



CHARLES  
UNIVERSITY



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Ambasciata della Repubblica Ceca  
in Italia



UNICA  
Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe

**UNICA WEBINAR to celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Jan Amos Comenius**

**"THE CHALLENGES OF MODERNIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION:  
FROM COMENIUS TO THE DIGITAL ERA"**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
9.45 – 12.00 AM CEST**

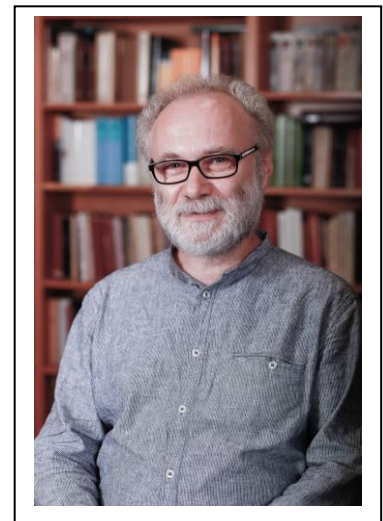
**Panelists Biographies & Abstracts**

**10.00 "Jan Amos Comenius and Correspondence Networking: From Educational to Universal Reform"**

Summarizing recent research on Comenius's correspondence and his position within the seventeenth-century Republic of Letters, this lecture aims to show how his educational projects, his pansophia and his universalist plans for improvement of human affairs were circulated and discussed within the broader communication network of scholars. These included circles of German educational reformers, Samuel Hartlib's circle but also such figures as Marin Mersenne, René Descartes and Pierre Bayle. All of them helped to create different public images of Comenius which influenced imbalanced reception of his works in the following centuries.

**Vladimír Urbánek**

Vladimír Urbánek is a senior researcher at the Department of Comenius Studies and Early Modern Intellectual History, Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, and since 2012 a head of the department. His research interests focus on early modern millenarianism, scholarly communication and networks, Protestant intellectuals exiled from the Czech lands and life and work of Jan Amos Comenius. He is an editor-in-chief of the *Acta Comeniana: International Review of Comenius Studies and Early Modern Intellectual History* published in Prague. He has cooperated with the Oxford-based project *Cultures of Knowledge* as the coordinator of Comenius correspondence database and together with Howard Hotson as a coorganizer of the international workshop and conference series in Prague, Cracow, Budapest and Oxford. He has been a coordinator of the Czech participation in the COST Action Project *Reassembling the Republic of Letters, 1500-1800*. He has been a co-investigator and leader of the team of the Institute of Philosophy participating in a grant project 'Between Renaissance and Baroque: Philosophy and Knowledge in the Czech Lands within the Wider European Context' financed by the Czech Science Foundation.





#### 10.45 “Bridging the past and the future. Comenius' legacy and the challenges for the European Higher Education System”

##### Manfredi Merluzzi

Manfredi Merluzzi is actually Head of Department of Humanities at Roma Tre University. Full Professor of Early Modern History teaches Methodology of the Historical Research at the BA of History, Historical and cinematographical narratives and Global History. He studies are focused on the methodological approach, on the new sources for the historians, the construction of memory and his manipulation in Public contexts. He is specialized in History of the Spanish Monarchy in the 15th and 17th Century within Europe and America in which he has a Ph.D. He has been responsible and member in several international research group and Networks of Universities funded by European Commission- LLL Program, in particular Clionet (2003-2004), Clionet2 (2005-2008) and Clionworld (2009-2011) in which was in the Steering Committee.



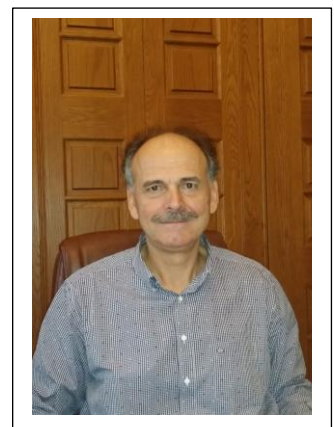
#### 11.00 “Peace Education: An aspect of Comenius’ educational philosophy and its implications for modern education”

John Amos Comenius is regarded as the founder of peace education, the growing importance of which is obvious in our times – times of local conflicts and wars, increasing economical and sociopolitical difficulties, as well as of multiplying cultural and religious differences. In my short presentation I will reflect on this aspect of Comenius’ legacy. This aspect itself is very relevant to our times but at the same time it is closely related to other important aspects of our contemporary education (and especially of our higher education) which also constituted an integral part of Comenius’ educational philosophy: internationalization, world understanding and building of international cooperation through education.

##### Dimitrios Karadimas

Karadimas Dimitrios was born in Greece, and was educated in Greece and Sweden. He is currently Professor of Greek at the Department of Classics in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs of the University. Karadimas has a rather long teaching experience. He has taught in Universities in Greece and abroad. For a three-year period (2002-2005) he taught at Cambridge University, in the UK.

Karadimas’ scholarly interests centre on ancient Greek language and literature and especially on classical rhetoric and the relation between philosophy and rhetoric in Antiquity. His doctoral dissertation published by Lund University Press (Sextus Empiricus against Aelius Aristides: The Conflict between Philosophy and Rhetoric in the Second Century A.D., Lund 1996) is the first book-length systematic examination of the relation between the two disciplines. The period of the Second Sophistic (2nd century AD) and more generally the first centuries of the Christian era have also attracted his research interests. His interests also include Plato and his works, as well as Plato’s reception in the first centuries of the Christian era. Karadimas has published monographies, many articles in collective volumes and international journals, and has also taken part and given papers in international conferences and symposia.





### 11.15 “Didactics and Mathetics of Comenius 350 Years after his Death from the Vantage Point of Modern Digital Technology”

15 Nov 2020 marks the 350th anniversary of the death of Jan Amos Komenský or Comenius. Therefore, it is a good moment to reflect upon his ideas and to do it from the vantage point of today’s reality and in particular of the affordances of modern digital technology. The talk will reflect on two of his proposals: Didactics, as the science of teaching, and Mathetics, as the science of learning. Often great ideas can have a greater impact if the context is more favourable. Digital technologies allow to implement some of his proposals in an easier way.

#### Carlos Delgado Kloos

Carlos Delgado Kloos received the Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from the Technische Universität München and in Telecommunications Engineering from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He is Full Professor of Telematics Engineering at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, where he is the Director of the GAST research group, Director of the UNESCO Chair on “Scalable Digital Education for All”, and Vice President for Strategy and Digital Education. He is also the Coordinator of the eMadrid

research network on Educational Technology in the Region of Madrid. He is Senior Member of IEEE. He has been the Manager of ICT research projects at the Spanish Ministry and has carried out research stays at

several universities such as Harvard, MIT, Munich, and Passau. His main research interests are in Educational Technology. He has been involved in a large number of projects with European, bilateral, national, and regional funding. He has published around 500 articles in national and international conferences and journals and has further written a book and co-edited over a dozen. He has coordinated several MOOCs (on edX and MiríadaX).

