

REINVENTING EDUCATION

second international conference

<http://www.scuolademocratica-conference.net>
sdconference2021@scuolademocratica-conference.net

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**:

I.8 THE ACADEMIC WORK IN NEOLIBERAL TIMES: EXPLORING GENDER, PRE-CARITY AND EMERGING FORMS OF SOLIDARITY

Convenors

Camilla Gaiaschi (Università degli Studi di Milano); Annalisa Murgia (Università degli Studi di Milano)

Keywords

gender; neoliberal academia; precariousness; inequalities; solidarity

In the last decades, universities in many western countries have experienced a profound process of market regulation, which has contributed to introduce a new managerial culture based on accountability, hyper-productivity and entrepreneurship, while budgetary constraints for higher education have made academic work increasingly precarious, especially in the early career stages. The aim of this panel is to advance contemporary knowledge, on the one side, on the interconnections between current academic transformations and gender inequalities in research; on the other, on how gender inequalities and processes of precarization have also triggered new forms of solidarity. Notwithstanding the growing feminization of the academic professions, universities are still the domain of persisting gender asymmetries stemming from gender stereotypes and inequality practices (van den Brink and Benschop 2011). These disadvantages in the careers of women researchers are strengthened by the epistemic assumption that science, like knowledge, is universal and gender neutral (Gherardi 2010). This raises a double challenge of both promoting a greater presence of women in professional pathways and decision-making processes and building academic careers specifically concerned with gender, feminist and queer studies. In this context, the cuts in the public funds for higher education have significantly affected research and fundraising activities, which led to an increase of temporary positions and project-based fellowships. As an example, in Italy the growing reliance on temporary funds have paralleled the structural transformations of the career trajectory, which have tightened the access to the tenure track positions, with important implications in terms of women's access to the profession (Gaiaschi and Musumeci 2019). At the same time, it is worth mentioning that the precarization of early career stages, and its gendered effects, has occurred within a context where working conditions for academics at all career levels have deteriorated because of the pressure for productivity, increasingly defined in quantitative rather than qualitative terms (Murgia and Poggio 2019). These phenomena are characterized by notable differences in terms of racial, generational and gendered inequalities, not to mention class, which have been the object of a rich strand of literature aimed at investigating the implications, especially for women, of the transition from a liberal-humanistic to a neo-liberal academic model (Zippel and Ferree 2015). This transition, however, was not without contestation and indeed triggered the emergence of new forms of protest and solidarity, mainly supported by precarious researchers. We welcome theoretical and/or empirical, quantitative and/or qualitative informed papers, either in English or Italian, that examine any of the following, or related, questions:

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-How are university transformations and research and teaching practices affecting the already existing inequalities? And how to explore the intersections between gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, class, age and related processes of disadvantage?

-How are the current working conditions in academia affecting gender and other related discriminations, particularly for those in the most precarious positions?

-How is the new managerial culture affecting our gendered and intersectional lives?

-How does the construction of gender and professional identities change?

-How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected gender inequalities and the precarious conditions of those working in universities?

-How do university transformations intersect the stratification of science? What are the implications for gender, feminist and queer studies?

-What forms of solidarity have been constructed in the research community to fight against precarity and its gendered implications?

-How can gender, feminist and queer perspectives change the university agenda?

References

Ferree, M. M., & Zippel, K. (2015). Gender equality in the age of academic capitalism: Cassandra and Pol-lyanna interpret university restructuring. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 22(4), 561-584.

Gaiaschi, C., & Musumeci, R. (2020). Just a Matter of Time? Women's Career Advancement in Neo-Liberal Academia. An Analysis of Recruitment Trends in Italian Universities. *Social Sciences*, 9(9), 163.

Gherardi, S. (2010). Ways of knowing: Gender as a politics of knowing? In E. Jeanes, D. Knights, P.Y. Martin (eds.) *Handbook of Gender, Work and Organizations*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Murgia, A., & Poggio, B. (eds.) (2019). *Gender and precarious research careers: A comparative analysis*. London: Routledge.

Van den Brink, M., & Benschop, Y. (2011). Gender practices in the construction of academic excellence: Sheep with five legs. *Organization*, 19(4), 507-524.

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.

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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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