



EUROPEAN ACADEMY
of Sciences and Arts



ALMA MATER
EUROPAEA
UNIVERSITY

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

REIMAGINING WESTERN CIVILISATION

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS,
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES,
AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

JUNE 23–24, 2025

OPENING REMARKS

Prof. Dr. Boštjan Marko Turk

Dean, Class 1 EASA European Academy of Sciences and Arts

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Class I, Humanities, I am delighted to invite you to participate in our upcoming online symposium, **Reimagining Western Civilisation: Historical Foundations, Contemporary Challenges, and Future Directions** which will be held online on **June 23–24, 2025**. It is organized by Class I (Humanities) of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA). We are grateful to AMEU to offer us much needed logistical support.

Bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines, the event explores how Western civilisation—rooted in classical, Christian, and humanist traditions—can respond to today's challenges, including cultural fragmentation, identity politics, and digital disruption. Rather than focusing on decline, it emphasizes the potential for renewal through critical reflection.

Day one examines the foundations of Western thought, including religious origins, secularization, and the tensions between individualism and collective meaning.

Day two shifts to themes of inclusion, innovation, and strategy, with panels on education, AI, mental health, and cultural participation. The symposium concludes by considering the role of art and creativity in an AI-driven world.

Overall, the event presents Western civilisation as an evolving cultural space, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue on how it might adapt and thrive in a changing global context.

Join us for this engaging academic exchange. Your presence and contribution would be greatly valued!

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Monday, June 23, 2025

Online Event

09:55 – 10:00 (CEST)

Musical Prelude

Arvo Pärt – Spiegel im Spiegel

10:00 – 10:30

Official Opening

WELCOME ADDRESS

Prof. Klaus Mainzer,

President of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA)

OPENING WORDS

Prof. Boštjan Marko Turk,

Dean of Class I (Humanities),
EASA

Session I:

Foundations of Western Civilisation

10:30 – 12:30

Chair: Boštjan Marko Turk

10:30

Panagopoulos Alexios

Diplomatic and Legislative Mission
of Saint Methodius to Great Moravia

10:50

Blaž Podobnik

From Catholic Universality to
Civilizational Universalism:
Universalism as an Obstacle to the
Particular Civilizational Identity of
the West

11:10

Janez Juhant

The Expulsion of God Makes Human
Life Impossible

11:30

Discussion

12:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Monday, June 23, 2025
Online Event

Session II: Crisis and Identity in Contemporary Europe

14:00 – 16:00

Chair: Wolfgang Spickermann

14:00

Luka Martin Tomažič

Natural Law and European
Civilisation: From Aquinas to Finnis

14:20

Evgen Bavčar

The Culture of the Central Europe
and the West (the speech in French
will be translated simultaneously)

14:40 Peter Herrmann

European Civilization – Can the
Gravediggers Be Stopped?

15:00

Discussion

15:30 - 16:00

Short Coffee Break

Session III: Civilizational Decline or Renewal?

16:00 – 18:00

Chair: Eldar Veremchuck

16:00

Žiga Turk

Evolutionary Reasons for the Decline
and Death of Western Civilization

16:20

Boštjan Marko Turk

The Weakness of the West: Cartesian
Individualism and Its Encounter with
20th-Century Ideologies

16:40 Deepika

Cultural Convergence or Divergence?
The Role of India in Reimagining the
Future of Western Civilization

17:00

Discussion & Closing of Day 1

PROGRAMME

Day 2: Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Online Event

Symposium Theme: Reimagining Western civilisation - Identity, Inclusion, and the Future of the West

08:55 – 09:00 (CEST)

Musical Prelude

Giovanna Dongu: Evocation on
Dowland

Session IV: Religion, Identity, and Inclusion

09:00 – 10:40

Chair: Prof. Peter Herrmann

09:00 Mitchell Ash

Has the Future of the West Ended
Before It Could Begin? A Regime
Change with Attacks on the Sciences
and Humanities in the United States,
and Their International Impact

09:20

Eldar Veremchuck

Decolonial Toponymy in Ukraine:
Language, Identity, and the Legacy
of Empire

09:40

Mirna Gott

Inclusion of Children with
Developmental Disabilities in
Mainstream Education: Experiences
and Challenges

10:00

Discussion

10:40 – 10:55

Short Break

PROGRAMME

Day 2: Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Online Event

Session V: Religion, Law, and Civilisation

10:55 – 12:35
Chair: Deepika

10:55
Wolfgang Spickermann
A Satirist as Inspiration for Western
Thought: Lucian from Samosata and
His Reception in European Culture

11:15
Adam Chmielecki
The Three Seas Initiative as the
"Ark of Western Civilization"?
Conservative Intellectual and
Political Attitudes in Central Europe

11:35
Claudi Bockting
Crisis and Hope: Mental Health in
Western Civilization

11:55
Discussion

12:35 – 14:05
Lunch Break

Session VI: Technology, AI, and Culture

14:05 – 15:45
Chair: Peter Herrmann

14:05
Tena Popović
EEG Analysis of Adolescents'
Emotional Response to Advertising
Messages

14:25
Nina Rechberger
AI-Enhanced Digital Divide
Solutions: Policy and Technical
Synergies

14:45
Giovanna Dongu
From Body to Sound: A Sensory
Didactic Approach in the Digital Age

15:05
Discussion

15:45 – 16:00
Short Break

PROGRAMME

Day 2: Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Online Event

Session VII: Economic and Strategic Futures

16:00 – 17:20
Chair: Deepika

16:00
Arto Lahti
The German Historical School
of Economics and Monopolistic
Competition: The EU, Tech Giants,
and Hidden Champions

16:20
Aleksander Stepanović
Brodschneider, Gašper Pirc
Hack Back: Legal and Ethical
Dilemmas of Active Cyber Defence
in the West

16:40
Vlado Dimovski
Economy and the West –
Conceptual Development

17:00
Discussion

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Session VIII: AI and the Arts

17:20 – 18:20
Chair: Bostjan Marko Turk

17:20
Jernej Barbič
Does AI Mean the End of Human Art –
or Its New Beginning?

17:40 – 18:20
**Final Roundtable & Closing
Remarks**



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