



**UNESCO celebrates World Philosophy Day  
19 November 2015**

**Roundtable debate on the plurality of languages and places of philosophy**

At UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, and under the aegis of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST), a roundtable debate on the plurality of languages and places of philosophy will take place on 19 November 2015 from 2 to 5 pm (local time) in room VIII.

Follow the event live online:

Original language - [mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room\\_8\\_floor.wmv](https://mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_8_floor.wmv)

English - [mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room\\_8\\_en.wmv](https://mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_8_en.wmv)

French - [mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room\\_8\\_fr.wmv](https://mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_8_fr.wmv)

Send us our questions, comments and suggestions by email to the following address:  
[wpd@unesco.org](mailto:wpd@unesco.org) or on Twitter: #unesco\_wpd

The three themes in discussion will be:

**1- Knowledge and dissemination of philosophical thought of non-Western cultures, especially through new technologies (2-3 pm)**

The use of new technologies redefines the places, modalities and nature of interactions, transforms temporality and introduces new forms of communication, drawing on very varied semiotic systems. Sharing of, and access to knowledge are, thus, disrupted. Moreover, the complexity and interdependence of our societies engenders a growing demand for knowledge and know-how which facilitate the participation of all in the life of our multilingual and multicultural communities.

It is by virtue of these changes, and in order to participate in social transformations, that philosophy is being called on to reconsider these themes, in the plurality of its traditions and the means of its dissemination. We will, specifically – following the publication in 2014 of the [Philosophy Manual – a South-South Perspective](#) – be considering the implications of resorting to distance education. These discussions will feed into the reflection being undertaken within the context of knowledge in the service of emancipation of the subject, respecting a cultural diversity which is open to human universality.

With the participation of:

**Phinith Chanthalangsy**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Rabat

**Rainier Ibana**, Member of COMEST, Chair of the Philosophy Department of the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

**Farida Chahreddine**, Teacher and public lecturer

## **2 – Philosophy outside the academy, using new places and formats (3-4 pm)**

Confined to a closed world, philosophy can but become impoverished and sclerotic. It can only express the multiform and complex reality of experiences of life through the use of a multiplicity of languages. For conceptual theories to bring sense to social practices, ideas must be expressed as much in their conceptual as their perceptible form. Symbolic experience speaks to our conscience directly and immediately, gives meaning to words and urges us to reflect. Only the exploration of original languages and new practices in philosophy can open up multiple horizons of meaning and so, with this in mind, we would like to announce a Philosophy Night, to be held on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2016, which will stage this multiplicity and diversity of languages and formats of philosophy through meetings, games, debates, lectures, films, concerts and artistic performances.

With the participation of:

**Pietro Montani**, Professor of Aesthetics at the University of Rome La Sapienza

**Mérim Korichi**, Philosopher, playwright, stage director and writer

**Michela Chiara Borghese**, Musician, Pianist (member of Duokeira piano duo), PhD student in Experimental Pedagogy at the University of Rome La Sapienza

**Didier Deleule**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the Paris West University Nanterre La Défense

## **3 – The variety of places and forms of teaching and learning philosophy (4-5 pm)**

The role and form of education evolve through the effect of social changes; the unilateral transmission of fixed knowledge, common to all, in no way corresponds to the reality of society and the experience of its members. If philosophy is only spread through abstruse language to an intellectual elite, who are the only ones with the tools to decipher it, it distances itself from its role and its very nature. In order to re-appropriate its meaning philosophy is being called on, for everyone, to stimulate questioning, reflection, dialogue and creative thought and to incite intelligence to create, to develop and reconcile concepts and representations, to deploy new possibilities of being in the world.

This is why UNESCO has, for several years, been focusing on philosophy teaching in an attempt to propose new approaches, specifically a reaching out to broader audiences and a diversification of the places for knowledge-sharing. In keeping with this, the new UNESCO Chair at the University of Nantes (France) for the Practice of Philosophy with Children will provide, from 2016, an innovative institutional framework which will be presented at this roundtable.

With the participation of:

**Leena Eilittä**, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Tampere, Finland

**Angélique del Rey**, Philosophy teacher and writer

**Claire de Chessé**, President of Philolab, France, Project Manager in the PbSolving Lab