

# 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.

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

## **I.4 GENDER IMAGINARIES IN TEXTBOOKS AND CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING: BETWEEN SEXIST REPRESENTATIONS AND NEW NARRATIVES**

### Convenors

Irene Biemmi (University of Florence); Barbara Mapelli (Free Women's University)

### Keywords

textbooks; gender stereotypes; sexism; children's publishing; inclusiveness

Since the early Seventies in the Anglo-American context, the issue of equality in educational texts has led to a vast amount of research, often followed by measures to ensure a more equitable representation of both genders in educational materials. In 1974, the U.S. publisher McGraw-Hill had already published a series of "Proposals for a non-discriminatory treatment of the sexes" for the benefit of the editorial staff and its writers. This represents one of the earliest attempts to activate a discussion of equal treatment of the sexes in textbooks.

In Italy, the theme of equality in textbooks has been accepted much later than in other European and international contexts, and studies and research dedicated to this subject area are still insufficient today (Sabatini, 1987; Pace, 1986; Gianini Belotti, 1978). In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Department for Equal Opportunities - in collaboration with the IEA (Italian Publishers Association) - promoted the Polite project (for equal opportunities in textbooks): a self-regulating European project for educational publishing, with the purpose of eliminating gender stereotype in teaching textbooks. The project - which was promoted by the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers- Department for Equal Opportunities and in collaboration with the IEA (Italian Publishers Association) - forms part of the "IV Programme of a community action in an average time period", which gathered the requests of the Intergovernmental Conference in Peking (1995), especially in the field of mainstreaming and promotion of women taking part in decision-making.

The main elements of the Polite project include the development of a self-regulation code for publishers and two Vademecums for authors (Serravalle Porzio, 2000 and 2001) so that the gender perspective becomes a guiding criterion in the writing of textbooks. The Code is not intended as a legal guideline or censorship; on the contrary, it relies on the innovative skill of publishers, authors and writers, and assigns them the task of creating new texts and teaching tools according to their own freedom and culture.

From some surveys conducted in the years following the Polite (Biemmi, 2010; Corsini-Scierrri, 2016) it emerges that the precious indications contained in the Code have not been adequately assimilated by most of the Italian school publishing houses, even if there was initially a broad acceptance of the principles expressed by the Code itself.

Textbooks still offer a stereotypical and anachronistic image of the feminine and masculine, of relations between genders, of the professional roles of women and men, as well as of the representation of family life. Fortunately, however, there is no shortage of virtuous examples and renovation projects: some school publishing houses are investing methodically in the revision of textbooks with a view to gender

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equality and in the world of children's publishing there is a considerable renewal of the genre imagery conveyed in particular by the picture books.

Starting from these premises, the panel "Gender imaginaries in textbooks and publishing for children" intends to produce a survey of empirical surveys, theoretical contributions and good practices on the following topics:

- theoretical acquisitions and educational practices of gender as necessary and preparatory bases for a pedagogy and didactic respectful of different subjectivities
- gender stereotypes in school texts and illustrations
- linguistic sexism and linguistic policies for the promotion of a gender-sensitive language
- the role of school and textbooks in building an inclusive society that respects differences and minorities in an intersectional perspective
- the didactics of the disciplines from a gender perspective, with particular attention to the teaching of mathematics, physics and scientific disciplines in general (STEM)
- the new gender imaginaries in children's publishing
- the representation of the family / the families in textbooks and children's literature
- the representation of masculinity in textbooks and children's literature

## 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.