

Participants

Jorge Sampaio (Portugal) is former president of Portugal. He was appointed United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis and UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

Marco Lucchesi (Brazil) is a Brazilian poet and writer. Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Fiocruz (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz). Post-doctorate studies at the University of Cologne. Member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters and of the Lucchese Accademia delle Scienze Lettere e Arti. His publications include *Caminhos do Islã*; *O dom do crime*; *Sphera*; *Meridiano celeste*; and *Ficções de um gabinete oriental*. He has won the Jabuti, Brasília and Marin Sorescu awards, as well as a prize from the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser (Qatar) assumed his position as the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations on March 1, 2013. Throughout his career he has contributed to advancing the multilateral agenda in the realms of peace and security, sustainable development and South-South cooperation. Mr. Al Nasser assumed the position of president of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly from 2011 to 2012. His career as a diplomat spans for more than four decades. From 1998, he represented Qatar in the United Nations as its Ambassador and Permanent Representative and worked on core issues such as security, terrorism, poverty, hunger and natural disasters. Mr. Al-Nasser has received numerous awards and honorary doctorates from various countries and universities for his work in fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Paulo Gabriel Hilu R. Pinto (Brazil). He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Boston University. He is a professor of Anthropology at Universidade Federal Fluminense (Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro), Brazil, where he is also director of the Centre for Middle East Studies. His research is mainly concerned with Syria and Brazil on the subjects of Islam, ethnicity and transnationality. He has conducted fieldwork in Syria since 1999 and with the Muslim communities in Brazil since 2003. He has published, among other works, *Islã: religião e civilização, uma abordagem antropológica* (2010); and *Árabes no Rio de Janeiro: uma identidade plural* (2010).

Qing Liu (China). He is professor and chairperson of the Department of Political Science at East China Normal University. He received his Ph.D. degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota. His main research interests lie in intellectual history and political theory. His publications include: *The myth of Chineseness* (2013) and *The undetermined moment: modernity and Western thought* (2006), as well as editing volumes' translations and articles on issues of modernity' liberalism' and contemporary intellectual debates in China.

Razali Ismail (Malaysia). Chairman of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF). He retired from government in 1998 after a 35-year career in the Malaysian Diplomatic Service. At the UN he served in various capacities: chairman of the Group of 77, president of the UN Security Council, chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development and president of the United Nations General Assembly. In Malaysia he is involved in IT and environmental industries, specifically in renewable and solar energy, occupies the pro-chancellorship of the University Science Malaysia, and is chairman of the National Peace Volunteer Corp (Yayasan Salam).

Ridwan Al Sayyid (Lebanon) studied at the Religious Institute in Beirut and followed his academic courses at the Religious Academy of Al Azhar, Cairo in 1970. In 1973, he obtained a scholarship from the Konrad Adenauer Institution where he obtained a Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1977. Dr. Al-Sayyed is a professor of Islamic studies at the Lebanese University. He was director of Arab Development Institute, editor of the *Arab Thought Journal*, director of Islamic Studies Institute and co-editor of the *Al-Ijtihad Quarterly*. He is an author of many books and studies since the 1970's, mostly focusing on Islamic cultural history and ancient and modern Islamic Fiqh, as well as ancient and modern political Islamic thought. He worked as a visiting professor in various European and American Universities in the nineties.

Santiago Zabala (USA). He is ICREA research professor of Philosophy at the University of Barcelona. He is the author of *The hermeneutic nature of analytic philosophy* (2008); *The remains of being* (2009); and *Hermeneutic communism* (2011, co-authored with G. Vattimo); editor of *Nihilism and emancipation* (2004); *The future of religion* (2005); *Weakening philosophy* (2007); and *Art's claim to truth* (2008); and co-editor (with Jeff Malpas) of *Consequences of hermeneutics* (2010); and *Being Shaken* (2013). He writes opinion articles for the *New York Times*, *Al-Jazeera* and the *Guardian*, and academic essays for several international journals. His forthcoming books are *Only art can save us: the emergency of aesthetics*; and *Striving for existence: the anarchy of hermeneutics*.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Salmi (Sultanate of Oman). Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs (1997-....).

Susan Buck-Morss (USA) is distinguished professor of Political Science at CUNY Graduate Center and core faculty member of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change. Her books include *Hegel, Haiti, and universal history* (2009); *Thinking past terror: Islamism and critical theory on the left* (2003); *Dreamworld and catastrophe: the passing of mass utopia in East and West* (2000); *The dialectics of seeing: Walter Benjamin and the arcades project* (1989); and *The origin of negative dialectics: Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and the Critical theory of the Frankfurt School* (1977; 2^{ed.}, 2002).

Syed Farid Alatas (Malaysia/Singapore). Associate professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore, Syed Farid Alatas lectured in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Malaya prior to joining NUS. His areas of interest are historical sociology, the sociology of social science, the sociology of religion and inter-religious dialogue. Some of his recent books are *Alternative discourse in Asian social science: responses to Eurocentrism* (2006); *Ibn Khaldun* (2013); and *Applying Ibn Khaldun: the recovery of a lost tradition in Sociology* (2013).

28th Conference
of the Academy of Latinity

Shared Values in a World of Cultural Pluralism

In cooperation with the Ministry of
Endowments and Religious Affairs

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
November 23–25, 2014



Candido Mendes University
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



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The 28th Conference of the Academy of Latinity aims to give an answer to the questions gathered during the entire course of our meetings, questions relating to what it means, in these post-modern times, to truly acknowledge our collective identity and the dialectics derived from it. The cardinal points confront globalization and its new non-hegemonic dimensions; the impact of terrorism; the struggle for difference within multiculturalism; the advance of citizenship and human rights; and the new challenges for democracy faced with representation and the emergence of direct forms of revindication and collective protest. Another motion to debate entails the universe of virtual communication: the significance of the new dynamics of consensus and the course taken by mobilization born of post-modernity.

In the wake of almost fifteen years of work, the Academy contemplates the awareness of multiculturalism vindicating more and more—beyond the various rhetorics of dialogue—bolder endeavors to truly understand otherness, beyond its reductionisms and *simulacra*.

At the same time, it is widely recognized that assimilation is not a solution, and that we need to move beyond mere tolerance. However, appreciation of diversity is something that enriches humanity and acceptance that diversity is not an obstacle to cohesion remains a widespread challenge.

Such a new scenario arises together with the wane of meta-polarities, as set forth by the center-periphery relations characteristic of colonial dependence. One may speak of a new matrix of differentiation, as opposed to the formerly hegemonic profile of globalization. Pluralism is no longer a simple rule of coexistence but a real praxis, moved by the sense of *otherness* and the rise of a genuine *ecumene* of recognized collective subjectivities.

PROGRAMME

► Sunday, November 23

► 9:00 am–10:15 am: Opening Session

- Jorge Sampaio — Former President of Portugal
- Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Salmi — Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs
- Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser — UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
- Federico Mayor — President of the Academy of Latinity
- Candido Mendes — Secretary-General of the Academy of Latinity

► 10:30 am–1:30 pm: 1st Session — The Quest for Identity

- Gianni Vattimo (Italy) — Of Politics and Love.
- Javier Sanjinés C. (Bolivia) — *Bolivia’s “Evismo”: “Specters” of Communism or “Ghosts” of Neoliberalism?*
- Abdulrahman Al Salimi (Oman) — *The Culture of Coexistence and Pluralism. The Islamic View, Oman’s Experience and Prospects for a Way out of the Impasse*

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► 2:30 pm–5:30 pm: 2nd Session — World Consciousness, Citizenship and Shared Values

- Ridwan Al Sayyid (Lebanon) — *Human Rights in Contemporary Islamic Thought*
- Enrique Ayala Mora (Ecuador) — *The Roots of an Elusive Andean Identity: a Brief History*
- Qìng Liú (China) — *From “all under Heaven” to a Critical Cosmopolitanism: the Transformation of China’s World Consciousness*

► Monday, November 24

► 9:30 am–1:00 pm: 3rd Session — Towards an International Dialogue

- Craig Calhoun (USA) — *Multiculturalism and Cosmopolitanism*
- Syed Farid Alatas (Singapore) — *Relevant Knowledge for Dialogue: Applicability, Demystification and Advocacy*
- Marco Lucchesi (Brazil) — *New Spaces for East-West Dialogue*

► 2:30 pm–5:30 pm: 4th Session — Coexisting with Difference in an Age of Pluralism and Globalization

- Candido Mendes (Brazil) — *Difference and “Otherness” on the Brink of Dialogue*
- François L’Yvonnet (France) — *Universalism and Pluriversalism: the Values at Stake*
- Paulo Gabriel Hilu R. Pinto (Brazil) — *Religious Knowledge and Cultural Creativity in the Making of Islamic Pluralism in Brazil*

► Tuesday, November 25

► 9:30 am–1:00 pm: 5th Session — Social Inclusion and Representation

- Daniel Innerarity (Spain) — *Democracy without Politics: How Democracy Can Seriously Harm Democracy*
- Razali Ismail (Malaysia) — *Diversity, Inclusivity and Governance in the Social Landscape of Southeast Asia*
- Enrique Rodríguez Larreta (Uruguay) — *The Global Clash of Inequalities. Multiculturalism and its Limits*

► 2:30 pm–5:30 pm: 6th Session — Looking for the Sense of “Otherness”

- Susan Buck-Morss (USA) — *Philosophers and Kings*
- Hélé Béji (Tunisia) — *The Religious Realm Put to the Test of Politics*
- Santiago Zabala (USA) — *Values through Others. Being Weak in a World of Cultural Pluralism*

Participants

Abdulrahman Al Salimi (Sultanate of Oman). Ph.D. (Durham University, UK, 2001). Editor of *Al Tasamoh/al-Tafahom* (*Tolerance/understanding*) magazine, published by the ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman. He is also the author and editor of numerous works, papers and articles in newspapers, magazines and encyclopedias. Recent publications: *Early Ibadi theology* (co-editor, 2014); *Oman and overseas* (co-editor, 2013); *Portugal in the Oman sea* (co-editor, 2012); and *Early Ibadi literature* (co-editor, 2011).

Candido Mendes (Brazil). President of Candido Mendes University, president of the Rio de Janeiro Forum of Rectors, member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, secretary-general of the Academy of Latinity, member of the Economic and Social Development Council to the Presidency of Brazil, president of the Senior Board of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and Alliance of Civilizations Ambassador. Former secretary-general of the Brazilian Justice and Peace Commission and President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). Among his most recent books are *A presidência afortunada* (1999); *Lula: a opção mais que o voto* (2002); *Lula depois de Lula* (2005); *Lula apesar de Lula* (2006); *Dr. Alceu, da ‘persona’ à pessoa* (2009); *Subcultura e mudança: por que me envergonho do meu país* (2010); and *Razão armada* (2012).

Craig Calhoun (USA) Professor Calhoun took up his post as director of the LSE (The London School of Economics and Political Science) on 1 September 2012, having left the United States where he was University Professor at New York University and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge and president of the Social Science Research Council. He took a DPhil in History and Sociology at Oxford University and a Master’s in Social Anthropology at Manchester. He co-founded, with Richard Sennett, professor of Sociology at LSE, the NYLON programme which brings together graduate students from New York and London for co-operative research programmes. He is the author of several books including *Nations matter*; *Critical social theory*; *Neither gods nor emperors*; and most recently *The roots of radicalism* (2012).

Daniel Innerarity (Spain). Professor of Political and Social Philosophy and Ikerbasque researcher at the University of the Basque Country. Visiting professor at the European University Institute (Florence). His latest books include *The ethics of hospitality, the transformation of politics* (3rd Miguel de Unamuno Essay Prize and 2003 National Literature Prize in the Essay category); *The invisible society* (21st Espasa Essay Prize); *The new public realm, the future and its enemies*, and *The democracy of knowledge*.

Enrique Ayala Mora (Ecuador). Historian, rector of Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito. Editor of *Nueva Historia del Ecuador* (15 volumes) and editorial coordinator of *Historia de América Andina*. Among the books he has published are *Historia de la revolución liberal ecuatoriana* and *Resumen de Historia del Ecuador*. Several times member of the Ecuadorian Congress and its Vice President.

Enrique Rodríguez Larreta (Uruguay). Director of the Cultural Pluralism Institute at Candido Mendes University. His writings include *Gold is illusion* (2003); *Gilberto Freyre e a sociologia crítica* (2001); *Collective imagination: limits and beyond* (2001); *Identity and difference in the global era* (2002); *Reality / simulacra / artificial: ontologies of postmodernity* (2006); and *Subjectivity at the threshold of the digital culture: the self in network* (2007). He is co-author, with Guillermo Giucci, of *Gilberto Freyre, uma biografia cultural* (2007).

Federico Mayor (Spain) is a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology. He was rector of the University of Granada (1968-1972), minister of Education and Science of the Spanish Government (1981-1982), deputy director of UNESCO (1978-1981) and director-general of the same organization from 1987 to 1999. Since 2000 he has been president of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, whose main activities are oriented towards human rights, democracy, the fight against poverty and exclusion, defense of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention, and president of the Academy of Latinity. He is the author of *The memory of the future* (1994); *The new page* (1994); *Ciencia e poder* (1998); *Los nudos gordianos* (1999); *The world ahead: our future in the making* (1999); *Higher education in the twenty-first century*, with Sema Tanguiane (2000); *Gen-Ética* (2003); *Fuerza de la palabra* (2005); *Alzaré mi voz* (2007); *Voz de vida, debida voz* (2007), and *En pie de paz* (2008).

François L’Yvonnet (France). Professor of Philosophy and publisher in Paris. His most recent works include: *Michel Serres* (2010); *Louis Massignon, écrits mémorables* (with Ch. Jambet, Fr. Angelier and S. Ayadâ), 2 volumes, coll. Bouquins (2009); *Le Défi de la différence* (with Candido Mendes) (2006); *Simone Weil, le grand passage* (2006); and *Baudrillard* (2005).

Gianni Vattimo (Italy). Emeritus professor of Philosophy at the University of Turin and former member of the European Parliament. He has been a visiting professor at a number of universities in the United States (Yale, Los Angeles, New York University, and State University of New York) and has been awarded the distinction of Doctor *Honoris Causa* on several occasions. He is vice-president of the Academy of Latinity. Among his recent publications are *Credere di credere* (1996); *Dopo la cristianità. Per un cristianesimo non religioso* (2002); *Il socialismo ossia l’Europa* (2004); *Il futuro della religione. Carità, ironia, solidarietà* (with R. Rorty, 2005); *Ecce Comu. Come si ri-diventa ciò che si era* (2007); and *Addio alla verità* (2009).

Hélé Béji (Tunisia) has taught French literature at the University of Tunis. She held an international post at UNESCO and in 1998 founded the International College of Tunis. She has published several essays and novels, such as: *Désenchantement national* (1982); *L’œil du jour*, a novel (1985); *Itinéraire de Paris à Tunis*, a satire (1992); *L’art contre la culture* (1994); *L’imposture culturelle* (1997); *Une force qui demeure* (2006); *Nous, décolonisés* (2008); and *Islam pride (Derrière le voile)* (2011).

Javier Sanjinés C. (Bolivia) is professor of Spanish at the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has published extensively on Bolivian literature and culture. His books include: *Estética y carnaval. Ensayos de sociología de la cultura* (1985); *Literatura contemporánea y grotesco social en Bolivia* (1992); *Mestizaje upside down: aesthetic politics in contemporary Bolivia* (2004); and *Rescolds del pasado: conflictos culturales en sociedades poscoloniales* (2004).