

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Comenius and Pansophia: Search for System, Method and Harmony of All Things

International conference  
to commemorate  
Ioannes Amos Comenius  
(1592–1670)  
and the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of his death.

Naarden / Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
12–15 November 2020

Presenters are asked to send an abstract  
(100–300 words, in English or German)  
and a short academic biography (including  
name, degree, and current affiliation)  
by **15 January 2020** to

[comenius2020@comeniusmuseum.nl](mailto:comenius2020@comeniusmuseum.nl)

The conference committee will make  
the final selections by **1 March 2020**.



*Pansophia* was one of the leading principles – if not the most important one – in the work of Ioannes Amos Comenius (1592–1670). However, the idea of *pansophia* represented much broader intellectual current in the early modern thought. The conference will address the *pansophia* phenomenon as interpreted by Comenius, his forerunners, followers and critics. For Comenius, *pansophia* means the system of universal knowledge, which represents harmony of all things. As a theologian, he grounded this idea metaphysically as the divine order of all things. As a pedagogue, he wanted to teach “everything to everyone”. As a universal reformer, he proposed an emendation of human affairs: philosophy (or knowledge), religion and politics.

The topics of papers may include, but are not limited to:

- The **sources** of Comenius' pansophism.
- The **interpretations** of pansophism by Comenius and his contemporaries.
- The **relation** of pansophism to other elements of Comenian thought such as encyclopaedism, educational theory, theology, sciences, millenarianism, prophecy, irenicism, politics and universal reform.
- The **connection** of pansophism to other intellectual and philosophical systems and systems of worldview, such as established traditions like Aristotelianism, Neo-Platonism, Neo-Stoicism, Art of Memory, Renaissance Philosophy in general, mainstream Calvinism, Lutheranism, Roman Catholicism, Judaism, or alternative traditions like Lullism, Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism and Esotericism.
- Comenius' **contemporaries** and their ideas, interpretations and criticism of pansophism and related questions.
- The **reception** of early modern pansophism in later times and other contexts.

The conference is held at the occasion of the 350-year commemoration of Ioannes Amos Comenius' death (1592–1670), and it is organized by the Comenius Museum and Mausoleum in Naarden, the Netherlands, in cooperation with LEARN! research institute on learning and education, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Museum of Jan Amos Comenius, Uherský Brod, the Institute of Philosophy at the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, the Deutsche Comenius Gesellschaft, Berlin, the Comenius Forschungsstelle, Alfter by Bonn, and the Embassy of the Free Mind, Amsterdam.