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In alphabetical order



Aurora AILINCĂI

Executive Director of the Ohte

Head of the History Education Division, Council of Europe

After finishing her MA in Political Sciences and European Studies at Sorbonne University in Paris, Aurora Ailincăi joined the Council of Europe in 2003 within the Directorate of Education, where she was responsible for activities related to inclusive intercultural education. From 2010 to 2020, she was Head of the Strategic Partnerships Unit and Deputy of the Roma and Travellers Division of the Council of Europe. During this time Aurora coordinated several pan-European programmes focusing on local governance and active citizenship; promotion of inclusive education; teaching Roma and Traveller history and the Remembrance of the Roma Holocaust. Since April 2021, she has been the Executive Director of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. Aurora has a PhD in Educational Sciences from the University of Strasbourg and her PhD research focused on school mediation and related challenges in view of existing inequalities and structural barriers in the education system. In 2020 she successfully completed the Oxford Women's Leadership Development Programme at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. Since 2009, Aurora has been a visiting lecturer in several universities - such as the University of the West Indies and Guyana and the University of French Polynesia - where she has been teaching programme design in multi-ethnic and multi-cultural contexts, as well as the creation of networks and partnerships.



Semih AKTEKIN

Professor of History Education,

Rector of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University (Türkiye)

Member of the Ohte Governing Board

Semih Aktekin graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University. He received an MA degree in School Development and Continuous Professional Development and his Doctorate degree in Teacher Education at Nottingham University in the UK. He has been Rector of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University since March 2020. He served as a consultant at the Ministry of National Education (2013), General Director of Higher Education and International Education (2014-2016), and General Director of Teacher Training and Development (2016-2018) in Türkiye. At different dates, he served as a Bologna Expert, a member of the Teacher Training Working Group at the Higher Educational Council of Türkiye, a member of the TÜBİTAK Science and Society Programs, a board member of the UNESCO International Teacher Task Force, board member of the European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO) and a board member of the OECD TALIS Project. He is a Bureau member of Ohte. His main academic interests are teacher education, history education, citizenship education and education policies.



Bilgin AYATA,

Professor for Migration and Transnational Studies, Center for Southeastern European Studies, University of Graz, Austria

Bilgin Ayata is Professor of Migration and Transnational Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. She is the director of the NOMIS-funded research project *Elastic Borders: Rethinking the Borders of the 21st Century*, which examines the transformation of contemporary borders with a comprehensive study of the external frontiers of the European Union. Her research and teaching focus on socio-political transformations through the lens of migration, borders, citizenship, affect and emotions, and postcolonial studies. With regional expertise in Europe and the MENA region, Ayata has published widely on displacement, transnationalism, citizenship, memory, and the politics of affect and violence. Ayata is co-speaker of the research cluster *Migration, Borders, and Mobility* within the field

of excellence *Dimensions of Europe* at the University of Graz and co-president of the “*Research Association Switzerland-Turkey*”. She actively collaborates with cultural organisations and public institutions to facilitate knowledge exchange on memory, migration, and belonging, with previous projects in Berlin, Basel, and Graz. Her latest publication, *The Affective Dynamics of Mass Protest: Midan Moments and Political Transformation in Turkey and Egypt* (Routledge, 2023, co-authored with Cilja Harders) examines emotions and affects in the context of urban mass protests.



Bjørn BERGE

Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Bjørn Berge serves as the Council of Europe’s Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021. As the Deputy Secretary General, he is involved in a number of key areas of the work of the Organisation, including advising and overseeing the implementation of the Secretary General’s reform agenda, in line with the decisions and priorities of the Committee of Ministers. His priorities include shaping the Programme and Budget, while ensuring that the Organisation’s activities have maximum impact in advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. He also oversees the Council of Europe’s staff policy, as well as other key areas of the work of the Organisation. Before taking up his post, Bjørn Berge was for a period of four years Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Between 2009-2017, he served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, helping to prepare, co-ordinate and implement a number of comprehensive reforms of the Organisation. Bjørn Berge has over thirty years of international professional experience. As a former Norwegian diplomat, he served as International Adviser to the Prime Minister and as Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister’s Cabinet responsible for all matters related to Parliament. He also served as speechwriter to three Norwegian Foreign Ministers. Berge has published several books on a range of issues relating to speech writing and speeches, as well as articles on the Council of Europe’s mandate and work. He was a Fulbright Scholar and holds a MA in International Relations from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., USA.



Célestin BERTHELOT

Project Officer at the OHTE, Council of Europe

Célestin joined the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe in September 2021 as project officer, after working for the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France and then as a parliamentary assistant at the French National Assembly. He graduated in public law from the University of Strasbourg, where he now teaches the history of the institutions of the Fifth Republic and constitutional law, and graduated in public and European administration from Sciences Po Strasbourg, his professional career has also enabled him to specialise in education policies and history teaching.



Yann BOUVIER

Professor of History, Author and Video Producer

Yann Bouvier, a secondary school history and geopolitics teacher, lecturer on a Master 2 programme in public history and associate researcher at the CMMC (Université Côte d’Azur), has been producing popular history videos under the handle @yanntoutcourt since 2020. With rigour and humour, he sets out to deconstruct preconceived ideas and pseudo-historical statements.

**Tal BRUTTMANN,**

Historian, attached to Cergy Paris University, France

Tal Bruttman is a researcher attached to the Cergy Paris University, working on the various anti-Jewish policies (French and German) implemented in France and on the Holocaust in Europe. He has published several books on the French administration role in the anti-Jewish policies during the Vichy period (among them *“La Logique des Bourreaux”*, Hachette, 2003, et *“Au bureau des Affaires juives”*, La Découverte, 2006). His latest works are focused on Auschwitz (*“Auschwitz”*, La Découverte, 2015) and the Holocaust in Europe (with Claire Zalc, eds., *“Microhistories of The Holocaust”*, Berghahn Books, New York, 2016). His last book, with Christoph Kreutmüller and Stefan Hördler, is an analysis of the *“Lili Jacob’s album”* photos, *“Die fotografische Inszenierung des Verbrechens. Ein Album aus Auschwitz”* (WBG, 2019) / *“L’Album d’Auschwitz. Comment les nazis ont photographié leurs crimes”* (Le Seuil, 2023). He also curated exhibitions for various museums in France (*Mémorial de la Shoah*, ONACVG, *Mémorial de Caen...*) and, as an expert, worked on documentaries and movies for television and cinema.

**Mario CARRETERO**

Emeritus Professor, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Mario was fortunate to be born and live in Tetouan (Morocco), where life gave him a mix of cultures. He is Emeritus Professor at Autònoma University of Madrid. He received the Guggenheim scholarship and fellowships from the universities of Harvard, Stanford, EUI (Firenze), and La Sapienza (Rome). He currently co-ordinates the EU project www.making-histories.eu, whose objective is to optimise research and professional practice in teaching history from an interdisciplinary perspective and promote a complex understanding of the past, within the framework of democratic, reflective, and inclusive societies. With the support of the Spencer Foundation, he is studying the impact on the understanding of the history of new artistic and digital formats, through dialogue in the classroom and with special attention to the development of identity in discriminated minorities. His work (in Spanish and English) has been translated into French, Portuguese, Japanese and Basque. His two more disseminated books are *Constructing Patriotism. Teaching history and memories in global worlds* (2011) and *Palgrave Handbook of Research in Historical Culture and Education* (2017). It is common to find him writing in airport lounges, as well as on his IG, @mariomcarretero, even though his favourite place is any mediterranean island.

**Raul CÂRSTOCEA**Senior Lecturer in European History, University of Maynooth (Ireland) and Chair *ad interim* of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council

Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century European History at Maynooth University, Ireland. He has previously worked as Lecturer in Modern European History at the University of Leicester, Lecturer in European Studies at the Europa Universität Flensburg, Senior Research Associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues, and Teaching Fellow at University College London. He has held Research Fellowships at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Imre Kértesz Kolleg Jena. A Romanian national, he is currently residing in Flensburg, Germany. He is a member of the Barvalipe Academy of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) and Co-Convenor of the BASEES Study Group for Minority History. He is co-editor of the book series *‘A Modern History of Politics and Violence’* at Bloomsbury. Raul has been serving as the Vice-chair of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council since its establishment in June 2021 and as the SAC Chair *ad interim* since November 2024.



Marco COKIĆ

PhD Student in Economic History, LSE | London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Marco Cokić is a PhD student in Economic History at LSE. His PhD thesis focuses on the role of foreign trade in the macroeconomic development of Eastern Europe during the Cold War. A particular focus in his work is the relationship between foreign trade, innovation and structural change and the political economy context it is embedded in. Marco has been trained as an economist and economic historian at the University of Oxford, LSE and UCL. He is interested in topics related to international trade, industrialisation policies and political economy.



Harold J. COOK

John F. Nickoll Professor of History, Brown University, USA

Harold J. Cook is the John F. Nickoll Professor of History at Brown University, and previously served as Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London. He was awarded a Brown University President's Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance. He has also acquired dual nationality, holding a British as well as US passport. His chief research interests are in the emergence of the new medicines and sciences of early modern Europe; the co-production of science and commerce; global knowledge exchanges; and processes of translation vis-à-vis materialist exchanges. Recipient of the Pfizer Prize of the History of Science Society and the Welch Medal of the American Association for the History of Medicine, he is author of numerous articles and books, including *Matters of Exchange: Commerce, Medicine and Science in the Dutch Golden Age* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007), *The Young Descartes: Nobility, Rumor, and War* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018), and editor of several others, most recently *Translation at Work: Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).



Tomáš DRUCKER,

Minister of Education, Research, Development and Youth,
Slovak Republic

Tomáš Drucker was appointed to the position of Minister of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic on October 25, 2023. He is a Slovak manager and politician. From 2012 to 2016, he led the Slovak Post, where he implemented a recovery program, for which he received the prestigious Forbes and PwC award "The Most Respected CEO" in 2017. From 2016 to 2018, he held the position of Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic, and in 2016 he also led the EPSCO Council within the Slovak Presidency of the EU. He also briefly held the position of Minister of the Interior. He studied computer science and automation at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava and law at the Trnava University, Slovak Republic. He graduated from the prestigious Sloan Master in Management and Leadership MA program at the London Business School, UK. In the past, he worked in several managerial positions, engaged in consulting in the field of process improvement and management.



Laura DUSHI

Student at the Faculty of Historical Sciences in Strasbourg, France

Laura has been a passionate advocate for justice and social change from a young age. As a high school Vice-President and Amnesty International coordinator, she led initiatives that raised awareness on human rights issues and better collaboration between different groups. Her lively spirit and empathy later fueled her involvement in other projects linked to Democracy, the European Union or the empowerment of marginalised groups including young caregivers of ill family members. Known for her wit and dedication, Laura continues to engage in initiatives that make the world around her a better place. She knows that together we can build a better world and especially to develop more efficient systems, thus she wishes to meet likeminded individuals with whom to work together. For her, education is the key subject on which democratic societies should focus and invest in if they want to have a brighter future. Laura is currently coordinating exchanges between the Faculty of Historical Sciences in Strasbourg and OHTE.



Adel EIFERT

Student at the Faculty of Historical Sciences in Strasbourg, France

Involved in the civil society and political spheres for several years, Adel Eifert is an active member of a citizen council, contributing to the fight against social inequalities. Additionally, he serves as vice-president of an association dedicated to promoting democratic values and intercultural dialogue, combating all forms of discrimination, and raising political awareness among young people. Adel is also actively engaged in advocating for the recognition of young caregivers within society, working to raise awareness of the unique challenges they face and calling for support measures tailored to their needs. While participating in the World Forum for Democracy in November 2023, Adel learned about OHTE's initiatives and became engaged with their mission, now working to facilitate exchanges between the Faculty of Historical Sciences in Strasbourg and OHTE. Guided by his convictions and commitments, Adel hopes to dedicate his professional life to defending human rights and combating exclusion. He aspires to work toward a society in which every individual can enjoy their personal freedoms with respect and dignity.



Gerhard ERMISCHER

President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Born in 1963 in Salzburg (Austria), Gerhard studied history and pre- and proto-history in Innsbruck with terms in Southampton (UK) and Rome. From 1991 city archaeologist and museum curator in Aschaffenburg (Germany) he founded the Archaeological Spessart-Project (ASP) in 1997, an association dedicated to the research of the regional landscape with citizen engagement. Since 2007 he worked solely for the ASP which became a research institute at the University of Würzburg in 2010. After advocating for Germany to sign the Valetta Convention, the contact with the Council of Europe became more intense when the European Landscape Convention was opened for signature in 2000 – first representing a European network of landscape related organisations in the Conference of the Convention and the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), later as a representative of Civilscape also in the Conference of INGOs. Elected to the Standing Committee of the CINGO in 2017 he was elected president of the Conference in 2021 and re-elected in April 2024.

**Tobias FLESSENKEMPER**

Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

Tobias Flessenkemper was appointed Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe on 1 September 2023. He previously served as Head of the Belgrade Office of the Council of Europe from 2018 to 2023. His previous postings include the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council of the European Union in Brussels, Skopje, and Sarajevo, and the OSCE. From 2012 to 2013, he was visiting fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP). In 2013, he became managing director of the Berlin-based agency elbarlament.org - cultures of democracy. He regularly contributes to research and higher education programmes with a focus on the practice and history of European cooperation. From 1998 to 2001, he was Secretary General of the European Youth Forum. He holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Cologne, a European Master in International Humanitarian Assistance (E.MA) from the Ruhr-University Bochum, and serves as a member of the Scientific Council of the *Centre international de formation européenne* (CIFE), Nice.

**Vincent FLIBUSTIER**

Media Trainer on digital citizenship and disinformation, Belgium

Vincent Flibustier has been delivering conferences, workshops, and training sessions on digital citizenship, fake news, online information verification, and web scams since 2016 in many institutions (EPFC, IFPC, Amos Business School Lille, Narratiiv Paris, etc.). Each year, Vincent Flibustier trains several thousand students and 200 teachers in Belgium, working tirelessly to promote critical thinking. His interest in this topic was sparked in 2014 while making satirical news on Facebook. Through this experience, he discovered how credulous people can be and the tricks of manipulation, as well as the role of the media, politics, and social media in the spread of misinformation. In his work, Vincent Flibustier tries to tackle these difficult questions with humour, working on the theory of inoculation. He believes that pre-bunking and digital citizenship education are the best weapons against disinformation. By using an engaging and light-hearted approach, he aims to empower his audience to think critically about the information they encounter online and their responsibility in sharing information on social media.

**Marília GAGO**

Assistant Professor in History Education at the Institute of Education, University of Minho, Portugal

PhD in History & Social Sciences Education (2007) and MA in Pedagogical Supervision and History Education, Portugal. In 2021, she was an Invited Professor in History Education at the Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil. She was a history teacher for 22 years prior to taking a university post in History Education, History textbooks author and obtained a post-doctoral and doctoral research scholarship from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia. She is an integrated researcher in Research Center in Education (CIEd) – Universidade do Minho, Portugal, and foreign researcher in Laboratório de Pesquisa em Educação Histórica – Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil and DICSO, in Universidad de Murcia - Spain. Her main research interests are in historical consciousness, historical narrative, developing historical thinking and teacher education.

**Luke GAUCI**

Graduate History Student, University of Malta, Winner of the 4th OHTE Annual Conference call for papers, Malta

Luke Gauci is a graduate of the Department of History at the University of Malta, where he read for his undergraduate degree, BA(Hons.) European and Global History with Archaeology, between 2020 and 2023. While reading for his degree, he also worked with AIS Archaeology, conducting archaeological and historical research for Head Archaeologist Mr Vincenzo Cherubini on sites, such as, the Royal Navy Hospital in Mtarfa, Malta. Luke is also very active with the Malta University Historical Society and currently serves as their Events Coordinator. He is currently reading for his MA in European and Global History (by Research) at the University of Malta, where he continues to work on medieval and crusading history under the supervision of Mr Charles Dalli. He currently works for Heritage Malta, as part of the Visitors' Services Department, where among other duties, he conducts tours of the various Roman, Medieval and Early-Modern sites such as Fort St Angelo, the Inquisitor's Palace, St Paul's Catacombs, the Domus Romana, Abbatija Tad-Dejr and others. Luke is also very interested in antiquity, particularly Greek, Roman, and Punic cultures, as well as early modern Mediterranean corsairing conducted by the Maltese and Hospitallers, British railway history and medieval monastic communities.

**Peter GAUTSCHI**

Professor of History Education, University of Teacher Education Lucerne, Switzerland

Peter Gautschi is Professor of History Education at the University of Teacher Education, Lucerne. Between 1979 and 2004, he taught as a history teacher at all levels of Swiss compulsory education. Since 1989, he has taught and researched history education at universities. Among other things, he was Vice-Rector of the School of Education at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, honorary professor at the University of Teacher Education in Freiburg, Germany, and from 2012 until his retirement in 2024, he headed the Institute for History Education and Memory Cultures at the University of Teacher Education, Lucerne. He conducts research on history education and public history and develops educational media that have received multiple awards. He publishes regularly, is an editor of journals and book series, and is a member of various scientific committees. Four of his most important publications are *Good History Teaching*, and as a co-editor and co-author *The Cold War in the Classroom*, *The Teaching of the History of One's Own Country* and *Why History Education?*.

**Matjaž GRUDEN**

Director for Democracy, Council of Europe

Matjaž Gruden is Director for Democracy at the Council of Europe since May 2018. His responsibilities include Council of Europe activities and programmes in the area of education, such as education for democratic citizenship, youth cooperation, civil society, media freedom and journalist safety, culture and cultural heritage and sport. He was asked by the former Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, to lead the preparation of her annual reports on the state of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Europe. He also worked with Ms Pejčinović's predecessor, Thorbjørn Jagland, on five similar reports on democratic security in Europe, which he helped to conceptualise and prepare.

Matjaž Gruden previously served as Director of Policy Planning, Deputy Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland, political adviser and speechwriter for the Secretary General, Terry Davis and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Lord Russell-Johnston. Prior to his career at the Council of Europe, he was a diplomat at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, posted in Brussels.

As a member of the first team of Slovenian diplomats accredited in Brussels after the recognition of independence of Slovenia, he contributed to the establishment of formal relations and the negotiations of first cooperation agreements with the European Union. He was posted in Brussels between 1993 and 1995, when he joined the staff of the Council of Europe, following his country's accession to this organisation. He holds a law degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, where he graduated in 1990 with the thesis *The European communities and its participation in multilateral international conventions*, which focused on prospects for an EC accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. He continued his studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, where he obtained a post-graduate degree in EU law in 1991. Matjaž Gruden regularly publishes articles on European, human rights and democracy related issues, notably in the Slovenian media. A book of essays *Long Live all the Nations* was published in 2018. He speaks English, French, Danish, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian and lives in Strasbourg, France.



Yaroslav HRYTSAK

Director of the Institute for Historical Studies, National University of Lviv, Ukraine

Ukrainian historian, public intellectual, Doctor of Historical Sciences and professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Director of the Institute for Historical Studies of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. Guest professor (1996-2009) at Central European University in Budapest; First Vice-President (1999-2005) of the International Association of Ukrainians. Chief editor of the scientific journal "Ukraine Modern". He is member of the editorial board of the journals *Ab Imperio*, *Critique*, *Slavic Review*, and a member of the supervisory board of Harvard Ukrainian Studies. Honorary Professor of NaUKMA. He has also taught also at the Harvard and Columbia Universities, as well at the Central European Universities. He gained his PhD in 1987 at University of Lviv. Yaroslav Hrytsak passed his habilitation in 1996. He has been director of the Institute for Historical Research, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv since 1992. His published books include, "Overcoming the Past: Global History of Ukraine" (2021, in Ukrainian), *Essays in Ukrainian History: Making of Modern Ukrainian Nation* (Kyiv, 1996, in Ukrainian), and *The Spirit that Moves to Battle...* A political portrait of Ivan Franko (1856-1916) (Lviv, 1990, in Ukrainian)



Anđela JAKŠIĆ-STOJANOVIĆ

Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro

Anđela Jakšić-Stojanović, PhD, is the Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro. She worked as an Associate Professor at the University of Donja Gorica, Director of the Vatel International Hotel Management School in Montenegro and Dean of the Faculty of Culture and Tourism of the University of Donja Gorica. She also worked at the University of the Mediterranean, as Vice Rector for International Cooperation, Administrative Director, Deputy Executive Director and Dean of the Faculty of Visual Arts. She was involved in the implementation of over 50 international and national scientific research projects. She is the author of four monographs and scientific books. She has published more than a hundred papers. She received her doctorate at the Faculty of Tourism, University of the Mediterranean, and completed her postdoctoral studies at the Faculty of Economics, University of Split.



Alain LAMASSOURE

Chair of the OHTE Governing Board, France

Alain Lamassoure is currently the Chair of the Governing Board of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. He previously served as a Minister Delegate for European Affairs of France and as a Member of the European Parliament. After a career as a senior civil servant in several ministries and in the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the French Republic, Alain Lamassoure held numerous political mandates at the local, regional, national and European levels. He ended his political activities in 2019 to devote his time to teaching European Public Finance at Sciences Po Paris.



Ann-Laure LIÉVAL

Professeure agrégée of History and Geography, Lycée Fénelon and CPGE ECG (*Classe préparatoire École de Commerce*), Lycée Gaston Berger, Lille (France)

Member of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council

Ann-Laure Liéval is *Professeure agrégée* of History and Geography, teaching in the European English section at the Lycée Fénelon and CPGE ECG (*Classe préparatoire École de Commerce*) in Lille (Lycée Gaston Berger). She graduated from Artois University (Arras, France) with a Master in Ancient Greek History, and passed the *Agrégation externe d'Histoire* in 2003 with Lille University (France). She also taught in Master MEEF2 at the University of Lille to future teachers, after having been a member of the jury of the external CAPES of History-Geography, and worked as a lecturer at Sciences Po Lille (Undergraduate college 1st year) for 5 years. She is a teacher trainer and is involved in several Erasmus + projects, all dealing with the teaching of contested and sensitive topics in History (*Learning to disagree, Parallel Histories, Monumental challenges*). Member of the APHG (Association des Professeurs d'Histoire-Géographie) Europe workshop, she is currently a Board member of EuroClio, a non-profit NGO and an international network of 84 associations of history teachers and trainers, which collaborates with the OHTE.



Slobodan G. MARKOVICH

Professor of the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Slobodan G. Markovich is Professor in Political Anthropology and Political History of South-East Europe. His books, edited volumes, and studies deal with British-Balkan relations and cultural transfer Europe-Serbia. He has also published works on Sigmund Freud and psychoanalytic anthropology and takes an interest in the history of European pessimism. He has been the head of the Centre for British Studies at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade since its inception in 2017. He was a Research Associate at LSEE of the London School of Economics from 2012-2024 and has been an associate of LSE IDEAS since 2019. Since 2022, he has served as the head of the project "Cultural Transfer Europe-Serbia from the 19th to the 21st Century". In 2023, he was a Krzysztof Michalski Fellow at the Institute for Humanistic Sciences (IWM) in Vienna. Since 2024 he has been a member of Academia Europaea.

**Artur MARTIROSYAN**

Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Armenia

Artur Martirosyan was born in 1979 in Yerevan. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yerevan State University (YSU), where he also completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Relations. He is highly experienced in the fields of education, science, culture, sport and youth with a robust background in political science, international relations, and community engagement. He was appointed Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport of the Republic of Armenia in February 2020. Currently serving as the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, he has extensive expertise in public policy, development, etc. In his previous capacities he held leading positions in multiple sectors, including non-governmental organizations, international institutions, and academia, with a particular focus on education, child protection, youth, community development and active citizenship. As a Deputy Minister, he coordinates several sectors including strategic programs, youth, monitoring, bilateral and multilateral relations in education, science, culture, sports and youth affairs, as well as diaspora-related educational-cultural affairs and foreign student admissions.

**Claude MEISCH, Minister of National Education, Representative of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Luxembourg**

Claude Meisch joined the government as Minister of Education, Children and Youth, Minister for Higher Education and Research on 4 December 2013 and reappointed in 2018. In late 2023, he was appointed Minister of Education, Children and Youth and Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning. A member of the Democratic Party (DP) since 1994, he was elected to Parliament for the first time in 1999 while standing for the DP in the district South. He was re-elected in 2004, 2009 and 2013. In Parliament, he assumed, among others, the roles of vice-chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee from 2009 to 2013 as well as vice-chairman of the Committee for Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities from 2004 to 2006 and from 2009 to 2013. Claude Meisch has a degree in financial mathematics from the University of Trier, in Germany.

**Luuk VAN MIDDELAAR**

Founding director of the Brussels Institute for Geopolitics and Professor at Leiden University, Belgium

Luuk van Middelaar (1973) is a political theorist and historian. He directs the Brussels Institute for Geopolitics, which he co-founded in 2022. He also is a professor of EU law at Leiden University and a political commentator for NRC. Van Middelaar was the chief speechwriter and a political advisor to European Council President Herman Van Rompuy (2010-2014). He published his first book, *Politicide*, in 1999. Since its original publication in 2009, his study *The Passage to Europe* has received the Socrates Prize for the best Dutch philosophy book and the European Book Prize 2012. His most recent books are *Pandemonium: Saving Europe* (2021), *Le Réveil géopolitique de l'Europe* (2022) and *Alarums and Excursions: Improvising Politics on the European stage*. He received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Amsterdam (2009). He studied history and philosophy at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (1991-1999) and did a postgraduate in Political studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris (1999-2000).

**Ana MOCANU**

Researcher in disinformation and media trainer, Funky Citizens, Romania

Ana Mocanu is a researcher specialising in the critical areas of transparency within public administration and disinformation. Along with her team, she worked on several areas of research on the impact of disinformation on young people, perceptions of the West, the war in Ukraine and vulnerable communities, as well as investigations into the use of bots in political page growth. Ana served as a local fixer for CNN, supporting their coverage of the Ukrainian refugee crisis following the outbreak of the war. Her contributions as part of the CNN Worldwide team were recognised with the duPont-Columbia award in 2023. As one of the coordinators for Funky Citizens' 2024 elections campaign, she manages a national caravan focused on civic mobilisation and media literacy. Beyond her research, Ana actively fosters community building by connecting local networks of NGOs, journalists, and young activists. These communities are engaged through mentorship and capacity building in enhancing media literacy, working for informed civic participation, and driving impactful advocacy actions. She is also the curator and coordinator of an exhibition exploring fake news and propaganda throughout Romania's history to the present day, which has reached over 30,000 visitors across Romania in the lead-up to the elections.

**Mathieu MORI**

Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mathieu Mori, born in 1980 in France, has over 15 years of increasing responsibilities in political organisations and European institutions. In 2020, he was appointed director of the European Union programme "Interreg North-West Europe", which funds hundreds of projects in cities and regions across Europe. He was elected Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for a five-year term of office, on 25 October 2022. The Congress is the political assembly of the Council of Europe responsible for upholding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law at local and regional level throughout its 46 Member States.

**Caitríona Ní CASSAITHE**

Assistant Professor of History Education at the Institute of Education, Dublin City University, Ireland

Caitríona Ní Cassaithe is an Assistant Professor of History Education in the School of STEM Education, Innovation & Global Studies in DCU's Institute of Education. Caitríona was a primary school teacher for 15 years but has been involved in history education since 2008. Her areas of interest include children's historical thinking, epistemic cognition in history and historical enquiry. Her other research interests include place-based education, teaching controversial issues, Irish Traveller history and culture and disciplinary literacy. She is the author of a number of reports, articles, chapters in edited volumes, and more recently, the co-editor of two books. Caitríona is co-chair of the History Educators International Research Network (HEIRNET), has sat on the executive board of Public History Weekly and is the Irish coordinator of the History Teachers Education Network (HTEN). She is also on the steering committee of the Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship at DCU and is the Irish PI for an international Erasmus Plus project on uncovering hidden histories of Europe through material culture using object-based and enquiry pedagogies.

**Pap NDIAYE**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

Pap Ndiaye has been Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe since 1 August 2023. He is a historian and academic, and previously held the posts of French Minister of National Education and Youth as well as Director General of the Public Establishment of the *Palais de la Porte Dorée*. Since 2013, he has also been a university professor at Sciences Po Paris. Pap Ndiaye is a highly renowned author of numerous works and articles on the comparative history of minorities (United States and France). He has been a visiting professor at numerous foreign universities and has given lectures all over the world. He is a Knight of the Legion of Honour and of the National Order of Merit as well as Commander of the Order of Academic Palms.

**Serhii PLOKHIY,**

Professor of Ukrainian history, Director of Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University (HURI), USA

Serhii Plokhii is the Mykhailo S. Hrushevs'kyi Professor of Ukrainian History and the Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. His interests include the intellectual, cultural, and international history of Eastern Europe, with an emphasis on Ukraine. He is the author of, among others, *The Russo-Ukrainian War: The Return of History* (W.W. Norton, 2023); *Atoms and Ashes: A Global History of Nuclear Disasters* (W.W. Norton, 2022); *The Frontline: Essays on Ukraine's Past and Present* (HURI, 2021); *Nuclear Folly: A History of the Cuban Missile Crisis* (W. W. Norton, 2021); *Forgotten Bastards of the Eastern Front: American Airmen behind the Soviet Lines and the Collapse of the Grand Alliance* (Oxford University Press, 2019); *Chernobyl: The History of a Nuclear Catastrophe* (Basic Books, 2018); and *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine* (Basic Books, 2015). His books have won numerous awards, including the Ballie Gifford Prize and the Shevchenko National Prize (2018).

**Lauren PRAY**

Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator,
European Students' Union, Prague (Czech Republic)
Member of the History Working Group (GT-HIST), Council of Europe

Lauren Pray leads efforts with student representatives in crisis situations and facilitates advocacy efforts internationally. She works on EU-funded projects and organises international networking events attended by EU political representatives and national delegates. Her expertise extends to issues such as academic freedom, access to higher education for minority and refugee students, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Originally from Prague, Lauren began her student activism at university, leading campaigns and organising workshops for Ukraine, students in Iran, and other student initiatives. She was later selected as a delegate for the national representation of university students in the Czech Republic and continued as an analyst at the National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education in the Czech Republic.

Lauren's knowledge of foreign affairs, including foreign policy analysis, diplomatic outreach, and public affairs, was developed through her work at the British and American embassies. Currently, she is completing her bachelor's degree in political science in Prague.

**Villano QIRIAZI**

Head of the Education Department, Council of Europe

Villano Qiriazhi is the Head of the Education Department of the Council of Europe since February 2022. He graduated in philology (French language and literature) from the University of Tirana in 1988. He joined the Council of Europe in 1996 and gained a rich experience in the development of Council of Europe policies and instruments related to quality education, democratic citizenship and human rights, digital citizenship education, fraud prevention in education, etc. Since 2012, he has been responsible for the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Education and the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education. He also served for three years as a special advisor to the Director General of the DGII. Throughout these years, he was responsible for the design of several official documents of the Committee of Ministers, the coordination of various publications and the establishment of European networks in the fields of digital citizenship education and ethics, transparency, and integrity in higher education.

**Eve RYAN**

Project Officer, History Education Division, Council of Europe

Eve is a Project Officer working with the History Education Division of the Council of Europe since 2021. She co-managed the HISTOLAB Joint Project between the European Union and Council of Europe that produced the Toolkit for History Classes: Debunking Fake News and Fostering Critical Thinking, among a set of other activities aimed towards promoting innovation at all disciplinary levels of teaching history. Eve completed her Masters in European Law in 2019, and has since worked on mental health issues, children's rights and education.

**María SABIOTE**

Secondary education teacher and member of DICSO research group (University of Murcia), IES Foramontanos, Spain

María Sabiote is a secondary school Geography and History teacher in Spain and member of the DICSO research group specialising in Didactics of Social Sciences at the University of Murcia. Drawing on her background in development cooperation, she combines her teaching role with ongoing research and the creation of educational materials. Additionally, she collaborates as part of the Social Sciences author team at Vicens Vives Publishing House, contributing to the development of innovative learning resources.

**Steffen SAMMLER**

Historian at the Georg-Eckert-Institut (Leibniz Institute for Educational Media) and lecturer at the Technical University of Braunschweig, co-ordinator of the group of experts responsible for drafting the OHTE's 2nd thematic report, Germany

Steffen Sammler studied history at the universities of Leipzig, Rouen and at the European University Institute in Florence. He obtained his PhD in Modern History from Leipzig University and his habilitation in modern and contemporary history and history education from the Technical University of Braunschweig. After having taught at the universities of Leipzig, Lyon 2 and EMLYON Business School, he is currently a senior researcher at the Georg-Eckert-Institut (Leibniz Institute for Educational Media). There, he heads the European Forum for Reconciliation and Cooperation in History and Social Sciences Education (EFREC) while also teaching in the Department of History at the Technical University of Braunschweig.

His main research foci are the history of textbook production and the history and present of bi- and multilateral textbook revision. He is committed to strengthening transnational perspectives in history education as a member of the European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUG), the Making Histories consortium (funded by a European Union Maria Skłodowska-Curie Action), and the working group on global perspectives in history education in the German Standing Conference on History Education (KGD).



Kristina SPOHR

Professor of International History, LSE | London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Kristina Spohr is Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Senior Fellow at the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at SAIS-Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC. She is the author and editor of a dozen books, most recently of *Post Wall, Post Square: Rebuilding the World after 1989* (William Collins, 2019; Yale UP, 2020) which also appeared in Spanish, Russian and the award-winning German version, voted "Das politikwissenschaftliche Buch" 2020, entitled *Wendezeit* (DVA, 2019). Other titles include *Arctic and World Order* (2020), *Open Door: NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security after the Cold War* (2019), *The Global Chancellor* (2016) / *Helmut Schmidt: Der Weltkanzler* (2016). In 2023-24, she was International Competition Fellow at the Polar Institute of Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC, as she is currently writing a *long durée* global history of the Arctic. Her OpEds on international affairs can be found incl. in *El Pais*, *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, and *New Statesman*.



Alex TAYLOR

European journalist

Alex Taylor has produced and presented TV and radio programmes for 30 years on European politics and affairs, mainly on French TV and radio (France Télévisions, France Inter), but also for international broadcasters (Euronews, TV5 Monde, ARTE, BBC). He was Programme Director for Radio France Internationale in charge of implementing the current 24 hours news format. Parallel to journalism, he has hosted over 1 500 international conferences on a wide variety of topics, especially environmental issues. He has also written a best seller on his passion, languages, of which he speaks (more or less) 7. He also once worked as a camel trainer in a circus. He tweets a lot on X as @AlexTaylorNews.



Mychailo WYNNYCKYJ

Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Ukraine

From 2014 to 2020, Mychailo Wynnyckyj served as an advisor to three Ministers of Education and Science of Ukraine, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the EU-recognised Doctor of Philosophy degree (replacing the Soviet Candidate of Sciences degree) in Ukraine. He participated in various working groups for drafting laws and improving bylaws related to academic mobility, recognition of foreign diplomas in Ukraine, and enhancing student self-governance.

From 2019 to 2022, he headed the Secretariat of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance. In 2002, he obtained his Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. For over 20 years, he has been teaching at the Department of Sociology at the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" and also at the Mohyla School of Business and Lviv Business School (Ukrainian Catholic University). As of 19 May 2023, he was appointed to the position of Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine.