

The 1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the JOURNAL **SCUOLA DEMOCRATICA** will be hosted at the **University of Cagliari** (Italy), **June 6 through 8, 2019**, by Scuola Democratica, **Centro Interuniversitario per la Ricerca Didattica** (University of Cagliari and University of Sassari), **Il Mulino Editore**.

The Conference stands as an opportunity to present and discuss empirical and theoretical works from a variety of disciplines and fields covering education. The focal theme of the Conference is a trend currently affecting many countries invested by processes of globalization: the advent of what Colin Crouch called «post-democracy» (**check Keynote speakers list**). 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 evidences to educational policies.

We invite you to submit abstracts for your presentation at the **track session**:

A.03. Training for Democracy in Populist Times

Convenor: Nicola Ingram (Sheffield Hallam University, n.a.ingram@shu.ac.uk)

Keywords: **European citizenship; Higher Education; Employability; Social Development.**

The papers in this session will reflect on the challenges of Higher Education (HE), and the extent to which it can contribute to the formation of more open, deliberative and democratic European societies and citizens. With increasing European, national and institutional policies narrowly focussed on the human capital and employment outcomes of higher education, the emancipatory and social development aspects of education are eroded in public discourse. Employment and employability become the new 'common-sense' logics of Higher Education participation, framing the development and direction of future policy-making. In contemporary Europe, the value of education is increasingly measured through the employment rates of educational leavers and their potential contribution to national economic growth. Within this context, Higher Education policies across countries focus on promoting a culture of aspiration and a desire for Higher Education participation, and in doing so target 'problem' groups such as 'working-class', minority ethnic, migrant and refugee students, without recognising the structures of disadvantage that may render educational participation unwanted, unnecessary, or unrewarding for these groups. There is a problematic assumption within policy frameworks that bearers of a university degree are automatically conferred entitlement to equal participation on the playing-field of local, national, European and global labour markets. The discourses surrounding HE aspiration and employability provide a never-ending promise of future career that are adopted by individuals as they participate in higher education leading to hopes that may never be realised in the transition from university into work. Indeed, as borders are reimagined and become 'harder' under BREXIT and within debates about migration and freedom of movement, those who aspire to work, live (and love) in different (inter)national contexts are increasingly cast as 'Citizens of Nowhere'. Within this discourse, the voices and voting intentions of young, highly educated citizens of the future are at best side-lined, and at worst vilified as elite and out of touch. This session intends to explore some of the issues this raises for the democratisation of (higher) education and notions of European citizenship.

ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION

HOW TO SUBMIT

Abstracts should be submitted by **February 28, 2019** ([check Dates and Deadlines](#)).

Abstracts should be edited in the **template form** ([click to download](#)) and then submitted via the [submission platform](#).

Please do not submit your abstract by e-mailing it to the Convenor(s) of the track session you chose. Convenor(s) will receive submitted abstracts automatically from the [submission platform](#) and they are going to reject all the abstracts sent to their e-mail addresses.

Abstracts 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).

- The presenting author can submit **only 1 abstract** at the Conference.
- You may be co-author of a second, third ...*n*th... submitted abstract only in case you are not the submitter of this latter.
- Submitters that are accepted for oral presentation will be permitted to give **only 1 oral presentation**.
- The submitting and presenting author must be listed as the first author in the [template form](#).
- Please note the submitting author will receive all correspondence about the abstract so we advise that the submitting author details that are entered are the same details as those of the presenting author.
- Abstracts may not be edited/updated after final submission. You are welcome to bring an updated abstract onsite with you at the Conference.

Before you begin, please prepare the following information:

- Abstracts must be allocated to a specific track session and therefore you have to select and report track session's code and title in the [template form](#). For a complete listing of track session please [click here](#).
- Abstract layout in the [template form](#) has the following sections: Methods, outcomes, references. However, suggestions are not obligatory. Word count is affected by inclusion of references.
- Convenors and the Scientific Committee will review all submitted abstracts. Notification regarding abstract acceptance and scheduling will be sent to the submitting author
- Please note, if your abstract is accepted for oral presentation, the presenting author will be permitted a maximum of 20 minutes oral presentation in the program.

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