



IMC Prague 2017

Call for abstracts



www.montessoricongress2017.org



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Become an agent of social change!

The International Montessori Congress Programme and Events Committee is pleased to announce the Call for Abstracts for the 28th International Montessori Congress “Pathway to Peace: Montessori Education for Social Change”, to be held at Prague Congress Centre in Prague, Czech Republic, July 27 – 30 July 2017.

The Congress and the 2017 Congress host, the Montessori Institute Prague, under the auspices of Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), invite you to submit proposals now through January 31, 2017.

The 28th International Montessori Congress will feature presentations from speakers in diverse professional fields. Presenters, however, will share common attributes: They are eager to explore the implications of Montessori education within their respective professions; they can transform ideas into action; and they are passionate about exploring and expounding upon the Congress theme, “Pathway to Peace: Montessori Education for Social Change”.

The Congress will demonstrate that Montessori is an educational approach guided by the natural laws of human development, which enables all human beings to become agents of positive social change, which in the long term can lead to a more harmonious and peaceful world.

Priority will be given to individuals from typically under-represented countries and fields of study.

The working language of the Congress is English.

Other languages may be added as required. The atmosphere is casual.



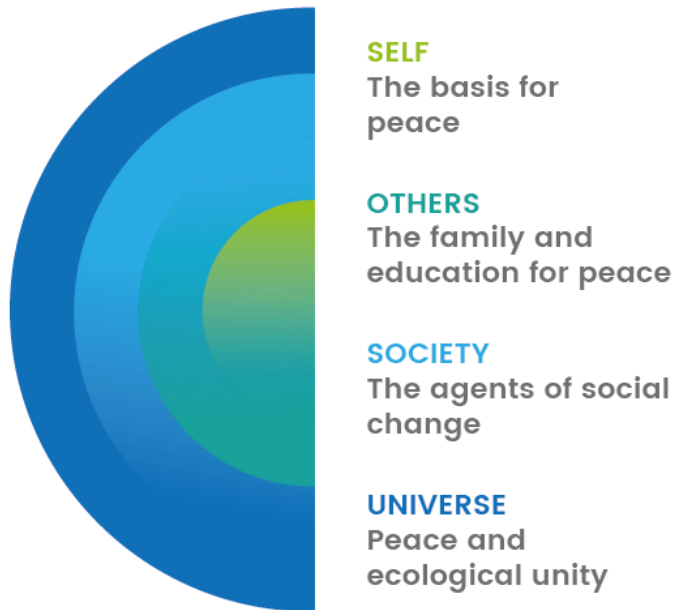
International Montessori Congress
Prague, Czech Republic
27 – 30 July 2017



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Congress Pillars

The themes will evolve over the four-day Congress: from the individual to the global.



"The task of the educator is immense. The progress of humanity and the peace of the world is in our hands."

Maria Montessori, A New World and Education



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SELF: The basis for peace

Montessori truly recognises the potential of each human being and each individual personality and respects the natural laws of their development. The child is the creator of future harmony and peace on the planet.

Questions to consider:

- The child of the 21st century
- The natural laws of human development
- Restructuring education so natural laws can flourish
- The laws of human development applied to each learning stage
- Montessori as a developmental science
- New perspectives on education from modern neuroscience research
- Aligning Montessori's emphasis on observation with the search for the unknown aspects of human development
- How does the Montessori theory of the absorbent mind compare with modern neuroscience?
- The steps to normalisation and why they are so beneficial
- Cultivating maximum effort in every growing human being
- Montessori's theory of personality
- How Montessori builds independence, self-confidence, responsibility, inclusion, and creative expression

“Character is not an item of knowledge which can be taught through learning or imitation. It is a conquest made during life through personal exercise and through personal experience.”

Maria Montessori, Education for a New World (1946)



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OTHERS: The Family and education for peace

Montessori acknowledges that the child is the universal source of love and emotions. When the child's potential is nurtured at home and in school and when he is guided by love of the environment and people around him, he will love all humanity.

Questions to consider:

- How relationships in the home shape the child's future interactions (school and workplace)
- Helping parents understand the child's needs
- How adults can become aware of their influence in shaping the child's personality
- Different perspectives on error, reward, and punishment
- Building good character and moral development
- The keys to building self-discipline at home and at school
- What every parent needs to know about observation, freedom, and discipline
- Enhancing a child's concentration and minimising environmental distractions
- Nurturing the spiritual development of the child
- Home design for building engagement, calm, and independence (the prepared-home environment)
- Ideal indoor and outdoor environments at home and school
- Creating environments of diversity and inclusion at school
- The characteristics of a model teacher in the 21st century
- The comprehensive preparation of the teacher who creates effective keys and lenses to see the whole child

“To follow attentively all the spiritual expressions of a child is to free him so he can manifest his needs and thereby guarantee for himself all the external means for his progress. This is the premise for his freedom and harmonious development and the germination of his energies.”

Maria Montessori, *The Child in the Family* (1936)



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SOCIETY: The Agents of social change

Montessori seeks to educate the emerging personality, the personality that finds its roots in nature's norms, evolving in an optimally prepared environment. When these conditions are met, children achieve a high degree of self-realisation and focus in life's pursuits and become the agents of positive social change.

Questions to consider:

- The sociology that frames the societies of the 21st century
- The impacts of modern society: modern technologies, constant change, and ever-present conflict and crisis
- Finding effective social pathways to peace
- The developmental changes that occur from ages 15–18 and that connect the adolescent to adulthood
- The adolescent as a social new-born
- The adolescent as an agent of social reform
- How adolescents can prepare for an adult life in a society that is challenged by economic turmoil, political conflict, and ecological threats
- Adolescents finding their social mission
- Project activities that create a plan of study and life experience that develops a mission
- The optimal prepared environment for the adolescent
- How higher-level thinking facilitates the adolescent's worldview

“We know that this new adolescent personality is the prelude to that other great and abstract feeling that from now on will put this new man in communication with that immense society, which is not a concrete society, but rather the people, his country. That society exists beyond what we can see, and is positive. That society exists and places itself in front of this new-born man, this society of great work and civilization. “

Maria Montessori, "The Adolescent—A Social Newborn" (1938)



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UNIVERSE: Peace and Ecological Unity

Montessori emphasises the role of the natural world and establishes that love of nature is a fundamental human characteristic of development, integral to how the human learns, feels, bonds, understands his or her place, and grows up in harmony with all of nature.

Questions to consider:

- Progress and success in the context of environmental ethics
- The relationship between peace and sustainability
- Defining ecological unity
- The basis of culture, education, and learning
- How to develop and apply systems thinking to nature and the human-made world
- Ecological living at home and school
- How the curriculum can reflect ecological literacy
- Defining the science of peace
- Types of education that can lead to peace
- Cultivating attachment to nature from birth
- From universe origins to sustainability: perspectives and principles

“We are all a single organism, one nation. By becoming a single nation we have finally realised the unconscious spiritual and religious aspiration of the human soul, and this we can proclaim to every corner of the earth.”

“Biologists today consider life to be intimately related to the existence of the earth as a whole. This concept can shed light on the need for a social order.... ”

Maria Montessori, Education and Peace (1949)



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Abstracts Submission Guidelines

General Information & Deadlines

1. The Congress will retain all submissions.
2. Plenary session (Keynote) speakers will be invited by the Congress Programme Committee.
3. Your Abstract must be submitted electronically via the [online submission system](#) by January 31, 2017 at the very latest. Abstracts received via fax, e-mail or received after the deadline will not be accepted and therefore will not be considered for the programme or publication.
4. Abstract content must correspond with one of the Congress main pillars and target a specific audience. When submitting your abstract you must indicate both the pillar and select one of the audience target groups under which your abstract can be best classified.

Congress pillars

- Self
- Others
- Society
- Universe

Audience target groups

- Parents
- Teacher – Infant & Toddler (0–3 years)
- Teacher – Primary (3 – 6 years)
- Teacher – Elementary (6 – 12 years)
- Teacher – Adolescent (12 – 18 years)
- School administrators
- Researchers
- Environmentalists
- Politicians
- Others

5. Please indicate what type of presentation you wish to deliver, choosing from the options below:
 - Oral presentation
30 – 45 minute PowerPoint presentation delivered to a specific target audience. Oral presentations will be grouped thematically by the Evaluation Committee in order to form concrete and coherent sessions. A full session may consist of three to six different presentations.
 - Poster presentation
A poster presentation is an easy and more relaxed way of presenting your



work/research, which also leaves room for creativity. Your findings are to be printed on large format posters (120 x 90 cm portrait orientation), which will be presented onsite.

- Workshop

A workshop is a 90-minute session that focuses more on demonstrations, case studies and interaction with the audience. Workshop organisers submitting the workshop proposal should in the abstract specify content as well as any other important details, such as the name of the chair, and all active contributors...

When the presentation type is selected, you may also specify its general content and choose one of the specifications below:

- Lecture (didactic)
- Video
- Demonstration
- Case study
- Group interaction
- Panel discussion
- Experimental
- Performance

6. Once the abstract is submitted it cannot be changed unless a written request is sent to the Congress Secretariat. Any amendments can only be made until the submission deadline of January 31, 2017.
7. Submissions that do not meet the required criteria outlined in the submission process may be returned to the proposer for re-working.
8. All abstracts will be reviewed by the 28th IMC Evaluation Committee, who will consider its formal aspects and the content. They will decide which abstracts will be accepted and may reconsider the final presentation type.
9. We presume that your presentation is original work. However, if you are presenting someone else's material other than by short reference, we request a statement in writing that authorises you legally to do so.
10. Accepted abstracts will be published in the Congress Proceedings. Abstracts not suitable for display will be rejected. Please have your abstract checked for correct spelling, punctuation, grammar and formal structure. The organiser reserves the right to edit abstracts if necessary prior to the publication in the Abstract Book.



11. All presenting authors will receive an abstract acceptance/rejection notification via e-mail by April 30, 2017.
12. All presenting authors are obliged to register by May 31, 2017.
13. Presenters of accepted abstracts are eligible to a sponsorship of Euro 500, payable after the congress.
14. Authors of all accepted abstracts will be asked to provide a complete written transcript of their presentation, complete with accompanying documents, to be published in the post-Congress journal. Further instructions on full paper submission will be provided at the beginning of May. The full paper abstract submission will be open in May and all manuscripts must be received no later than two weeks prior to the event.
15. Break-out Presenter's Information Page on the Congress website will feature your name and presentation title, photo, bio (<100 words), and links directing visitors to your personal webpage.
16. Digital portrait photographs of the presenter(s) (JPEG, dimensions – 415 x 530 pixels at 300 DPI in colour) will be required for website posting and printed brochures, if accepted.

Abstract Formatting

1. All abstracts must be written in English.
2. When submitting your abstract, consider and choose the appropriate pillar and indicate the target audience and the presentation type you prefer, and any specifications (if applicable).
3. The abstract title is limited to 20 words and must be submitted using the Sentence case (e.g. This is the title of my abstract).
4. Up to 10 authors can jointly submit one abstract (including the presenting author).
5. The presenting author is selected first: the person who submits the abstract is automatically considered to be the presenting author; this can, however, be changed during the online submission when adding the co-authors. The first name listed will be considered to be the main author.
6. Your abstract should be no longer than 300 words. Please follow the abstract structure outlined below:



Introduction

State the purpose and background to the presentation (describe in a “nutshell” what will be presented and how it is relevant to the Congress theme, “Pathway to Peace: Montessori Education for Social Change”).

Presentation Content Outline

An outline is a Roman numeral or bulleted skeleton of what you will cover and roughly how much time you plan to spend on each section (considering the presentation type and its time limitations).

Objectives

State two or three objectives of your presentation, e.g.: "Upon completion of this session participants will be able to: 1) better understand how to practise mindfulness with children in the classroom; 2) etc.")

Bibliography

Relevant books or articles pertinent to your presentation.

Online Presence

Include links to previous presentations, work, and/or personal experiences.

Other Pertinent Information

Include any other details or descriptions relevant to your proposal which have not yet been given.

7. No pictures/charts/tables are allowed within the abstract text.
8. Authors can submit more than one abstract.
9. Please prepare a brief biographical statement (up to 100 words), together with a digital passport photo (JPEG, dimensions – 415 x 530 pixels at 300 DPI in colour, passport size). You will be asked to submit the document and the image during the online submission process.



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FAQs

Q: How many programmes/break-out sessions will be offered at IMC Prague 2017?

A: The tentative 2017 Congress schedule includes 6 time-blocks. The amount of programmes/break-out sessions will be flexibly considered based on the amount of proposals coming in. For practical reasons, programmes may not necessarily be placed in a proposer's preferred time slot.

Q: Does this process lead to becoming a keynote or a plenary speaker at IMC Prague 2017?

A: No. The Keynote and Plenary Speakers are invited by the Congress Programme & Events Committee and are excluded from this submission process. Via this Call for Proposals we are currently seeking presenters for the break-out sessions only.

Q: What are attendees anticipating to get out of Congress break-outs?

A: The International Montessori Congress attracts a wide variety of people interested in both education and the Congress theme, "Pathway to Peace: Montessori Education for Social Change." Attendees will be coming together from around the globe to discuss issues and developments unique to educating children and youth. Although not composing the entire populace, those trained in Montessori will represent the bulk of the Congress attendees. A few good words to describe Montessorians would be: Passionate, inquisitive, dedicated, hands-on, intelligent, observant, detail-oriented, and peaceful. Montessorians are also keen on listening to presenters that are well-versed in their unique training, pedagogical beliefs, and history.

Q: Who can propose a break-out session for the IMC Prague 2017?

A: Any individual or group can propose break-out sessions; this includes any parent, teacher, administrator, committee, or Montessori organisation. Individuals and groups outside of Montessori are encouraged to propose break-out sessions as well! The International Congress encourages everyone to think beyond their perceptions of a typical conference and to propose programming that will be of interest to Montessorians and non-Montessorians alike as they all face diverse educational responsibilities and challenges.

Q: Who is reading the proposals and what is the basic process?

A: The individuals on the Congress Programme & Events Committee include Montessori trainers, educational consultants, heads of national Montessori organisations, research physicians, and Congress staff. The Association Montessori Internationale will also make available its expertise in reviewing and evaluating workshop proposals.

The Committee sorts through all the proposals to determine the most appropriate programmes and workshops for the upcoming Congress, working to achieve a balance of programming that reflects the varied needs, experience levels, and interests of attendees. All proposers are contacted regarding their involvement with the 2017 Congress.



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Q: Will I be paid for my services?

A: All speakers who are selected are eligible to a sponsorship, payable after the congress.

Q: Will I be expected to pay for my travel, housing, and meal expenses?

A: Yes. However, you will receive a Euro 500 sponsorship, which is paid after the congress to a bank account indicated by the applicant. The organisation can help you find accommodation at favourable prices. We can also help you identify good travel deals, which will save you substantial costs. Additionally, every delegate will be given a free public transport ticket around Prague for the duration of the Congress, which can be collected from the registration desk.

Q: What if there are any costs associated with my proposal, like printing or special equipment?

A: It is a goal of the Congress, an event focused on sustainability and eco-preservation that the use of printed documents be kept to a minimum. Associated printing fees often cannot be reimbursed by the Congress and alternative modes of communication should be explored. If your workshop does require additional resources, please clearly articulate your financial and material needs in your proposal. However, a highly rated workshop proposal may not be selected if it is not possible for all costs to be recovered by registration fees.

Q: Can I submit more than one topic for a break-out?

A: Yes. We encourage you to submit several topics for consideration by the selection committee. In order to maintain diversity within our pool of presenters, you are only eligible to present one break-out session.



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About Montessori Education

Montessori is a method of education that is based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning, and collaborative play. In Montessori classrooms children make creative choices in their learning, while the classroom and the teacher offer age-appropriate activities to guide the process. Children work in groups and individually to discover and explore knowledge of the world and to develop their maximum potential.

Montessori classrooms are beautifully crafted environments designed to meet the needs of children in a specific age range. Maria Montessori discovered that experiential learning in this type of classroom leads to a deeper understanding of language, mathematics, science, music, social interactions, and much more.

Most Montessori classrooms are secular in nature, although the Montessori educational method can be integrated successfully into a faith-based programme. Every material in a Montessori classroom supports an aspect of child development, creating a match between the child's natural interests and the available activities. Children can learn through their own experience and at their own pace. They can respond at any moment to the natural curiosities that exist in all humans and build a solid foundation for life-long learning.



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About Maria Montessori

More than 100 years ago, an Italian physician inspired the birth of a worldwide educational movement. Maria Montessori, one of Italy's first female physicians, became interested in education while caring for mentally challenged children in a psychiatric clinic in Rome. There she combined sensory-rich environments and hands-on experiential techniques in the hopes of reaching children previously labelled "deficient and insane."

The experiment was a resounding success. Within two years, the children were able to pass Italy's standardised public school tests. More importantly, Montessori's innovative practices had elicited positive learning behaviours from children previously left behind by society.

In 1907, Montessori continued shaping her learning model by opening "A Children's House" for pre-school children living in the slums of San Lorenzo. With her scientific background to guide her, she observed how young people learned best when engaged in purposeful activity rather than simply being fed information.

She drew upon her clinical understanding of children's cognitive growth and development in constructing an educational framework that would respect individuality and fulfill the needs of the "whole child." Montessori's pioneering work created a blueprint for nurturing all children—learning disabled to gifted—to become the self-motivated, independent and life-long learners that are the ultimate goal of today's educational reform movement.

Since that time, Montessori's philosophy, materials and practices have spread around the globe and have been implemented in a variety of cultural settings. Today, Montessori's visionary ideas flourish as the cornerstone of a thriving educational practice. There are thirty thousands of Montessori schools around the world, including hundreds of programmes in public and charter schools.



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