

# Speakers

Second Una Europa Talk

2 November 2021, 16.30 CET

Live Panel Discussion on YouTube



## Welcome - Günter M. Ziegler

started his studies at LMU Munich. He received his PhD in Mathematics at M.I.T. in 1987. Since 1995, he has been a Professor of Mathematics at Technische Universität Berlin, and then from 2011 at The Freie Universität Berlin, where since 2018 he has served as the President. He is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, of the German National Academy Leopoldina, and of the German Academy of Engineering Sciences acatech. He has received numerous awards, including a DFG Leibniz prize, an ERC Advanced Grant, the Communicator Award, and the Berlin Science Prize of the Governing Mayor of Berlin.



## Moderator - Jan-Martin Wiarda

Dr Jan-Martin Wiarda, born in 1976, is a freelance journalist and blogger for education and science. From January 2013 to July 2015, he was Head of Communications and Media and Press Spokesperson of the Helmholtz Association. From 2004 to 2012, Wiarda was editor and most recently deputy head of the education department "Chancen" of the weekly newspaper "DIE ZEIT". He studied political science, economics and sociology in Munich, attended the German School of Journalism there and then transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, where he continued his journalism studies.



## Panellist - Doris Alexander

is Associate Director of European Engagement, Trinity College Dublin, and Project Management Team CHARM-EU European Universities Alliance.

Doris established Trinity College's Research Development Office in 1994 and together with previous researcher experience, has a history of interaction with the EC Research Framework Programme (both policy and project level) dating back to Framework 2. Coupled with experience of other EU programmes, Doris is an EU policy and strategy expert who drove the successful development, implementation and delivery of the University's first in-depth Research Diversification Strategy. Doris took up post as the Associate Director of European Engagement in 2019 and is responsible for, the development of strategies of engagement with the Horizon Europe and Erasmus Programmes. She was one of the principal writers of the CHARM-EU European Universities application and, subsequent to that, of its R&I top up project, TORCH. She developed a document around incorporating environmental sustainability in Horizon Europe and Erasmus projects and has an interest in how Universities can contribute to a more sustainable future. She is the Principal investigator on a national grant (Enterprise Ireland) focussed on driving out more Arts Humanities and Social science engagement in the EC Framework programme.

She is also currently on the steering group of the European Research Projects Managers Group of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and is on the management team for CHARM-EU and represents that alliance on the R&I subgroup of the FOR-EU informal network. Doris served on the board of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) and is now linked to their Horizon Europe working group. She has also represented Ireland on the Expert Group of Member states on the Horizon Europe/Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement. She was a Vice WG lead in the recently concluded INTREPID EU COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) action which focussed on interdisciplinarity. Doris holds a BA (Hons) in Mathematical Science and an MSc in Computer Science (Health informatics) from Trinity College.



### Panellist - Soledad Garcia Ferrari

is a professor in Global Urbanism and Resilience at the University of Edinburgh. Professionally qualified in Architecture and Urbanism in Uruguay, her research focuses on current processes of urban development and regeneration in Latin America and Europe. Soledad has extensive expertise in sustainable planning in growing Latin American cities, with a focus on community-empowerment, participatory and co-creation processes in the production and management of the built environment, with particular interest in increasing resilience and adaptation to climate change. She is currently leading research focused on community-led climate change-related risk management in Mexico and Colombia. She taught in the Faculty of Architecture in Montevideo, the University of Seville and was invited speaker to the School of Architecture, CEU in Madrid. She is currently Dean International for the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and Dean for Latin America and Director of the Centre for Contemporary Latin American Studies at the University of Edinburgh.



### Panellist - Aleksandra Lis

is a PhD student in cultural studies and prepares her second dissertation in cultural studies at Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie. She already holds PhD in management. Her fields of interest include Higher Education management, governance and academic culture. In the years 2010 – 2014 she worked in the Jagiellonian University Centre for Research on Higher Education. She has participated in national and European projects focused on different educational levels: higher education, vocational education and training, validation of prior learning. She is experienced in different kind of national and international projects dedicated to education, as well as cooperation with European agencies, such as Cedefop and national institutions – Regional Labour Office and Educational Research Institute. Currently she is engaged in the activities of the Future University Lab project—a joint initiative UNA Europa alliance and the Jagiellonian University, aiming at exploring the future challenges of higher education in Europe.



## Panellist- Verena Blechinger Talcott

is Vice President for International Affairs and Professor of Japanese Politics and Political Economy at Freie Universitaet Berlin. She studied Political Science, Japanese Studies and Law in Munich, Kyoto and Tokyo. She received her M.A. in Japanese Studies in 1991 and her PhD in Political Science in 1997, both from Munich University. After postdoctoral research as Advanced Research Fellow in the Program on US-Japan Relations at Harvard University, she was Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Hamilton College, Clinton (NY). In 2004, she joined the faculty of Freie Universitaet Berlin. At Freie Universitaet Berlin, she was Dean of the Department of History and Cultural Studies (2007-2011) and a member of the Academic Senate (2013-2018). In 2018, she was elected and appointed Vice President for International Affairs at Freie Universitaet Berlin. She has written and edited several books and numerous articles on Japanese politics, international relations and political economy.