Cosimo Raffaele Laneve was born in Taranto, in Puglia, in 1940. After obtaining his diploma, he began teaching at the age of just 18 in primary schools in the area. Graduated in Pedagogy in 1961 at University of Bari, he devoted himself to teaching humanities in middle schools (1966-1976) and human sciences and history in high schools (from 1977 to 1980). During this period of teaching, he began to cultivate a deep interest in the communicative aspects of teaching, which formed the core of his first studies at the University of Bari.

His first monograph, "Retorica ed educazione" (1981), was the synthesis of investigations and reflections conducted in the previous years on the topic of pedagogical discourse in its persuasive value, published within prestigious research journals, such as Pedagogia e Vita. The second monograph, "Lingua e persona" (1987), addressed the rhetorical and communicative aspects of the pedagogical relationship. A year later, he founded LARID (Laboratorio di ricerca didattica) at the University of Bari, one of the first Italian educational research laboratories that brought together scholars and teachers around common themes. Laneve's activity, as a young researcher, was also highly appreciated by the national pedagogical community, which allowed him to become a member of the prestigious intellectual circle of Schole`, which continues to bring together eminent scholars nowadays.

Laneve became full professor of "History of Schools and Educational Institutions" in 1993 and of "General Didactics" in 1995 at the University of Bari. He also taught in other Italian universities, such as the "Suor Orsola Benincasa" of Naples and the University of Aosta. At the University of Bari, Laneve held many of the most important institutional positions: Director of the postgraduate course in "Didattica della scrittura" (1987–2010), Director of the Department of Educational Sciences (1994–2001), Coordinator of the PhD school in "Design and evaluation of training processes" (1995–2010), Dean of the "Education Sciences" Faculty (2004–2010), and Vice-rector for the Ionian pole (2008–2010).

Cosimo Laneve’s main research interests follow three main areas of study. The investigations and theoretical elaborations on General Didactics have made him one of the most relevant authors of the Italian research community. His first monograph on the theme, "Il campo della didattica" (1997), is the essential core of the subsequent "Elementi di Didattica Generale" (1998), considered among the foundational works of didactic knowledge in Italy. In 2003 he published "La didattica fra teoria e pratica," which introduces some innovative research topics, such as teaching practices and the professionalization of teachers. In 2011 he published "Manuale di didattica," translated into Spanish in 2015. Since 2018 he has written the column "Nello zaino dell’insegnante " of the monthly teacher training magazine "Essere a scuola," where he addresses current issues, such as stereotypes and motivation to learn. In 2023 he published ‘Il sapere didattico’, which deepens the contribution deriving from human sciences and the theoretical contribution from the analysis of teaching practices as a privileged source for the elaboration of the theory of teaching.

His research on the analysis of teaching practices - referring to both the school context and the professionalization of the teacher - has grown within national and international research groups. Numerous works should be mentioned, which are, among the others:

"La ricerca sulle pratiche di insegnamento in Francia" (2003) - the Italian edition of Marguerite Altet's work;
"Analysis of educational practice: A comparison of research models" (2011) - co-edited with Christopher Day;

"La pratica educativa en la Sociedad de la Información: Innovación a través de la investigación" (2011) - co-authored with Rosabel Roig Vila. Cosimo also presented at national conferences on the topic of teaching practices, for example, at the "Suor Orsola Benincasa" University in 2008, the University of Bari in 2010, and the University of Turin in 2016.
Investigations and reflections on the didactics of writing accompanied Laneve's entire production and deepened various aspects, such as text composition, the transformative function, and the ethical-political value of writing. The first collective work, "Theuth e il papiro" (1997), offers the results of some research-intervention activities and operational teaching-learning paths on how to produce well-made written texts. Other works must be mentioned, such as:

"Scrittura e pratica educativa" (2008) - an investigation into the meaning of writing for in-service teachers;
"Imparare a fare ricerca" (2009) - a narrative survey on the formative function of writing for PhD students;
And his most recent "Due anni in pagina" (2022) - on the value of autobiographies during the Covid pandemic.
The over twenty-five-year production of the biannual journal Quaderni di didattica della scrittura, for which Laneve was the director and nowadays the chief editor, should not be forgotten. At the international level, he was first a member and then a national representative (from 2007 to 2013) of the International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching (ISATT) and of the Réseau Open (from 2002 to 2012). He held seminars at the Sorbonne in Paris and at the University of Nantes from 2001 to 2010 and gave a lecture at the Parisian University in 2015. In 2007 he presented - with Loredana Perla and Laura Sara Agrati - the paper "Writing One's Own Educational Practice Beyond 'Stolen Time'" at the 13th ISATT International Conference. Starting from the concept of "bureaucratic writing," the study investigated possible spaces for "creative and free writing" in the daily practice of school teachers.

He reached the pinnacle of recognition by the Italian research community when elected as president of the Italian Society of Pedagogy (SIPED) (2003–2006) and, after his formal retirement, through the collective work in his honor "La forza dell'educare e la voce della scrittura: studi in onore di Mino Laneve" (edited by Chiara Gemma, 2014). Nevertheless, his long career is studded with other awards: National Award for Pedagogy and Didactics "Stilo d'oro" (1997), International Pedagogical Award "Raffaele Laporta" (2006), and SIPED Lifetime Achievement Award (2014).

Cosimo Laneve’s 40-year career has always been on the rise, full of institutional commitments and research publications, now considered "milestones" by the educational research community. It was not easy to summarize so great contributions in a single organic text. We recognize Cosimo, most of all, for having lavished on us the interest in research and the passion for didactic knowledge.

Today we all lose a reference point in the educational research field with a southern perspective. Cosimo Laneve was able to express an original point of view on the School (with a capital “S”) and on the most appropriate research methodology to approach the actors and problems of that context. Without neglecting the international prominence that places Italian didactic studies in the international comparison, always necessary for developing non-self-referential interpretations of educational processes.