

4th International INASTE Congress

Realizing Humanity

Perspectives in Education / Perspektiven für Bildung und Erziehung

May 18 – 20, 2022

Vienna

Current political and technological developments lend a new poignancy to the complex theme of “humanity”. Political extremism and populism increasingly question a basic consensus of humane values in democratic societies, and our encounters with refugees continually test our understanding of humanitarianism. Digitalisation, automation, and the virtualisation of growing parts of our economic, social, and cultural life lend a new intensity to the question of our own humanity. The effects of human-driven climate change have led young people in particular to demand for new, ecologically responsible lifestyle choices. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic and the response to it have shown how essential - and how controversial - questions of “humanity”, “responsibility”, and “solidarity” are in our times. Many of these societal challenges are manifested in educational contexts in a highly focused form. How can young people today discover and develop their own humanity in relationship with the world? What forms of a pluralistic and differentiated society can be developed and realized in an educational context, based not on homogenization and marginalisation but on diversity and respect? What can educators in today’s world contribute to the realization of humanistic values? The fourth Congress of the International Network for Academic Steiner Teacher Education (INASTE) invites educational scientists and teachers to reflect with us on current challenges and on the development of pedagogical perspectives for humanity.

Please note:

Current information as to COVID-19 regulations in Austria, as well as entrance requirements, can be found on the website of the Austrian Health Ministry:

(<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en.html>).

Keynote speakers:

Dr. **Jens Beljan**, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena:

Resonanzpädagogik: Impulse für die Förderung von Humanität, Verantwortung und Solidarität**

Dr. **Constanza Kaliks**, Pädagogische Sektion am Goetheanum, Dornach:

Realizing Humanity – learning to become for a common world

Dr. **Ida Oberman**, Community School for Creative Education Oakland:

Intercultural Waldorf Education: Why here; why now; why us?

Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Henning Schluß**, Universität Wien:

Verantwortung für die Zukunft. Herausforderungen des Klimawandels für die Pädagogik**

Prof. **Nina Witoszek**, Oslo University:

Culture as an Incubator of a Sustainable Society

** Lecture will be translated to English

Topics:

Learning and Living in Cultural Plurality and Identity

Modern societies are always pluralistic. Despite this fact, nationalistic and right-wing populist political parties and religious fundamentalists propagate the idea of a culturally, religiously, and ethnically homogeneous society. This contributes to an atmosphere of conflict, which they lament but also profit from. How can a humanistic approach to pedagogy encounter such developments? What contribution can schools make so that diversity and differences are not a threat but an opportunity? What space can varying cultural and religious traditions occupy within schools? How can intercultural dialogue be successfully realized in the context of subject teaching, school projects, etc.?

Development between Difference and Commonalities

People are different – in terms of their cognitive, social, and physical abilities, their achievements, predispositions, and more – but at the same time equal in terms of their individual humanness. School can be a place of achievement-oriented competition, or a space offering a respectful approach to diversity. Which curricular and methodological possibilities can schools offer to contribute to an understanding of differences and of equality? Where and how can learning happen in a pluralistic society? What challenges does an inclusive society and inclusive schools pose for teachers and for pupils? Which understanding of learning and of achievement do such schools need? What do schools, teachers, and teacher education programs need in order to develop a humane and inclusive pedagogy?

Between Virtual Reality and Humanity: Schools Today

“Humans only become Human among Humans“, said Johann Gottlieb Fichte over two hundred years ago. Does this still hold true in our times of increasing digitalisation

and virtualisation? How do technical developments change our daily life and our understanding of people? What chances and risks do technological developments offer to pedagogy? What understanding of technology do children and young people encounter in school? How do robotics, artificial intelligence, and datafication influence relationships between teachers and students? What can the various subjects taught in schools contribute to an understanding and sense of responsibility with respect to nature, technology, and humanity?

Development toward Responsibility for Human and Nature

Climate change, extinction, urbanization: the ecological problems of our times show us with increasing clarity that humanitarian engagement is inextricably tied to ecological conscience. Regardless of how humanity continues to develop technologically and socially, we will always live in and with nature. Young people today are strongly aware of this. What possibilities can schools offer them to (further) develop this consciousness? What can education contribute to a responsible use of natural resources? How can the foundations of an ecological consciousness be laid, and the development of ecological and humanitarian engagement be supported in children?

Location:

The Congress will be held on the premises of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (Favoritenstrasse 15a, 1040 Vienna), and the *Zentrum für Kultur und Pädagogik* (Tilgnerstr. 3, 1040 Vienna).

Organized by:

Zentrum für Kultur und Pädagogik, Affiliate of Alanus University for Arts and Social Sciences, on behalf of: **INASTE**, International Network of Academic Steiner Teacher Education

The following institutions are currently members of the INASTE network:

Alanus Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft, Alfter, D

Auckland University of Technology, NZ

David Yellin College, Jerusalem, IL

Faculdade Rudolf Steiner, São Paulo, BR

Freie Hochschule Stuttgart, D

Institut de Formation a la Pedagogie Steiner-Waldorf Didascalii, Sorgues, FR

Institut für Fachdidaktik an der Alanus Hochschule, Kassel, D

Institut für Waldorfpädagogik, Inklusion und Interkulturalität, Mannheim, D

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Waldorflärarhögskolan, Stockholm, S

Zentrum für Kultur und Pädagogik, Wien, A

Congress Committee:

- Prof. Dr. Leonhard Weiss (Chairman), Alanus University for Art and Social Sciences, Center for Culture and Pedagogy, Austria *Alanus Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft: Zentrum für Kultur und Pädagogik*, Austria
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