

# 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**:

## **A.7 THE AMERICA SYNDROME: THE INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES ON EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL CULTURES AND POLICIES, BETWEEN MYTH AND REALITY**

### Convenors

Luana Salvarani (Università di Parma); Andrea Giacomantonio (Università di Parma)

### Keywords

Educational policies; Transatlantic relations; Neo-liberalism; Policy hybridization; Government technologies

In the last decades, the reflection on education in the EU and especially in Italy has often focused on a crisis of legitimacy involving schools, higher education and the academy. These institutions have been asked to take into account a complex set of requirements and demands coming from the production system, the governments and the EU policies (but also from an altogether vague and undefined "public opinion"), while the authority of these institutions and of their representatives has been substantially challenged.

This societal change has sometimes taken the form (or has been perceived as such) of overt hostility towards the so-called self-sufficiency of the academic world, the transmission of "useless" culture in the school realm and the obsolescence of the humanist paradigm of knowledge. In response, large sections of the intellectual élite have sparked a heated debate between the reasons of "culture" and "market", which, at the political level, is generally reduced to a sterile juxtaposition. In this debate "neo-liberalism" stands as a key concept, albeit not always clearly and properly defined. The problem is indeed complex and involves the very essence of the aims and identity of education. In this panel, we will aim to discuss the issue under the angle of the frequent assumption which considers the crisis of the humanist paradigm and the challenge to the public school system as coming from the all-powerful American influence on the Western world.

Our goal is to foster a informed debate and share knowledge on the different forms of this influence (in both directions), with special attention to situations in which the influence can be strongly documented and, conversely, situations in which this influence can be read as a mythical construction, and the described phenomena are the results of fully European dispositifs. We welcome papers from all the realm of human sciences, describing, e.g., highlights in the history of US-Europe relations about education; meaningful experiences in the area of schooling both from the State-public and from the free-choice, pro-market perspectives; theoretical reflections on the transatlantic dialogue on several educational issues; reflections on how one of more of the countless different EU and US schooling policies tackle with challenges such as racial bias, queer identities, social discrimination and individual freedom. Critical analysis of data coming from recent surveys, including a discussion on how the indicators were chosen and which political aims they were intended to achieve, will be also very appreciated. The overall aim of the panel is to build a diverse and multidisciplinary discussion to assess the reality and the myth of American influence, in order to understand if and how we can speak of an European

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educational tradition, and therefore uncover the most subtle and pervasive mechanisms which drive its evolution and transformation in the present and the near future. Themes of the stream especially addressed: theme 7 (policy mobility, policy hybridization); theme 9 (government technologies, neo-liberalism)

## References

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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.