

UNIVERSITY
WITHOUT
BORDERS



European Humanities
University



I N T E R N A T I O N A L C O N F E R E N C E

HUMANITIES EDUCATION DISRUPTED AND TRANSFORMED

EXPERIENCES AND STRATEGIES

JUNE 26–28, 2023, VILNIUS

**European Humanities University
Savičiaus g. 17, Auditorium 110**

CONFERENCE CONCEPT

The aim of the conference is to problematize the essence of humanities education in times of critical disruptions and social transformations. The concept of human being as a “benefit provider” and its education as “training a specialist” not only did not fulfill the hopes of creating a humane society, but even became a fundamental factor of its spiritual crisis. Does the European tradition have the internal resources to solve this issue and this crisis? Shouldn't this tradition itself be reborn and transformed? How?

The problem takes on a specific aspect when observing the geopolitical changes that have taken place in Europe in recent decades. Young people are at the forefront of these complex processes. At the time when the societies of Western Europe fell into a crisis of thinking, the countries of Eastern Europe, characterized by an unwanted Soviet mentality, sought to join them in a common political and cultural space. The issue of mentality transformation and of humanities education becomes the key to the future of Europe.

The history of Europe in the 20th century testifies to how closely education is related to the spiritual state of society and how dangerous this state can develop without finding a proper way to nurture humanity. In 1909, Wilhelm Windelband warned German society that the failure of its educational system to assimilate the sources of the classical European tradition would lead to a social catastrophe. Similar warnings echoed in Germany in 1931.

In the introduction of the English version of Ortega y Gasset's book *The Mission of the University* (1946), an argument is being put forward that proper humanities education is capable of neutralizing the danger of the Third World War. Also Hannah Arendt analysed the dramatic consequences of the crisis in education, referring to Kafka's texts and thus highlighting the aspect of absurdity that plagues our education system more and more intensely, E. Voegelin describing this situation as “the eclipse of reality”.

Conference participants are invited to present their reflections on education in the times of multiple disruptions and rapid societal transformations. How should the educational paradigm change to address the many crises (societal, political, economic, national)? How can universities increase accessibility to higher education based on Western values to counter autocratic and totalitarian trends? How should universities navigate the space between challenges of digitization and AI, and remain adequate and relevant for society? What strategies are most appropriate in providing education to the youth of Eastern and Central Europe? Which teaching and learning methodologies can create innovative pathways for engaged citizenship adequately responding to the current disruptions and crises?

We look forward to welcoming you to EHU to discuss these questions, review current developments and explore solutions.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM¹

DAY 1 • JUNE 26, MONDAY

10.00 Conference opening remarks²

Krzysztof Rybinski, Rector of European Humanities University
Peter Kaufman, US Embassy representative

SESSION I

"Leading Universities into 21st century"

Moderator: Victor Martinovich

10.10–10.30

Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Rybinski (Rector, EHU) —
"Humanities education in the age of AI"

10.30–10.50

Prof. Dr. Anatoli Mikhailov (Department of Humanities
and Arts, EHU) — *"Humanities education as a challenge"*

10.50–11.10

Dr. Liudmila Ulyashyna (Department of Social Sciences,
EHU) — *"From legal limbo to academic freedom: the genesis and
perspectives of the European Humanities University in exile"*

11.10–11.30

Prof. Dr. J.D. Mininger (Provost, American
University in Bulgaria) — *"The OSUN committee
proposal for a PhD in humanities and society"*

11.30: Q&A

Lunch break

SESSION II

"Assessing the Legacy in Humanities Education"

Moderator: Liudmila Ulyashyna

14.30–14.50

Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Andrew Barash (Professor Emeritus,
Department of Philosophy, University of Picardie) — *"University,
universality, globalization: reflections on the purpose of the
university in the contemporary era"* (online via Zoom link)

14.50–15.10

Prof. Dr. Isak Frumin (Head of Observatory on Innovation in
Higher Education, Constructor University Bremen) — *"Legacy
of socialist model of education: role of humanities"*

15.10–15.30

Prof. Dr. Povilas Aleksandravičius (Department of Humanities
and Arts, EHU) —
*"Thinking as a spiritual practice: a way of humanities
education in the age of technology?"*

15.30–15.50

Dr. Stephen Lewarne Webber (Consultant on higher
education to the Delegation of the European Union to
Belarus) — *"Practical challenges facing reform processes in
the education sectors of the former Soviet Union region"*

15.50–16.10

PhD candidate André Geske (Strasbourg University) —
*"The crisis of our age: how the new technologies impact the
intellectual developments of our Western societies"*

16.10: Q&A

¹ Subject to insignificant changes

² Times listed below are Vilnius time (EEST time zone)

DAY 2 • JUNE 27, TUESDAY

SESSION III

“Practical” Liberal arts education in a humanities university”

Moderator: **Stephen Lewarne Webber**

(Panel will be conducted in Russian language)

10.00–10.20

Dr. Dmitry Samal (EPAM School of Digital Engineering) — *“Modern challenges for education in the field of information technology”*

10.20–10.40

Dzmitry Kruk (Senior Researcher, BEROC) — *“Economics and business in a modern humanities university”*

10.40–11.00

Dr. Victor Martinovich (Department of Humanities and Arts, EHU) — *“Pieter Bruegel as my co-lecturer in Humanities”*

11.00–11.20

Dr. Aliaksei Makhnach (Department of Humanities and Arts, EHU) — *“Transformation perspectives in humanities education”*

11.20: Q&A

Lunch break

SESSION IV

“Education connecting academia and civic society: Civically Engaged Teaching and Learning”

Moderator: **Natalia Mikhailova**

14.30–14.50

Andras Martoni (Science Shop manager, Central European University, Vienna) — *“Institutionalizing engaged teaching: the Science Shop model”*

14.50–15.10

Gio Kobakhidze (Technical Lead on Civic Education, Deputy Country Director for IFES Ukraine) and **Valeriia Hudz** (Board

Member at “YOUTH Democratic Association”, analyst at Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação) — *“Combating Soviet legacies of education through civic education”*

15.10–15.30

Dr. Mariia Kolokolova (Co-founder of “Civic Educators’ Association”, IFES Ukraine civic education expert, trainer, co-author of IFES Ukraine’s vocational college level civic education course) — *“Civic education in times of war”*

15.30: Q&A

DAY 3 • JUNE 28, WEDNESDAY (ONLINE)

SESSION V

Round Table “Modern Distance Courses” discussing the experience and best practices in “University Without Borders” courses as well as the main trends in online education

Moderators **Andrei Hernovich** and **Natalia Mikhailova**
(Panel will be conducted in Russian and Belarusian)

15.00–15.30

Oksana Zaporozhets (Georg Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany) and **Ekaterina Lapina-Kratasyuk** (Department of Modern Languages, Literature, History, Philosophy and Law Studies, Tuscia University, Italy) — *“Teaching “Digital Cities” through Multi-platform Tools”*

15.30–16.00

Natalia Rzhetskaya (WG3 Artificial intelligence project, WomenTech Global Ambassador) — *“Anticipating current trends in distance learning. Marketing educational solutions”*

16.00–16.30

Hanna Navumenka — *“Modern development and audit of online courses: UWB experience”*

16.30: Q&A

The project “University Without Borders”
is financed from the funds
of the U.S. Department of State