



26th ENCATC Congress

Beyond EYCH2018. What is the cultural horizon?

Opening up perspectives to face ongoing transformations

26-29 September 2018 in Bucharest, Romania

A WORD FROM OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Actors in the world of culture, practitioners as well as thinkers, have lived in a rather simple world for a long time. The horizon was quite clear: a better world was possible through the improvement of diverse cultural tools: thanks to a better management, to the definition of clear and homogeneous goals and to a common, albeit vague, conception of Europe, we could use the concept of culture in the singular. This relative consensus is dead: identity politics and neo-nationalism have imposed the plural. Cultural wars are no longer only symbolic fights. They can be war *tout court*. We thought that the patient construction of ways of peaceful communication and of a common heritage would lead us to an eternal cultural spring. This is not the case. The necessary recognition of the

Other, that was our common goal, tends to be replaced by her silencing. Regretting the past is not a solution. The current critique of the myth of a homogenous European culture has some positive effects: it forces us to adopt a more reflective way when using tools and concepts that we tended to take for granted. The Bucharest Congress is crucial in envisaging the reframing of our endeavours in troubled times. We can't consider that Europe is hegemonic in the realm of culture any longer. Other voices exist that claim equal legitimacy, and even more, the deconstruction of the very concept of legitimacy. Europe is no longer the dominant voice, and we must think that it is a very good thing. For the time being there is neither a new hegemony in sight nor a form of emerging consensus about cultural



**PROFESSOR JEAN-LOUIS
FABIANI, 2018 ENCATC
CONGRESS KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

On 27 September in Bucharest, Professor Fabiani, member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, USA and Professor at the Central European University in Budapest, will join the ENCATC Congress to share his critical reflection on the current cultural dynamics/transformations and their implications in terms of heritagisation - interconnections between past, present, and future making practices and legacies.





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values. The Global South remains quite heterogeneous while the production centres of cultural industries remain largely in the North, in spite of emerging soft powers. What should we do? As Europeans, we must subtly navigate between two reefs: the temptation of the guilt trip on the one hand; the proliferation of neo-nationalist invented narratives on the other hand. As non-Europeans, we should not only demand equal consideration for our cultural endeavours; we have to invent new forms of production and diffusion that would be in line with the decolonizing imperative, and bring real innovation to cultural life and cultural policy. We must say that, at least for the time being, Europeans will not buy the story portraying them as the bad guys in history: in the current conjuncture, the radical "decolonial" view will just increase the level of cultural violence. Some activists are just sorcerer's apprentices. But we must fight also the discourse of

cultural roots that leads to invented traditions and worse, to the spreading of fake news. If nobody believes that music softens the mores any longer, we should not let it prepare the war. The professionals of culture have a central role in the redefinition of the ways by which we talk together without fighting each other. The European ideal is not obsolete, if only we avoid self-imposed guilt and absurd hatred.

Hosted in the premises of the Romanian Ministry of Culture, this keynote will be followed by an engaging debate with experts and the international Congress participants.

Jean-Louis Fabiani has been professor of Sociology at the Central European University in Budapest since 2008. Born in 1951 in Algiers (Algeria), he studied at the Ecole normale supérieure and received his PhD in 1980 from the EHESS (Paris). From 1980 to 1988 he was agrégé-répétiteur then maître-assistant at the Department of Social Sciences at the Ecole normale supérieure. In 1988, he moved to the administration of culture, being appointed as Director of Cultural Affairs in Corsica. He went back to the academic world in 1991 when he joined EHESS, first in Marseilles, then in Paris in 2002. He is the author of eleven personal books. He was the chairman of the board of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra from 1998 to 2014.

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