

# REINVENTING EDUCATION

second international conference

<http://www.scuolademocratica-conference.net>  
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The **2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the JOURNAL SCUOLA DEMOCRATICA "REINVENTING EDUCATION"** will be hosted online **June 3 through 5 2021**, by **Scuola Democratica, Centro Interuniversitario per la Ricerca Didattica** (University of Cagliari and University of Sassari), **il Mulino**. The challenges posed by the contemporary world have long required a rethinking of educational concepts, policies, and practices. The question about education 'for what' as well as 'how' and 'for whom' has become unavoidable and yet it largely remained elusive due to a tenacious attachment to the ideas and routines of the past which are now far off the radical transformations required of educational systems. Scenarios, reflections, and practices fostering the possibility of change towards the reinvention of the educational field as a driver of more general and global changes are centerstage topics at the Conference and will have a multidisciplinary approach from experts from different disciplinary communities, including sociology, pedagogy, psychology, economics, architecture, political science, etc. We hope with this opportunity to confirm the participation obtained at the first edition of the conference. Organizers, promoters and partners of the Conference wish to invite educators, teachers, researchers, scholars, academics, scientists, professionals, experts and policy makers to join the conversation and bring the disciplines towards a more integrated set of alliances by:

- promoting a trans and inter disciplinary discussion on urgent topics;
- fostering debates among experts and professionals;
- diffusing research findings all over international scientific networks and practitioners' mainstreams;
- launching further strategies and networking alliances on local, national and international scale;
- providing a new space for debate and evidence to educational policies.

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We invite you to submit ABSTRACT/PAPER for your presentation at the **Panel session**:

## **B.1 EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY AND RATIONALIZATION**

### Convenors

Fiorenzo Parziale (Sapienza-Università di Roma); Felice Addeo (Università degli Studi di Salerno)

### Keywords

global education reform; democracy; bildung; technical training; rationalization

In the last years several sociological research highlighted the association between higher education and tolerant attitude towards cultural and social diversities (Hainmueller, Hiscox 2007; Colombo 2014).

We have to analyse this association considering economic globalization has increased social inequalities producing a political and cultural climate based on a radical particularism: the last one is characterized by the repulsion against the recognition of civil and social rights gradually obtained in the last two centuries (Geseilberger 2017).

Therefore, the modern educational system may represent an institutional field able to renovate society not only on the economic side, but also on that civil and cultural one: schools and universities may make individuals acquire a "code" (Bernstein 1973) allowing them the active involvement into the public sphere and therefore they contribute positively to the social inclusion and the development of democratic institutions (Benadusi 2019; Sciolla 2019).

If we adopt this perspective, we can understand the contradiction between basically universalistic orientation of modern educational systems – at least in the Countries characterized by democratic regimes – and the instrumental action of the wider economic system.

That contradiction may be the main cause of the global reform of education (Cobalti 2006; Ball 2012). Indeed, this last one not only makes private companies operate in the educational field, but it also leads schools and universities to adopt some organizational practices inspired by New Public Management, namely one of the driving forces that neoliberal regulation uses (Gunter et al. 2016).

In summary, educational system is crossed by conflicting dynamics concerning the same conceiving of education and pedagogical practices: on the one side there is the citizens critical education, definable as bildung, on the other side there is the idea that education corresponds to technical training and in this way it can satisfy capitalism's requirements, in line with the modern rationalization, as described by Weber (1905, 1920).

This panel starts from the idea that we need to understand how the educational system can promote a critical education (bildung) connected to attitudes, values, worldview points oriented to the strengthening of democracy, and on the opposite side what the obstacles are.

Papers addressing to these topics are welcome, namely if they analyse the complex relationship between educational system and global reform of education, in turn connected to the general political-economy

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trends of neoliberalism (Apple 2012), focusing on a critical analysis of the association between higher education and recognition of cultural and social diversities (Parziale 2020). The analysis of this relationship may benefit from the study of tension connected to the different ways of rationalization manifest itself according to fields examined, as Weber in Sociology of Religion or other scholars, starting from Gramsci (2019), highlighted.

In particular, it is relevant to understand if theoretical and academic knowledge influence positively on development of critical education (Kohlberg 1971; Habermas 1976; Gouldner 1979), useful to reinforce democratic institutions and therefore social inclusion, or if we have to attribute this role to a specific organization of teaching (Freire 1968; Giroux 1988) and/or to specific pedagogical contents (Cavalli 2019). These questions may be formulated in several ways, taking into account both the reproduction of educational inequalities and the connection between rationalization and practices promoted by global educational reform, included those ones connected to the pervasive spread of digital technologies (Lupton 2015) that seem promote technical training at the expense of critical education (van Dijck et al. 2018).

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## ABSTRACTS/PAPERS SUBMISSION

### HOW TO SUBMIT

ABSTRACTS/PAPERS should be submitted by **April 4, 2021** ([check Conference Dates and Deadlines](#)).  
ABSTRACTS/PAPERS should be submitted via the [pre-conference tool](#).

Please **do not submit your ABSTRACT/PAPER by e-mailing it to the Convenor(s)** of the Panel session you chose. Convenor(s) will receive submitted ABSTRACTS/PAPERS automatically from the [pre-conference tool](#) and they are going to reject [ABSTRACT/PAPER](#) submitted to their e-mail addresses.

Language for ABSTRACTS/PAPERS is English.

You can submit an ABSTRACT or in case you prefer a PAPER. **Be careful: DO NOT SUBMIT BOTH ABSTRACT AND PAPER. EITHER YOU SUBMIT THE FORMER OR THE LATTER.**

ABSTRACT/PAPER should include:

1. Title (limited to 20 words in UPPER CASE)
2. Author's name and surname, institution, and email address
3. Five keywords
4. ABSTRACT's text (limited to 500 words). In case you decide for the PAPER, text will be 3.500 words min. 5.000 words max. In the submission text, please write: ABSTRACT or PAPER after the title. Example: FAMILY BACKGROUNDS AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. A CASE STUDY (PAPER).

The Conference formula is: **1 SUBMISSION = 1 FEE** ([check FEES webpage](#))

It is possible to submit a maximum of 2 ABSTRACTS/PAPERS per person (double submission must concern 2 different Panel Sessions). Each ABSTRACT/PAPER is eligible if it is backed by an **APP FEE**.

**Co-authors who do not submit ABSTRACT/PAPER as first author may access to the Conference via the discounted P FEE** ([check FEES webpage](#)).

The submitting and presenting author must be listed as the first author in the [pre-conference tool](#). Please note that the submitting author will receive all correspondence about the ABSTRACT/PAPER. Therefore, we recommend that the submitting author details that are entered are the same details as those of the presenting author.

ABSTRACTS/PAPERS may not be edited/uploaded after final submission.

Before you submit, please make sure the following requirements are met:

- ABSTRACT/PAPER must be allocated to a specific Panel session. Therefore, you must select the proper Panel when submitting. For a complete listing of Panel sessions please [click here](#).
- If possible, write your ABSTRACT/PAPER highlighting methods, outcomes, references. Word count is affected by inclusion of references.
- Convenors and the Scientific Committee will review all submitted ABSTRACTS/PAPERS. Notification regarding acceptance and scheduling will be sent to the submitting author via the [pre-conference tool](#).

Please note, if your ABSTRACT/PAPER is accepted, you will be permitted a maximum of 20 minutes for oral presentation.

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