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**International Association of Universities / Palgrave Macmillan Ltd & COPERNICUS Alliance
Prizes in Higher Education Policy Research**

**2016-17 Essay Competition Theme &
Call for papers for special issue of the peer-reviewed
[Higher Education Policy Journal](#)**

**“Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development:
A New Academic Discipline?”**

Thanks to, and in partnership with, Palgrave Macmillan Ltd., publisher of the Association’s research and reference works, the **International Association of Universities (IAU)** and **COPERNICUS Alliance (CA)** are pleased to draw your attention to the 2016-2017 **IAU/Palgrave and CA Prizes in Higher Education Policy Research**.

The aim of the two Prizes are to promote research in the field of higher education policy by recognizing outstanding work on **Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development: A New Academic Discipline?** by two scholars: one from IAU and one from **CA Member Institutions or Organisations**.

The Prize theme is linked to those adopted for the [CA Annual Conference 2016](#) and the [IAU 15th General Conference](#) which took place in Vienna in September and in Bangkok in November 2016, respectively.

Sustainable development has been adopted as a concept on, and with which universities and other higher education institutions work ever since 1993. The understandings and initiatives ‘sustainable development education and research’ cover fall under a variety of ‘categories’ including leadership, management and institutional development; campus initiatives; education, curriculum and professional development; research; business and community outreach; student engagement.

Today much of the attention of members of the academic teaching and research community and university administration focuses on ways to assess and measure the integrating of sustainable development in HE on the one hand, and on the other hand, on the development of sustainability science as a new academic discipline which is to point the way to a sustainable global society by responding to challenges that existing disciplines need to address jointly.

Sustainability Science explores interactions between global, social, and human systems, the complex mechanisms that lead to the degradation of these systems, and bring risks to human well-being. It creates a transdisciplinary academic structure and discovery process that connects the **natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities**.

The IAU and CA contribute to promoting a comprehensive approach to understanding higher education and research for sustainable development and encourage research and analysis in this direction.

The research-based essays may take the form of an analytical case study, an analysis of trends, provide an overview of relevant policies or offer the results of impact assessment. They may also look at

research projects, innovations they aim at bringing about, showcase good-practice or evaluate/analyse institutional policies or approaches to strengthen higher education and research for sustainable development.

Please note that submissions must be research- and analysis-based; articles that are purely descriptive will not be retained.

The **IAU/Palgrave and CA Prizes, valued at €2,000 each**, is awarded to the two most outstanding essays received from one researcher/scholar from an [IAU Member Institution or Organization](#) and one researcher from [COPERNICUS Alliance](#). The essays should not exceed 7,500 words in length; they should be written in English and be submitted in electronic format (MS Word) following the author instructions for IAU's research journal, [Higher Education Policy Journal](#).

An international jury of distinguished scholars and higher education leaders will review the essays submitted and select the most deserving entry. The winning lead authors will be invited to the IAU Conference 2018 or the Copernicus Alliance Conference 2018, where the prize will be awarded.

The results will be widely disseminated by the Association and the Alliance. As well they will be submitted for publication in the IAU peer reviewed Journal [Higher Education Policy](#)

Timeline:

- Submission of abstracts (max 500 words plus references) by: **31 May 2017**
- Authors whose abstracts are retained will be notified no later than **15 June 2017**
- Deadline for final submission: **15 September 2017**

Please send all queries and abstracts to:

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