

Conference hosted by the Open Society Research Platform

## Forget Open Society? Critical Conversations on a Contested Concept

Online, 28-29 October 2021

*(\*all times refer to Central European Time)*

### Thursday, 28 October

**9.00 - 9:30** Welcome Address by Liviu Matei (Provost of Central European University) and Leon Botstein (Chancellor of the Open Society University Network), [video](#)

**9:30-10:30** Presentation of the OSRP Report, [video](#)

**10:30-11.00** Coffee Break

**11.00-12.30** Panel 1: Opening Spaces

*Chair: Liviu Matei (Central European University)*

*Discussant: Prem Kumar Rajaram (Central European University)*

Rachid Boutayeb (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies), “Neighborhood and its Enemies. Plaidoyer for an Open Migration”

Nwankwo Tony Nwaezeigwe (University of Nigeria), “The Home as a Contested Open Society Phenomenon in African Cosmology”

Nazam Laila (BRAC University), “OSUN’s Role in Decolonising the Cyberspace”

**11.00-12.30** Panel 2: Higher Education, Sustainability and the Open Society

*Chair: Eduard Lezcano (Central European University)*

*Discussant: Saimum Talukder (BRAC University)*

Maryna Lakhno (Central European University), “Aligning Open Society Ideas and the Sustainable Development Goals”

Helen Murray (University of Sussex), “In Search of ‘Publicness’ in an Open Society: Universities and the Public Sphere”

**12.30-14.00** Lunch break



**14.00-15.30 Panel 3: The Value of ‘Openness’**

*Chair: Christof Royer (Central European University)*

*Discussant: Anna Eva Grutza (Central European University)*

Thom Scott-Phillips (Central European University), “The Value of Open Discussion: An Evolutionary and Cognitive Perspective”

Gazela Pudar Draško and Predrag Krstić (both University of Belgrade), “Don't Forget the Openness”

Mark Bovens (University of Utrecht), “The Open Society and its Challenges”

**13.30-15.30 Panel 4: Narratives, Identities, and Open Society**

*Chair: Valida Repovac Niksic (University of Sarajevo)*

*Discussant: Heather Grabbe (Open Society Foundations)*

Lubomir Terziev (American University in Bulgaria), “‘Sorosoids’ Can Serve as They Swerve: Open Society in Contemporary Bulgaria”

Katalin Fabian (Lafayette College), “The Gender of Illiberalism: New Transnational Alliances in Central and Eastern Europe”

**15.30-16.00 Coffee Break**

**16.00-17.30 Keynote Lecture**

**Iveta Silova (Arizona State University): Education and Open Society, [video](#)**

**17.30- Online Socializing**



**Friday, 29 October**

**9.00-10.30 Keynote Lecture**

**Thaddeus Metz (University of Pretoria): Popper's politics in the light of African Values, [video](#)**

**10.30–10.45 Coffee Break**

**10.45-12.15 Panel 5: Covid-19 and AI**

*Chair: Christof Royer (Central European University)*

*Discussant: Maryna Lakhno (Central European University)*

Nahida Akter (BRAC University), “Gender and Public Policy Responses to Covid-19: Emerging Evidence from Bangladesh”

Saimum Reza Talukder (BRAC University), “Rights Based Use of Artificial Intelligence: A Way Out to Reduce Risks against Open Society in a Post-COVID World?”

**10.45-12.15 Panel 6: Knowledge Production in Open Society**

*Chair: Milica Popovic (Central European University)*

*Discussant: Lubomir Terziev (American University in Bulgaria)*

Anna Grutza (Central European University), “The Historian as Scientific Prophet: The Danger of Sherman Kent's and the CIA's Scientific Method of Prediction and Data Evaluation to Open Societies”

Friedrich von Petersdorff (Independent Scholar), “Interpreting the Historical Past When Aiming at an Open Society”

Nazam Laila and Adeeba Asri (both BRAC University), “The Deconstruction of the Masculine Bias in AI Discourse: OSUN's Roles and the Way Forward”

**12.15-13.30 Lunch break**

**13.30-15.00 Panel 7: Open Society Beyond (and Against) Popper**

*Chair: Tatiana Schyttsova (European Humanities University)*

*Discussants: Jean-Louis Fabiani and Christof Royer (both Central European University)*

Jean-Louis Fabiani (Central European University), “Can Bergson's Definition of Open Society be Useful Today?”

Andrea Timár (Eötvös Loránd University), “Reading with Hannah Arendt: Literature and Open Society”

Piers Norris Turner (Ohio State University), “Open Society as an Achievement”



**13.30-15.00 Panel 8: The Global Rise of Authoritarianism**

*Chair: Volha Biziukova (Central European University)*

*Discussant: Katalin Fabian (Lafayette College)*

Ahmed Hmeedat (Al Quds Bard College), “The Reception of the Concept of Open Society in Palestine: The Rise of Authoritarianism and the Decline of the Individual”

Kenneth Ka-Lok Chan (Hong Kong Baptist University), “The Relevance of Open Society to Hong Kong’s Fight against Moral and Institutional Decay”

Gregory Joseph Lobo (Universidad de los Andes), “Identity and the Open Society”

**15.00-15.30 Coffee Break**

**15.30 – 17.00 Keynote Roundtable: Open Society and Covid-19**

Albena Azmanova (University of Kent), Michael Esfeld (University of Lausanne), Shalini Randeira (Central European University), Tarun Weeramanthri (University of Western Australia), Christof Royer (moderator, Central European University),

[video](#)

**17.00 – 17.10 Closing Remarks**

