

montessorieurope

DR. JORDI FREIXENET AND SR. EDUARD MUNTANER PERICH  
SARAH KENNEDY BERGE, NICOLE HERMANN, ALEKSANDRA  
ZAROSA, KAMILA BERTLIK & EDUARD VILANOVA  
DR. LAURA FLORES SHAW & SID MOHANDAS  
DAVID GETTMAN  
CAROLA LANG-HOWARD  
STUDENTS FROM AGORA, MONTESSORI COLLEGE, NL

# TECHNOLOGY & MONTESSORI? SUMMIT

25 SEPTEMBER 2021  
10.00 - 15.00 (CEST)  
ONLINE

# PROGRAMME

**10.00**

## **OPENING REMARKS**

BARBARA ISAACS

PRESIDENT, MONTESSORI EUROPE

**10.10**

## **CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES UNDER THE MONTESSORI APPROACH; THE MONTECH PROJECT**

JORDI FREIXENET & EDUARD MUNTANER, UNIVERSITY OF GIRONA

The MonTech project seeks to foster social inclusion and equity in multicultural schools across Europe through highly innovative and engaging activities based on a new approach that blends the Montessori Method with cutting-edge Creative Technologies. MonTech is proposing a vision of technology as a medium for creative expression, covering the interdisciplinary areas at the cross-over of creativity and computing.

**10.30**

## **THE MONTESSORI APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY: THE MONTECH PROJECT**

SARAH KENNEDY BERGE, NICOLE HERMANN & ALEKSANDRA ZAROSA

WATERPARK MONTESSORI

KAMILA BERTLIK & EDUARD VILANOVA, PALAU MONTESSORI, GIRONA

Technology in Montessori classrooms has been an area of controversy. The MonTech project proposes that technology, including creative technologies, have an important role in the Montessori environment. Technology is not only a practical life skill but a means of exploration and expression. Creative technology is used to cross cultural divides and supports Dr. Montessori's vision of education and peace.

**11.00**

**BREAK**

# PROGRAMME

**11.15**

## **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY:**

### **A LEARNING TOOL FOR THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM**

LAURA FLORES SHAW, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

SID MOHANDAS, GUEST LECTURER, MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

BARBARA ISAACS, PRESIDENT, MONTESSORI EUROPE

Moral panic has accompanied technological advancements since Socrates expressed his concern that writing things down would make people forgetful. As the boundaries between the physical, digital and biological worlds become evermore blurred in the 4th Industrial Revolution, is it time that we revisit how we, as Montessorians, prepare our children for life? Dr. Laura Flores Shaw and Sid Mohandas present scientific based research supporting the benefits of using technology as a tool in the Montessori setting, touching on developmental myths and presenting a new way of viewing how our children develop.

**12.00**

**LUNCH**

**13.00**

## **TECHNOLOGY AND PARENTS**

DAVID GETTMAN, MY MONTESSORI CHILD

This brief presentation offers an unusual philosophical perspective on technology, and on the modern phenomenon of parents showering their toddlers and pre-schoolers with high-tech gadgets. To explain why this isn't particularly helpful to young children's learning, David will present a metaphysical framework for understanding human intellectual development, which also helps account for Montessori's hands-on approach to early education.

**13.30**

## **PARTICIPANT DISCUSSION**

LED BY JAROSLAW JENDZA

MONTESSORI EUROPE BOARD MEMBER

Summit participants, having heard differing views on the potential effects of technology, are invited to contribute to a live discussion, sharing their thoughts and views.

# PROGRAMME

**14.00**

## **TECHNOLOGY IN THE EARLY YEARS IN PRACTICE**

**CAROLA LANG-HOWARD**

**LITTLE GEMS MONTESSORI NURSERY, CYPRUS**

This presentation will share how technology arrived at Little Gems Montessori Nursery in Cyprus. Carola will share the practitioners' views on the pros and cons of technology, the rewiring of mindsets throughout our technology journey and how we have made intelligent, practical and efficient use of technology. Carola will share with you how the team has managed to maintain a strong parents partnership regardless of the pandemic and how they have managed to connect and open windows for the children, giving them sneak peaks of children in other countries and their cultures.

**14.15**

## **LIFE WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY? YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE**

**STUDENTS FROM AGORA, MONTESSORI COLLEGE, NIJMEGEN, NL**

In this discussion, young students from Agora at the Montessori College in Nijmegen, explore whether they could imagine a life without technology. From imagining what they might do with their free time to how life in general might be impacted, they demonstrate a clear understanding of the far-reaching effects of technology on our society and their young lives.

**14.30**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**JAROSLAW JENDZA**

**14.45**

**CLOSE**

# SPEAKERS

**Jordi Freixenet** is an Associate Professor at the Computer Engineering Department of the University of Girona (UdG). He is co-leading the UdiGitalEdu research group and Tekhné Chair and is inspired by ideas from MIT Lifelong Kindergarten lab and Maria Antònia Canals. The goal is to design and research playful learning experiences, focusing research on studying how creative technology can transform the ways of learning and teaching.



**Eduard Muntaner-Perich** currently works for the University of Girona, where he teaches Technology to pre-service teachers at the Faculty of Education, and where he designs and implements creative computing activities for children and young people from all over the world, within the framework of the TEKHNE Chair, the UdiGitalEdu Research Group and their initiatives and projects.

**Sarah Kennedy-Berge** is the College Director of Waterpark Montessori International and a Montessori Trainer 3-12 years. Sarah's background in Art Education reinforces her work in creative expression, including use of new technological media. Sarah also designs new and innovative materials for the Montessori classroom. Her work on curriculum development focuses on bringing the Montessori approach into the 21st century in accordance with the principles.



**Nicole Hermann** is a Montessori Guide for the age groups 3-6 and 6-9 years and a Montessori Trainer for 6-12 with Waterpark Montessori International and Akademie Biberkorn. Her ongoing work with the master's degree in Democracy Development mirrors her passion and expertise in Cosmic Education, with a focus on the use of the Montessori approach for social inclusion and multiculturalism. She also uses technology in the classroom to awaken curiosity, imagination and creativity.

# SPEAKERS

**Aleksandra Zarosa** is a College Coordinator for Waterpark Montessori International and a Montessori Trainer 3-9 years. She has a broad pedagogical experience from Montessori pre-schools and schools in Ireland and in Norway. Apart from her Montessori qualifications, she holds a MA in Psychology from the University of Opole, Poland. She is particularly interested in how technology influences concentration skills, motivation, problem-solving strategies, and creative thinking.



**Kamila Bertlik** is an AMI trained 6-12 Montessori guide working at Montessori Palau in Girona, Spain. Her specialization at the school is teaching Montessori English as a Second Language at the Elementary level, since 2013. She has been involved in introducing Robotics to the Elementary curriculum at her school and is involved in completing the MonTech Training Guide. Kamila has a degree in Biology and Analytical Chemistry from Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada as well as a Master Degree in Immunology from the University of Barcelona. Furthermore, she has received accreditation in various Montessori courses, including, Physics and Chemistry in the 6-12 Montessori environment and the AMI Adolescents orientation course.



**Eduard Vilanova** is an Elementary teacher and a AMI Auxiliary Trainer for Elementary. He is especially interested in Cosmic Education, the cornerstone of the Montessori Elementary Education classroom and the path through which the child develops a global vision of humanity, the universe and his own life in it. He participated actively in the organisation of the first Montessori AMI in Elementary Education that was carried out in the Montessori Palau Girona School from 2002 to 2005, also collaborating in translation tasks. He is a teacher of Elementary Education at the Montessori Palau Girona. He has a degree in Educational Psychology and has a Diploma as a professor of Elementary Education of the University of Girona. He obtained the AMI Diploma of Elementary Education (6-12 years) at the Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani of Bergamo (Italy). He obtained the AMI Diploma of Early Childhood Education (3-6 years) at the University of Vic.



# SPEAKERS

**Laura Flores Shaw** is Assistant Professor in the Johns Hopkins University School of Education and is extensively trained in family systems therapy and educational neuroscience. She also has direct experience as Head of School within an AMI based Montessori school framework. Dr. Shaw's work has focused on translating research from multiple areas of neuroscience, educational psychology, sustainability education, and family systems research into school design and classroom practice.



**Sid Mohandas** is a former Montessori educator and teacher trainer, and is a guest lecturer at Middlesex University. Sid is the founder of The Male Montessorian (TMM) and the Montistory platforms. Sid is currently doing his doctorate at Middlesex University investigating how a gendered workforce is materialised in Montessori spaces using feminist 'new' materialism and posthuman theories.

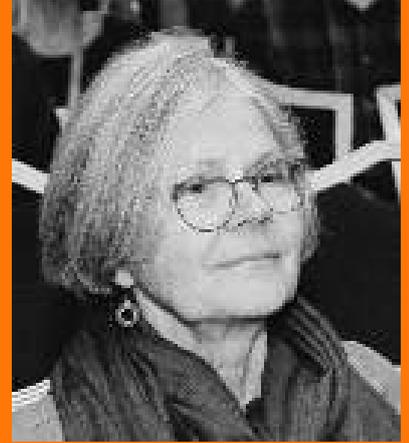
**David Gettman** has had what is euphemistically called a 'portfolio career': from neurochemistry lab research, to authoring works of philosophy, to strategic business consulting, to dot com entrepreneurship. He was born in Hawaii, grew up in the USA on both the East and West coasts, and moved to the UK after attending the AMI course in London. He is married to a ballet dancer, has a son who founded a film production company, and now lives in a medieval town near the English Channel.



The nomadic feet of **Carola Lång-Howard** have allowed her to work with Montessori Education in different countries and cultures for the past 27 years. While living in London she worked with Montessori Centre International as a Teacher Trainer guiding adult students for several years. Her current permanent residence is Cyprus where she has 2 schools for children 2 to 6 years old. Carola holds the St. Nicholas Diploma 0-6 years, a Bachelor Hons. Degree in Early Childhood Studies, as well as a Master's degree in the Early Years. She is also a board member of Montessori Europe with special responsibility for the Sustainability Working Group

# SPEAKERS

Having trained Montessori teachers at Montessori St Nicholas, London Montessori Centre and Montessori Centre International, **Barbara Isaacs** contributed to all course developments at MCI since its inception in 1998 to present day. She was one of the founding members of the MSN's Montessori Accreditation and Evaluation Board (MEAB) and since 2010 has been actively engaged in the Montessori School Association. Between 1991 and 2007 she was the proprietor of Seedlings Montessori Nursery in Oxfordshire.



In her role as the President of Montessori Europe and co-founder of Montessori Musings UK, she hopes to encourage the current and new generation of early years educators in searching for the essence of childhood by helping them nurture the joy of play and learning, trust and respect for all children and communities, and care and love for the riches of our beautiful planet.

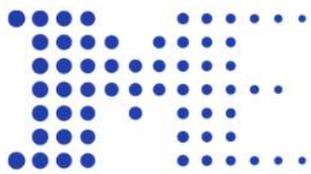
**Dr. Jarosław Jendza** is an assistant professor in the Institute of Education at the Social Sciences Faculty (Gdańsk University, Poland). He specialises in alternative, engaging and non-traditional approaches to education, Montessori in particular. Awarded the Distinguished PhD Dissertation Award dr. Jendza has published a number of scientific articles on Montessori pedagogy focusing mostly on the issue of the teachers' education. He holds a Masters degree in early education and teaching English as a foreign language and is a Member of the Montessori Europe Board with special responsibility for the Research Working Group.



Having retrained as a Montessori Early Years Teacher, **Wendelien Bellinger** worked as Deputy Head and Special Educational Needs Coordinator at an early years setting for several years, before moving to Montessori Centre International as a Teacher Trainer. Since retiring from MCI, she co-founded Montessori Musings UK, an online community which provides a space for Montessorians to come together to reflect on and challenge their practice as well as being part of Montessori Everywhere team.



As a Member of the Montessori Europe. Board, Wendelien is your guide in our online programme and is part of the Communications Team.



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connecting Montessorians across Europe and beyond

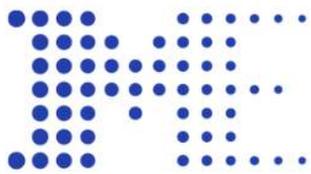
# Membership

Inspired by Maria Montessori's legacy, Montessori Europe connects Montessorians in Europe and beyond, to consider how education can be reimaged to help guide our children to cope with the complexities and uncertainties of the modern world in the 21st Century. Our members join us from all over Europe and beyond, bringing a wealth of experience, extending beyond country boundaries. We would love for you to be part of our growing and thriving network.

Find out more about membership at:  
[bit.ly/MEMembers](https://bit.ly/MEMembers)



SCAN ME



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# What's On?

**12 October, 19.00 (CEST)**

**Building a Montessori Professional Development Plan**

Presented by Tammy Oesting, on behalf of Trillium Montessori

**20 October, 19.00 (CEST)**

**Language Learning in Montessori: Some Insights**

Presented by the Montessori Europe Research Group

**26 October, 19.00 (CEST)**

**Introducing the Flourish Project and the SDGs Handbook for the Early Years**

Presented by Wendy Ellyatt, The Flourish Project, and the Montessori Europe Sustainability Working Group

**16 November, 19.00 (CET)**

**Cosmic Education and Sustainability**

Presented by Hannah Baynham and Charlie Cavaliero

**30 November, 19.00 (CET)**

**Innovation Makes a Leader Stand Out**

Presented by Chris Willemsen, Nienhuis Montessori

**Further details about these events on our website**

**[montessori-europe.net/events](https://montessori-europe.net/events)**