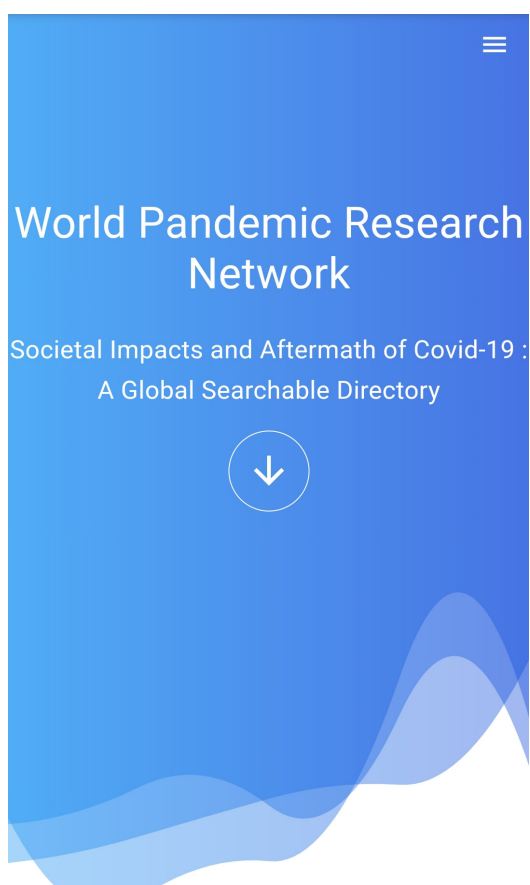


December 2020

## Nine months after the launch of WPRN: New Look, New Functionalities !

The World Pandemic Research Network is a global searchable directory on societal impacts and aftermath of covid-19. Created in April 2020, it offers an infrastructure serving research communities based on both crowdsourcing and the mobilization of distributed referent expertise. It documents in real time what is being done in the world, allows everyone to record their resources (research projects, calls for proposals, surveys, seminars, etc.), but also to know who is doing what and where, and to get in touch with the relevant researchers. **Over 800 projects and initiatives are now registered on [wprn.org](https://wprn.org) database that benefits just recently from majors changes and improvements !**



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### New Functionalities For all

- > **A new look** : Dark mode or light mode for the eyes, and an easier navigation
- > A much **more responsive search tool** to discover in detail all the initiatives researchers are interested in.
- > The new WPRN offers researchers the ability of **creating an alert** to be warned when other initiatives similar to theirs are registered on the platform.
- > A **ranking system of projects** based on popularity metrics.
- > Featured projects promote outstanding projects for a short period of time to ensure that great initiatives are made visible to everyone
- > Contributors have now the facility to inform more clearly their whole team behind a project when they register an initiative.
- > New **resources** : some analysis of the database are gathered into thematic notes reporting on **key societal issues**.

### For referents specifically

Referents are senior scientists whose task is to filter and verify projects before registration. Their interface and the validation procedure has been reshaped and simplified entirely.

## What is WPRN?

At a time when the world is facing a major health challenge, the Natural and Life Sciences are mobilizing to find vaccines and remedies. At the same time, and without further delay, the Social Sciences and Humanities have moved to the forefront to help our societies face the wave of socio-economic crisis that follows. This mobilization, because it is unprecedented, needs new resources to coordinate, new formats to build, reflexivity to learn from our successes and our mistakes in view of the next crises. The World Pandemic Research Network (WPRN) through its platform [wprn.org](http://wprn.org) contributes to meeting these needs.

WPRN offers an infrastructure serving research communities based on both crowdsourcing and the mobilization of distributed referent expertise. It documents in real time what is being done in the world. It allows everyone to record their resources (research projects, calls for proposals, surveys, seminars, etc.), but also to know who is doing what and where, and to get in touch with the relevant managers.

WPRN differs from other initiatives by the priority given to the human and social sciences, the robustness of its infrastructure anchored in the cloud and because it mobilizes an international and interdisciplinary network of «referents» who sort the projects, providing a first level scientific edition. Partner institutions may mark projects with the «coat of arms» of their cognitive authority.

WPRN allows the sharing of data, questionnaires, hypotheses in real time - while maintaining the intellectual property (authorship) system of tracking and accountability. It creates the conditions for accelerating «good» research and the emergence of new collaborative research formats.

## Who is behind WPRN?

Initiated by the Paris Institute for Advanced Study and the RFIEA Foundation, WPRN has already received support from the International Academic Union, which federates some 100 Academies in the humanities and social sciences in more than 60 countries, the European and global networks of Institutes of Advanced Studies NETIAS and UBIAS, the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH), the International Panel for Social Progress (IPSP) and the International Science Council (ISC).

WPRN also benefits from the generous support of the French ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

## Members of the scientific board

### A Scientific Board of 15 leading personalities in the human and social sciences

**Nadia Al-Bagdadi** Professor, Central European University ; Director, Central European University Institute for Advanced Study; Chair, Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (Netias)

**Pascale Allotey** Director, International Institute for Global Health, United Nations University

**Raouf Boucekine** Professor, Aix Marseille School of Economics ; Director, Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research

**Olivier Bouin** Director, RFIEA Foundation, President, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities, Coordinator, International Panel on Social Progress

**Ama de Graft Aikins** British Academy Global Professor, University College London - Institute for Advanced Study

**Marc Fleurbaey** Professor, Princeton University

**Uichol Kim** Professor, Inha University

**Saadi Lahlou** Professor, London School of Economics; Director, Paris Institute for Advanced Study

**Vivian Lin** Professor, Hong Kong University

**Michal Linial** Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Nora Lustig** Professor, Tulane University; Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution ; Senior Fellow, Inter-American Dialogue

**Helga Nowotny** Professor, ETH Zurich; founder and former President, European Research Council

**Guilherme Ary Plonski** Professor, University of São Paulo (USP); Director, Institute of Advanced Studies (IEA-USP); Coordinator, University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS)

**Elisa Reis**, Professor, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ); Vice-President of the International Science Council; Chair, Interdisciplinary Research Network for the Study of Social Inequality (NIED)

**Xiaobo Zhang** Professor, Beijing University; Senior Fellow, IFPRI-Washington DC

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