

Workbook for hubs

NOBEL PRIZE TEACHER SUMMIT 2025

An online programme with a mix of short lectures, interviews and discussions

NOBEL PRIZE TEACHER SUMMIT 2025

The Future of Democracy

There are almost always alternatives. But when it comes to organising society, democracy – with its flaws and downsides – is still the best option for ensuring the freedom and rights of people.

When facing the challenges of our time, the role of teachers is crucial. How do we teach about democracy, trust and critical thinking? What skills do young people need to become informed participants in shaping and safeguarding a democratic society?

This workbook is a tool for you to use along with the recorded version of the summit. It is divided into chapters to facilitate discussions after each talk.

More material from the speakers can be found at https://nobelprizemuseum.se/en/28-march-in-stockholm/

We hope you enjoy it!



MARIA RESSA Nobel Peace Prize, 2021

Safeguarding Journalism

Interview 25 minutes

- 1. How can you help students understand how social media works? Including the addictive side and the scrolling.
- 2. Do you talk to your students about why facts are important? (Shared reality)
- 3. Are your students aware of the consequences of social media, when it comes to the rapid spread of lies, particularly when it is laced with anger and hate?
- 4. Do you have examples of how to encourage students to learn basic skills, like writing by hand, when they think it is a struggle or not necessary? ("You cannot outsource going to the gym")

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STAFFAN LINDBERG Professor of political science and Director of the V-Dem Institute

How Autocratisation is Threatening Our World

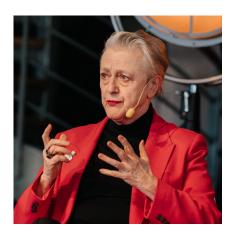
Lecture 15 minutes

Most of us are probably aware that the world is in a period of democratic recession, or what the academic literature refers to as a "third wave of autocratisation". Recent developments add to these worries. But what do the data say about the trends for democracy and autocracy in the world today?

Professor Staffan Lindberg, Director of the V-Dem Institute, presents his team's latest analyses based on over 31 million datapoints on democracy and human rights across the world and where we are heading.

- 1. Do your students know the difference between democracy and autocracy?
- 2. Do you and your colleagues talk about how the autocratisation wave in the world is affecting your country and possibly also your school and your teaching?
- 3. How can you help students recognise signs of autocratisation?
- 4. How do you understand Staffan's words "Democracy dies with the lies"?

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BERIT REISS-ANDERSEN

Lawyer, Author and former Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee

Awarding Democracy

Interview 15 minutes

The Nobel Peace Prize has always led to discussions. And sometimes to diplomatic consequences. A hero to some is an enemy to others. So how do you stand firm in awarding those who work against powerful regimes? Does it even make a difference to award the prize to one single person who is imprisoned for his or her opinions?

Berit Reiss-Andersen, former chair of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, talks with Carin Klaesson about why it can be so provocative to award the prize to people who work for democracy.

- Berit points out that "Freedom of speech" is a cornerstone in a democracy. How do you teach about freedom of speech in your class? Its potential can be used for different purposes, for example to change a regime or spread lies and cause polarisation.
 What are the limitations to the freedom of speech?
- 2. Another cornerstone Berit mentions is the rule of law.

 Do you have examples of how to teach about the rule of law?

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VIRGINIA DIGNUM
Professor of Responsible AI at Umea University

Al: Responsibility in a Changing World

Lecture 10 minutes

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way we work, learn and connect. From chatbots to creative tools, AI can be a powerful helper – but it also raises important questions. Will it replace jobs? Can we trust it to be fair? Who is responsible for making sure that AI benefits everyone?

In her talk, Virginia Dignum, Professor of Responsible AI at Umeà University in Sweden, explores how we can shape AI to serve society – not just corporations or technology experts.

- 1. In which different ways is AI used in your school? Think about the entire school, and different systems.
- 2. How these systems are built and used affects real people especially students (for example grading tools, learning apps, student support systems). As educators, you play a key role in reflecting and exploring values, for example by asking:
 - Is the technology fair and transparent?
 - Does it support all learners equitably?
 - Who gets to decide how AI is used in your classroom or school?
 Practice making choices when values conflict.
- 3. How do we help students understand what AI can and cannot do? We are in control of AI. AI needs to be combined with our human abilities to be able to solve problems. It doesn't happen by itself.

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ÀSA WIKFORSS Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at Stockholm University

Democracy and Knowledge

Lecture 10 minutes

Democracy depends on knowledgeable citizens. We need knowledge to hold our politicians accountable, to solve societal challenges and to have a well-functioning public debate. This is why education lies at the foundation of a democratic society. This talk outlines the central threats to knowledge in the new information landscape and the challenges it raises for democracy.

Åsa Wikforss is a Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at Stockholm University and the author of books on democracy and the post-truth condition.

- 1. What do your students know about the strengths and vulnerabilities of a democracy?
- 2. What does Asa mean by the "truth crisis"?
- 3. How do you teach students about what characterises reliable sources? For example: why should students trust science?
- 4. How do we encourage students to open-mindedly try to understand people who are different from ourselves.

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Professor of Responsible AI

ASA WIKFORSS

Professor of Theoretical Philosophy

VIRGINIA DIGNUM

Knowledge, Al and Democracy

Conversation 20 minutes

In this conversation, Virginia Dignum and Asa Wikforss speak with moderator Gustav Källstrand about the challenges and opportunities presented in their talks. Can we see a way to make AI into a tool that helps us educate more knowledgeable citizens? Is this even possible, and if so, do we know what it would take?

- 1. In which way can AI be an opportunity in teaching?
- 2. In which way can AI be a risk in teaching?

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DARON ACEMOGLU Economic Sciences Prize, 2024

Can Democracy Rise Up to Expectations?

Pre-recorded video 5 minutes

Daron Acemoglu received the Economic Sciences Prize in 2024 (together with Simon Johnson and James Robinson) for his work on the importance of inclusive institutions, such as democracy, for the wealth of nations.

Questions to discuss:

Acemoglu mentions the lower trust in democracy among younger people.

- 1. What do you know about the students' trust and view of democracy at your school?
- 2. How can your teaching be adapted to have an even greater impact on the specific students at your school?

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JOHN HASSLER Professor of Economics at the Institute for International Economic Studies at Stockholm University

Learning and Well-Being

Interview 20 minutes

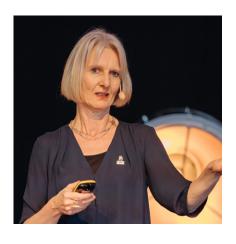
Wealth doesn't lead to democracy – democracy leads to wealth. At least according to Daron Acemoglu and his colleagues, who through historical analyses of rich and poor countries have shown that the welfare of nations depends on the historical developments of their institutions.

Professor John Hassler, a member of the committee that selects the laureates in Economic Sciences, talks to moderator Gustav Källstrand about how the laureates reached their conclusions and why we should believe them.

Questions to discuss:

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1. What did you as a teacher learn about the causal relationship between the welfare of nations and democracy?



CLADUIA LENZ
Professor of Social Science at MF Norwegian School of Theology

Strengthening Democratic Culture by Building Democratic Competences

Lecture 20 minutes

Democracy is more than political structures and procedures – in order to be sustainable and robust, it requires active participation. How can education help build such a democratic culture, starting in the classroom?

In this lecture, Claudia Lenz will introduce the Council of Europe Reference Framework *Competence for Democratic Culture*, its conceptual basis and elements.

- 1. What are your thoughts on the different competences that are required for a democratic culture, according to the framework of the European Council?
- 2. How do you as a teacher strengthen these competences? Give examples of what you do and which competences that are in focus?
- 3. Do you as teachers have a common vision of how you are modelling and teaching about this?
- 4. Can the framework being presented be of help at your school?

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MARIA WETTERSTRAND

Former politician and Spokesperson for the Green Party in Sweden, Consultant on Strategic Sustainability and EU Affairs

Ideology and Reality – Making Visions Come True

Interview 15 minutes

Sustainability is a straightforward goal, but the path to achieving it is not simple. In this interview, Maria Wetterstrand – former spokesperson of the Swedish Green Party and now a consultant in sustainable development – shares her insights on the intersection of politics, science and decision-making. How can democratic processes ensure informed and effective action on sustainability while balancing diverse interests and expertise?

- 1. How can you help students see many perspectives on complex issues?
- 2. How can you let the students practice informed discussions and decision making in the class? Making sure it is not only the loudest voices that are being heard.

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ADAM TAAL Artist and entrepreneur

Leisure as a Way to Societal Commitment

Interview and musical performance 15 minutes

How can art, leisure and social responsibility intersect to promote democracy? In what ways can leisure activities contribute to strengthening communities and inspiring future generations? Adam Taal and Pontus Thunblad discuss how creative pursuits can serve as platforms for community engagement and empowerment and how personal passions can evolve into initiatives with broader societal impact.

Adam Taal is a legend in Swedish hip-hop. He has a strong commitment to social issues and is the founder of Katarina Cup, Sweden's first table tennis and music festival for youth.

1. How can arts and humanities in school help promote democracy?

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LEYMAH GBOWEE Nobel Peace Prize, 2011

Changing the World

Interview 25 minutes

How do you fight violent factions to stop a civil war? Leymah Gbowee and the movement Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace didn't fight. Instead of getting into the war and "fighting" it, they created a non-violent method that forced all violent factions to negotiate peace.

In 2011 Leymah Gbowee received the Nobel Peace Prize for her "...non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work." In this interview, Leymah Gbowee tells Carin Klaesson about how a group of women changed the world.

Questions to discuss:

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- 1. What do you think is the most empowering with Leymah Gbowee's story? How can you use that in the teaching with your students?
- 2. How can you help students develop conflict resolution skills?

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Find more at:

<u>nobelprizemuseum.se/en</u>

<u>nobelprize.org/educational</u>