposium
(7 October 2021, 14:00-16:30 BST)

The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum will host a four-part symposia webinar series in October 2021 on the overarching theme of ‘Sustainable Futures’. We are aiming for an inspirational set of symposia with both St Andrews and global partners represented. Chaired by Professor Thomas Meagher, each session will welcome three or four speakers and focus on one of the cross-cutting impact topics of:

- Equality Matters
- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Social Justice
- Evidence-based Policy

The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum was formed in 2018 and builds on the University’s commitment to the Global Challenges agenda. The forum supports the University’s extensive Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) challenge-led research base, funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) GCRF QR Grant and contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our vision for these themed sessions is that each will consist of two to three paired talks from St Andrews researchers and their ODA partners. Followed by a panel presentation and discussion. These topics are applicable to the SFC-funded GCRF projects portfolio as underlying issues are being addressed with more discipline-specific research. We intend that they will form the basis for substantive interdisciplinary discussions.
Equality Matters Symposium Agenda

14:00 – 14:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks by Professor Thomas Meagher
14:15 – 14:35 Dr Margarita Vaysman
14:35 – 14:55 Dr Juliana Bowles
14:55 – 15:15 Dr Rehema White
15:15 – 15:25 Comfort Break
15:25 – 15:30 Welcome Back
15:30 – 15:45 Professor Lisa Smith
15:45 – 16:00 Professor Bruno Brulon Soares
16:00 – 16:25 Discussion with Q&A
16:25 – 16:30 Closing Remarks by Professor Thomas Meagher

Zoom Registration

You need to register via [https://bit.ly/3sxRScY](https://bit.ly/3sxRScY) to participate in this symposium. Zoom will send you an automatic email with the direct link to the symposium. If you encounter any issues, please email: RIS_GCRF@st-andrews.ac.uk
Chair, Speakers and Panellists

Professor Thomas Meagher is the Director of the St Andrews Global Challenges Forum, working in close collaboration with the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) team in Research and Innovation Services (RIS) at the University of St Andrews.

A strong advocate for the University’s Global Challenges agenda, he has held an active role in the Forum’s Steering Committee. His expertise in the field of plant biology, combined with his enthusiasm for engaging at a ‘Global’ scale, are reflected in his research interest in the urgency of development challenges in Amazonia. He is committed to the need for interdisciplinary approaches to find solutions to the many problems affecting communities across our planet.

Lisa Smith is a Professor of Criminology, and Head of School of Criminology at the University of Leicester. Her research focuses on the intersection of criminology, forensic science, psychology and the law and she has worked on a number of projects funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) with international partners improving the criminal justice responses to sexual violence globally.

Most recently, she has led an interdisciplinary team of researchers and NGOs to pilot innovative DNA evidence kits in Kenyan Gender Violence Recovery Clinics, to enhance access to justice for survivors of sexual violence.

Bruno Brulon Soares is a museologist and anthropologist based in Brazil, Professor of museology at the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) and Professor in the Post-Graduate Program in Museology and Heritage (UNIRIO / MAST).

He coordinates the Laboratory of Experimental Museology at this university, working closely with community-based museums and with several projects at the grassroots level involving cultural heritage and museums. Currently he is chair of the ICOM International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM) and co-chair of the Standing Committee for the Museum Definition (ICOM Define). His research currently focuses on museums decolonisation, community action and the political uses of museums and cultural heritage.
Dr Margarita Vaysman is a Lecturer and Head of Department of Russian at the University of St Andrews. She specialises in Russian and Ukrainian literary history, gender studies and digital equality projects. Margarita joined St Andrews in 2016 after a DPhil and a lectureship at the University of Oxford. Her first book came out in 2021 with Legenda, and she is currently working on a Handbook of Global Realisms for Oxford University Press, as well as her second book on the history of cross-dressing in Eastern Europe.

Vaysman’s GCRF project, Pioneering Women in Ukraine, brought together academics, activists, and cultural practitioners to develop an inclusive digital environment and promote the history of Ukrainian women’s achievements in creative professions as a factor of economic growth.

Juliana’s research goal in the long term is to contribute to the reduction of poverty and (gender) inequalities. A few Brazilian studies have shown that those most susceptible to poorly managed chronic conditions and multimorbidity are female, the elderly and bedridden. The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated these inequalities further. The collaboration with project partners in Brazil across different healthcare sectors aims to promote better infrastructure and digital solutions at various levels.

Rehema graduated in Agriculture (an interdisciplinary, applied degree) from the University of Aberdeen then combined travel and study. A year as an exchange student in Mexico (tropical food production) was followed by a MSc in Animal Science at the University of Manitoba in Canada (enjoying the wilderness of NW Ontario). In Australia she completed a PhD combining endocrinology, agriculture and reproductive ecology. I then returned to Africa, completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Rhodes University in South Africa.

In 2004 I returned to UK to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Banchory, Scotland. I joined the University of St Andrews in 2006 to help establish the Sustainable Development Programme. Much of Rehema’s recent work involves gathering together academics, practitioners and policy makers in innovative ways to co-design collaborative solutions to specific sustainability challenges.
Top Tips for Successful Symposia

- Good Internet Connection
- Remember to mute
- Try to speak for your time limit
- A quite environment
- Raise your camera to eye level
- Good lighting
- Speakers and Panellists may share their screen
- Ask questions via the Chat feature

Recording

The Global Challenges Forum intends to document this symposia series via recording the audio, video and shared presentations. We will host the recordings on the Global Challenges Forum website [https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/gc-forum/].

If you do not wish to be recorded, please do not turn on your camera or microphone. You can still watch and listen to the presentations, if you wish to participate by asking a question or commenting please use the chat box.
St Andrews Global Challenges Forum

‘Sustainable Futures’ Online Symposia Series
The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum will host a four-part symposia webinar series with the overarching theme of ‘Sustainable Futures’. An inspirational set of symposia with both St Andrews and global partners represented.

Share and continue the conversation

The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum invites you to continue the conversation via soc using the following hash tags:

#GlobalStAndrews
#GCSustainableFutures
#GCRF

Remember to tag the following Twitter handles:

@GCRFstandrews
@UStAresearch
@univofstandrews

Join us for the symposia series

 Equality Matters  
Thursday 7 October  
14:00-16:30 BST

 Sustainable Livelihoods  
Thursday 14 October  
14:00-16:30 BST

 Social Justice  
Thursday 21 October  
14:00-16:30 BST

 Evidence-based Policy  
[bit.ly/2UEeE6A](https://bit.ly/2UEeE6A)  
Thursday 28 October  
14:00-16:30 BST

For more information please visit: [https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/gc-forum/](https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/gc-forum/).