

PROFESSOR GRETCHEN KALONJI

Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences,
UNESCO



Professor Gretchen Kalonji assumed the position of Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO effective 1 July 2010. Prior to joining UNESCO, Professor Kalonji served in various leadership roles at the University of California, including as Director of International Strategy Development at the UC Office of the President, where her responsibility was to lead in the design and implementation of the first coordinated and comprehensive international strategy for the ten-campus UC system, and as Director of Systemwide Research Development. Professor Kalonji came to the UC from the University of Washington, where she served as Kyocera Professor of Materials Science from 1990–2005. Prior to joining UW, she served as Assistant and Associate Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT, where she earned her BSc degree in 1980 and her PhD in 1982. Professor Kalonji's areas of materials science expertise include symmetry constraints on the structure and properties of crystalline defects, phase transformations, and microstructural evolution. She also has extensive experience in innovations in science and engineering education, as well as in new models for international research collaboration. Her work, both in materials science and in research and educational innovation, has been recognized with multiple honours and awards. She holds or has held visiting faculty appointments at the Max Planck Institute (Stuttgart), the University of Paris, Tohoku University, Sichuan University, Tsinghua University, and the newly established Peking University Graduate School in Shenzhen.