REINVENTING EDUCATION

second international conference

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.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE: A FUTURE AGENDA FOR A FAST-CHANGING HIGHER EDUCATION

Convenors
Maria J. Rosa (UA - University of Aveiro - Economics, Management, Industrial Engineering and Tourism Department and CIPES – Center for Research in Higher Education Policies); Sónia Cardoso (A3ES – Agência de Avaliação e Acreditação do Ensino Superior and CIPES - Center for Research in Higher Education Policies)

Keywords
Quality assurance; Flexibility; Challenges; Future agenda; Changing Higher education

In 2003, Hodson and Thomas called attention to the need of both quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions to adapt to the challenges of the new millennium for higher education. Then as now, this recommendation seems to make perfect sense, especially in the face of a hypermodern society (Lipovetsky, 2005), changing at a sometimes dizzying pace and challenged by unpredictable events such as the recent covid-19 pandemic.

Higher education has been undergoing dramatic transformations especially in the last couple of decades. A growing globalisation and massification of higher education, allied to the digital revolution, gave rise to new types of institutions, programmes, and modes of delivery. The alignment with the knowledge society narratives and assumptions has led higher education to being increasingly called not only to contribute to economic and social development, but also to help address global challenges, such as those subsumed under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Ferguson and Roofe, 2020). In addition to the development of research, innovation and technology, institutions are required to train citizens endowed not only with scientific and technical knowledge but also with a set of transferable competences, allowing employability in an increasingly unknown and unpredictable future. In order to respond to all these challenges, institutions reinvent their governance and management modes and structures. This leads to the increasing use and need for performance indicators, big data, and educational data mining to support evidence-based decision making (Lieber, 2019).

Regardless of its complexity, quality assurance is (or should be) flexible and adaptable. And, in fact, the above mentioned changes, require quality assurance, in both its external and internal dimensions, to reinvent itself, without, however, losing its primary purposes and ethos. Quality assurance must be able to expand its focus beyond the teaching/learning process to cover the multiplicity of missions in higher education systems and institutions, addressing issues such as research, relation with society and support processes, internationalisation, or sustainability. It should also broaden its own view of the teaching and learning process in order to capture its transformation, including changes in modes of delivery (e.g. distance learning, joint degrees, cross-border higher education).

It seems indisputable the need for quality assurance to become more flexible, either in relation to the quality dimensions considered or scrutinised, or to the quality assurance mechanisms and procedures. This flexibility would allow quality assurance to adapt to the changing higher education landscape without

compromising its credibility. To this end, several approaches and solutions emerge as possible and relevant in terms of both internal and external quality assurance.

The panel is intended as an opportunity to reflect and discuss the present and future of quality assurance. Thus, the purpose is twofold: on the one hand, to understand how the university and quality assurance systems have been dealing with the conditions imposed by these times of uncertainty in order to (continue to) promote the quality of higher education, that is, what answers and solutions have been put forward in the current challenging context; on the other hand, with a view to envisioning new paths and approaches for the future, the objective is to discuss how quality assurance can be more responsive to the changing and complex reality/ies it envisions. The purpose is to provide avenues for rethinking the purposes, scope, methodologies, instruments and mechanisms of quality assurance while discussing its future scenarios and challenges.

Possible topics include:

• Flexible quality assurance in face of a flexible higher education/university

• Quality assurance in crisis or emergency times: rationales, methods or instruments best suited to respond to rapid and unpredictable developments in higher education

• The future of quality assurance (e.g. Micro-credentials, digitalization, cross border higher education, doctoral education)

• The present and future of stakeholders' engagement in quality assurance

References

Ferguson, T. and Roofe, C.G. (2020). SDG 4 in higher education: challenges and opportunities, International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education, Vol. 21 No. 5, pp. 959-975.

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Lipovetsky, G. (2005). Pós-modernidade e hipermodernidade. A invenção do futuro: um debate sobre a pós-modernidade e a hipermodernidade. Barueri (SP): Manole.

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**.
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Scientific Committee   **Organizing Committee**   **Conference Partners**

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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