CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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**:

D.5. Informal learning as a site of encounter, self-construction and resistance

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Keywords: **informal learning; knowledge co-production; identities; boundary-making.**

Learning is an ongoing process that takes place in a multiplicity of settings and through diverse means, which are not regulated by the State and for its aims. In this sense, it is far from being the exclusive prerogative of formal institutions such as schools and universities. Nevertheless, educational policy has largely tended to focus on these contexts while neglecting informal sites of learning such as social media and local communities. Looking at 'informal learning' (as distinct from informal education) is to pay attention to the spaces, times and interactions that shape the learning of youth, for instance, beyond State rules and vision. Doing so opens up the possibility to see new actors and new fields that play a key part in the self-construction of people. This seems ever more relevant in the current glocalised context. Here, increasing opportunities for encounters with 'difference' (e.g. of nationality, religion, sexuality) due to time-space compression and socio-spatial mobility sit alongside strong tendencies towards particularism, as shown for example by the rise of ethno-nationalism and identity politics across the globe.

In this panel, we want to explore informal learning as a site with diffuse and porous boundaries but involving meaningful encounters with others. Putting a spotlight on the everyday learning of individuals and communities also allows us to understand the (re)production and subversion of knowledge as occurring at the juncture of multiple, intersecting spaces, enabling acts of resistance. This includes (un)learning about gender, race, ethnicity and social class, which we suggest tends to happen in a more instance manner than in traditional educational setting, without the formal gatekeepers and regulators. Such a focus calls for attention to be paid to what happens in social settings as diverse as the streets, the sports field, online and between school classes, where people 'meet' and contribute to the co-creation of new narratives.

To unpack these aspects, we welcome papers that look at the most varied sites and take different angles, with an eye in particular – but not exclusively – to the following:

- how informal learning contributes to shaping agents' views and understandings;
- how it contributes to informing constructions of the self and others through processes of boundary-making, re-making and unmaking;
- how it can function to either reproduce or challenge and disrupt dominant narratives and frameworks of knowledge;
- the significance of informal learning for the job market today and in the future;

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- the connections between formal and informal learning;
- the power relations between the State and the spaces where informal learning takes place.
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ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION

HOW TO SUBMIT

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

Abstracts should to 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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