



Seminar

Karen Hallberg and Maurizio Bona

Science, peace, and security from the scientists, and citizens, perspectives

Thursday 29th May 2025, 16:30h - Room A101

Abstract: international security and peace are very serious concerns in these days full of conflicts and marked by unpredictable political, economic and social changes. The role science can play in such a tensed global scenario is a complex one. Beside the contribution it can give to promoting dialogue and peace, it can also make available knowledge and instruments that may be used to offend, ranging from application of AI for new kinds of armaments to the development of even more destructive nuclear weapons. Since its creation the Pugwash institution, which earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995, is very active to “*develop and support the use of scientific, evidence-based policymaking, focusing on areas where nuclear and mass destruction weapons risks are present*”. Participating remotely via videoconference, Karen Hallberg, the present Secretary General of Pugwash, will present an overview of Pugwash’s action, with focus on the most critical topics the organization is presently dealing with and on the solutions it proposes to reduce global security threats and the danger of armed conflicts. The presentation is in the context of the course “*Sciences, diplomacy and policymaking for a sustainable future*” given by Maurizio Bona, who will initiate and moderate a dialogue with Karen Hallberg after her presentation, with the participation of the audience.



Karen Hallberg is the Secretary General of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. She is a physicist at the Bariloche Atomic Center and Professor of Physics at the Balseiro Institute. She received the 2019 L’Oreal-UNESCO International Award for Women in Science. She is a member of the Latin American Academy of Sciences and a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Councils on the Future of Quantum Economy and Next-Generation Computing.



Maurizio Bona is an expert in scientific diplomacy and a promoter of initiatives aimed at enhancing the role of science, technology and STEM education for the good of society. He spent his entire career at CERN, where he was an advisor to the Director General, responsible for relations with international organizations, and CERN’s representative at the UN General Assemblies. He was Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development.