



1421 Prince St, Ste 350 • Alexandria, VA 22314
703-746-9919 • montessori@amiusa.org • amiusa.org

On March 3, 2022, an article titled “The Miseducation of Maria Montessori” was published in *The New Yorker* in the “Under Review” section of the magazine. This section promises “deep dives on new books.” The aforementioned article has received a large response on social media, and many in the Montessori community have voiced questions and concerns about the author’s assertions.

Our Executive Director, Dr. Ayize Sabater, penned a response to the article, which was submitted to *The New Yorker* on March 10, 2022. The response highlights the following points of confusion for our organization:

1. The article focuses on the exclusivity and inaccessibility of Montessori education in the United States. While this is certainly a real and valid concern, there are many individuals and organizations throughout the country that have been working tirelessly over the past few years to address this and make Montessori education inclusive and accessible to all children. These efforts are indicative of a larger paradigm shift happening in our society and should be included in any conversation about education, whether private or public.
2. The article seems to ignore the many complex forces in this country which govern and influence education, often to the detriment of our children and families. This is something that, regardless of pedagogy, all of us who are involved in education must contend with on a daily basis. Many of the roadblocks to inclusive and accessible Montessori education can be traced back to these complexities.
3. This article, despite appearing in the “Under Review” section of the magazine does not appear to actually review the title in question: *The Child is the Teacher*. Rather than an informative review of a new title of interest, the article seems rather to provide us with its author’s opinion of Maria Montessori and her pedagogical philosophy and its many shortcomings based on her own limited experience and research.

We hope that *The New Yorker* will consider our response, as well as others that have been submitted with similar critiques, for publication and further discussion on Montessori education in the United States.

