

Preface

The 9th issue of *Pro Edu. International Journal of Educational Sciences* (June 2023) brings together a collection of subjects that reflect the diversity and depth of scientific concerns, from the exploration of spirituality and the historical past to the impact of modern technologies on education and everyday life. Each addressed topic constitutes a distinct intellectual endeavor, but all converge towards a common goal: understanding the complexity of human existence and the transformations that shape our world.

In this respect, the first paper: *REACHING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN - AN ORTHODOX VIEW*, written by Assoc. Professor Ph.D. Ionuț HOLUBEANU, presents the significance and value of St. John Cassian's teachings in *Institutes of the Coenobia (De institutis coenobiorum)* and *Conferences (Conlationes)* for ordinary Christians; the author claims the relevance and actuality of those precepts for contemporary Christians, being useful to them in the process of authentic spiritual growth, and in the relationship with God.

The next paper, signed by Mouad LAHMER and Dhikra Amel BOUZID, addresses issues related to *UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICE OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: INSIGHTS FROM DOCTORAL THESES IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS*. The research aims to study the choices of Algerian doctoral students in the field of Applied Linguistics regarding research methodologies, targeting to understand the trends and the resulting impact on research accuracy and direction.

The next article is a theoretical study entitled *THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) ON SPIRITUAL LIFE, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY*, written by Lecturer Ph.D. Nicușor MORLOVA. Addressing a highly current topic - artificial intelligence -, the author aims to explore the multifaceted implications of AI on the spiritual life, but also the definition of personal identity, especially from the perspective of Christian Orthodoxy.

Another study, *THE HISTORICAL WOUNDS. THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN ITALY AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT (1968-1980)*, by Francesco MASTROCOLA, Elena CERNOIU, Dario QUATTROMANI, Anita CONSOLI, Adina-Raluca OLTEANU, focuses on contrasting traditional historiography with new historiographic perspectives, and emphasizing on the importance of specific terminology for distinguishing key interpretative categories. Among the authors' queries, is the following one: *How has the concept of women changed in the public eye and to what extent do gender prejudices persist?*

The following academic paper is signed by Marc GRENIER: *FROM NEANDERTHALS TO GREEK MYTHS: FREUD'S ATHEISM ON STAGE*. This theoretical research shows that many of the ideas that constitute the core of Freud's psychoanalytic theory were the first laid out fully and clearly in almost the same terms employed by the great atheistic German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer.

The next paper includes the exploratory research entitled: *ANALYZING THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS DURING THE PANDEMIC: UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE TEACHING ACTIVITIES*, carried out by Assoc. Professor Ph.D. Ana Maria Aurelia PETRESCU, Lecturer Ph.D. Elena-Ancuța SANTI and Professor Ph.D. Gabriel GORGHIU. The paper aims to identify the university teachers' perceptions of the effectiveness of online teaching activities during the pandemic, as well as important related dimensions such as social, relational, and emotional.

At the end of this number, Assoc. Professor Ph.D. Luminița Mihaela DRĂGHICESCU introduces a remarkable book (*THE CAREER CONSULTANT'S MANUAL. WORKBOOK*), published by Mrs. ANDREEA SZILAGYI at the European Institute, Iași. The whole work of Mrs. Szilagyi represents a valuable resource dedicated not only to counseling specialists but also to the professionals engaged in human resource development, coaching, therapy, mentoring, supervision, and education.

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