

# MONTESORI EUROPE NEWSLETTER





**connecting Montessorians across Europe and beyond...**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Montessori Europe Friends,

The last couple of months has seen a frenzy of activity in the Montessori Europe office as we work to finalise the many strands of our preparation for Oslo 2025 where we will present the **Montessori: Out of the Box** theme for you to explore, ponder, discuss and reflect upon.

The Montessori Europe board visited Oslo at the end of September to finalise arrangements and to 'test' the fabulous congress venue, the Clarion The Hub Hotel. This modern and spacious hotel located at the heart of Oslo is a fitting venue for the congress and we can report that the accommodation and food is outstanding!

We are indebted to Nina Johanson and Montessori Norge for their help and support in preparation for the congress. It is a delight to work so closely with a national organisation, and we hope to be able to forge further alliances of this kind in the years ahead.

As you will see from the provisional programme included in this newsletter, the 2025 Oslo Congress offers a rich selection of activities and talks which include some innovative and 'out of the box' features. Friday has a full programme that includes both school visits and workshops giving practical guidance on how to engage teachers in classroom-based research, sharing of sustainability projects suitable for your classrooms, and a workshop for teachers wishing to support their adolescent students in sustainability and climate focused projects.

Saturday has a diverse spread of workshops, including 'Walk and Talk' workshops in Oslo city, a school marketplace, where schools can display their entrepreneurship projects, and an opportunity to engage with the Norwegian adolescent community. Sunday allows workshop attendees to share in the projects of the Adolescent Forum, that will this year again run parallel to the Congress.

We are also very excited to host exceptional keynote addresses at this congress. We start the keynote addresses out of the box with a presentation on the role of AI in Education led by Professor Eirik Sjøholm Knudsen and his son, Theis. We are honoured to welcome the distinguished Dr Filippo Giorgi, whose keynote will focus on peace and climate change. As a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Dr Giorgi was one of the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize alongside Al Gore in 2007. The Montessori keynote will be presented by Clare Healy Walls who pioneered Montessori education in Norway and is the author of several books dedicated to Montessori education, including a helpful guide for working with parents. Dr Jayne Osgood, PhD, Professor of Childhood Studies at the Centre for Education Research & Scholarship, Middlesex University, London will explore a post humanistic perspective of early childhood as reflected in her recent research.

Further detailed information about our exciting programme and speakers will be published on our website from Monday 18 November 2024. Early Bird congress registrations for current (paid-up) members of Montessori Europe and Montessori Norway will open on Wednesday 20 November 2024. If you are not yet a member, but would like to benefit from the early bird registrations to book for workshops and take advantage of the discounted hotel rate package, please join now.

In the meantime we will continue with our programme of webinars. Do not miss the opportunity to join Judith Cunningham and Riemer Brandsma on Thursday 14th November for the Adolescent Forum Introductory webinar. On Monday 2nd December you can participate in a discussion focused on exercises of Practical Life with Jana Morgan Herman and Barbara Isaacs. Our Research Webinar series with Jarek Jendza continue on Wednesday 18th December. Please see more information in this newsletter.

With warmest wishes to everyone as you prepare to celebrate the festive season with your students and their families,

*Barbara*





### Friday

- Montessori School Visits
- Montessori Research Presentations
- Action Research Workshop for Teachers
- Sustainability Workshops
- Adolescent Mentorship Workshop
- Keynote Address

### Saturday

- Keynote Addresses
- Best Practices and Micro-economies
- Variety of 'out of the box' Montessori workshops
- Networking events

### Sunday

- Keynote Address
- Adolescent Forum Project Presentations
- Call to Action Debate

# MONTESSORI EUROPE CONGRESS 2025

9 - 11 May 2025 | Oslo, Norway

Join us for an inspiring weekend of Montessori education and innovation delivered in proud partnership with  
Montessori Norway!

Early Bird Registration for Montessori Europe members opens on 20 November 2024.

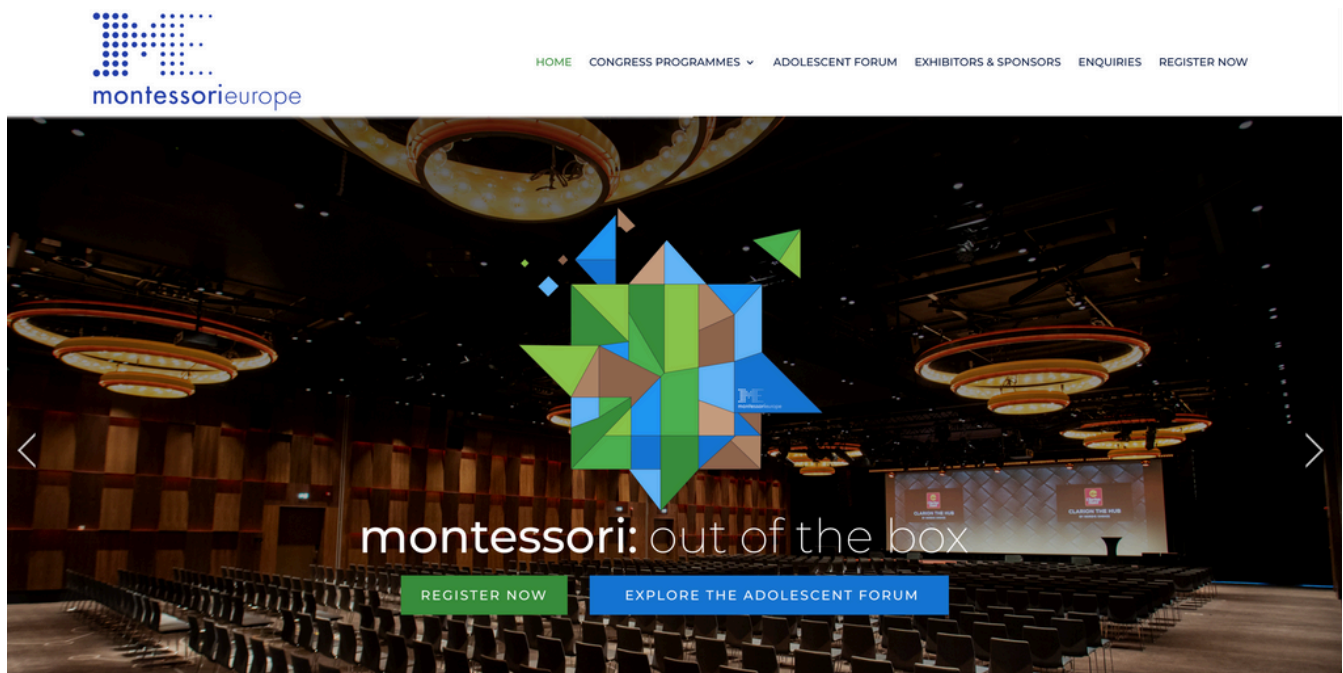


# VISIT OUR CONGRESS WEBSITE

We have launched our official [Montessori Europe Congress website](#) where you can find all the details of the programmes, keynote speakers, workshop presenters, exhibitors and more.

Please take some time to peruse the website before early bird congress registrations open for Montessori Europe and Montessori Norway members on **Wednesday 20 November 2024**.

If you are not yet a Montessori Europe member, and would like to become one in order to take advantage of the early bird registration to secure school visits, workshops and accommodation, please do so [here](#).



Registrations for non-members will open on 13 January 2025.

All registrations close on 31 March 2025.

Please see the provisional programme for the Congress on the following page. We are honoured to feature an esteemed selection of keynote speakers and workshop presenters. Full details of all the speakers and their presentations are available on the congress website for your convenience.

| FRIDAY 9 MAY    |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 – 09:00   | Registration for delegates attending the morning workshops                                                             |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 09:00 – 12:30   | School Visit Programme                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                 | Adolescent Working Group                                                                                               | Sustainability Working Group                                                                        | Research Working Group                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 09:00 – 12:00   |                                                                                                                        | <b>Workshop:</b><br>Integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Montessori Curriculum | <b>Research Presentations:</b><br>Session 1: Fostering Early Childhood Development: Language, Social Competence and Nature.<br>Session 2: Adolescence, Technology and Global Citizenship in Montessori Education |
| 12:00           | Registration opens for delegates coming from the school visits                                                         |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13:00 – 14:00   | Welcome Lunch                                                                                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                 | Adolescent Working Group                                                                                               | Sustainability Working Group                                                                        | Research Working Group                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 14:00 – 15:30   | <b>Workshop:</b><br>The Missing Link to Successful Student Projects – Mentorship                                       | <b>Workshop:</b><br>Practical Examples of Sustainability in Montessori Schools                      | <b>Workshop:</b><br>Action Research: The Teacher as the Scientist.                                                                                                                                               |
| 15:30 – 16:30   | Comfort Break                                                                                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16:30 – 17:00   | Opening Ceremony                                                                                                       |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17:00 – 18:00   | Keynote Address: AI AI Captain: The Promise and Pitfalls of AI in Education – Eirik Sjöholm Knudsen and his son, Theis |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18:00 – 18:30   | Comfort Break                                                                                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18:30 – 20:00   | Montessori Europe AGM                                                                                                  |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| SATURDAY 10 MAY |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 08:00 – 09:00   | Last chance for registration                                                                                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 09:00 – 09:30   | Welcome                                                                                                                |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 09:30 – 10:30   | Keynote Address: A Cultural Transition Towards a Planet for all – Dr Filippo Giorgi                                    |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:30 – 11:00   | Comfort Break                                                                                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11:00 – 12:30   | Workshops                                                                                                              |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13:00 – 14:00   | Lunch and Networking                                                                                                   |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14:00 – 15:30   | Workshops                                                                                                              |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15:30 – 16:00   | Comfort Break                                                                                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16:00 – 17:00   | Keynote Address: Childing: Refusing to be Boxed in... – Dr Jayne Osgood                                                |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17:30 – 19:30   | Meet and Greet Function                                                                                                |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| SUNDAY 11 MAY   |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 09:00 – 10:00   | Keynote Address: Montessori Principles Today - Inside and Outside the Box – Clare Healy Walls                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:00 – 10:30   | Comfort Break                                                                                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:30 – 12:00   | Adolescent Forum Project Showcase                                                                                      |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 12:00 – 13:00   | Closing Ceremony                                                                                                       |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

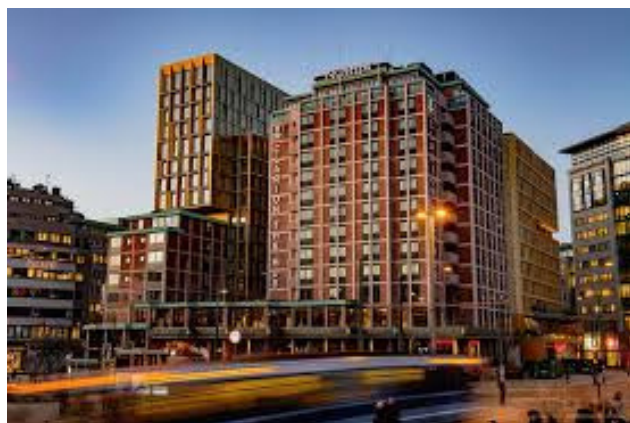
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# OUR CONGRESS VENUE

The Montessori Europe 2025 Congress will take place at the **Clarion Hotel The Hub**, a premier destination located in the vibrant heart of Oslo. This modern hotel has been carefully chosen to align with the Out of the Box theme and to support Montessori Europe's commitment to sustainability and innovative educational practices. The Hub is perfectly situated in the very center of Oslo, just a short stroll from Oslo Central Station and the main bus terminal, making it incredibly easy to reach by train or bus. For international travellers, the hotel is easily accessible from Oslo Airport, with direct train links bringing you to the city centre in under 20 minutes.

As one of Scandinavia's largest hotels, Clarion Hotel The Hub is a pioneering green hotel, fully certified by BREEAM for its environmental responsibility. The hotel's eco-conscious initiatives include the elimination of single-use plastics, the use of chemical-free cleaning solutions, and an ambitious food waste reduction programme. The hotel's GrowHub, an urban rooftop garden, produces fresh microgreens and vegetables used in the hotel's restaurants year-round. Attendees are encouraged to visit this unique green space during their stay. The hotel is also home to rooftop beekeeping, a further nod to its integration of natural processes and urban sustainability.

Clarion Hotel The Hub offers state-of-the-art conference facilities, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for all Congress attendees. And with its central location, you'll be steps away from Oslo's main attractions, including the Oslo Opera House and the Munch Museum—ideal for those looking to explore the city before and after the congress.



Congress attendees can enjoy exclusive discounted accommodation rates when registering, making The Hub the perfect place to stay and experience the full spectrum of this dynamic and future-focused event.

At Clarion Hotel The Hub, your taste buds are also in for a treat! If you are staying at the hotel, a sumptuous breakfast is included in your package featuring everything from fresh Norwegian breads, artisanal cheeses, and seasonal fruits to indulgent pastries and a variety of warm, savoury dishes.

During the Congress, your registration also includes morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks, complete with irresistible snacks, and a lunch menu that celebrates the best of Nordic cuisine. The hotel takes pride in its locally-sourced ingredients, many of which are harvested directly from their on-site urban garden. Expect vibrant salads, farm-fresh vegetables, hearty main courses, and an array of mouthwatering desserts, all crafted with care to reflect the rich flavours of the region.

# OSLO IN THE SPRING...

Oslo is a vibrant city that offers plenty for visitors to explore, making it the perfect destination to extend your stay before or after the Montessori Europe 2025 Congress. Whether you're interested in art, history, or nature, there is something for everyone in this culturally rich city. Here are just a couple of examples to inspire you to visit!

## **Akershus Fortress**

This medieval fortress offers a fascinating look into Norway's military history and provides breathtaking views over the Oslo Fjord. It's also home to the Norwegian Resistance Museum.

## **Det Internasjonale Barnekunstmuseet** (The International Museum of Children's Art)

A unique museum dedicated to showcasing art created by children from around the world. It celebrates creativity and diversity through vibrant displays.

## **FRAM: The Polar Exploration Museum**

Delve into Norway's rich history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, including famous expeditions led by Roald Amundsen.

## **Kon-Tiki Museum**

Discover the story of Thor Heyerdahl's daring journey across the Pacific Ocean on a balsa wood raft. This museum showcases original artifacts from the expedition and explores Heyerdahl's life and work.

## **National Museum**

Norway's largest collection of art, architecture, and design. It recently reopened in a new building, housing works from ancient times to the contemporary era, including Edvard Munch's *The Scream*.

## **Nobel Peace Centre**

Explore the history of the Nobel Peace Prize and learn about its laureates at this interactive centre. The exhibits offer thought-provoking insights into global peace efforts.

## **The Munch Museum**

Discover the works of one of Norway's greatest artists, Edvard Munch. The museum's new waterfront location is a must-see, showcasing *The Scream* and many other masterpieces.

## **The Oslo Opera House**

An architectural marvel designed to resemble a glacier, the Oslo Opera House offers panoramic views of the fjord from its rooftop. It is also a cultural hub for opera, ballet, and theater performances.

Check out the  website for more inspiration!

# SCHOOL MARKETPLACE

The School Marketplace at Montessori Europe's annual conference in Oslo, 2025, offers a dynamic platform for schools to showcase innovative, entrepreneurial projects that embody Montessori's spirit of sustainability and student empowerment. The marketplace invites educators, students, and Montessori enthusiasts to discover firsthand how schools are fostering student agency, promoting environmental awareness, and cultivating sustainable practices within their communities. This is a unique opportunity to witness and celebrate the creativity and values that make Montessori education impactful and forward-thinking.

For schools in the Oslo area, the marketplace presents an ideal occasion to bring student-run businesses to life by selling products, sharing services, and showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit. The marketplace will allow students to engage in practical, real-world entrepreneurship but also motivate other attendees to explore similar initiatives within their own schools. All schools are warmly encouraged to participate, bringing their distinct projects and experiences that contribute to a rich, diverse showcase of sustainable practices and student-driven innovation.

This year, the Montessori Europe congress will also feature presentations and workshops from students at several inspiring Norwegian schools. **Bærum Montessori School** will share insights into their school garden project, a model for integrating environmental stewardship with hands-on learning. **Drøbak Montessori School** will present their eco-friendly school building, a sustainable design that serves as both a learning environment and an educational tool on resource efficiency. Finally, **daVinci Montessori School** will demonstrate their focus on student agency, highlighting how students are empowered to take active roles in shaping their educational experiences and school environment. Each presentation will provide valuable, practical ideas on how Montessori values can be lived out in diverse, innovative ways.

The School Marketplace is a opportunity to connect schools and educators, drawing inspiration from their creativity, innovation, and commitment to sustainability. Whether you are an educator, student, or Montessori advocate, the marketplace offers a collaborative space for learning, networking, and sparking new ideas for educational growth and sustainability.

Are you interested in showcasing your school's initiative? Contact us at [office@montessori-europe.net](mailto:office@montessori-europe.net).



## NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

### The Quality Montessori Environment and the Research-Informed Practitioner

The webinar titled "**The Quality Montessori Environment and the Research-Informed Practitioner**" served as the first of a four-part webinar series aimed at integrating research into Montessori educational practice. This series, developed under the guidance of Montessori Europe's Agenda2030, leads to the Montessori Europe Congress, "Out of the Box!" in Oslo, Norway, and seeks to establish a framework where Montessori education is informed by scientific inquiry and reflective observation.

Presented by Montessori Europe Board Member, **Dr. Jarosław Jendza** from the University of Gdańsk (Poland) this webinar explored both the roots of Montessori pedagogy and practical methodologies for educators to approach their teaching with a scientific mindset. It emphasised Montessori's belief that observation and a rigorous, scientific approach should underpin educational practice, positioning the child at the centre of learning rather than the educator or predefined curricula.

The webinar began by addressing Montessori's concept of scientific pedagogy and her vision of "following the child" in a scientific sense. Montessori, drawing from her background in medicine and psychology, argued that teachers should observe children as a biologist observes natural life: trying to be as objective as possible and gathering data without interference or judgment. She believed that this unbiased observation allowed teachers to respond to children's authentic needs, supporting self-directed learning rather than imposing rigid frameworks.



Dr. Jendza linked this philosophy to other influential thinkers who advocated for scientific approaches in education, such as **Janusz Korczak**, a Polish educator known for his work on children's rights and his concept of respecting the child's individuality, **Ellen Key**, a Swedish writer and educator who championed child-centred education and the "Century of the Child" as a call for society to focus on the well-being and development of children.

Expanding on these foundations, Dr. Jendza mentioned **Jean-Étienne Dominique Esquirol** and **Jean Marc Gaspard Itard** as early practitioners of scientific methods in child-focused fields. Esquirol, a French psychiatrist, was one of the first to address mental health through clinical observation, developing frameworks that influenced later approaches in special education. Itard, a pioneering French physician, is especially known for his work with Victor of Aveyron, a "wild child" who grew up in the forest without human contact.

Itard's systematic observations and detailed records of Victor's behaviours and responses helped lay the groundwork for special education and the study of child development. Dr. Jendza highlighted these figures as examples of how scientific methods could be applied to understand and support diverse learning needs, a principle central to Montessori's pedagogy.

The webinar also addressed the contributions of **Ovide Decroly**, a Belgian doctor and educator who, like Montessori, advocated for child-centred learning. Decroly's "global method" emphasised natural curiosity as the driver of learning, encouraging children to explore their surroundings and learn from real-life experiences. Dr. Jendza underscored how these thinkers, much like Montessori herself, approached education with a scientific mindset, using systematic observation and a focus on children's individual needs to inform their work.

Then the webinar flagged specific techniques for qualitative and quantitative observation in the Montessori classroom. **Qualitative approaches**, incorporating thick description, were presented as essential tools for capturing the complexity of children's interactions and behaviours. This approach, popularised by the anthropologist Clifford Geertz, involves creating detailed, contextualised records that capture not only what a child does, but also the environment, mood, and context surrounding those actions. Dr. Jendza encouraged educators to use clinical observation methods, often employed in psychology and anthropology, to document behaviour without applying judgments. This approach, he noted, allows educators to

genuinely "follow the child," responding to the child's needs as they emerge rather than relying on prescriptive teaching methods, even if they are described in albums.

**Quantitative methods** were presented as a complementary approach, useful for identifying patterns and trends in children's behaviour over time. Dr. Jendza acknowledged that some Montessori educators may view quantitative data with skepticism, as it seems less compatible with the philosophy's focus on individual development. However, he argued that carefully structured observation grids and codes could help teachers capture data on recurring behaviours or developmental progress, providing an intriguing perspective on a child's learning journey. He emphasised that a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods allows educators to create a well-rounded view of each child, balancing detailed narrative descriptions with measurable insights.

The lecture then turned to the "**Montessori prepared environment**" and the competencies required of educators to maintain it. Montessori designed the prepared environment to facilitate children's independence and freedom within limits, creating a space that encourages self-directed learning. Dr. Jendza described the educator's role as the "custodian" of this environment, responsible for ensuring it remains supportive and adaptable to each child's needs. He referenced **Lev Vygotsky's** concept of the "zone of proximal development," which proposes that children learn best when they are challenged just enough to promote growth. This concept aligns with the Montessori environment, where

educators provide children with the tools and space to explore independently within a structured, carefully designed setting. Dr. Jendza argued that creating such an environment requires not only technical skills but also spiritual preparation — a belief in the child's inherent ability to guide their own learning and a willingness to learn from the child's experience.

In discussing the necessary skills of a Montessori educator, Dr. Jendza emphasised the importance of data gathering, analysis, and reflective application. He linked these skills to the scientific process, describing how educators should approach observation and documentation as provisional and open to further interpretation. Here, he referenced **Paulo Freire** and his concept of “praxis,” which encourages teachers to view teaching as a process of continual reflection and action. According to Freire, education emerges through this cycle of inquiry and adaptation. Dr. Jendza stressed that Montessori educators must remain open to learning, always ready to refine their approach based on what they observe in the classroom.

The focus then moved on to **reflection** and **auto-transformative observation**. Dr. Jendza discussed how reflective practices can help educators avoid burnout and build resilience, maintaining their commitment to teaching. He introduced techniques inspired by auto-ethnography and psychoanalytical pedagogy, such as **auto-transformative writing**, where educators engage in reflective writing to process their observations and gain insights into their own practices. This reflective approach allows teachers to recognise and address their own biases, ensuring that they approach each child with openness and curiosity. By engaging in regular self-reflection, educators can deepen their understanding of both themselves and their students, fostering a classroom environment that is supportive and adaptable.

The webinar concluded with a discussion on **ethical considerations in Montessori research and observation**. Dr. Jendza emphasised the importance of respecting each child's autonomy and confidentiality, highlighting that observation should be conducted with sensitivity to the child's rights and dignity. He referenced **Martin Buber's** concept of “I-Thou” relationships, which calls for mutual respect and genuine connection in human interactions. In the Montessori context, this means viewing observation as a collaborative process rather than surveillance, treating the child as a partner in their own learning journey. Dr. Jendza argued that ethical research within Montessori education requires a careful balance between scientific inquiry and respect for the child's autonomy, in keeping with Montessori's own commitment to fostering a respectful, supportive learning environment.

Jarek



## Recommended Readings:

To further explore the concepts presented in this webinar, the following readings are recommended:

Buber, M., *I and Thou*. This text provides insights into ethical considerations and the importance of mutual respect, relevant for Montessori practitioners focusing on child-centered observation.

Freire, P., *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Freire's ideas on reflection and praxis offer a philosophical foundation for teachers committed to lifelong learning and adaptation.

Geertz, C., *The Interpretation of Cultures*. This work introduces "thick description," an observational "technique" highlighted in Dr. Jendza's lecture.

Lillard, A.S., *Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius*. A valuable resource for understanding Montessori methods through a scientific lens.

Montessori, M., *Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook*. This foundational text provides insight into Montessori's views on scientific pedagogy and her emphasis on observation.

Vygotsky, L., *Mind in Society*. Vygotsky's theories on learning and the zone of proximal development are essential for understanding Montessori's prepared environment.



# NEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

## **Join Us for a Two-Part Workshop on Sustainability in Montessori Education!**

On Friday, 9th of May 2025, the Sustainability Working Group is thrilled to invite you to a transformative workshop at the 2025 Oslo Congress, delivered in two parts by Carola Lång-Howard, Nina Johansen and Heidi von Staden.

### **Part 1: Sustainability Across the Planes of Development**

#### **Focus: Why we need to teach ABOUT the natural world**

The morning session will be an interactive exploration of Eco-theory and Montessori philosophy, framed within the context of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session aims to provide participants with an understanding of the human-nature connection and its significance in being addressed early on, and to demonstrate how to introduce the SDGs in a Montessori classroom in a developmentally appropriate manner considering the developmental stages of students.

### **Part 2: Practical Application of Sustainability Across the Planes of Development**

#### **Focus: Why and how we teach FOR the natural world**

The afternoon session allows a deep dive into practical applications of sustainability across the planes of development, featuring examples of sustainability practices from various parts of the world. This section of the workshop will showcase adaptable strategies for bringing sustainability to life in classrooms across the different planes of development in diverse settings.

**We look forward to welcoming you to a day of insight, inspiration, and practical ideas on May 9th!**

*Carola*



# NEWS FROM THE ADOLESCENT WORKING GROUP

## Join the Adolescent Forum at ME Oslo 2025

### Empowering Adolescents as Agents of Change for Climate and Sustainability

We would love to invite you to bring your adolescents to the Adolescent Forum, a unique and dynamic event running in parallel to the Montessori Europe Congress 2025. The Adolescent Forum brings together like-minded young changemakers from across Europe and beyond who are passionate about making a tangible impact in their communities and the world at large. Designed for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18, the Adolescent Forum empowers students to engage with global issues such as climate change and social justice, developing critical skills in advocacy, collaboration, and leadership.

As one of Montessori Europe's key pillars, the Adolescent Working Group is dedicated to amplifying the voices of adolescents, enabling them to advocate for a sustainable and equitable future. Through this forum, we offer adolescents a platform to explore actionable solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges.

### What is the Adolescent Forum?

The Adolescent Forum is an immersive, collaborative experience where students:

- Connect with peers to share ideas and build a community of hope amidst global challenges.
- Develop advocacy skills to champion the issues they care about most - especially climate action and social justice.
- Collaborate with youth leaders and sustainability experts to explore meaningful solutions to real-world problems.
- Receive mentorship and resources that enhance their public speaking and leadership skills.
- Craft action plans aimed at driving positive change in their local communities.
- Build long-term momentum by forming school clubs or other initiatives to sustain their efforts beyond the event.

This forum is the perfect platform for adolescents to bring their ideas to life while fostering a sense of responsibility and passion for shaping a more sustainable and just world.

## Introductory Webinar

If you're curious to learn more about the Adolescent Forum, don't miss our Introductory Webinar on Thursday, 14 November 2024, at 15:00 CEST. This webinar will introduce you to the vision and mission of the Adolescent Forum, share inspiring stories of adolescents driving change, and offer insights into how educators can support young leaders.

**Register [here](#).**

Join us for a transformative experience designed to empower the next generation of environmental advocates and leaders. Let's work together to forge a just and sustainable future for all.

Judith



For more information on the Adolescent Working Group and how you can be involved, please contact Judith Cunningham on [judith.cunningham@montessori-europe.net](mailto:judith.cunningham@montessori-europe.net).



# Provisional Adolescent Forum Programme

| FRIDAY 09 MAY 2025 |                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30              | <b>Welcome</b>                                                                            |
| 09:30 - 11:00      | <b>Group Ice-Breakers</b> with GAMES                                                      |
| 11:00 - 13:00      | <b>Youth Activist Speaker:</b> The Value of Youth Engagement in Sustainability            |
| 13:00 - 13:30      | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                              |
| 13:30 - 16:00      | <b>Tour of Sustainable Practices in Oslo</b> (Nobel Peace Centre, Natural History Museum) |
| 16:00 - 17:00      | <b>Debrief and Reflect in Small Groups</b>                                                |

| SATURDAY 10 MAY 2025 |                                                                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:30 - 09:00        | <b>Warm up and framing the day</b>                                              |
| 09:00 - 10:00        | <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Dr Filippo Giorgi                                       |
| 10:00 - 11:00        | <b>Sharing the Project Plans in small groups</b>                                |
| 11:00 - 12:00        | <b>Workshop:</b> Making Your Pitch led by facilitators from Global Shapers Oslo |
| 12:00 - 13:00        | <b>Small Group Presentation Practice</b>                                        |
| 13:00 - 14:00        | <b>Lunch</b> with Dr Filippo Giorgi                                             |
| 14:00 - 16:00        | <b>Climate Action Planning</b> – facilitated by Global Shapers Oslo             |
| 16:00 - 17:00        | <b>Designing a mentor-mentee relationship</b>                                   |
| 17:00 onwards        | <b>Fjord Clean-Up</b>                                                           |

| SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025 |                                                                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 - 10:00      | <b>Welcome and Warm Up</b>                                        |
| 10:30 - 12:00      | <b>Student Project Showcase</b> to the Montessori Europe Congress |
| 12:00 - 13:00      | <b>Closing Ceremony</b>                                           |



# 2024 MONTESSORI EUROPE WEBINAR SERIES

We are delighted to continue our webinars into the last quarter of 2024. The details of the webinars are posted on our webpage from where you are able to register. Please diarise these dates and head over to the [website](#) 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.



14 November 2024 19:00 (CET): **An Introduction to the Adolescent Forum 2025**

Join **Judith Cunningham** to learn more about the 2025 Adolescent Forum. This webinar will introduce you to the vision and mission of the AF, share inspiring stories of adolescents driving change, and offer insights into how educators can support young leaders. A must for anyone interested in bring their students to the Adolescent Forum in Oslo in 2025. Register [here](#).



02 December 2024 19:00 (CET): **Do we need Practical Life activities in Montessori classrooms today?**

Join **Jana Morgan Herman**, US-based Montessori colleague, and **Barbara Isaacs** in reflection and discussion on the historical context and today's application of practical life activities in Montessori classrooms. This webinar is supported by an introductory blog to be found [here](#).

Register [here](#).



18 December 2024 19:00 (CET): **Qualitative Reflection Strategies**

Join **Dr Jarek Jendza** for the second webinar in the research series. This session will delve into techniques for qualitative observation, including clinical and "thick" description, naturalistic and focused observation, and the features of effective field notes. Educators will gain insights into non-judgmental, affirmative writing that supports a reflective practice in the classroom.

Register [here](#).

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## MONTESSORI-PIERSON PUBLISHING HAS A NEW BOOK!



On October 1 Montessori-Pierson Publishing published the translation of the book "From Childhood to Adolescence" by Maria Montessori in Dutch called "Van de Kinderjaren naar de Adolescentie". In this book, Maria Montessori examines the educational concerns of the older child, the adolescent and even the mature university student. She considers each level and seeks the optimum method of facilitating growth. Dr. Montessori first analyses the characteristics and needs of children from seven to twelve years. It may be said that a veritable metamorphosis takes place during this period and constitutes one of particular importance for moral education, the concept of justice and social adaptation; the passage to abstraction, the role of the imagination and 'going out', the key to culture. She also discusses the education of Adolescence, the 'Erdkinder', and the education at the University.

This title is also available in Spanish as 'De la Infancia a la Adolescencia'.

For more information, please contact [info@montessori-pierson.com](mailto:info@montessori-pierson.com) or access their website [here](http://montessori-pierson.com).

**nienhuis®**  
**montessori since 1929**

**13th Nienhuis Montessori Retreat,  
Nijverdal The Netherlands**

**Date: 14-16 November 2024**

**Theme: Emotional Development throughout the 4 Planes**

# STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

As we head towards the end of a busy year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for reading our newsletters, joining us in our webinars, and supporting our work throughout 2024. Your engagement and dedication to the Montessori community are what drive Montessori Europe forward, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

For those who haven't yet joined us as members, we warmly invite you to consider becoming a part of Montessori Europe. Your membership fees play a crucial role in enabling us to continue our mission to connect, inspire, and advance Montessori education across Europe. Together, we can make a meaningful impact.

And as we look forward to 2025, we invite you to join us in Oslo for our Congress, "Montessori: Out of the Box." Why not gift yourself – or ask a loved one to contribute towards – a ticket to this unique event? It promises to be an enriching experience, full of learning, connection, and inspiration.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season filled with joy and time with your loved ones. Here's to a safe and restful end of the year, and a new year filled with growth, purpose, and possibility.

*The Montessori Europe Team*



**BLACK MONTESSORI**  
education fund

**MAKING MONTESSORI MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

The Black Montessori Education Fund (BMEF) aims to increase educational equity and support diversity and inclusion in Montessori education by investing in Black educators, children, administrators, and researchers all around the world.

**\$230,000+**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN SINCE 2020

We provide funding for:

- Teacher training
- Child tuition
- Educational capital
- Research/evaluation grants

Donate to help us create a more equitable future for Black educators, children, and families!

[info@blackmontessori.org](mailto:info@blackmontessori.org)  
[www.blackmontessori.org](http://www.blackmontessori.org)

PO Box 7504, Hyattsville, MD  
USA, 20787

**BLACK MONTESSORI CONFERENCE**

**#BMC25**

**BLACK IN MONTESSORI:**  
CULTIVATING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Join us for the first ever Black Montessori Conference, where we bring together all BIPOC Montessorians in one room to meet, network, and share ways to move inclusivity forward in Montessori environments.

Fri-Sun  
June 20-22,  
2025

One full day of  
workshops

DC/Baltimore Area  
USA

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.blackmontessori.org](http://www.blackmontessori.org) [info@blackmontessori.org](mailto:info@blackmontessori.org) [@blackmontessori](https://www.instagram.com/blackmontessori)