

MESSAGE OF SIR FRASER STODDART – PRESIDENT OF THE WCC – 38TH AWARD CEREMONY, UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, 3 NOVEMBER 2023

Honourable Rector of the University of Helsinki, Sari Lindblom, Mr. Enrique Rojo, Mexican Ambassador to Finland, 2023 laureates: Professors Christoph Gerber and Larry Hedges, ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to begin my salutatory address by expressing my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the World Cultural Council, absolutely no holds barred, to the University of Helsinki, its director Sari Lindblom, other university dignitaries, its officials, and its authorities, for their warm hospitality and, finally, the academic staff and students of the University of Helsinki for hosting this year's celebrations.

We are gathered here together to add two outstanding role models to the pantheon of all-time WCC awardees: eminent physicist and nanotechnologist, Professor Christoph Gerber, from the University of Basel in Switzerland, and Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics, Education and Social Policy, Larry Hedges, from Northwestern University in the United States.

Professor Gerber receives the World Cultural Council 2023 Albert Einstein Award in Science for the fundamental nature and broad impact of his research on nanoscale science extending over the past four decades.

Professor Hedges is the recipient of the World Cultural Council 2023 José Vasconcelos Award in Education, for his groundbreaking and systemic applications of research related to the development of methods of meta-analysis over the past four decades. Congratulations to both laureates. The laureates presented lectures at the university's Think Corner yesterday afternoon.

I offer congratulations also to the eight Special Recognition recipients who will be honoured by the World Cultural Council at this Award Ceremony. Congratulations in advance to all of you, as well as to your family and friends, for working on a mission with a vision and commitment to a brighter future here, there, and everywhere. Thank you all!