



Background:

The UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance was established by an agreement between American University, Washington, D.C. and UNESCO dated 8 March 2011. The core objective of the UCTCG is to study transnational challenges and explore solutions to them through multilateral cooperation at global and regional levels. The Chair is currently established at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C.

A key initiative of the Chair is the Transnational Challenges and Emerging Nations Dialogue (TRANSCEND). As a worldwide network of academic research centers, policy think-tanks, government agencies and non-governmental organizations, TRANSCEND aims to forge a shared understanding among the developed and developing countries of how to manage the current diffusion of world power in the face of growing transnational challenges.

The establishment of the Chair responds to the increasing mutual vulnerability of nations to complex transnational challenges, such as human rights violations, climate change, refugee flows, drug trafficking, people smuggling, competition for scarce energy resources, new forms of pandemics, terrorism, and the spread of technologies of mass destruction. The world is witnessing a gradual diffusion of power and ideas, triggered not just by the “emerging powers” (e.g. China, India, Brazil, South Africa), but also by a host of transnational actors and institutions. Despite the uncertainty and risks caused by any power diffusion, the shared need for confronting common global challenges offers opportunities for new forms of multilateral cooperation in which emerging actors play a central role.

The Chair creates a collaborative research, teaching and training framework to study the nexus between transnational challenges and emerging nations, and help scholars and policymakers from the emerging nations to better understand and respond to these challenges.

Major Themes:

The Chair is concerned principally with five issues:

- *Concepts and Approaches:* Ideas and approaches to global and transnational governance.
- *Human Insecurity and Non-Traditional Threats:* The nature and impact of transnational threats, e.g. climate change, financial crises, pandemics, human trafficking etc., and responding to them with the help of emerging nations.
- *Multilateralism and Diffusion of Power:* The role of emerging forums, especially the G-20, and how they reshape North-South relations.
- *Governing Regional Worlds:* The role of regional institutions in the management of transnational issues.
- *Ideas and the Unity of Civilizations:* History tells us that civilizations do not necessarily clash, but learn and benefit from each other. How to translate these lessons into concrete policy tools to arrest the perceptions of a clash of civilizations?

Host Institution:

The Chair and TRANSCEND are based at the School of International Service (SIS) at American University, Washington, D.C., one of the most internationally-oriented among American schools of international studies. Its location in the US capital facilitates networking with both developed and developing countries as well as with key multilateral institutions.

Networking:

The Chair collaborates with individuals and institutions all over the world in conducting and disseminating research and organizing seminars, conferences, study visits, lectures by the UNESCO Chair, and capacity-building activities. Some of the institutions which have collaborated with the UNESCO Chair and TRANSCEND since 2011 are:

1. Center for International Politics, Law and Organization, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
2. China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, China
3. Center for Non-Traditional Security and Peaceful Development, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China
4. Department of Political Science and Global Governance Program, Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan
5. Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, Indonesia
6. Chula Global Initiative, and the ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
7. Department of Geopolitics, Manipal University, India
8. Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, India
9. Graduate School of International Studies Yonsei University, Republic of Korea
10. Department of Political Science, University Pretoria, South Africa
11. Departamento de Ciencia Política, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
12. Department of Political Science and International Studies, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina
13. United Nations University Center for Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), Bruges, Belgium
14. Centre for Advanced Security Theory (CAST), University of Copenhagen, Denmark
15. The Orient Center for Studies & Cultural Dialogue-OCSCD, Amman, Jordan
16. Centre for International Peace and Security Studies/Centre d' études sur la paix et la sécurité internationale (CIPSS), University de Montreal McGill University, Canada
17. Department of Political Science, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey
18. Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh
19. Center for International Security Studies, University of Sydney, Australia
20. Asian Dialogue Society, Bangkok, Thailand
21. Madhyam Foundation, Orissa, India
22. Department of International Relations and European Studies, Central European University, Hungary
23. Department of International Relations and European Studies, Central European University, Hungary
24. German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
25. Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana
26. Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
27. International Organizations Research Institute, National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow, Russian Federation
28. Global Governance Programme, European University Institute, Italy
29. Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw, Poland
30. National University of Vietnam (University of Social Sciences and Humanities)
31. Graduate School of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan
32. The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland, USA
33. Department of Political and International Relations, Rhodes University, South Africa
34. Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Macau, Macau, China

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