

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE

Thursday 18 November 2021, from 11:30 to 22:00 (according CET)

(virtual Zoom platform:

online from Paris, Amsterdam, Bangkok, Islamabad, Manila, Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut, Abuja, Bamako, Dakar, Harare, Lomé, Nairobi, Pretoria, Brasília, Bogota, Buenos-Aires, Mexico, Montevideo, Rio-de-Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, Quebec...)

On Thursday 18 November 2021, on the occasion of World Philosophy Day 2021, a global online event “Philosophy Around the World – Worldwide Philosophical Relay-Race” will be held from **11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (according to CET)** to celebrate philosophy in all parts of our planet with the overall theme of *intercultural philosophy for peace and sustainability in the time of crisis*. It will comprise two plenary opening and closing sessions and five regional webinars organized in all UNESCO’s regions – Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe/North America and Latin America and the Caribbean. All regions will take turn to deliver interactive sessions and to pass the philosophical baton to the next region to reflect on the role of philosophy in helping make sense of the modern world and in finding solutions to the complex global challenges of today.

This ‘Worldwide Philosophical Relay-Race’ is the first event of its kind, it is a real ‘bottom-up’ event, organized by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) and the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), whose members determined the topics, the speakers and also are actively involved in the discussion.

The event is supported by the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, Science & Technology Ethics Commission, Quebec, Canada, Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section, the UNESCO Office in Montevideo/Regional Bureau for Science and the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut. It is held also in co-operation with the SHS Research, Policy and Foresight Section and UNESCO Field Offices in Abuja, Bangkok, Dakar, Harare, and Nairobi. This relay is held as side event to the 41st session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

11:30 – 12:00 (according to CET)

- **The Worldwide Philosophical Relay-Race will be launched** from UNESCO Headquarters by Ms Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, Ms Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands (*tbc*), and the initiators of this event Prof. Peter-Paul Verbeek, Chairperson of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), and Mr Hervé Chneiweiss, Chairperson of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC).

12:00 – 13:30 (according to CET)

- **The Asia and the Pacific Regional Webinar on the theme of "Science, Indigenous Knowledge, and the Pandemic"** will focus on the roles that science and indigenous belief systems play during the time of the pandemic.

14:00– 15:30 (according to CET)

- **The Arab States Regional Webinar on the theme of “Religion and Enlightenment in Times of Crisis: A Relation of Continuity or Discontinuity? Exemplified in Inequality between Man and Woman”** will debate around the reasons of inequalities between women and men from three different points of view with regard to the role of religion in social life that is looking at the religious principles either as an obstacle of, or the source of, or has nothing to do with, solving such social issues.

16:00 – 17:30 (according to CET)

- **The webinar in Africa on the theme of “Covid and Endogenous Responses: philosophical perspectives” (16:00 – 17:30 according to CET)** will share the experiences on how local traditions could contribute to the fight against the pandemic.

18:00 – 19:30 (according to CET)

- **The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Webinar on the theme of “Philosophy in Times of Social Crisis”** will reflect on the questions of ‘How philosophy understands the crisis that Latin America and the Caribbean is going through?’ ‘What role do philosophers play or must play to face of this crisis?’ and ‘How can philosophy contribute to strengthening democracy and, in particular, intercultural democracy in the region?’

20:00 – 21:30 (according to CET)

- **The Europe and North America Regional Webinar on the theme of “Epistemological, Social and Ethical Issues of Interdisciplinarity and the Plurality of Knowledge” (20:00 – 21:30 according to CET)** will underline the role of cross-sectoral thinking able to link various sets of knowledge and expertise in dealing with the contemporary challenges such as environmental crisis, pandemics and social inequities.

21:30 – 22:00 (according to CET)

The closing ceremony of the event will be held from 21:30 to 22:00 with the participation of Leon Heuts, editor-in-chief of NEMO Kennislink in Amsterdam, who will take the baton of the Philosophical Relay-Race for its final stage. **On Friday 19 November 2021, the “Thinking Planet’ international philosophy festival”**, supported jointly by UNESCO and the Netherlands, will be held at the NEMO Science Museum in Amsterdam and will be the culminating moment of the philosophical relay-race around the world.

With support of and in co-operation with:

- ❖ Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO
- ❖ Science & Technology Ethics Commission, Quebec, Canada
- ❖ Human Sciences Sector (SHS) Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section,
 - ❖ UNESCO Office in Montevideo/Regional Bureau for Science
 - ❖ UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut

In co-operation with:

- UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector Research, Policy and Foresight Section
 - UNESCO Field Offices in Abuja, Bangkok, Dakar, Harare, and Nairobi

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 18 November 2021, from 11:30 a.m. to 22:00 (according CET)

Online Zoom platform

11:30 – 12:00 (according to CET)

Opening Session

Greeting addressed by:



GABRIELA RAMOS
Assistant Director-General
for Social and Human
Sciences of UNESCO



**INGRID VAN
ENGELSHOVEN**
Minister of Education,
Culture and Science of the
Netherlands



PETER-PAUL VERBEEK
Chairperson of the World
Commission on the Ethics
of Scientific Knowledge and
Technology (COMEST)



HERVÉ CHNEIWEISS
Chairperson of the
International Bioethics
Committee (IBC)

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE

Thursday 18 November 2021

12:00 – 13:30 (according to CET; Online Zoom platform)

Asia and the Pacific Regional Webinar: "Science, Indigenous Knowledge, and the Pandemic"

The webinar held on the occasion of World Philosophy Day 2021, will focus on the roles that science and indigenous belief systems play during the time of the pandemic. As countries around the world grapple with the problem, the interplay between modern science and indigenous systems has come more visibly to the fore. As the discipline that investigates connections among knowledge and value systems, philosophy is well suited to look at this interplay from the perspectives of the diverse cultural traditions in the region of Asia and the Pacific. The participants will share the experiences on how local traditions could contribute to the fight against the pandemic, as well as what kind of reflections in intercultural ethics could emerge from this investigation. Alert will be launched that extinction of Indigenous languages leads to loss of exclusive knowledge about medicinal plants and indigenous ways of conservation of biodiversity.



Moderator:

- Prof. [Zabta Khan Shinwari](#), Prof. Emeritus, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad Vice Chairman: COMEST, laureate of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2015), Pakistan

After having graduated from the University of Peshawar, he obtained a PhD degree from the Kyoto University in 1994, followed by several post-doctoral fellowships in agricultural biotechnology from several prestigious Japanese Institutions. Having been trained in molecular taxonomy and systematics, Prof. Shinwari identified more than 300 genes of plants, several of which were discovered to be drought, cold weather, and stress tolerant. He published three books documenting the indigenous knowledge about medicinal Plants of Pakistan (Plant wealth of Ayubia National Park, 2002; Medicinal and other useful plants of district Swat-Pakistan, 2003; and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Pakistan (A Pictorial Guide), 2006). He is the author of several hundred scientific publications, which include 9 books, several volumes of edited proceedings of international conferences and more than 400 articles of which the majority were published in high impact factor scientific journals.

He served Pakistan Museum of Natural History, National Agricultural Research Centre, International Organizations like WWF-Pakistan, COMSTECH before his appointment as Vice Chancellor of Kohat University of Science & Technology. One of his major achievements is extension of higher education facilities to the neglected communities of Pakistan especially to female students. He also established University of Science & Technology, Bannu. He is the founder of KUST Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS). Dr. Shinwari also served private sector as CEO of Qarshi Research International and Vice Chancellor/PD Qarshi University-Lahore. He was tenured Professor of Biotechnology and Dean of Faculty of Biological Sciences in Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and President, National Council of Tibb. He also served as Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He received several national and international awards and is laureate of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2015). Currently he is a fellow of the Pakistan academy of sciences and Islamic World academy of Sciences, focal person of Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO-HO, China), 2016-2022; Vice-Chair of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) of UNESCO. Since October 2020, he is Professor Emeritus of Quaid-i-Azam University.

Speakers:



- **Prof. Soraj Hongladarom, Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Center for Science, Technology and Society, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand**

Soraj Hongladarom is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Science, Technology and Society at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. He has published books and articles on such diverse issues as bioethics, computer ethics, and the roles that science and technology play in the culture of developing countries. His concern is mainly on how science and technology can be integrated into the life-world of the people in the so-called Third World countries, and what kind of ethical considerations can be obtained from such relation. A large part of this question concerns how information technology is integrated in the lifeworld of the Thai people, and especially how such integration is expressed in the use of information technology in education. He is the author of *The Ethics of AI and Robotics: A Buddhist Viewpoint* (Rowman and Littlefield), *The Online Self* (Springer) and *A Buddhist Theory of Privacy* (Springer). His articles have appeared in *The Information Society*, *AI & Society*, *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, and *Social Epistemology*, among others.

Ethical Concerns, Technology, and the Pandemic: A Buddhist Reflection: In this brief talk I will focus on what a Buddhist response could be regarding the use of information technology, especially big data analytics, during the time of the pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 all around the globe has given rise to a much more extensive use of information technology to fight the disease in various ways, such as to trace contacts, to analyze patterns, and to construct computational modelling of human mobility, among others. As is usual in this kind of technology, there is a balance that needs to be found between effective public health measures and protection of personal rights such as privacy. As someone from a predominantly Buddhist country, I will look at the issue through the lenses of Buddhist thought and present what could be a contribution to the global dialog on this issue. I will touch upon how Thailand has coped with the pandemic in the talk, and then reflect on what Buddhist ethics does offer in terms of protecting the rights while maintaining effective technological intervention.



- **Prof. Jeremiah Joven Joaquin, Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and the Southeast Asia Research Centre and Hub, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines**

Jeremiah Joven B. Joaquin is a Professor of Philosophy at De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines, where he is also a Research Fellow at the Southeast Asian Research Center and Hub and a Research Affiliate at the Jesse Robredo Institute for Governance. Professor Joaquin specialises in logic and metaphysics and also works in epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of religion, moral philosophy, experimental philosophy, political philosophy, and philosophical issues in public health and gender studies. He is the present President of the Philosophical Association of the Philippines, the founding Secretary-General (and former Summit Chair) of the Union of Societies and Associations of Philosophy in the Philippines. He is a member of the Australasian Association of Philosophy, the Australasian Association for Logic, the Association for Symbolic Logic, the Arthur N. Prior Studies Virtual Lab, and the Sydney School of Realist Mathematics.

(An Update on) the Ethics of Scare: COVID-19 and the Philippines' Fear Appeals (with Hazel T. Biana, Department of Philosophy and the Southeast Asia Research Centre and Hub, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines): COVID-19 took the world by surprise. To date, the virus has already claimed almost 5 million lives and infected more than 240 million people worldwide. To combat the pandemic, most governments have enforced preventive measures such as social distancing and contact-tracing, area-wide lockdowns and curfews, and strong vaccination programmes. To motivate people to follow these measures, some heads of states used what may be characterised as “friendly” strategies in the form of infographics, infomercials, hashtags, and the like. On the other hand, other governments have also resorted to rather extreme tactics, which play on people’s fears to regulate behaviour. In this short talk, I’ll evaluate the ethics of the Philippines’ fear appeals in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Dr. Ching Hung, Assistant Professor, Center for General Education National University of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, PhD, Department of Philosophy, University of Twente, The Netherlands



Ching HUNG, PhD, Department of Philosophy, University of Twente, The Netherlands. He has been trained in different disciplines, including atomic science, history, and sociology. His main research areas are philosophy of technology and STS (science and technology studies), focusing on green design and human behavior. His book *Design for Green: Ethics and Politics for Behavior-Steering Technology* was awarded the Excellent Doctoral Dissertation from the Taiwan STS Association (2020). He currently works as an adjunct assistant professor at the National University of Kaohsiung and Feng Chia University, Taiwan. He is also a columnist writing about the interactions between technology and society for several Taiwanese magazines and newspapers.

Ethics In-between: When you enter any store, restaurant, or even food stand in Taiwan, you will see a QR code sticker for visitors to scan with mobile phones. This is the main contact-tracing measure that the Taiwanese government has taken to fight against the COVID-19 spike since mid-May. Without further large-scale policies such as lockdown, asymptomatic testing, and vaccination, the QR code measure plus face mask-wearing requirement has reduced the number of daily local case to less than ten within three months. Why Taiwanese people are willing to cooperate with these measures and having no worries about privacy and freedom issues, while Taiwan is recognized as a mature democratic society? In this brief presentation, I will explain the situation by pointing out that the current Taiwanese culture is a hybrid between the Western liberalism and the Eastern paternalism.



- Prof. Xiaochun SUN, Professor of History of Science and Dean of School of Humanities, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) in Beijing, China

Xiaochun SUN is Professor of History of Science and Dean of School of Humanities, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) in Beijing. He has been trained in astronomy, history of science and sociology of science, and earned his Ph.D. in History of Astronomy from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1993 and his second Ph.D. in History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007. His co-authored book *The Chinese Sky during the Han* (Leiden: Brill, 1997) presents a reconstruction of the Chinese sky based on his study of the earliest Chinese star catalogue (ca. 100 BC). He has published extensively on the history of Chinese sciences. He served as President of History of Astronomy Commission of International Astronomical Union (IAU), Assessor of International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/ Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPST/DHST), and Council Member of International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH). He is an Effective Member of the International Academy of History of Science (IAHS). Currently he serves as President of Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology (CSHST).

As we are combating the COVID-19 epidemic, looking back into history may help us gain insights into how we should respond to current crisis. The Northern Song China (960-1127) provided a fine historic example. The Northern Song was an era of extraordinary creativity and transformation. It was not just a matter of economic expansion, but of a change of character. The governance of the imperial state was based on the philosophy of Confucianism, or rather, Neo-Confucianism. In the N. Song medicine and health care received unprecedented recognition and support from the state. They were seen as embodying a new way of ruling: a humane-oriented governance. The legitimacy and authority of the government could be proven by its benevolent treatment of its people. The emperors' interest in medicine, echoed by the scholar-officials' ambition of transforming the society, resulted in an unprecedented government activism in the production and dissemination of medical knowledge. This was echoed in the state's responses to epidemics, which included: issuing of imperial edicts to direct actions to be taken, dispatching of medical experts to effected areas, distribution of drugs, issuing of medical formularies, establishment of medical education system, collation, revision and publication of ancient medical texts, compilation of *meteria medica*, establishment of pharmacies and hospitals, and standardization of medical knowledge, etc. These contingent and systematic measures not only enhanced efficacy in the containment of epidemics, but also strengthened political authority of the imperial government. Health care symbolizing the benevolence of the imperial ruler became a part of Confucian ideology or "this culture of ours". The frequent outbreak of epidemics was an important fact that shaped the development of medicine during the Northern Song. In combating epidemics, the Northern Song government organized medical relief programs and dissemination of medical knowledge. There was a conscious effort to fuse social and medical facilities towards a common end: to bring benevolent governance to the people.



- Dr. Madoka Hammine, Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Meio University, Okinawa, Japan

Dr Madoka Hammine is Associate Professor of language education at the Faculty of International Studies at Meio University, in Okinawa, Japan. She obtained her PhD from University of Lapland in Finland in 2020, having defended her PhD thesis on minoritized language education of two contexts, indigenous languages in Finland and in Japan. Her current research interests include heritage language teaching and learning, identities and emotions in language learning, indigenous language education, and language policy.



- Ms Miho Zlazli, PhD Student, SOAS University of London, Japan/United Kingdom

Ms Miho Zlazli is indigenous Ryukyuan researcher, Okinawa, Japan, with interest in pluralistic identity of people who cross visible and invisible boundaries in the public eye. She currently conducts collaborative autoethnography and participatory action research called MAI-Ryukyus (Master-Apprentice Initiative in Ryukyuan languages) with new speakers of Ryukyuan languages from different backgrounds such as people from different Ryukyuan indigenous territories in Japan or Ryukyuan diasporas across the world, incomers who live in Ryukyuan communities, and those who are interested in Ryukyuan languages, based on Leanne Hinton's Master-Apprentice Language Learning Programme. The study explores challenges of language acquisition in the context of non-standardized endangered languages as well as new speakers' attitudes and identities

Language ecology and language endangerment in the context of Ryukyus, Japan: Languages of the Ryukyus are connected to its land and its indigenous knowledge systems. Recently, language attitudes toward Ryukyuan have shifted to positive compared to the past and there are a number of language revitalization movements to reclaim local history and cultures. Using Indigenous Methodologies as approach to these issues, we will share our experiences as new speakers/learners of Ryukyuan languages and discuss possibilities for sustainable language reclamation of our languages and cultures to empower the communities, showing obstacles and unexpected benefits brought by the current pandemic of COVID-19 and highlighting indigenous knowledge linked to Ryukyuan languages.

Chat Moderator:

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE

Thursday 18 November 2021

14:00 – 15:30 (according to CET; Online Zoom platform)

Arab States Regional Webinar

Religion and Enlightenment in Times of Crisis: A Relation of Continuity or Discontinuity? Exemplified in Inequality between Man and Woman

Religion, in the Arab world, is a necessary component of the contemporary Arab world culture since it is an element of the Arab identity in addition to language, customs and traditions. This is evident in the people's everyday life vocabulary expressing their thoughts and behaviour. However, some Arab intellectuals attribute the Arab world underdevelopment to the stick to religion and consider sticking to religion as a way of life and guiding thought as an obstacle to free thought that is necessary for critical thinking in all domains. They see that only in neutralizing religion from our thoughts and life lies the Arab world development. By freeing thoughts from any religious teachings, the Arab world can develop through sticking solely to the human free thought. Other Arab intellectuals see that the Arab world contemporary development lies in their going back to the pure resources of religion (the Quran and Hadith) and depending wholly on them in thinking and behaviour, since it was so that the Arab world developed in the Middle Ages. The third group sees that though the Arab cannot dispense with religion in their thoughts and behaviour, they cannot also ignore the modern civilization (with its principles and products) which dominates the whole world and which the Arab world is part of, affected by its modes and values, and applying in most of their countries, some of its theories (socialism and capitalism) and harvesting wholly the modern civilization's products. Therefore, we need an intellectual frame that determines the role that religion can play in our thought and life, functioning as a momentum towards development and relevant to the modern life so that we do not live alien from the contemporary life.

Forms of inequality between men and women are decreasing in different Arab countries in education, job chances, political rights, rights of inheritance, as many Arab women are increasingly getting their chances in such previously deprived of issues. The laws in many Arab countries are closing the gaps between men and women giving recognition to women's previously lost rights. However, forms of inequality still occur in the Arab mentality and in reality. In clarifying their positions, speakers representing the three groups will debate round the reasons of such inequality and whether sticking to religious principles is the obstacle of, the source of, or has nothing to do with, solving such social issue.



Moderator:

Prof. Bahaa Darwish, Professor of Philosophy, Minia University, Egypt, member of the IBC

Dr. Darwish is a Professor of philosophy, Minia University, Egypt. He participated in numerous conferences covering a wide range of philosophical issues. He published several books and papers, including the most recently published in English: "*Charter of Ethics of Science and Technology in the Arab Region*", UNESCO (2019), *Leaders in Ethics Education, International Journal of Ethics Education* (2017); *Promoting the Future of Bioethics in Global Bioethics: What for?*, UNESCO (2015); *How Effective Can Ethics Education Be* in H.A.M.J. ten Have, (ed.), *Bioethics Education in a Global Perspective, Advancing Global Bioethics*. Volume 4, 2015, Springer; and other publications both in English and Arabic. Since 2006, he has been expert for UNESCO in the field of Ethics of science and technology, participated in founding the *International Association for Education in Ethics* and is member of its Board of Directors since May 2012. Professor Darwish is currently member of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO.

Speakers:



- **Prof. Samia Abdelrahman, Professor of Contemporary Philosophy, Ain Shams University, Egypt**

Samia Abdelrahman Abdelsalam obtained PhD in philosophy from Ain Shams University, Egypt, in 1986, where she is Professor of Contemporary Philosophy and Philosophy of Values with 35 years of teaching experience in various philosophical courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students. She has been supervisor of a number of Master Thesis and PhD degrees, having participated in the evaluation of the relevant research work She is member of the Egyptian Philosophical Society, the Egyptian Philosophical Assembly, Cairo University, the Arabic Language Supporter Assembly and the promotion committee for Associate Professor and Professors' degree in Egypt, Iraq and Republic of Yemen.

Religion and Enlightenment: Continuity or Separation. This problem has two aspects: The first one is related to the definition of religion and Enlightenment and their relationship. Moreover, it discusses whether this relation is congruent or separated or in an in-between state. The second axe is an applicable part that illustrates this double relation from both an enlightening and religious perspectives. It also discusses the inequality and discrimination between man and woman in different fields such as: politics, education, work, health and social relations. How all these aspects affect our Arab society nowadays is also the core reflection of my talk.



- **Prof. Ehsan Ali Al-Haidari, Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, College of Arts, Baghdad University, Iraq**

Dr. Ihsan Ali Al-Haidari holds PhD in Philosophy of Religion from the College of Arts, University of Baghdad, where he is Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics and where he held several administrative positions and is currently the Vice-President of the Education Quality Improvement Council for the Faculties of Arts, Languages and Archaeology. He has published extensively research articles on the philosophy of religion and ethics in various scientific journals. Among his publications are: a book "The Philosophy of Religion in Western Thought", a joint book "Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion", a joint book "Guide to Arabic Terminology in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution", and a joint book "Guide to Program Standards for Improving Education Quality for Faculties of Arts, Languages and Archaeology", a book "Guideline for the Application of the Program Standards of the Education Quality Improvement Council for the Faculties of Arts, Languages and Archaeology", and a book in press "What is Conscience in Moral Philosophy". He is member of several editorial boards of Iraqi and Arab scientific journals, as well as ministerial committees and advisory teams. He supervised many doctoral and master's students, and participated in many international and local conferences, seminars and workshops outside and inside Iraq, as well as panel discussions and training courses, including as lecturer and trainer for civil society institutions.

Reflecting on the role of women during the COVID-19 crisis, it is necessary to stress that both the responsibilities and the burdens placed on women by society due to the specific conditions and social context of the pandemic have substantially increased. Due to this crisis, many women have to leave their jobs because they need to take care of the needs of family members, including children and the elderly, because of quarantine, closure of schools and universities, as well as limited access to health care services for the elderly. There is a big difference of the impact of the pandemic on men and on women, and societies need to understand this in order to find effective solutions.



- **Prof Amal El Fallah, Director, International Center of Artificial Intelligence of Morocco, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Sorbonne University, member of COMEST, Morocco/ France**

Ms Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni is Director of the International Centre of Artificial Intelligence of Morocco, AI movement within the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. She is exceptional class professor at Sorbonne University, Sciences and Engineering, Paris. She holds a Ph.D in computer science from the University Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris 6) and a Habilitation to advise Research (HDR) in Artificial Intelligence. Worldwide expert in Artificial Intelligence, she was elected General Chair of the Best International Conference in the field (AAMAS2020, Auckland-NZ), initiated numerous research projects and developed sustained international collaborations, directed 33 Ph.D. students, published 24 books and over 200 papers. Passionate about ethical issues of emerging technologies, social issues related to ethics, gender, inclusion and social justice, she is a member of the COMEST at UNESCO and nominated for the Berkeley World Business Analytics Awards, in the category "Woman of the Year" - 2021 for the African continent.



- **Prof. Nayla Abi Nader, Professor of Philosophy, Lebanese University, Lebanon**

Ms Nayla Antoine Abi Nader is Professor of Arab Islamic Philosophy at the Lebanese University, researcher on the affairs of contemporary Arab Islamic thought. She holds a PhD degree in Philosophy from the Lebanese University (2005). She is author of several publications and research studies, including: Heritage and Method between Muhammad Arkoun and Muhammad Abed Al-Jabri, Beirut, The Arab Network for Research and Publishing, first edition, 2008; Modern and Contemporary Arab Thought, Critical Models, Center for Religious Philosophers Studies - Baghdad, and Dar al-Tanweer - Beirut, first edition, 2019; Charbel Dagher: Globalization and the Text, Cairo, The Egyptian General Book Organization, in press; Historical and Applied Islams: Reading in Muhammad Arkoun's Critical Approach, Annals magazine, College of Arts and Humanities - Balamand University, No. 12, 2003; Arkoun and the Critical Approach: Stations and Terminology, Study in a Book: Muhammad Arkoun, The Thinker, the Researcher and the Man, a group of researchers, Beirut, Center for Arab Unity Studies, first edition, 2011; Philosophy in the Time of Extremism, Annals, Lebanese National Committee (UNESCO), No. 5, 2016; Language, Thought and Beauty: Research on the Aesthetic Term of Charbel Dagher, published research within the work of the Eighth Philosophical Conference: The Arabic Language between Ideological and Philosophical Speech, Arab Philosophical Union, 2017. She takes part in the activities of several civil society organizations, including the Cultural Movement – Antelias, is member of the Board of Trustees of the "Believers Without Borders" Foundation, member of the Board of Directors of the Lebanese Philosophical Society, etc. She has participated in many seminars on the Cultural Movement-Antelias Forum, all of which are published within the annual publications of the Cultural Movement, and has presented several working papers and lectures at specialized scientific conferences in Lebanon, Jordan and the Maghreb.

Chat Moderator:

Ms Carol Donabedian, Programme Assistant, Social and Human Sciences (SHS) & Communication and Information (CI), UNESCO Regional Beirut Office

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16:00 – 17:30 (according to CET; Online Zoom platform)

Africa Regional Webinar

COVID AND ENDOGENOUS RESPONSES: PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES

Political approaches to addressing the challenges faced by societies, including in African communities, vary significantly depending on their diverse cultural and social characteristics and how badly they are affected by the pandemic. This workshop will seek to reflect upon how philosophical endogenous approaches to health and human relationship to environment in African countries which are governed by different rules, values and beliefs, influence and help controlling the spread of the coronavirus, save lives and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on people and health systems. The speakers will reflect on whether the philosophy of Ubuntu can help to promote the value of public health and find the right balance between the trade-offs with individual rights. What are the ethical challenges posed by the COVID pandemic and what lessons will learn societies in Africa for the post-pandemic world? What are the prospects for South-South and North-South-South solidarity and co-operation? These and other issues will help shed light on how the intercultural philosophy can guide sustainable social and political policies for the good of all people.

Moderator:



- Dr Bakuwa Japhet, Doctor of Philosophy in Science and Technology Studies, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Chancellor College, University of Malawi, member, National Committee on Bioethics, Malawi, member, Advisory Board, Social Ethics Society Journal of Applied Philosophy (tbc)

Speakers:

- Professor Christophe Dikenou, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, member of COMEST, former Head, Department of Philosophy, Université de Lomé, Togo



- Professor Setargew Kenaw Fantaw, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Cultural Anthropology at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (*tbc*)



- Ms Kristy Claassen, MTh, Pretoria, MSc, Twente, postgraduate student of the Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society programme at the University of Twente in the Netherlands with special interest in philosophy of engineering and a critical assessment of it in a non-European context, especially in sub-Saharan Africa

Chat Moderator:

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE

Thursday 18 November 2021

18:00 – 19:30 (according to CET; Online Zoom platform)

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Webinar

Philosophy in Times of Social Crisis

On World Philosophy Day, UNESCO has wanted to bring together important Latin American philosophers to think in public about the deep crises that the region is going through. They will reflect and dialogue with each other around three questions, namely: How philosophy understands the crisis that Latin America and the Caribbean is going through? What role do philosophers play or must play to face of this crisis? How can philosophy contribute to strengthening democracy and, in particular, intercultural democracy in the region? The panel will raise elements that will be able to contribute to think about the complexities and ways of overcoming the crises that today, inescapable for all, lie in wait for us.

Moderator:



- Prof. Eduardo Alfonso Rueda Barrera, Professor of Ethics and Bioethics at National University of Colombia, President, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Bioethics Education (REDLACEB), member of the IBC, Colombia

PhD in Philosophy from the University of the Basque Country and PhD in Medicine from the Javeriana University. Since 2020, he is a member of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO. He is currently President of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Bioethics Education REDLACEB-UNESCO, and Executive Director of the REDETICA Ethics and Citizenship Training Network. He has been Coordinator of the Working Group on Political Philosophy of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences CLACSO and Director of the Bioethics Institute of the Javeriana University. In 2015, he received from CLACSO the Guillermo Hoyos Vásquez Research Award, and in 2011 the Bioethics Research Award from the Victor i Lucas Foundation in Barcelona. He has been a visiting professor in various countries in Latin America and Europe. He is currently a professor at the National University of Colombia.

Speakers:



- Prof. Jovino Pizzi, Dr. Phil., Professor at the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPEL), Brazil, Coordinator of the project “Global Observatory of Social Pathologies”

Graduated in Philosophy, journalist and PhD in Ethics and Democracy from the Jaume I University (Spain, 2002). From 2005 to 2018, he has been coordinator of the group “Critical-Educational Dialogues”. Among his books, there are *Ética do Discurso* (Discourse Ethics) (2004), *Ética y éticas aplicadas* (Ethics and Applied Ethics) (2006), *El mundo de la Vida: Husserl y Habermas* (The World of Life: Husserl and Habermas) (Santiago de Chile, segunda edición en 2016), *O conteúdo moral do agir comunicativo* (The moral content of communicative action) (2005), as well as articles and book chapters on ethics, applied ethics and intercultural philosophy. Currently, he is a professor at the Federal University of Pelotas (Brazil), where he acts as a researcher in postgraduate courses in Education and Philosophy, where he also coordinates the Global Observatory of Social Pathologies.

Crisis or darkness of philosophy: that is the essential question about what happens to philosophy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Beyond a crisis, philosophy and democracy go through disturbing moments, because their ideals do not cope with the expectations of a healthier coexistence. Thus, philosophers miss an extraordinary opportunity for radical criticism and, at the same time, rethink what has been thought and, thus, design the foundations of a post-neoliberal democracy. The debt of philosophy and

philosophers supposes an epistemology capable of accounting for a triangularity of worlds, for which the Afro, Amerindian and European nuances are the background of an interculturality. Thus, democracy will be able to guarantee hospitality among all peoples.



- **Dr. Susana Villavicencio** or Susana Rabinovich, Researcher at the Gino Germani Research Institute, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Université de Paris 8, France. Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Buenos Aires, since 2018. Researcher at the Gino Germani Institute (UBA) and coordinator of the Area of Epistemology and Philosophical Studies of Action. Associate researcher at the Laboratory of Studies and Research on Contemporary Logics of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University Paris 8. Member of the CLACSO Philosophy Working Group, Project: "New Utopias in Latin America", Dir.: Dr. A. Castro, Dra. A.M. Larrea, 2020- 2022.

The crisis is here. The question: "How do you understand the crisis that Latin America (and the Caribbean) is experiencing from the point of view of philosophy?" offers us the following principled reflection: the crisis is here, it is spreading everywhere. The crisis of democracies weakened by decades of financial capitalism, the crisis of political parties divided into factions that do not reflect the wishes or needs of the population, the crisis of citizenship devastated by the hardships of the poor majority "without rights," the crisis of politicians is devalued due to inefficiency, corruption, and egocentrism. As Jacques Rancière (2014) suggests, philosophy must first make an observation about the very concept of crisis and its misunderstandings. Since, if we talk about Hippocratic medicine, a crisis is the moment when a disease is eliminated, leading either to cure or to death, the crisis today seems to denote the pathological condition itself. What, then, are the conditions for the possibility of determining the current situation within the framework of the fiction of a permanent crisis?



- **Dr. Alejandra Castillo Vega**, Professor at the Department of Philosophy and Education, Metropolitan University of Education Sciences

PhD in Philosophy, Professor of the Department of Philosophy of the Metropolitan University of Educational Sciences, Santiago, Chile. She is the Director of the Culture Magazine Papel Papel Máquina and of the Editorial Palinodia Feminist Archive Collection. Some of her publications include: La república masculina y la promesa igualitaria (The Male Republic and the Equal Promise) (2021); Adicta imagen (Image Addict) (2020); Asamblea de los cuerpos (Assembly of the bodies) (2019); Matrix. El género de la filosofía (Matrix. The genre of philosophy) (2019); Crónicas feministas en tiempos neoliberales (Feminist Chronicles in Neoliberal Times) (2019); Simone de Beauvoir. Filósofa, antifilósofa (Simone de Beauvoir. Philosopher, antiphilosopher) (2017); Disensos feministas (Feminist dissensions) (2016); Imagen, cuerpo (Image, body) (2015) and Ars disyecta. Figuras para una corpo política (Aisthesis .Figures for a political body) (2014) among others.

It is believed that the main thing in a democracy is participation. This is the order in which the number determines who alone or who in plural will represent the will of the people. Nothing is said about figures of participation disaggregated by gender. Democracy is also the name for a single interruption in the organization and distribution of constituent parts (bodies) in a community. Consequently, democracy would be nothing more than an interruption of its functioning with the help of a special device of subjectivation. Although this mechanism is not a device, it can be described as a collection of parts whose operation paradoxically stops or interrupts it, rather than starting or continuing to move. This process consists of three parts: recognition of the existence of the "general" order; inconsistency of this order with constituent parts (bodies); and raising the question of the very meaning of the name of politics, that is, democracy. If so, and democracy is still an interruption-based regime, what if that interruption takes on a particular form of feminist questioning: does democracy have gender? In attempting to answer this

question, my presentation will help to articulate the areas of philosophy and feminism in Latin America in the context of the current crisis.



- **Dr. Gabriele Cornelli**, PhD in Philosophy, Professor of Ancient Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Brasilia (UnB), Director of the Archai UNESCO Chair on the origins of Western Thought, Brazil

Gabriele Cornelli is Associate Professor of Ancient Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Brasilia (UnB). He has been President of the International Plato Society (2013-2016) and is currently Director of the Archai UNESCO Chair on the origins of Western Thought, Coordinator of the Postgraduate Programme in Bioethics and Director of the International Centre of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Brasilia. He is also Editor of the Archai journal, the Plato journal the Atlantis journal. He is currently editing three monographs' Series: Brill's Plato Studies Series (Brill, Leiden) Archai (Annablume/Coimbra University Press, São Paulo/Coimbra) and Cátedra (Paulus, São Paulo). He is also member of the Advisory Committee of the the Redbioética/UNESCO.

Chat Moderators:

- ❖ **Ms Paula Siverino**, member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), Member, Bioethics Counsel, International Institute of Human Rights (Chapter for the Americas), Argentina
- ❖ **Ms Eleonora Lamm**, Programme Advisor, SHS Regional Programme of Bioethics and Ethics of Sciences, Regional Office of Sciences for Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo, Uruguay

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE

Thursday 18 November 2021

20:00 – 21:30 (according to CET; Online Zoom platform)

Europe and North America Regional Webinar Epistemological, Social and Ethical Issues of Interdisciplinarity and the Plurality of Knowledge

Contemporary challenges such as environmental crisis, pandemics and social inequities bring to the fore the necessity of cross-sectoral thinking able to link various set of knowledge and expertise. However, 20th century has been characterised by a growing specialisation of disciplines, reflecting a generally atomist and reductionist view. This often result in experts mastering very specific methods and knowledges but lacking the holistic vision and interdisciplinary skills essential to tackle these shared issues. Participants of this roundtable aim to provide keys to understanding the epistemological, social and ethical issues of interdisciplinarity, in order to provide insights for a better integration of interdisciplinary, pluralism, as well as for other forms of situated knowledges for policy makers who wish to develop evidence-based public policies.

Moderator:



- Mrs Marie Lambert-Chan, Editor-in-Chief of *Québec Science* and a science communicator on the radio show *Moteur de recherche* (Radio Canada) and on the TV show *On va se le dire* (Radio Canada), member of the Commission of Ethics of Science and Technology of Quebec, Canada

Since 2016, Marie Lambert-Chan has been Editor-in-Chief of *Québec Science*, the only French-language science magazine for the general public in Canada. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication, with a specialization in journalism, from *Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)*. She is a science communicator on the popular radio show *Moteur de recherche* (Radio Canada) and on the TV show *On va se le dire* (Radio Canada). Since 2020, she has been a member of Commission de l'éthique en science et en technologie du Québec.

Speakers:



- **Mr Guillaume Pelletier, PhD candidate in philosophy at Université Laval (Québec, Canada), Ethics counsellor for the Commission of Ethics of Science and Technology (*Commission de l'éthique en science et technologie*) (Government of Quebec)**

Guillaume Pelletier is a PhD candidate in philosophy at Université Laval (Québec, Canada) and works as an ethics counsellor for the Commission de l'éthique en science et technologie (Government of Quebec). His academic researches revolve mostly around history and philosophy of biology. His master's thesis research focused on the relations between organisms in technology involved in synthetic biology, and he is now working on the historical, epistemological and ethical implications of the gene-editing tool CRISPR-Cas9.



- **Nicolas Bernier, PhD candidate in philosophy at Université de Sherbrooke (Québec, Canada), Ethics counsellor for the Commission of Ethics of Science and Technology (*Commission de l'éthique en science et technologie*) (Government of Quebec)**

Nicolas Bernier is a PhD candidate in philosophy at Université de Sherbrooke (Québec, Canada) and works as an ethics counsellor for the Commission de l'éthique en science et technologie (Government of Quebec). His academic researches are dedicated to the conception of applied ethics in the contemporary world and the history and new recent developments in pragmatist philosophy. His PhD thesis examines the relation between politics and ethics in the pragmatist tradition.



- **Professor Ida Giugnatico, researcher at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Faculty of Human Sciences, member of UNESCO Chair in Studies of the Philosophic Foundations of Justice and Democracy**

Ida Giugnatico holds a first doctorate in political philosophy from the University of Calabria (Italy, 2017) and a second doctorate in applied human sciences from University of Montreal (2020) devoted to the construction of a critical epistemology for interdisciplinary research. Her research interests cover the social consequences of the transformations of epistemological discourse that marked the evolution of science in the twentieth century, including the relationship between conceptualization of knowledge and so-called vulnerable populations. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the UNESCO Chair in Studies of the Philosophic Foundations of Justice and Democracy (UQAM), since September 2020 she has held a position at the School of Social Work of UQAM in a research group aimed at understanding the needs of people of sexual and gender diversity who engage in problematic drug use. She was also editor-in-chief of volume 5 of *Chantiers de l'intervention en sciences humaines*, and guest editor of a special volume of the journal *TrajEthos* dedicated to interdisciplinarity.

Chat Moderator:

Ms Mylène Deschênes, member of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO, Director, Ethics and Legal Affairs, Office of the Québec Chief Scientist, Fonds de recherche du Québec, Vice-Chair, Commission on Research Integrity of Luxembourg

Epistemological, social and ethical issues of interdisciplinarity and the plurality of knowledge

The reflection on interdisciplinarity takes place within the framework of a broader reflection on the world of knowledge where, since the 1970s and through the efforts of thinkers of complexity (from Bachelard to Von Glasersfeld including Popper, Khun, Morin, Le Moigne) the need for transversal thinking capable of linking knowledge from different fields is confirmed with the aim of facing a common problem (Le Moigne, 2002). The rise of interdisciplinarity is inseparable from its function of intellectual counterweight to the disciplinary subspecialization that grew throughout the twentieth century and which reflects a way of thinking and of conceiving the world highly atomist and reductionist: this phenomenon exacerbates a model of organization of knowledge where knowledge must reflect an objective ontological reality (Von Glasersfeld, 1984), isolating academics in increasingly small fields, which resemble watertight compartments. This reality has become more and more evident with the proliferation of different research programs, theories, languages, often incapable of building bridges between them and with the creation of classes of specialists who know their subject matter in great detail, as well as the formal method employed in their field of expertise, but who do not have a holistic vision and who are incapable of interdisciplinary cooperation. This does not mean that the disciplines are to be abolished, but simply that they cannot exhaust all the types of questions that arise in the world.

Plurality of scholarly and political cultures

Authors, including Quebecer Yves Couturier, point to two poles characterizing interdisciplinarity: the "epistemological" pole and the "praxeological" pole. Two crucial characteristics of interdisciplinarity are thus revealed: (i) its function of epistemological criticism against naive, obsolete and imperialist representations of knowledge and a source of multiple scientific slippages; (ii) its anchoring in the field as a thought of action, an essential ingredient for the implementation of policies for people and the development of services that are not organized in silos (Billaud and Hubert, 2006).

For many authors, interdisciplinarity is a particular form of interculturality. From this nature, it draws certain characteristics, but also its great practical difficulties. The encounter with the Other disciplinary culture and the journey to a foreign land of knowledge stimulates lessons in relativity and self-knowledge, and therefore reflexivity (Ricoeur, 1990). Interdisciplinarity then serves to inject methodological or theoretical relativism into the areas of knowledge where the naive impression of universal "objective" and ahistorical truth prevails, and therefore indisputable and easily imperialist.

Learning the solidarity collaborations necessary for solving problems that commonly threaten humanity is urgent: environmental and climatic crises, pandemics, migration, terrorism, etc. constitute examples which invoke disciplinary cooperation and which cannot be confined to the suffocated margins of a single expertise. On the political level, interdisciplinarity poses important challenges for public decision-makers who wish to develop public policies based on evidence. What hierarchy should they accord to the different disciplines, methods and knowledge? How should they proceed in order to reconcile the conclusions of scientific research with the demand for democratic participation of citizens whose opinions may conflict with the fruits of science?

The contributions gathered around this round table try to reflect on the social, epistemological and ethical issues of interdisciplinarity, so as to identify possible avenues towards a better integration of interdisciplinarity, and a real respect for methodological pluralism. and theoretical, aware of the invariable weakness of its foundations and capable of embracing, without suffocating, the Knowledge-Other built on the margins of contingent Western theoretical constructions (de Sousa Santos, 2007).

PHILOSOPHY AROUND THE WORLD – WORLDWIDE PHILOSOPHICAL RELAY-RACE
Thursday 18 November 2021

21:30 – 22:00 (according to CET; Online Zoom platform)

Closure of the “Philosophy Around the World – Worldwide Philosophical Relay-Race”



GABRIELA RAMOS
Assistant Director-General
for Social and Human
Sciences of UNESCO



LEON HEUTS
Editor-in-Chief of NEMO
Kennislink in Amsterdam,
the Netherlands



PETER-PAUL VERBEEK
Chairperson of the World
Commission on the Ethics
of Scientific Knowledge and
Technology (COMEST)



HERVÉ CHNEIWEISS
Chairperson of the
International Bioethics
Committee (IBC)