



United Nations
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UNESCO Chair in Studies of
the Philosophic Foundations of
Justice in Democratic Society

UQAM

Université
du Québec à Montréal
(Canada)

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UNESCO Chair in Studies of the Philosophic Foundations of Justice in Democratic Society

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Chairholder:

Josiane Boulad-Ayoub

Mission

When it was officially created in 1999, this UNESCO Chair in Philosophy was the eighth Chair established as part of UNESCO's global network of Philosophy Chairs, and was also the first in North America to be recognized by UNESCO in the field of philosophy. Its work is grounded in political philosophy and the philosophy of law from an interdisciplinary perspective and is designed to address the various facets of the founding mandate of UNESCO's Philosophy Chairs, namely: to play a leadership and mobilizing role around unifying themes that illustrate, uphold and share with as many people as possible, the nature and importance of critical thinking and philosophical reflection, as well as their ethical, political and social effects.

Activities

Its activities are divided into five components:

- (i) a cycle of lectures, workshops and noon-hour debates;
- (ii) international and national symposia, symposia for philosophy students, and World Philosophy Day;
- (iii) publications of the Chair's work – three collections to date (PUL);
- (iv) reports for UNESCO, Canada-wide surveys, website, a virtual forum providing input for international discussion, three seminars and virtual courses offered in an open educational resource format, and;
- (v) hosting and supervising post-doctoral students and both senior and junior researchers.

Partners

The UNITWIN program, from which the Chair benefits, is designed to facilitate research and exchange among UQAM's philosophy team, master's and PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and the scientific community of researchers around the world, and to develop the Chair's mandates, objectives and specific research areas. As a centre for excellence in a North-South axis within this network, the Chair works with the community of philosophy in Africa and Latin America. In Canada, the Chair collaborates with several research centres and NGOs that share a common interest in the field's practices and concerns.