

17 November 2021 | 15:00-17:00 CET

# UniverCities and Culture

## Culture and Digitalization

UNICA &  
The City  
online event

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## UNeECC and UNICA Joint Webinar:

### UniverCities and Culture Culture and Digitalization

17th November, 2021

15:00-17:00 CET

#### PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

15:00 – 15:15	<b>Welcome addresses</b> <b>Flora Carriijn</b> , UNeCC President <b>Luciano Saso</b> , UNICA President
15:15 – 15:25	Title TBC, by <b>Catherine Morris</b> , Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing Liverpool Hope University
15:25 – 15:35	<i>'The library of Voices' and the AR (augmented reality) musical heritage project at KU Leuven.</i> by <b>Bart Demuyt</b> , Senior Innovation Manager of Musical Heritage at the University of Leuven
15:35 – 15:45	<i>Scanned items of museum collections: Evolution of ceramic technology as demonstrated by non-destructive testing methods,</i> by <b>Miklós Jakab</b> , Research Assistant, University of Pannonia
15:45 – 15:55	<i>Tolstoy digital: objectives, insights, perspectives,</i> by <b>Anastasia Bonch-Osmolovskaya</b> , Head of Digital Humanities Center, Higher School of Economics, Moscow
15:55 – 16:05	<i>IN CODICE RATIO: when paleography meets Artificial Intelligence.,</i> by <b>Serena Ammirati</b> , Associate Professor, Roma Tre University
16:05 – 16:15	<i>Beyond digitalization: challenges for humans and machines,</i> by <b>Anca Dinu</b> , Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Centre for Digital Humanities and <b>Mihnea Dobre</b> , ICUB-Humanities, University of Bucharest
16:15 – 17:00	<b>Q&amp;A session</b> <b>Concluding remarks</b>

## Biographies and abstracts of the speakers

### Luciano Saso | UNICA President



Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 220 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in [www.pubmed.com](http://www.pubmed.com), total impact factor > 500, H-index Google Scholar 45, Scopus 37). He coordinated several research projects in the field of pharmacology and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several projects including IMS2020, EGRACONS, IMOTION, BUCUM, UZDOC, TRAIN and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by UNICA and other university networks. He coordinates the Sapienza team in the European University CIVIS ([www.civis.eu](http://www.civis.eu)). Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and in November 2019 he has been re-elected President of UNICA for the second mandate (2019-2023).

### Flora Carrijn | UNeCC President and Head of Board



Flora Carrijn is Provost/Academic director at KU Leuven as well as Managing director Flanders Business School. She is Board member of the research spin-offs Labo De Nayer and Welding Centre Mechelen, founder and trustee of the Leo Tindemans Chair at KU Leuven, member General Meeting UCSIA (University Centre St Ignatius Antwerp), board member PARCUM (religious heritage Flanders), academic representative on the Board of VOKA (chamber of commerce) Mechelen-Kempen and board member Maria-Elisabeth Belpaire (charity for emancipation, equal opportunities and education Antwerp). Professor Carrijn is President and Head of the Board, founding member of the UNeCC.



Bart Demuyt studied at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven, where he specialized in early music and voice. After graduating with performance degrees in guitar, chamber music, and choral conducting, he joined the University of Leuven's Musicology Research Unit as a staff member, and simultaneously pursued a professional singing career, performing with such internationally renowned ensembles as Collegium Vocale Ghent, Capilla Flamenca, La Chapelle Royale de Paris and La Petite Bande. He subsequently joined the artistic staff of Musica (Impulse Centre for Music, Flanders), before becoming General Director of the Flanders Festival Musica Antiqua Bruges and Artistic Director of the Concertgebouw in Bruges. In 2008 he returned to the University of Leuven as Director of the Alamire Foundation, International Centre for the Study of Music in the Low Countries. Since 2009 he has been General and Artistic Director of AMUZ (Flanders Festival Antwerp) and curator of the early music festival Laus Polyphoniae. In 2016 he was appointed Senior Innovation Manager of Musical Heritage at the University of Leuven, in order to oversee the House of Polyphony – International Centre of Excellence for the Valorization of Low Countries Musical Heritage in Leuven's Park Abbey. Until 2019 he was chairman of the Arts Advisory Committee (Flemish Community). He was also served as chairman of REMA (European Early Music Network). Since 2020 he is appointed chairman by the Flemish government of the Strategic Advisory Board on Culture, Youth, Sports and Media (SARC). Together with David Burn he co-edits the Leuven Library of Music in Facsimile.

*The Library of Voices* is a contemporary meeting place where book, digital image and sound are accommodated and made accessible with the latest techniques. Flemish polyphony, Gregorian chant and music for carillon are valued in the most advanced way in the Saint Norbert's Gate of the Abbey of Park in Heverlee. This robust Northern gate building contains both a documentation center, a sound laboratory and a digital library. A library of the future, where unique images of music manuscripts from the Low Countries are shown in high resolution. The images were made with the Alamire Digital Lab (ADL) in the Vatican Library, the Royal Library in Brussels and in other international prestigious institutions. The Library of Voices is the headquarters of ADL and the Integrated database for Early Music (IDEM). The Library of Voices is an open house, where visitors from the general public to experts will be introduced to the musical heritage of the Low Countries. It is a place where enthusiasts and experts unravel polyphony audibly and visually using ingenious, current techniques. The practice of singing from the source - which is presented in digital form - in combination with revealing research on acoustic models of historical spaces, is put into labs in collaboration with Leuven University research group ESAT-STADIUS. This is sure to have a major impact on the future of the historically informed practice of polyphony and Gregorian chant in our concert halls.

## Miklós Jakab | University of Pannonia



Miklós Jakab is a research assistant at the University of Pannonia. After obtaining degrees in bioengineering (BSc) and materials science (MSc), he is working as a PhD student at the Department of Materials Engineering. In addition to his studies and education duties, he has been involved in non-destructive material testing for several years. His main research areas include bioceramics, photovoltaic systems, 3D printing, scanning electron microscopy, X-ray analysis and X-ray tomography.

The *scanning electron microscopy and X-ray tomography laboratory* operating at the Department of Materials Engineering of the University of Pannonia offers outstanding opportunities for archaeological research projects. Critical information can be extracted from the finds without exceeding the safety constraints that typically arise. Without wishing to be exhaustive, in the field of ceramics, the energy-dispersive X-ray analyser of the electron microscope can be used to infer the exact location of the object knowing the elemental composition. In the case of metals, the processing conditions and the origin, even from a sample of dust. By X-ray tomography, the surface of a coin in a closed vessel can be made visible in 3D, and also read the inscription on the coin without damage. But even a rolled-up tin coil can be virtually unwound and read without compromising the integrity of a particularly valuable find. If necessary, the files of objects in an enclosed space can be printed in 3D... the human brain gets multiple information as in the case of flat-screen-watching. Due to the wide range of options, it is strongly recommended to consult the measurement staff before starting a potentially destructive test project, as there are numerous creative non-destructive solutions that can avoid damaging invaluable artefacts.

## Serena Ammirati | Roma Tre University



Serena Ammirati has a PhD in Manuscript Studies (2010) and is a research fellow in palaeography at Roma Tre University (Rome), where she teaches palaeography and codicology. The ancient Latin book (its scripts and morphologies) is one of her main research topics, together with the history of written culture in medieval Rome and Latin legal books from Antiquity through the Middle Ages. She has been working on this subject since 2014 for the ERC project REDHIS (University of Pavia) where she is in charge of the edition and description of Greek and Latin fragments with juridical content. She is also currently interested in the development of novel methods and tools to support content analysis and knowledge discovery

from handwritten documents. In collaboration with the Department of Engineering at Roma Tre she started in 2016 a project on digital palaeography, “In codice ratio”.

*In Codice Ratio* is a research project that aims at developing novel methods and tools to support content analysis and knowledge discovery from large collections of historical documents. The goal is to provide humanities scholars with novel tools to conduct data-driven studies over large historical sources. <http://www.inf.uniroma3.it/db/icr/>





**Anca Dinu** is Assistant Professor at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures and director of The Digital Humanities Research Centre, University of Bucharest. Her main research interests are Digital Humanities, Natural Language Processing, formal and distributional semantics, corpus linguistics, experimental linguistics. She obtained her PhD in 2011, under the supervision of Professor Solomon Marcus. She authored the book *A computational perspective on natural language semantics*, co-edited three conference volumes and she has written alone or with collaborators over 50 peer-reviewed articles. She has led the Romanian team of the international research project and

has been a member of 15 national and international projects. She is the Chair of Recent Advances in Digital Humanities 2021 conference, a member of Programme Committee for the LREC series of conferences (2014, 2016, 2018, 2020) and organizer of conference workshops “On Language technology for Digital Humanities in Central and (South-)Eastern Europe 2017” and “On the syntax and interpretation of Specificity 2012”. She initiated and currently coordinates the Digital Humanities master programme at the University of Bucharest, for which she has received the “University of Bucharest prize for the most innovative programme” award in 2019.



**Mihnea Dobre** is the academic coordinator of the ICUB-Humanities, the Humanities division of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest. He is teaching and doing research at the University of Bucharest in the fields of history of science and philosophy, with a focus on the early modern period. He is the author of *Cartesian Cosmology* (University of Bucharest Press, 2021; in Romanian), *Descartes and Early French Cartesianism: between metaphysics and physics* (Zeta Books, 2017), and co-editor of the *Cartesian Empiricisms* volume (Springer, 2013) He is book review editor at the *Centaurus*, An International Journal

of the History of Science and its Cultural Aspects. Since 2016, Dobre is organizing a series on Digital Humanities at the ICUB. See his activities in more detail from: <https://unibuc.ro/user/mihnea.dobre/?lang=en>

***Beyond digitalization: challenges for humans and machines.*** Digitization is the conversion of a physical object, like a cultural artefact, into a machine-readable format (text, 2-D or 3-D image, sound, etc.), that is a digital object. During the past few decades, people frenetically digitized cultural products, in an unprecedented and praiseworthy effort. However, once an artefact is digitized, his new life of a digital object is just at the beginning, henceforth deserves the whole package of CS and AI treatment, from the basic operations, such as searching, querying, editing, processing or visualizing to the more complex ones such as data mining, automatic classification, pattern recognition, information extraction, that make use of statistical methods, machine learning, deep learning, etc. This new life of the digital object is called digitalization, a term first used for business and adopted later for culture, and this is what it should be the digital humanist ultimate goal! Our talk aims to offer an introduction to the common challenges of both digitization and digitalization, exemplified by various digital projects hosted by the University of Bucharest. We embrace a computer-assisted perspective, motivated by the fact that neither machines nor humans can do it alone.