



**Dear Participants,**

Welcome to the **14th CYRUS Institute of Knowledge (CIK) Conference** and the **14th International Symposium on Project Management, Innovation, and Sustainability (SINGEP)**. This joint conference centers on the theme **“Global Business in the Age of Disruption: Technology, Climate, and Sustainable Growth.”**

We are entering the **age of the AI revolution**, a period that is likely to transform fundamentally how humanity works, lives, communicates, and creates value. Artificial intelligence offers enormous potential benefits for humanity, but it also raises important questions about its costs, risks, ethical implications, and broader consequences for society. How can we maximize the benefits of AI while managing its risks and ensuring that its development contributes to sustainable and inclusive human progress?

These questions make our conference particularly timely. Through presentations, discussions, and thoughtful debate, we hope to deepen our collective understanding of these critical global challenges and, most importantly, generate ideas and insights that can lead to meaningful and actionable solutions.

We hope you will enjoy the stimulating exchange of ideas, the opportunity to learn from colleagues from different countries and disciplines, and the valuable networking opportunities this conference provides. The conference is proudly co-sponsored by Bentley University, ESCA University, and UNINOVE University. We sincerely thank you for your participation and contribution to this international academic community.

The **CYRUS Institute of Knowledge (CIK)** is a progressive nonprofit organization dedicated to **“cultivating discourse on human capital potential for better living.”** This mission reflects our commitment to addressing the complex economic, environmental, technological, and social challenges facing communities and regions around the world.

The **SINGEP initiative** provides a valuable platform for the exchange of scientific, technological, and applied knowledge, fostering the development of scholars and professionals working in these rapidly transforming fields.

The main objectives of this conference are to:

1. **Generate and exchange ideas** that advance global intellectual collaboration through the sharing of theoretical and applied knowledge in the management sciences.
2. **Build a dynamic international network** of scholars, practitioners, and philanthropists who share the mission, values, and commitment of CIK and SINGEP.

**We are delighted to welcome you to this conference and to have you as part of our growing global community. We look forward to an engaging, intellectually stimulating, and productive conference.**

**Welcome, and thank you for joining us!**

## **CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Conference Executive Committee**

Dr. Nader Asgary – President of CIK and Emeritus Professor of Management and Economics, Bentley University, USA

Dr. Luciano Ferreira da Silva (Postgraduate Program in Project Management at Universidade Nove de Julho, PPGP-UNINOVE, and President of the Organizing Committee of the XIV SINGEP).

Dr. Salah Koubaa, Associate Dean of Research, ESCA Ecole de Management, Casablanca, Morocco.

Dr. Maling Ebrahimpour, Professor and *Editor Cyrus Global Business Perspectives*, The University of Rhode Island, USA,

Dr. Emerson Maccari – Professor of Management and former Director of the Postgraduate Program in Administration - PPGA - UNINOVE, Sao Paulo, Brazil,

Dr. Cristina Dai Prá Martens, Director | Postgraduate Program in Business Administration – PPGA UNINOVE, Universidade Nove de Julho, Brazil,

Dr. Isabel Cristina Scafuto, Director | Postgraduate Program in Project Management – PPGP UNINOVE, Universidade Nove de Julho, Brazil,

Dr. Hossein Varamini, Professor of Finance and International Business, Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, USA.

## **THE CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*Bentley University, Waltham MA, USA*

*ESCA, Casablanca, Morocco*

*UNINOVE University, São Paulo, Brazil*

***CYRUS Institute of Knowledge (CIK), Box 380003, Cambridge, MA 02238-0003, USA***

<http://www.cyrusik.org/> | [Contact@Cyrusik.org](mailto:Contact@Cyrusik.org)

## **Link to SINGEP Sessions and Information**

<http://www.singep.org.br>

[singep@uninove.br](mailto:singep@uninove.br)

## **SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY PRESENTATIONS**

### **IN-PERSON/HYBRID CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - UNINOVE - SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL – IN-PERSON/ HYBRID**

8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, EST

Registration for CIK -

Question: [CIK@Cyrusik.org](mailto:CIK@Cyrusik.org)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (São Paulo time)

**Registration for SINGEP -**  
**Question: [singep@uninove.br](mailto:singep@uninove.br)**  
**RECEPTION COFFEE BREAK**

9:00 - 9:15 AM, EST (Easter Standard Time)

10:00 - 10:15 AM (Brasilia Time)

Zoom Link/SINGEP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81308904854?pwd=54olj6MwRs1PMGQxkbndyLqEhkIjAZ.1>

Meeting ID: 81308904854

Passcode: singep

**Note: When accessing the link, enter Userid: [cik@cyrusik.org](mailto:cik@cyrusik.org) and this password:CIKsin#14**  
**[simultaneous translation Portuguese-English and English-Portuguese]**

**Welcoming Remarks By:**

Eduardo Storopoli, Profa. Maria Cristina Storopoli, Dean/Pro-Dean da  
Universidade Nove de Julho, São Paulo, Brazil

Salah Koubaa, Director of Research, ESCA École de Management – Casablanca,  
Morocco

Nader Asgary, President of the CYRUS Institute of Knowledge and Emeritus  
Professor Bentley University, MA, USA

Luciano Ferreira da Silva, Postgraduate Program in Project Management at  
Universidade Nove de Julho, PPGP-UNINOVE, and President of the Organizing  
Committee of the XIV SINGEP, São Paulo, Brazil.

Giuseppe Catenazzo, President of SPARK Research Group Conference, Research &  
Innovation Center Fellow and a Visiting Lecturer at Glion Institute of Higher  
Education, Switzerland, and Affiliate Professor at Franklin Hudson, France.

Cristina Dai Prá Martens, Director of the Postgraduate Program in Business  
Administration at Universidade Nove de Julho, PPGA-UNINOVE, São Paulo,  
Brazil

Isabel Cristina Scafuto, Director of the Postgraduate Program in Project  
Management at Universidade Nove de Julho, PPGA-UNINOVE, São Paulo, Brazil

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026**

9:15 – 11:15 AM, EST

10:15 – 12:15 AM, Brasilia time

Zoom Link/SINGEP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81308904854?pwd=54oIj6MwRs1PMGQxkbndyLqEhkIjAZ.1>

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**Plenary Presentation I: Global Business in the Age of Disruption: AI, Climate, and Sustainable Growth**

**Moderator:**

Prof. Dr. Fernando Antonio Ribeiro Serra, Professor of the Postgraduate Program in Business Administration and the Postgraduate Program in Project Management, Uninove, Brazil.

**Presenters:**

**FINANCING ESG: FROM CLASSICAL APPROACHES TO MODERN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE**

**Shahriar khaksari**, Professor and Former Dean at Suffolk University, MA USA.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Prof. Dr. Jiashun Huang, Professor and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Business, City University of Macau, China and Senior Research Associate at the Center for Labor and the Just Economy at Harvard University, USA.

**SUSTAINABILITY, IA, AND GOVERNANCE**

Profa. Dra. Naglaa Fathy El Dessouky, Professor of Public Policy and Management at Sadat Academy of Management Sciences, Egypt. Currently affiliated with the University of Bahrain

**Debater:**

President of CIK and Emeritus Professor of Management and Economics, Bentley University, and President of the Organizing Committee of the 14th International Conference of the CIK.

2:00-3:30 PM, EST

2:00-4:30 PM, Brasilia Time

Zoom Link/SINGEP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82478869124?pwd=ghE3J9PMGuspZtfdUEiYlJWMrUJnT.1>

Meeting ID: 82478869124

Passcode: singep

Link:

**Note:** When accessing the link, enter Userid: [cik@cyrusik.org](mailto:cik@cyrusik.org) and this password: **CIKsin#14**

## **Plenary Presentation II: PROJECTS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PEOPLE: BUILDING THE FUTURE OF ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Moderator:**

Profa. Dra. Isabel Cristina Scafuto, Diretora do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Gestão de Projetos, Professora do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Administração, Uninove, Brasil.

### **Presenters:**

#### **HOW PROJECTS SHAPE THE FUTURE IN ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETY**

Profa. Dra. Joana Geraldi, Copenhagen Business School, Dinamarca.

#### **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE, AI AGENTS, AND THE FUTURE OF WORK**

Profa. Dra. Carla Bonato Marcolin, Faculdade de Economia, Administração, Contabilidade e Atuária da Universidade de São Paulo (FEA-USP) e Coordenadora do LiA, Laboratório de Inteligência Artificial Aplicada, Brasil.

#### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION,**

Prof. Dr. Reza Saidi, SUNY Upstate Medical University, NY, USA

### **Debater:**

Dr. Lucas Ribeiro, Fundador e CEO da Arax Educação, Doutor pelo Programa de Pós-Graduação em Administração, Uninove, Brasil.

**Thursday, October 22, EST – ONLINE (Eastern Standard Time)**

**8:30-6:30 PM Registration for CIK -**

**<https://cyrusik.org/conference/2026/register/>**

**Question: [CIK@Cyrusik.org](mailto:CIK@Cyrusik.org)**

**Registration for SINGEP -**

**<https://submissao.singep.org.br/13singep/login.php?>**

**Question: [singep@uninove.br](mailto:singep@uninove.br)**

**9:30-11:15 AM, EST**

Zoom Link/CIK: <https://bentley.zoom.us/j/95698773406?pwd=RFjiUasMEU4tcZvMdBjpEB1pIeakDs.1>

Meeting ID: 956 9877 3406

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**Plenary Presentation III: AFGHANISTAN UNDER THE TALIBAN: THE ROOTS OF THEIR RISE, CONSOLIDATING POWER, AND EMERGING CHALLENGES**

**Moderator and Panelist:**

Robert E. McNulty: Executive Director of Applied Ethics, Inc., and the Pax Populi peace initiative that has been involved in Afghanistan since 2007.

**THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN: ACADEMIC DECLINE, GENDER EXCLUSION, BRAIN DRAIN, AND THE LOSS OF HUMAN CAPITAL**

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Shahm Mahmood Miakhel, Former Governor of Nangarhar Province and First Deputy and Acting Minister of Defense of Afghanistan

**OTHERS**

**DETAILS OF THE CIK/SINGEP CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**CYRUS INSTITUTE OF KNOWLEDGE 14th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**AND**

**14th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PROJECT, MANAGEMENT, INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM - OCTOBER 22-24, 2025**

**IN-PERSON/HYBRID CONFERENCE**

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9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (São Paulo time)

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**Question: [singep@uninove.br](mailto:singep@uninove.br)**

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9:00 - 9:15 AM, EST (Easter Standard Time)

10:00 - 10:15 AM (Brasília Time)

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Professor Bentley University, MA, USA

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Isabel Cristina Scafuto, Director of the Postgraduate Program in Project Management at Universidade Nove de Julho, PPGA-UNINOVE, São Paulo, Brazil

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026**

9:15 – 11:15 AM, EST

10:15 – 12:15 AM, Brasilia time

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President of CIK and Emeritus Professor of Management and Economics, Bentley University, and President of the Organizing Committee of the 14th International Conference of the CIK.

11:30 – 1:00 PM, EST

12:30 – 2:00 PM, Brasilia time

Zoom Link/CIK: <https://bentley.zoom.us/j/92112484182?pwd=q6Qzjxkat3kKdHlc3FTT63LLx5K7zh.1>

Meeting ID: 921 1248 4182

**Note:** When accessing the link, enter Userid: [cik@cyrusik.org](mailto:cik@cyrusik.org) and this password: **CIKsin#14**

## **Session A: ENHANCING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY, AND SOCIAL IMPACT**

**Session Chair:** Nader Asgary, President of the CYRUS Institute of Knowledge, Emeritus Prof. at Bentley University, MA, USA

### **Presenters:**

## **EDUCATION: THE KEY PIECE TO PEACE**

Michael DeRosa, Sarah English, and Yanni Haginicolas, Bentley University, MA USA

## **SUPPORTING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING CHILDREN: AN ANALYSIS OF HOLDING HANDS**

Irek Koziol, Katie Quizhpi, and Ryley King, Bentley University, MA USA

## **PASSION TO ACTION: AN ASSESSMENT OF HISPANAS AMIGAS**

Landon Hofmeister, Daniel Hiltz, and Risha Khanderia, Bentley University, MA  
USA

**FROM INCARCERATION TO RESTORATION**

Max Mattera, Alexandra Rieckehoff, Autumn Tansley, Bentley University, MA  
USA

**CYRUS INSTITUTE OF KNOWLEDGE: GLOBAL GROWTH,  
DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN PROGRESS**

Patricia Cabral Toribio, Kelley Chen, and Riley Colon, Bentley University, MA  
USA

**Lunch:**

12:30 -2:00, PM, EST

1:30 - 2:30 PM, Brasilia Time

2:00-3:30 PM, EST

2:00-4:30 PM, Brasilia Time

Zoom Link/SINGEP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82478869124?pwd=ghE3J9PMGuspZtfdUEiYLJWMrUJnT.1>

Meeting ID: 82478869124

Passcode: singep

Link:

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Gestão de Projetos, Professora do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Administração,  
Uninove, Brasil.

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**Debater:**

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3:30 – 4:00 PM (EST) **Coffee Break**

4:30 – 5:00 PM (Brasilia time) **Coffee Break**

4:00 - 6:00 PM, EST

5:00 -7:00 PM (Brasilia time) **CIK/SINGEP – INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL CONSORCIUM**

Zoom Link/SINGEP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83187517625?pwd=BK1hRzAsMqdXEgHvJy86NbJtAzCHE.1>

Passcode: singep

**Note:** When accessing the link, enter Userid: [cik@cyrusik.org](mailto:cik@cyrusik.org) and this password:CIKsin#14

**Introduction by:**

Brazil Coordination:

Prof. Dr. Emerson Antonio Maccari (Professor do Programa de Pós-graduação em Administração e do Programa de Pós-graduação em Gestão de Projetos da Universidade Nove de Julho, PPGP-UNINOVE)

International Coordination:

Prof. Dr. Nader Asgary (Professor da Bentley University – EUA, Diretor do CIK – Cyrus Institute of Knowledge, e Presidente da Comissão Organizadora do International Conference Cyrus)

**Panel Members:**

Prof. Dr. Nuno Rosa Reis, Escola de Tecnologia e Gestão da Universidade de Leiria e Oeste, Portugal.

Prof. Dr. Marcelo Martins Sá, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne - Reino Unido.

**Thursday, October 22, EST – ONLINE (Eastern Standard Time)**

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**Registration for SINGEP -**

**<https://submissao.singep.org.br/13singep/login.php?>**

**Question: [singep@uninove.br](mailto:singep@uninove.br)**

**8:00 AM – 6:30 PM (Brasilia time)**

**SINGEP parallel papers presentation sessions (IN PORTUGUESE)**

**9:00-5:30, EST**

**9:30-11:15 AM, EST**

**Zoom Link/CIK: <https://bentley.zoom.us/j/95698773406?pwd=RFjiUasMEU4tcZvMdBjpEB1pleakDs.1>**

**Meeting ID: 956 9877 3406**

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**Moderator and Panelist:**

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Hamidullah Farooqi, Former Chancellor of Kabul University, former Minister for Transportation and Civil Aviation, and Former Minister of Martyrs and Disabled Affairs for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**AFGHANISTAN AFTER FIVE YEARS OF TALIBAN RULE: A SITUATION ASSESSMENT AND THE WAY FORWARD**

Shahmahmood Miakhel, Former Governor of Nangarhar Province and First Deputy and Acting Minister of Defense of Afghanistan

**OTHERS**

**9:40 – 11:45 AM**      **SINGEP parallel papers presentation sessions**

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Zoom Link/CIK:**

<https://bentley.zoom.us/j/96552405543?pwd=HkzAdPsdNSPhDqQnzHDTr74WxyWF13.1>

Meeting ID: 970 1855 2628

**Passcode:** **When accessing the link, enter Userid: cik@cyrusik.org and this password:CIKsin#14**

**Session B: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AI ADOPTION, DIGITAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

**Session Chair: Dr. Ahmad Etbari**, University of New Hampshire, NH, USA

**DIGITAL CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND IDENTITY IN TRANSITION: THE CASE OF MOROCCO**

**Ahmed Iraqi**, ESCA School of Management, Morocco

**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, CARBON ACCOUNTING, ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE: MANAGING CLIMATE RISK IN UK BUSINESSES**

**Yetunde Bernice Oyewole, Adeola Adeniyi, and Bojuwon Mustapha**  
Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

**AI ADOPTION IN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: IS IT WORTH IT?**  
**Katie Martin**, Bentley University, USA

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENT FOR USE IN POST-HARVEST PROCESSING FOR SMALL RURAL PRODUCERS**

**Cleber Serafin, Silvia Renata Machado Coelho, and Divair Christ**  
Instituto Federal Do Paraná, Brazil

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**      **Lunch Break**

**2:00 – 3:45 PM**

**Zoom Link/CIK:**

<https://bentley.zoom.us/j/96552405543?pwd=HkzAdPsdNSPhDqQnzHDTr74WxyWF13.1>

Meeting ID: 965 5240 5543

**Passcode:** **When accessing the link, enter Userid: cik@cyrusik.org and this password:CIKsin#14**

## **SESSION C: ESG PRACTICES AND FIRM PERFORMANCE POLITICAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES**

**Session Chair: Dr. Michael Quinn**, Bentley University, MA USA

### **ESG PRACTICES AND FIRM PERFORMANCE: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF TRANSACTION COSTS AND SHAREHOLDER RETURNS IN U.S. MANUFACTURING FIRMS**

Carolina Pinheiro Batista, Wendel Alex Castro Silva, José Edson Lara, and Daniel Pardini, Universidade FUMEC, Brazil

### **DO GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCED DIRECTORS ON BOARDS INCREASE DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES?**

**Michael Quinn**, Bentley University, MA USA  
and **Tyler Wasson**, Assumption University, MA USA

### **GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND THE LIABILITY OF SMALLNESS: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND SME**

**Adil Marzouk**, ESCA School of Management, Morocco

### **OPERATIONALIZING SUSTAINABILITY: THE IMPACT OF ESG PERFORMANCE ON ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE AND LONG-TERM VALUE CREATION**

**Adeola Adeniyi**, Southern New Hampshire University

### **REGULATING THE UNREGULABLE: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TECHNOLOGY, CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IN A DISRUPTED WORLD**

**RHALIB My Mohamed Lahbib**, ESCA School of Management, Morocco

**4:00– 5:00 PM**

Zoom Link/CIK:

<https://bentley.zoom.us/j/97785590306?pwd=IxjgPMC8jyXRZ4GcDYwbmzRIKugap0.1>

Meeting ID: 977 8559 0306

**Passcode:** When accessing the link, enter Userid: [cik@cyrusik.org](mailto:cik@cyrusik.org) and this password: **CIKsin#14**

## **SESSION D: HUMANISTIC VALUES, QUALITY OF LIFE AND RIGHTS**

**HUMANISTIC VALUES, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DEMOCRACY IN AN EVOLVING GLOBAL ORDER**, President of CIK and Emeritus Professor of Management and Economics, Bentley University, USA

**INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON  
REFLECTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES**

Alf H. Walle, CIK, Cambridge MA

**3:30 – 5:30 PM**      **SINGEP parallel papers presentation sessions**

**5:40 PM**              ***SINGEP – BEST PAPERS***

Zoom Link/SINGEP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84210650346?pwd=qDwZ2csF3NvyllbSKgHOP7JiMIrk3O.1>

**Note:** **When accessing the link, enter Userid: cik@cyrusik.org and this password: CIKSIN14**

**[IN PORTUGUESE - simultaneous translated subtitle - Port-Eng / Eng-Port]**

**Friday, October 23 – SINGEP - ONLINE (Eastern Standard Time/EST)**

**SINGEP Workshops**

*Thank you!*