



2022 AMI AGM Speakers

**Lorenzo Fioramonti****Wellbeing and Sustainability: the Future of Education**

Friday 8 April

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CEST

Main Stage

Lorenzo Fioramonti is a Professor, Author, Member of the Italian Parliament, and former Minister of Education, Universities and Research. He is a staunch believer in the knowledge economy; among other measures he introduced mandatory classes on sustainable development in all schools, making Italy the first country in the world to do so.

**Rukmini Ramachandran****Preparing Young Children to be Changemakers**

Friday 8 April

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. CEST

Main Stage

Rukmini Ramachandran leads the training team at the Navadisha Montessori Foundation. Rukmini holds an AMI Montessori diploma at all the three age levels, 3-6, 6-12 and 0-3 years. She entered the field of Montessori education in 1991 when she trained under Zarin Malva in Mumbai. With a Masters in English, she came into Montessori education with a background in journalism, having started her career as Assistant Editor of a children's monthly. She edited the 1939 Montessori lectures in Chennai into a book titled *Creative Development in the Child* in two volumes. Her most particular interest lies in publishing for children. She currently serves as the Managing Trustee of the Indian Montessori Foundation.

**Silvia Dubovoy****The Inclusive Education Mindset: Evolving to Meet Today's New Realities**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 1

Dr Silvia C. Dubovoy is a trainer for 0-6 years, a consultant, and an examiner for AMI based in La Jolla, California, USA. She is the Director of Training at The Montessori Institute of San Diego. She has anchored Montessori graduate programmes at the University of San Diego, Loyola University Maryland, and Universitat de Vic-Barcelona, and established the first AMI training centres in Bilbao (Spain), Argentina and Costa Rica.

**Jennifer Brush****New Innovations in  
Environments for Ageing**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 2

Jennifer Brush, MA, CCC/SLP is the Director, Brush Development and the Programme Director, Montessori Education for Dementia, St Nicholas Montessori College, Ireland. She is an AMI Trainer and Advisory Board Member for Montessori for Dementia and Ageing as well as an award-winning author.

**Sydney Kerschen****New Innovations in  
Environments for Ageing**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m.– 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 2

Sydney Kerschen, IIDA, NCIDQ, is an experienced Interior Designer for McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture with a passion for creating engaging spaces for a variety of clients, including senior living, hospitality, higher education, community, and corporate. With a background in space planning, Sydney has a unique ability to maximize value by prioritising design moments to create impactful, memorable design that benefits clients.

**Scott Hendrix****New Innovations in  
Environments for Ageing**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 2

Scott Hendrix, Associate AIA, LEED AP, is an Associate and Project Designer for the Senior Living team at McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture. Scott has over a decade of broad experience in many aspects of architectural practice, including design, production, management, and business development. His senior living experience includes CCRC's, assisted living, independent living, skilled nursing, memory care, short-term rehabilitation, and wellness.



**Penny McPeak**

**New Innovations in  
Environments for Ageing**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 2

Penny McPeak is a photographer and digital artist based in Columbia, South Carolina. Since 2013, Penny and her creative director have built Penny & Lucy Lou Art, a division of Southern Places, Inc. They specialize in art that speaks to communities.



**Carolyn Magnussen**

**New Innovations in  
Environments for Ageing**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 2

Carolyn Magnussen holds a B.S and M.A. in Education from UWM and Norwich University. Her Montessori journey began with a St. Nicholas 0-6 diploma, followed by several courses along the way and over 30 years of experience with children in the Montessori Prepared Environment. After receiving her certification in Montessori for Dementia and Ageing from AMI and Brush Development, she co-founded Montessori Eldre Ressurs. Carolyn enjoys hiking and painting.



**Elisabeth Rydland**

**New Innovations in  
Environments for Ageing**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 2

Elisabeth Rydland holds an advanced degree in Elementary Education, a Montessori Certificate from The Institute of Educational Studies, a Certificate in Montessori for Dementia and Ageing from AMI/Brush Development, and she is Certified Master Practitioner Coach trained by NLP co-founder John Grinder. She established a successful tutoring service for children with learning difficulties and is Co-founder of Montessori Eldre Ressurs, delivering tailor made Montessori Materials and Services.



**Benjamin Stæhli**

**Architects and Teachers:  
the Silent Revolution of  
Montessori Architecture**

Friday 8 April

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 3

As a member of Silentmusic, Benjamin is devoted to communal and educational architecture. Together with his friend Steve Lawrence, he just finished a book and web-tool on Montessori Architecture. Based on worldwide observations, this design instrument serves architects and laypersons to create inspiring learning environments for children and teachers.



**Corinne Momal-Vanian**

**Young People and Women  
as Changemakers**

Saturday 9 April

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CEST

Main Stage

Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian is the Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation. Previously, she worked in various senior positions and a variety of countries for the United Nations, most recently as Director of Conference Management at the United Nations Office at Geneva (2015-2020) and Director of Information (2010-2015). Corinne served as Special Assistant to Kofi Annan in 2005 and 2006, traveling with him to some 20 countries as he worked to resolve crises, defuse tensions, highlight the plight of communities and individuals suffering from discrimination and abuses, build international cooperation and strengthen support for development and justice.



**Sophiyat Sadiq**

**Young People and Women  
as Changemakers**

Saturday 9 April

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CEST

Main Stage

With a degree in computer science, Sophiyat runs her non-profit organisation; Auxillium, providing free quality STEM education to young girls. As an intern and youth envoy for the International Telecommunication Union, she advises and draws up policies focused on digital inclusion and capacity development. She serves with “STEM-IN-A-BOX” as an advisory board member, assisting to spread STEM education in more countries. She also chairs the advisory council of the women technology empowerment centre focusing on providing STEM education to girls in all 36 states in Nigeria. Sophiyat is part of the prestigious BeyGOOD fellowship at Global Citizen where she works on strengthening education policies in Nigeria by getting private sectors and the government to work with grassroots organisations. A Kofi Annan Changemaker, HumanityUp ambassador, Global Peace Chain ambassador and Social shifter youth board member, Sophiyat is committed to creating a digital future for all and uplifting the youth.

**Jill Davis****Young People and Women as Changemakers**

Saturday 9 April  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CEST  
Main Stage

Jill Davis is a non-profit fundraising executive and leader whose work is focused on leveraging a personalised approach to donors allowing organisations to move beyond transactional funding models to mission-centred fundraising. She has been successful building and integrating teams in times of evolution and growth in diversification of revenue and resource generation. Grounded in a mantra of “double down on your purpose,” Davis has a passion for turning time, talent and resources into impact. Jill currently serves as the Chief Revenue Officer, overseeing Share Our Strength’s diverse fundraising strategies and is charged with leading and integrating a comprehensive revenue-generating programme that matches the bold programmatic ambitions of Share Our Strength.

**Lakshwin Muruga****Young People and Women as Changemakers**

Saturday 9 April  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CEST  
Main Stage

Lakshwin Muruga is Chief Operating Officer of the Malaysian NGO Women Of Will (WOW), which focuses on empowering women in the low wage income bracket to develop entrepreneurship skills. WOW works by providing microcredit and training and helps women in Sabah start their own organic farms.

**Dani Cañiguer Viñals****Global Research Group**

Saturday 9 April  
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 1

Dani Cañiguer Viñals holds a Diploma in Elementary Education from the University of Girona. He has worked in various state schools and since 1989 has been an Elementary teacher at Montessori Palau Girona. He holds the AMI Elementary diploma (6-12), which he completed in Girona in 2002. During his teacher training, he actively participated in the first AMI 6-12 course in Prague and in the first international AMI 6-12 course in Girona. In the 2018-19 academic year, he completed part of an Interuniversity Master in Inclusive Education. He is currently completing his PhD in Education at the UVic University, for which he is researching Maria Montessori’s stay in Barcelona. Since November 2018, he has been an international AMI trainer for the Elementary level.



**Christina Carroll**

Global Research Group

Saturday 9 April

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 1

Christina is a graduate student working with Angeline Lillard at the University of Virginia. She received a BS in Psychology from Michigan State University. She taught middle-school science and social studies on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota for two years through Teach for America. She then attended AMI elementary teacher training at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee. She spent the past 10 years in Montessori schools, teaching children ages 6 to 12 years old. Christina's main research interests lie in understanding the origins and development of teacher beliefs among conventional and Montessori teachers.



**Laura Flores Shaw**

Global Research Group

Saturday 9 April

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 1

Laura Flores Shaw, an Assistant Professor in the School of Education, is extensively trained in family systems therapy and educational neuroscience. She also has direct experience as Head of School within an AMI based Montessori school framework. She instructs in the Mind, Brain, and Teaching Certificate and the Doctor of Education online programmes. Laura's work has focused on translating research from multiple areas of neuroscience, educational psychology, sustainability education, and family systems research into school design and classroom practice. She has particular interest and expertise in translating current applied and computational neuroscience research—especially approaches featuring a sensorimotor and ethologically oriented perspective—and applying large-scale dynamical systems frameworks to sociocultural contexts. Re-contextualizing common terms such as “executive function” and “attention” are areas of particular interest, especially in relation to issues of race, class, neurodiversity and behavior, including traditionally disadvantaged students living in poverty.



**Paige Bray**

Global Research Group

Saturday 9 April

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST

Parallel Stage 1

Paige M. Bray, USA, is Director of the Center for Montessori Studies and Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Hartford, Connecticut, USA. Her teaching expertise focuses on intersecting and professional identity through dynamic inquiry and the use of meta-cognitive tools at the undergraduate and graduate levels. An advocate for children and families, Dr Bray is an activist scholar grounded by community context who addresses systemic inequities and personal “reflexes” with emphasis on human capacity as knowledge producers as well as knowledge consumers. She earned her B.A. and M.Ed. from Sarah Lawrence College and her Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Bray integrates her research, theory, and practice through the URBAN network by focusing on public scholarship.



**André Shearer**

**Community Mobilisation  
Through the Educator – A  
South African Story**

Saturday 9 April  
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 2

André Shearer is the co-founder and current Chairman of Cape Classics, the US-based importer of South African and French wine to the United States, where he was also Chief Executive Officer for 29 years. He is also the founder and Chairman of the Indaba Foundation, a NY-based non-profit and was awarded the 2015 Desmond Tutu Phelophepa Achievement Award for Excellence in New York for his accomplishments globally in the wine industry and for the introduction of a new foundation called the Indaba Foundation. The Indaba Foundation reimagines Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the Cape Winelands of South Africa by investing in teacher training at the world-leading Indaba Institute. He hopes to construct the world's first University of the Child.



**Jasmine Jacobs**

**Community Mobilisation  
Through the Educator – A  
South African Story**

Saturday 9 April  
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 2

Jasmine is the Director of the Indaba Institute, leading a diverse team in South Africa to find ways in which to make quality Montessori teacher training and education accessible and sustainable to its most underserved and under-resourced communities – through the lens of the teacher. She is former Candidate Fellow of the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation with an educational background in sustainable development, social entrepreneurship and systems thinking. With 10 years of experience working on social and environmental projects, she continues to work to understand the interconnected and complex nature of the challenges the country and the Global South face – and the potential for practical, deep impact.



**Matteo Ferroni**

**Perugia – Mobilising a  
District**

Saturday 9 April  
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 3

Graduated at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio in Switzerland, Matteo was visiting professor at universities in Bamako, London and Mexico City and he's lecturing worldwide. His work is deeply marked by a humanistic approach to the discipline and has been published in major international medias and in the catalogues of Vitra Design Museum and MoMA. He started his practice at the age of 30 when he was commissioned by world renowned theatre director Luca Ronconi to design the permanent residence of Centro Teatrale Santacristina. In 2012 Matteo Ferroni drew worldwide attention for his project in rural Mali 'Foroba Yelen', awarded by the City of Barcelona with FAD and permanently exhibited at the Biosphere de Montreal as a model of integration between technology, culture and nature. Following years of informal research, Matteo Ferroni established the Fondazione eLand to address the higher questions of our future cultures and territories. Fondazione eLand mission is to produce new models in the fields of design, architecture and urbanism, to harmonize human-made and nature. Refounding models is the only response to the contemporary insanity of building worthless exceptions.



**Eder Cuevas**

**Montessori Innovation in Mexico and Colombia**

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 1

Eder Cuevas is the Executive Director of Montessori México and Development Director in Montessori de Chihuahua with 20 years of experience. Eder has AMI training for elementary in Bergamo, Italy and AMI-NAMTA Orientation in Ohio and he studied Education and Physical Education with master's degrees in Sport Psychology and Education. He has been part of the AMI Adolescent programmes and is a Montessori Sports consultant and International speaker.



**Gabriela Molinar**

**Montessori Innovation in Mexico and Colombia**

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 1

Gabriela Molinar is the President of Montessori Mexico. She holds AMI diplomas for the Assistance to Infancy and Primary level and is the founder of HU Huerto Urbano, the first permaculture urban farm in Mexico.



**Juan Felipe Restrepo Mesa**

**Montessori Innovation in Mexico and Colombia**

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 1

Juan Felipe Restrepo Mesa is the Knowledge Management Chief and Biontessori's Research Group Leader for Colegio Montessori de Cartagena. He is a marine biologist who uses bird watching and citizen science to promote authentic and meaningful learning experiences.

**Julia Hilson**

Torres Strait and Lockheart River Initiatives – Working With Indigenous Communities in Australia

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 2

Julia is an AMI Trainer at the Assistants to Infancy level. Her special interest lies in empowering and supporting adults from Indigenous communities to assume the roles of guides and role models within their communities — with special emphasis on parenting and early childhood programmes.

**Michelle Martin**

Torres Strait and Lockheart River Initiatives – Working With Indigenous Communities in Australia

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 2

Michelle was born and raised on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait Archipelago. She began her studies at the Latrobe University (Victoria) to gain her Bachelor of Education in 1986. Michelle went straight into teaching and has focused on the Early years for the last 31 years. In 2010, an opportunity arose to lead a new, Montessori-based, programme for younger children and their parents – she expressed an interest and took the role. In 2011 she was asked to take the leading role in the Montessori Children’s House, and she commenced her studies for the AMI 3-6 Diploma. Michelle strongly believes that all the children have a purpose in life and great potential to realise their purpose. Her experience and observations support her belief that the Montessori Pedagogy can empower the children in the Torres Straits. In her 11 years leading a Montessori Children’s House, she has seen enough to have confidence that this is a path towards building respectful and purposeful community life.

**Eva Correard**

Young Changemakers in the Third and Fourth Plane

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 3

Eva is a 17-year-old French-Polish Montessori student, about to graduate from the Young People's Community (YPC) – a Montessori adolescent programme in England.

**Sofia Tagliani Beltran****Young Changemakers in the Third and Fourth Plane**

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 3

Sofia is a 17-year-old Montessori student. She has been in Montessori for most of her life and has spent the last six years in an adolescent Montessori programme, from which she will graduate this summer. Looking forward she hopes to take a gap year and work in Paris, France, to both strengthen her grasp of the French language and have the experience of supporting herself economically, before re-entering education for university.

**Pamela Carbajal Perez****Young Changemakers in the Third and Fourth Plane**

Saturday 9 April  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CEST  
Parallel Stage 3

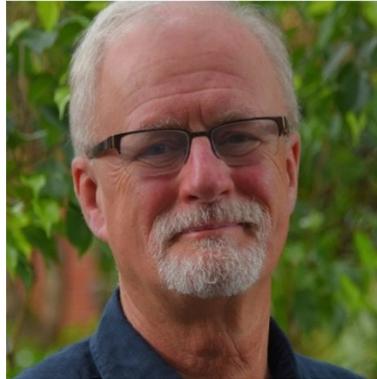
Pamela, is an Architect from the University of Technology of Monterrey, Mexico. Currently she is the Project Coordinator of GDAR Spaces = Global Diet and Activity Research Network (GDAR) supporting the day-to-day operational management of the project in close partnership with local counterparts at collaborating institutions in Africa, South Asia, South America and the Caribbean.

Since January 2018, she is a consultant at UN-Habitat, particularly on how to integrate health in Urban and Territorial Planning (UTP). Her main tasks involve programme management; development of technical materials (e.g. urban tools, trainings, guidelines); technical advisory and capacity building to different stakeholders including local and national governments.

**Lynne Lawrence****Annual General Meeting, Closing**

Friday 8 April  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CEST  
Saturday 9 April  
6:30 p.m. CEST  
Main Stage

Lynne Lawrence has been the Executive Director of AMI since June 2008; prior to this she held the position of AMI General Secretary ad interim (2007). She was also head of the AMI Human Resources Committee. Lynne was Director of Training and Schools at the Maria Montessori Training Organisation (MMTO), now known as the Maria Montessori Institute, since 1989. In her role as AMI Executive Director, Lynne actively promotes AMI's involvement in Montessori educational projects in developing countries, alongside the many other areas of the association's work, including teacher training programmes globally and ancillary Montessori programmes, research and development supported by the AMI board, committees and staff.



**Phillip O'Brien**

**Annual General Meeting,  
Closing Thoughts**

Friday 8 April

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CEST

Saturday 9 April

5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. CEST

Main Stage

Phillip has been President of Association Montessori Internationale since April 2014. Phillip is an independent consultant following a long career in development. His last position was Executive Vice President for Communications Advocacy and Development at the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation. Prior to this, Phillip worked for UNICEF in a number of positions and roles, including as Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, and Director of Private Partnerships and Fundraising. He has lived and worked in Asia, Africa, US and Europe. He holds a Master of Science in Economics from the University of Wales, Swansea UK.