CALL FOR ABSTRACTS/PAPERS

The **2ⁿᵈ 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.

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

E.2 UNIVERSITIES AND NEXTGENERATIONEU: COMPETITIVENESS, DISTRIBUTIVE POLICIES AND NATIONAL HETEROGENEITY

Convenors
Dr Tatiana Fumasoli (UCL Institute of Education); Dr Giulio Marini (UCL Institute of Education)

Keywords
Covid 19; European integration; Higher Education; Funding mechanisms; --

Since the Lisbon Agenda in 1999, the European Union has pointed to universities as engines of European socio-economic development. The fundamentally neoliberal strategy of the EU has thus focused on competitiveness vis-à-vis North America and East Asia in the early 2000s, then imposing controls on public expenditure following the financial crisis in 2008. One can indeed say that with the current COVID-19 pandemic, the EU strategy has given way to new economic policies aimed at long-term investment, rather than financial constraint, devising a novel burden sharing among stronger and weaker country members. A significant instrument of this new direction is the NextGeneration funding that has been set up after intense negotiations in December 2020. NextGenerationEU has been designed to boost the recovery of European post-COVID-19 economies by allocating a total of €750 billion. Within the new long-term budget it will increase flexibility mechanisms to guarantee it has the capacity to address unforeseen needs. It has five objectives: support reform and investment; crisis repair; develop regions; sustain social funds; and contribute to the EU research programmes.

The main goal of this panel is to understand the role of higher education, and particularly of universities, in NextGenerationEU according to official documents sent by single Countries to the European Commission. Considering the large distributive policy that has been set up at European level, we address the question "which role do universities play in these programs?" Extant research on integration in the European Research Area has primarily focused on the capacity of national research systems to participate in the Framework Programmes. We would like, however to emphasize the new scale and operating conditions of NextGenerationEU. First, we pose national research systems as aggregates of partly autonomous subunits and actors in a multi-level space. Second, we contend that the inherently competitive nature of the EU distribution policies forces research actors to respond in similar ways despite their heterogeneous resources and capabilities. Third, the normative and cognitive factors characteristics of the research policy sector accentuate the existing dynamics of competition. Fourth, we aim at understanding whether the magnitude of European Union political economy enhances even more single Countries' interpretation of the possible role of universities in thriving post-pandemic socio-economic contexts.

We invite papers that:

- compare EU countries and their universities on their access and participation to this instrument;

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- offer national case studies that analyse how national governments and their institutions are distinctively accessing and participating in specific aspects of the programme;
- investigate how historically embedded competitive distribution mechanisms in ERA affect the access of Countries and institutions in the periphery of the EU;
- illustrate empirically (mostly, but not exclusively, via documental analysis) the institutionalization of the European research sector and its implications for broader European integration post-COVID-19.
- discuss theoretical and policy-related implications for the debate on European integration and the specific role of universities therein.

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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