MONTESSORI EUROPE NEWSLETTER



1 | 2025

montessorieurope



connecting Montessorians across Europe and beyond...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Montessori Europe Friends,

The "Montessori Out of the Box" event in Oslo is rapidly approaching and we are excited to see so many of you committing to join us in May! I hope that you are following our social media posts which give "bite size glimpses" of what is to come.

The Oslo congress promises to be an important gathering of Montessorians from across Europe and beyond to showcase excellent Montessori practice in Norway. Norway is one of few countries in the world which has a government-recognised Montessori programme. In Oslo, Montessori Europe will also launch its **Agenda2030** highlighting our vision to connect and challenge Montessorians in the service of children and committing to promoting Montessori-focused research combining academic and classroom perspectives, encouraging sustainable models of Montessori practice across the planes of development, and continuing to engage with young people and adolescents in empowering them to lead impactful guardianship of life on our planet.

We invite all those participating in the congress to join the Friday evening AGM where you will have an opportunity to learn more about Montessori Europe's work. Current Montessori Europe members will also be able to vote in the Board elections.

We also invite Montessorians from around Europe to consider offering their expertise, experience and energy by standing for election to the Board and serving the Montessori community. You are encouraged to send an expression of interest and current CV to stand for Board elections to office@montessori-europe.net by 15 March 2025. If you would like to know more please email me using the email above.

This is my last message to you as president of Montessori Europe. Unfortunately, family circumstances prevent me from active participation on the Board and seeking re-election. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ME Board members and the many Montessori friends and colleagues for their trust and support in my work. Having been involved with Montessori Europe since its early days and having taken active role on the Board over the past six years, I will continue to promote and support its work and stay engaged with the monthly webinars. I am also confident that as the Board continues to forge towards Agenda2030 aims, its commitment, energy and enthusiasm to support Montessorians across Europe and beyond will enable the organisation to not only deliver on its mission but also flourish in its service to the community.

Do not miss the opportunity to join us in Oslo – registrations are still open! I am looking forward to sharing many of the activities in the programme which promise to take us all "Out of the Montessori Box"!

With warm regards,

Barbara



"The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself
in the service of others."

Fun fact:
This quote is often attributed to Montessori, though it is also linked to Mahatma Gandhi.

CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dear Montessori Europe Members,

We are excited to welcome you to our annual congress in Oslo from May 9th-11th, 2025. As part of the congress, we will also hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we elect members to the Montessori Europe Board.

Board Elections - Call for Candidates
Montessori Europe is a non-profit organisation with an honorary Board elected by members at the AGM. Every two years, half of the Board positions are up for election. We encourage all interested members to stand for election.

Board Positions and Term
Board members serve a four-year term, with elections staggered every two years. The following positions are open for election at the Oslo AGM:

- President
- Four additional Board members (without portfolio)

Why Join the Board?
Board membership is a rewarding way to contribute to the Montessori community. Here's what to expect:

- Meetings:
  - Virtual: Monthly Zoom meetings (approx. 2 hours)
  - In-Person: One to two annual meetings (2-3 days, hosted in the congress city)
  - Expenses: Travel, accommodation, and congress attendance costs covered

- Language and Representation:
  - Working language: English (fluency required)
  - Individual representation: Board members do not represent a country or organisation but serve as individuals
  - Diversity encouraged: We welcome candidates from various backgrounds, age groups, and locations

- Commitments and Responsibilities:
  - Support Montessori Europe's mission and identity
  - Collaborate on projects, research, and advocacy
  - Engage in teamwork and effective communication
  - Contribute to key areas such as:
    - Newsletter and social media
    - Website content and sponsorship relations
    - Congress planning, sales and marketing
    - Strengthening international networks

- Time Commitment
  - Estimated 2-3 hours per week (varies seasonally)
  - Flexibility is essential due to fluctuating workloads

How to Apply

According to our statutes, candidacy can be declared during the AGM, but we strongly prefer early applications. This allows us to discuss roles and responsibilities in advance.

If you are interested, please submit a short letter of interest (max. 150 words) by 15 March 2025, to office@montessori-europe.net, including:

- Your background, especially in Montessori education
- Your motivation for joining the Board

For more information about being on the Board you may also contact Barbara Isaacs at Barbara.isaacs@montessori-europe.net.

We look forward to your participation and commitment to Montessori Europe!



OSLO SCHOOL VISITS

Join us to experience the magic of Montessori in action in Oslo!

This year, as part of the Montessori Europe Congress, we continue a cherished tradition: guided visits to selected Montessori schools on the morning of Friday 9th May.

This unique opportunity allows you to step inside diverse Montessori settings, observe their thoughtfully designed environments, and gain valuable insights into their daily practices. This is the perfect opportunity to expand your perspective, find fresh inspiration, and connect with fellow educators and practitioners from across Europe.

The school visits have become a highlight of our Congress, sparking meaningful discussions and leaving a lasting impression on participants year after year. Don't miss this chance to experience the Montessori philosophy in action and discover new ideas to take back to your own community.

Spaces are limited, so register today to secure your spot at the Congress and on the school visits.

Let's come together in Oslo to learn, share, and grow.

BÆRUM MONTESSORISKOLE

Bambini Montessoribarnehage -slik barn ser det

DRØBAK MONTESSORI

Hamar Montessoriskole

Montessoriskolen Lyse

HOLMESTRAND INTERNASJONALE Montessoriskole

Oslo Montessoriskole lærelyst for livet

Montessoribarnehagene Solsikken

ADOLESCENT VOICES



This year, we are delighted to be able to stand by our Agenda2030 mandate to give our children a voice. Adolescents from three Norwegian schools will be delivering their **'Montessori Best Practice' workshops** on Saturday 10 May 2025.

These workshops intend to demonstrate how Montessori principles can be innovatively applied in schools by equipping participants with tools and ideas to implement new solutions in their own environments.

Each workshop consists of:

- Presentations from the three schools sharing concrete and inspiring examples of best practices.
  - **Bærum Montessori School:** School garden project.
  - **daVinci Montessori School**: Student agency in practice.
  - **Drøbak Montessori School**: Sustainable school buildings.

- Interactive discussions and questions from participants.

- Creative activities that engage and provide practical experiences.

Let's learn from our children - it is their future we are looking towards!



JOIN THE SCHOOL MARKETPLACE AT THE MONTESSORI EUROPE CONGRESS 2025!

Oslo, Norway | Saturday, 10 May 2025

Is your school doing something innovative in sustainability, entrepreneurship, or creative student projects? Showcase your work at **The School Marketplace**—a unique platform where students can display, share, and sell their entrepreneurial products to an international Montessori audience!

Why Participate?

- **Showcase Your School's Creativity** – Display handmade products, student-led projects, and sustainable initiatives.
- **Inspire And Be Inspired** – Share ideas with other schools and connect with Montessori educators.
- **Experience Real-World Entrepreneurship** – Give students the chance to present and manage their own micro-economies.

What's Provided?

- A wall space for posters and visual displays
- A table for products, models, or interactive presentations
- A chance to engage with global Montessori delegates



Schedule:

- Setup: 08:00 - 09:00
- Open Hours: 09:00 - 19:00

No cost for participating schools! Schools represented must however have a supervising adult attending the congress.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING STUDENT INNOVATION!
SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO REGISTER NOW!
REGISTRATIONS CLOSE ON THE 28TH OF MARCH 2025, OR WHEN SPACES ARE FILLED.

For more information and registration: Contact Roe Lauvås: roe.lauvasjr@montessori-europe.net.

Qualitative Observation and Reflection in Montessori Practice

Montessori Europe Board member, Dr. Jarosław Jendza, from the University of Gdansk's Institute of Education, delivered the second webinar in the series **"The Quality Montessori Environment and the Research-Informed Practitioner"** on December 18, 2024. This series of four webinars, organised by Montessori Europe, precedes the upcoming "Montessori: Out of the Box!" Congress, scheduled to take place in Oslo, Norway, from May 9 to 11, 2025. The webinar explored the philosophical foundations and practical applications of qualitative observation in Montessori practice, emphasising its potential to transform educational environments while remaining true to the core Montessori principles.

Dr. Jendza began by addressing the concept of quality in education, drawing on Aristotle's philosophy. In Aristotle's view, quality is a unique and unmeasurable attribute, something that cannot be reduced to comparative scales or norms. Dr. Jendza explained how modern education has shifted away from this understanding. Beginning in the 1980s, a neoliberal approach redefined quality in managerial terms, focusing on efficiency, standardisation, and measurable outcomes. This shift has often led to a narrow interpretation of educational success, sidelining individuality and human uniqueness. Dr. Jendza called for a reimagining of quality, one that aligns with Montessori's vision of the child as a singular being, emphasising reflection and philosophical inquiry over rigid metrics.

Central to this reimagining is the practice of qualitative observation. Dr. Jendza described this approach as one that takes place in natural environments, allowing educators to capture the genuine and unique interactions of children. He outlined the stages of qualitative observation, which include orientation, focus, and selection. These stages guide educators in identifying meaningful moments and patterns within the child's behaviour. To illustrate this, he introduced the concept of '**thick description**', a term popularised by anthropologist Clifford Geertz. Unlike surface-level observations, thick descriptions provide a rich, context-driven account of behaviour, revealing subtle details and deeper meanings.

Dr. Jendza also highlighted the importance of clinical descriptions as a foundation for qualitative observation. These descriptions are characterised by their objectivity, neutrality, and focus on detail. During the webinar, participants engaged in an exercise where they practiced describing everyday objects using these principles. The exercise demonstrated how clinical descriptions encourage educators to observe without judgment and to capture the essence of what is seen, laying the groundwork for more reflective practice.

One of the key tools discussed during the presentation was Tripp's **'Critical Incident Analysis'**, which enables educators to reflect deeply on significant moments in their teaching practice.

Dr. Jendza also referenced Brookfield's '**Four Lenses Framework**', a method that encourages reflection from multiple perspectives, including the learner's view and the educator's own experiences. By integrating these tools into their practice, Montessori educators can better understand their interactions with children and refine their approach to creating supportive learning environments.

Throughout his talk, Dr. Jendza emphasised that qualitative observation is not merely a tool for understanding children, but a transformative practice for educators themselves. It fosters a reflective mindset, helping practitioners appreciate the individuality of each child and the richness of their interactions. He encouraged educators to use non-judgmental and affirmative observation techniques as a way to build deeper connections with children, enhance their teaching environments, and bridge the gap between research and practice.

This presentation forms part of a broader initiative by Montessori Europe to strengthen the connection between research and practice through webinars, workshops, and post-congress activities. Dr. Jendza's insights will be explored further during the on-site workshop at the upcoming Oslo Congress, providing participants with hands-on opportunities to develop their skills in observation and in-class small scale research.

Jarek





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Dear Montessori Europe Friends,

I hope you have had a great start to the new year, filled with good health and positive challenges.

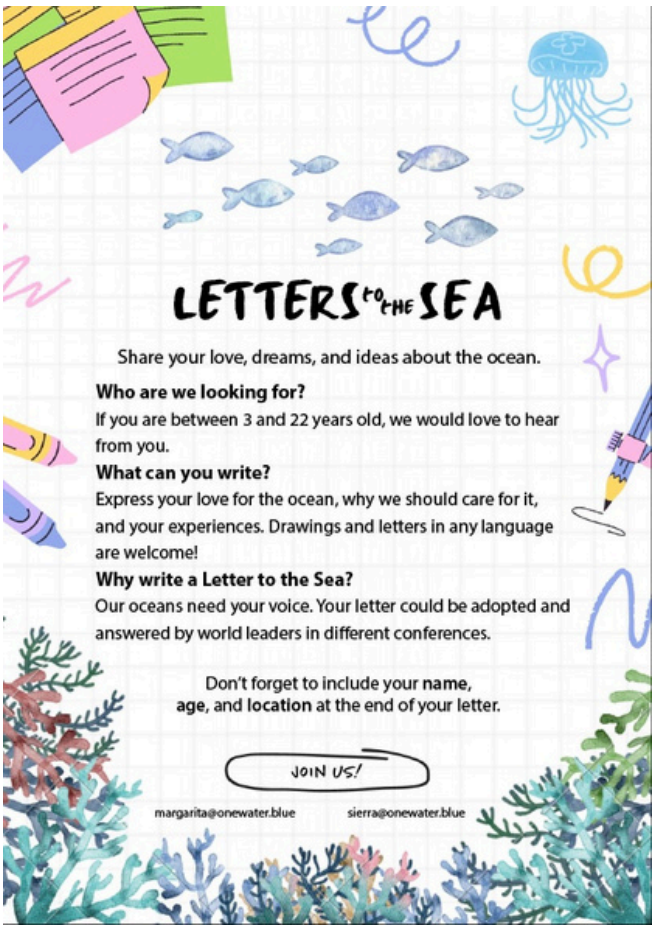
In late autumn last year, I came across a beautiful initiative called **"Letters to the Sea."** It captivated me with its charm, its broad scope encompassing all planes of development, and its serious commitment to amplifying children's voices at the UN Ocean Conference 2025.

After connecting with two of the organisers, Margarita Lopez and Sierra Christodoulou, I am excited to announce that this initiative will be joining us at the Oslo congress in May!

This global project by Somos OceanoS is endorsed by the UN Ocean Decade and supported by the EU Mission: Restore Our Ocean and Waters. It invites young ocean enthusiasts aged 3 to 22 to express their thoughts and feelings about the ocean through letters and drawings. The initiative aims to collect 1,000,000 letters to be showcased at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, fostering a profound dialogue between youth and decision-makers in marine conservation.

As representatives from the "Letters to the Sea" initiative will be present at our upcoming congress, we warmly invite all attending teachers to encourage their students to participate by creating letters or drawings expressing their connection to the ocean. Teachers can bring their contributions to the congress and personally hand them over to the initiative's representatives. These submissions will then be included in the global art exhibition in Nice in June 2025, ensuring that the voices of our youth are heard on an international stage.

Participating in this initiative offers our young people a unique opportunity to share their perspectives on marine conservation, voice their challenges, ambitions, and needs, and potentially have their letters adopted and answered by global leaders, making a real impact on marine conservation.



Join Us for a Day of Sustainability in Action on Friday 09 May 2025!

At the heart of Montessori Europe's Agenda2030 is the commitment to sustainability and we invite you to be part of the movement! On Friday, May 9, 2025, immerse yourself in an engaging workshop series designed to deepen your understanding of sustainability in Montessori education and equip you with practical strategies to bring back to your school.

Morning Session: Understanding the Theory and the Role of SDGs

- Explore why sustainability belongs in Montessori education, linked to peace education and the child's connection to nature.
- Learn about eco-theory concepts such as Nature-Deficit Disorder and Biophilia.
- Work in teams to reflect on challenges and brainstorm solutions for integrating sustainability across all Montessori age groups.

Afternoon Session: Practical Examples of Sustainability in Action

- Discover inspiring sustainability projects from Montessori schools worldwide.
- Adapt global best practices to fit your local school environment.
- Build connections within the Montessori Europe Sustainability Forum and leave with a concrete action plan.

Be part of the change! Join us in Oslo to help shape a sustainable tomorrow.

Carola





ADOLESCENT FORUM LESSONS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND!

We're excited to announce that the Adolescent Forum lessons are now available on demand! These sessions, **Mapping for Impact**, are included with the Adolescent Forum registration and are available online for convenient on-demand access. The lessons are supported by live webinar sessions.

Each lesson serves as a step in the journey toward creating tangible, sustainable impact, culminating in the Adolescent Forum's live event in Oslo from 9 to 11 May 2025. The series is structured to guide students through the stages of identifying, understanding, and solving pressing challenges in their school or community.

Lesson 1: What Breaks Your Heart?

- **Objective:** Students discover the issues that resonate deeply with them and collaborate with others who share their passion.
- **Action Step:** Students will reflect on local challenges that evoke a strong emotional response. They will identify potential partners - friends, teachers, parents, or organisations - who can help them to combine resources and skills.

Lesson 2: Why Does This Problem Exist?

- **Objective:** Students will strive to understand the root causes of the identified problem.
- **Action Step:** Students will use critical thinking to investigate systemic reasons behind the issue, and keep asking "why" until they uncover deeper insights.

Lesson 3: What is Your Plan?

- **Objective:** Students will be assisted to develop a concrete, actionable plan to address their problem.
- **Action Step:** Students will draft a detailed roadmap with roles, goals, timelines, and resources. They will be guided to define success and how to measure it.

Lesson 4: Make Your Impact

- **Objective:** Students will be prepared to implement their plan and track results.
- **Action Step:** Students will prepare to execute their strategy, adapt as needed, and measure the difference their efforts make.

We invite you all to then join us for the live forum on Sunday 11 May 2025, where the ideas and projects developed through these webinars will take centre stage. Participants will showcase their efforts, share insights, and inspire others to take meaningful action for a sustainable future.

Register now to gain access to these transformative webinars and prepare to make your impact!

Judith





montessori: out of the box

ADOLESCENT FORUM 2025 – A JOURNEY TO IMPACT!

Oslo, Norway | 9–11 May 2025

EMPOWER. INNOVATE. LEAD.

Why Participate?

Join an international network of young changemakers working towards real solutions for global challenges. The **Adolescent Forum** offers young students the opportunity to develop leadership and advocacy skills, connect with **Global Shapers**, a dynamic network of young leaders from the World Economic Forum, committed to driving positive change in their communities, and collaborate with **Riemer Brandsma**, a passionate climate activist and secondary student from the Netherlands. Participants will also have the unique chance to discuss their projects with **Dr. Filippo Giorgi**, a leading climate scientist, **Nobel Peace Prize co-recipient** as part of the IPCC, and an advocate for sustainable solutions. This experience will prepare students to make a meaningful difference in their community and beyond.

Through guided **Mapping for Impact** lessons and interactive webinars, students will **identify pressing issues, design actionable solutions, and refine their own project with expert mentorship** before presenting their work at the **Adolescent Forum in Oslo in May 2025**.

This is a unique opportunity to **develop leadership skills, build global connections, and be part of the solution for a more sustainable future.**

GLOBAL SHAPERS

GLOBAL SHAPERS COMMUNITY

RIEMER BRANDSMA



DR. FILIPPO GIORGI





THE ROAD TO OSLO: YOUR PATH TO MAKING AN IMPACT

Step 1: Register Today!
Deadline: 28 March 2025
Secure your spot early to access exclusive preparatory sessions and work alongside global youth leaders. Upon registration, students will receive access to the **Mapping for Impact** online lessons and scheduled live webinars.

Step 2: Participate in the Mapping for Impact Lessons
These pre-recorded, on-demand lessons guide students through the **four key stages of impactful action:**

- **What Breaks Your Heart?** – Identify local or global issues that inspire you to make a difference.
- **Why Does This Problem Exist?** – Investigate root causes and deepen your understanding.
- **What Is Our Plan?** – Design a practical and actionable strategy for change.
- **Make Your Impact!** – Implement your project and prepare for the live showcase in Oslo!

Step 3: Participate in the Mapping for Impact Webinars
These live sessions provide students with the opportunity to ask questions, gain deeper insights, and engage in discussions around their chosen topics. Facilitators will guide participants through any challenges they may be facing, ensuring their projects are well-developed before the final forum.

Next Webinar Date:

- **Thursday, 3 April 2025 15:00 CET** – Finalising actionable strategies and project plans.

Step 4: The Final Preparatory Webinar – Thursday, 24 April 2025 15:00 CET
This last live session brings together all participants for a final check-in before **Oslo 2025**. Students will refine their projects, engage in peer feedback, and receive guidance from experienced facilitators and mentors to ensure they are fully prepared for the live event.

Step 5: The Adolescent Forum in Oslo
From **9–11 May 2025**, participants will engage in interactive workshops, and visit impactful sustainability sites in Oslo before presenting their projects. The forum is an immersive experience where students will gain direct mentorship from **Global Shapers**, interact with international youth leaders, and discuss their projects with **Dr. Filippo Giorgi**.

FIND THE FULL PROGRAMME AND REGISTER **HERE**

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MONTESSORI EUROPE CONGRESS 2025 - REGISTER NOW

9 - 11 May 2025 | Oslo, Norway

Montessori Norge

office@montessori-europe.net

www.montessori-europe.net

2025 ME WEBINAR SERIES

We are delighted to continue our webinars into 2025. Please diarise these dates and click on the registration link to book your space. Our webinars are free of charge and we look forward to seeing you online! Please note that none of our webinars are recorded.



03 March 2025 19:00 (CET): **Religious and Moral Education in Early Adolescence**

How can values and spirituality support adolescents through early puberty? In this webinar, **Dr. Rebecca Teclemariam-Mesbah** explores Montessori's vision of moral education as a path to peace, helping 12 to 15 year-olds balance material, social, and spiritual growth. Through real-world examples, she will highlight practical ways to nurture purpose, responsibility, and social change.

Register here.



26 March 2025 19:00 (CET): **Auto-Transformative Observation and Un/Re-Learning to Be a Montessori Guide**

How can reflection and research support Montessori guides in overcoming challenges and preventing burnout? In the final webinar of the series, Dr. Jarek Jendza explores auto-transformative writing, in-class research, and collaboration with academics as tools for professional growth. He will also discuss ethical considerations and the therapeutic potential of self-inquiry in Montessori practice.

Register here.



14 April 2025 19:00 (CET): **Talking About Climate Change – A New Cosmic Tale**

How can we introduce climate change to children without creating fear or helplessness? In this workshop, **Dr. Judith Neff** presents a newly developed cosmic story addressing climate change through Montessori's cosmic education principles. Participants will explore how to make complex environmental issues accessible and empowering for children in the second plane of development, engage in a practical activity to evaluate key storytelling principles, and reflect on ways to inspire collective action in their own communities.

Register here.

Exciting New Publications from Montessori-Pierson Publishing

Montessori-Pierson Publishing Company is preparing to release two remarkable books drawn from the Maria Montessori Archives, offering fresh insights into Montessori theory and practice. Set for publication in 2025, these works will be essential reading for all Montessori educators and enthusiasts.



Interpreting Montessori: A Selection of Writings by Mario Montessori

Mario Montessori (1898–1982), Maria Montessori's son and closest collaborator, played a vital role in interpreting and expanding upon her ideas. This collection of his writings explores the balance between universal human development principles and their adaptation across cultures and eras.

The book is divided into two sections:

- Theory to Practice – Key essays on Montessori philosophy, including Syntropy and Psychological Growth, The Human Tendencies and Montessori Education, Cosmic Education, and Meditation on Silence.
- Practice to Theory – Practical reflections that illuminate Montessori's principles, such as Montessori Jargon, Education as a Help to Life, The Constructive Triangles, and Dr. Montessori's Approach to Language in the Second Plane of Development.

Cosmic Education: A Selection of Texts by Maria and Mario Montessori

Cosmic Education is at the heart of the Montessori approach, helping children understand their place in the universe by providing the "keys to the world." This book compiles significant texts from Maria and Mario Montessori on the concept of Cosmic Education, including Maria Montessori's lectures from 1935 to 1950, the Kodaikanal Lectures (1943–44), Education and Peace (1936), and Mario Montessori's reflections on the Second Plane of Education and Cosmic Education in the late 20th century.

Maria Montessori once said, "If to the small children we have to give the world, to the older ones we must give the universe." This book brings together decades of thought on how Montessori education prepares children to understand and contribute to the world around them.

montessori-pierson publishing company

New Book Release: Technology in the Montessori Classroom by Sarah Kennedy-Berge





The world is evolving at an unprecedented pace, with technology shaping the future whether we embrace it or not. As Montessori educators, we have a unique challenge - how do we integrate digital tools into our classrooms while remaining true to the timeless Montessori principles of independence, concentration, and creativity?

In her latest book, **Technology in the Montessori Classroom**, Sarah Kennedy-Berge offers a thoughtful and practical approach to navigating this balance. The book is structured in two parts:

Part One: Understanding Technology Through a Montessori Lens

This section explores common concerns about technology in Montessori environments, addressing misconceptions and providing a framework that aligns digital tools with Montessori philosophy.

Part Two: Practical Implementation

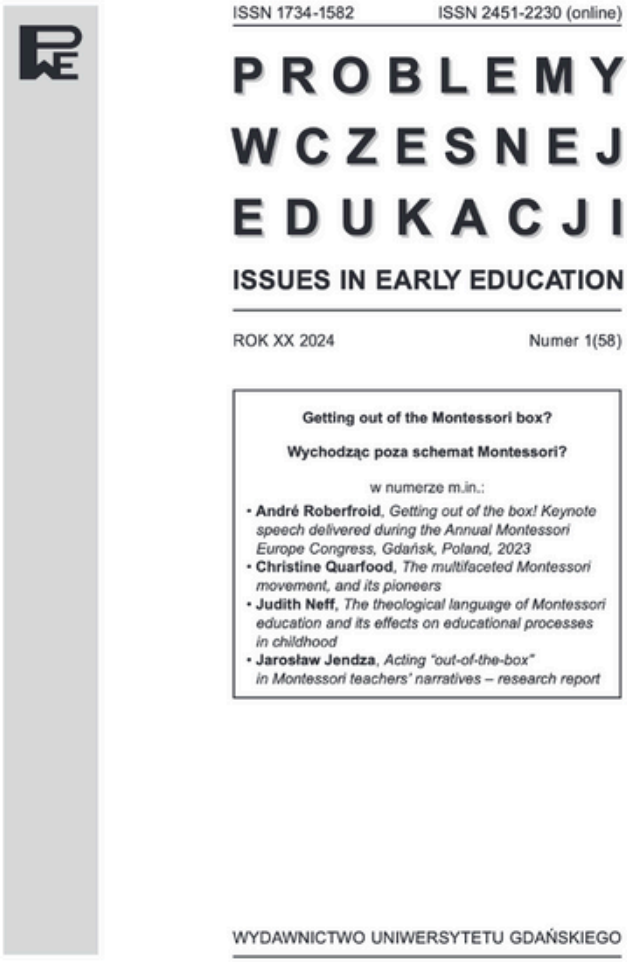
A hands-on guide filled with step-by-step activities that bring creative technology into the classroom while upholding Montessori's core values. Consider this your Montessori Cosmic Technology album - a resource designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and responsible digital engagement.

Born out of Sarah Kennedy-Berge's collaboration with Prof. Jordi Freixenet on the MonTech project, this book builds upon their research into blending Montessori principles with creative technology. It provides a roadmap for educators looking to introduce digital tools without compromising the Montessori approach. Sarah will be presenting her research at the Montessori Europe Conference in Oslo this May, alongside Prof. Jordi Freixenet. She will also be leading two workshops based on the activities from this book, which will be offered to congress delegates at a special discounted price.

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE ON MONTESSORI EDUCATION PUBLISHED!

Following the 2023 Montessori Europe congress in Gdansk, researchers were invited to contribute to a special issue of the journal **'Issues in Early Education**' affiliated with the University of Gdansk. The work on the publication of this issue took several months, but the result is truly impressive and **all articles are now available as open access papers!**

This collection of research articles provides a diverse and generous consideration of Montessori's inspiration and legacy and challenges us to think about Montessori practice in the 21st century. Inspired by Andre Roberfroid's keynote presentation we see it as our responsibility to introduce Montessori to the wider education community by taking a critical look at what she has to offer to children and their families today. As Roberfroid puts it – it is not how we use the materials – it is in the fostering of freedom, respect, and solidarity that the benefits of Montessori education lie.





We are delighted to confirm that all attendees of the Montessori Europe Congress will receive a **free copy** of a special issue of **Issues in Early Education**, a journal affiliated with the University of Gdansk. This edition, inspired by the 2023 Congress in Gdansk, features a collection of open-access research articles exploring Montessori's legacy and its relevance in the 21st century.

SCAN ME

Andre Roberfroid's call to action urges the Montessori community to reflect on our role as educators by championing education based on freedom, respect, and solidarity for all children. The children of today have the power to be the heralds of the New World which Montessori was desperate to create – a world which if it is to evolve rather than self-destruct will have to be very different from the one imagined by, not only Montessori, but also by many of us guiding children in their education today. Roberfroid's deeply held belief is that it is within our power – but we need to be brave, bold, and without fear. We need to engage and share our Montessori Treasure Box, which, if we do, will hold new treasures and possibilities, not only for the children of today, but for humanity and the world.

Christine Quarfood in her paper titled: ***The multifaceted Montessori movement and its pioneers*** outlines the initial success of Montessori's unique perspective of education and juxtaposes it with views of several of her contemporaries, many of whom were her supporters. It also draws our attention to the strong influence of the AMI organisation, which to this day, is seen as the guardian of the Montessori legacy. It offers an important foundation for our understanding of aspects of the aims and aspirations of Montessori education today.

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

In her article: ***The theological language of Montessori education and its effects on educational processes in childhood***, **Judith Neff** provides us with opportunities for personal reflection on the relationship between theology and pedagogy as evident in Montessori's own writing. It also highlights some of the possible tensions which can arise in Montessori's writing between her scientific approach to the understanding of children and her use of theological language which underpins the writing. It further asks the question – what does it mean for Montessori education today – how has it impacted our practice? And the question which leads to further academic investigations – how has it influenced the expansion of Montessori education beyond the Christian context?

SCAN ME

Jarosław Jendza is the author of the paper titled: ***Acting "out-of-the-box" in Montessori teachers' narratives – research report***. Jendza challenges us to seek some answers to "acting out of the box" in the practical example of the adults "following the child" rather than "guiding the child" in the use of Montessori learning materials.

Susanne van Niekerk in her ***investigation into the extent of, and reason for, the disparity between theory and practice in Montessori early childhood settings in South Africa*** highlights the challenges and tensions between the principles of Montessori pedagogy and their implementation in the classroom. Her research examines the importance of the initial Montessori teacher training and continued professional development and considers external pressures which contribute to the challenges in daily life in the Montessori classroom. Her suggestion of the important link between Csikszentmihalyi's Flow and Montessori's concept of Normalisation presents us with opportunities for further research and evaluation of the benefits of Montessori pedagogy in the context of today's education of young children.

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

Per Gynter and **Eva-Maria Tebano Ahlquist** present a paper titled: ***Writing and reading in Montessori preschools in the digital age – A valid approach?*** Gynter and Tebano Ahlquist's article explores one of the key Montessori discoveries that 'children write before they read' in context of their sensory-motor preparation and as challenged by today's use of computers at the time when traditionally children learned to write. This research contributes to our discussions on the benefits of Montessori education at a time when computers provide an opportunity to not only physically write a letter or an article, but AI can construct letters, articles and essays on a particular topic – thus challenging some of the accepted norms and requirements of our educational systems.

SCAN ME

Romali Rosales Chavarria shares her research experiences of introducing a second language in Montessori schools in Scotland and in Mexico. In her article titled: ***Additional Language Learning in Montessori settings: insights from an implementation process of a Second Language Programme in a Scottish Montessori school*** she acknowledges the anecdotal nature of shared knowledge between practitioners and the need for sensitivity to the learning context and school cultures. She highlights the need for further research in this widely established practice of second language teaching. She discusses some of the challenges of moving from limited-scope approaches to wide-scope approaches of introducing a second language to children - and considers the benefits of the almost tokenistic (once a week lesson in second language) approach and working with the immersive approach which requires not only commitment from the staff and school, but also patience, sensitivity, and flexibility on the part of the educators.

Helen Prochazka's article ***Bringing the words out of the Montessori box: Towards a Montessori system for enhancing language development from birth to six years*** addresses the oral language deficit, in two- and three-year-olds, which is a focus of many current UK initiatives introduced to children in a variety of early years provisions. She suggests that Montessori pedagogy offers us effective tools which could address this deficit and could help young children communicate their thoughts, ideas, and feelings. This observation could be an invitation to further research by developing a framework for documenting children's language learning in Montessori settings and demonstrating the value of a prepared environment and sensitive support from adults and peers.

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

In the article: ***„Aid to life" - Montessorian pedagogy at the service of the autism spectrum children,*** **Monika Pawluczuk-Solarz** addresses the opportunities for learning of children with specific needs, which is clearly a situation in which practitioners need to follow the child and thus "act outside the well-known box". Pawluczuk-Solarz shares her experience of working with these children using the principle and materials of the Montessori approach. She challenges readers to think about the benefits this approach could bring to families and settings, particularly to those who are not able to access Montessori education for their children. We applaud her commitment to children so as to benefit them from the Montessori legacy and think this is not only a paper, but also an approach that could make Montessori more open and accessible.

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In the next article – ***Designing a system of learning materials to explain climate change to children*** – based on her dissertation, **Lucy Blackwell** offers us an opportunity to share in her cyclical process of evaluating the materials designed to help children understand climate change. Her approach and design demonstrate a deep commitment to work within the parameters of Montessori pedagogical principles and to be respectful not only to adult, but also to children's feedback. Her modest and positive approach to her research is a fitting inspiration for all of us who are inspired by Montessori's legacy.

Maria Angelica Paez-Barrameda is the author of the study titled: ***The Impact of Successive Montessori Programmes on Cognitive Achievement***. The study critically engages with the Montessori approach by empirically evaluating the cognitive outcomes of successive Montessori education. It also provides robust evidence supporting the efficacy of the Montessori Method, aligning with Montessori's opinion that education should be an integrated continuum. The research underscores the importance of continuity in Montessori education, suggesting that prolonged exposure to Montessori programmes enhances cognitive development and college success. By highlighting significant differences in academic performance among groups with varying Montessori experiences, the study advocates the implementation of the full Montessori spectrum. The study calls for future research to further validate its findings, indicating a critical engagement with the existing research gaps in Montessori education.

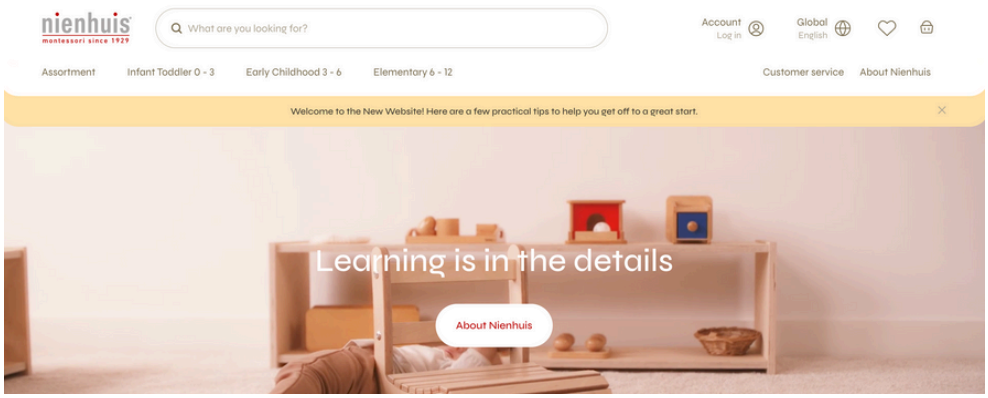
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The volume ends with an interview or rather a conversation between **Barbara Isaacs**, The President of Montessori Europe and **Jarosław Jendza**, the guest editor of this issue of the journal. This interview can be read in at least three different ways. Firstly, it is the personal story of a person with enormous professional experience; a person involved in Montessori pedagogy for several decades. Secondly, this interview provides important guidance for those who are at the beginning of their teaching career, pointing out that a critical and distanced approach to Montessori pedagogy is crucial if one really wishes to humbly follow the child. Thirdly, this interview is a true treasure trove of knowledge, not only about Montessori pedagogy itself, but about child-centred education in general.

Nienhuis Montessori has a new website!

The brand-new Nienhuis global online platform went live at the end of January 2025. This new platform includes many new functionalities that will make a valuable contribution to the Montessori community. Click here to browse or 'observe' for yourself!



Save the Date: Nienhuis Montessori Retreat 2025

Since 2010, Nienhuis has been hosting Montessori Retreats – informal yet enriching gatherings at the Nienhuis headquarters in the Netherlands. These weekends offer a unique opportunity to engage with insightful and practical lectures delivered by highly experienced Montessori trainers.

Beyond learning, the retreat is a celebration of connection, collaboration, and shared experiences, all in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Expect inspiring discussions, networking opportunities, and of course, delicious food and drinks!

To keep the event accessible to all, the full weekend experience – including all meals and refreshments – is available for just €75.

Mark your calendars for the next Nienhuis Montessori Retreat which takes place from 14 to 16 November 2025, with the theme: **Emotional Development Throughout the Four Planes.**

Join the First GAM Montessori Retreat in Italy!

The very first GAM Montessori Retreat, co-organised by Nienhuis Montessori takes place in Gonzaga, Italy from 28 to 30 March 2025.

This special event that reflects the true reflection of the Montessori spirit of collaboration over competition also marks a historic milestone: the 100th anniversary of Gonzagarredi, celebrating a century of craftsmanship in Montessori materials.



Theme: Space, Design, and Learning

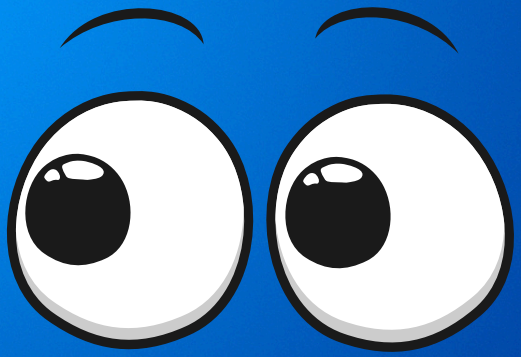
Through the lens of the four planes of development, an international team of expert speakers will explore how space and design shape learning environments and educational experiences.

To find out more:
Visit the websites of Nienhuis and GAM Montessori for details.
View the programme here.
Register here.

Look out for our special EXHIBITOR NEWSFLASH in March!

What is a congress without some fabulous exhibitors and some great congress specials?

Keep an eye on your inboxes in March to see what will be on offer - you will not be disappointed!



STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

As we step into 2025, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and possibility. This year promises to be an exciting one for Montessori Europe, with new initiatives, engaging webinars, and of course, our highly anticipated Congress in Oslo, **Montessori: Out of the Box**.

If you haven't registered yet, don't miss out - registrations close at the end of March 2025! Secure your place now for this inspiring gathering of Montessori educators, researchers, and advocates.

We are also looking forward to hearing from those who are interested in joining the Montessori Europe Board. If you are passionate about shaping the future of our organisation and contributing to our mission, we encourage you to step forward. The deadline for board applications is 15 March 2025.

If you haven't yet joined Montessori Europe as a member, we invite you to become part of this dynamic network. Your membership not only supports our work but also connects you with a vibrant community dedicated to advancing Montessori education across Europe and beyond.

Let's make 2025 a year of collaboration, innovation, and meaningful impact. We're excited for the journey ahead and look forward to sharing it with you!

The Montessori Europe Team



Vi håper å se deg i Oslo!