

ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education

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Department of Learning and Philosophy

Aalborg University



2nd conference of the ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education

Interrogating Sustainability in Adult Learning Policy: European and Global Perspectives

Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark

18 - 20 June 2014

Call for papers

Improved learning opportunities for adults are urgently needed – opportunities, for both young and mature adults, which strengthen their capacity to meet the challenges of life in today's world of possibility and risk. Recent social and economic crises, as well as climate change and biodiversity, underline the urgent need for sustainability in societies and lifestyles – and for adult learning policies and institutions that can contribute to this.

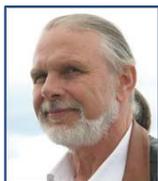
The 2014 ESREA Policy Studies conference will interrogate the political aims and achievements of sustainability in adult learning. It draws inspiration from the UNESCO declaration on *Education for Sustainable Development* (2009): how can its emphasis on participatory, critical teaching and learning methods which can motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour, and take action, for sustainable development be incorporated in policies – in Europe and the world? Social and economic crises have shown the fragility of existing institutions and policies. The development of sustainable policies and practices for adult and lifelong education has become vital.

In this situation it is important to analyse how sustainability is – and could be – integrated into policies for adult learning in the multi-level context of different national, social and cultural environments, in which national and transnational levels of governance interact. It is also important to interrogate critically the concept of sustainable development itself.

Adult education is generally less institutionalised than primary, secondary and tertiary education. Many different actors in education, business and civil society, as well as national governments and transnational organizations, interact in shaping adult education. Studies of adult learning policy must examine power differentials, patterns of competition and collaboration, and the various educational rationalities involved – both in the structures and among the actors in the field. They should seek to uncover the anatomy of policies and the conditions that shape them, and to identify strategies and lines of action that could contribute to a more sustainable provision of good learning opportunities.

Studying adult learning policies raises important theoretical and methodological questions. Research will often need to draw on concepts and methods from different disciplines, such as political science, sociology, cultural studies as well as education. The interfaces between institutionalized education, learning and life-worlds are crucial to adult education, and combinations of qualitative and quantitative methods will often be needed. The normative assumptions underlying policies need to be delineated and analysed. Although policy processes increasingly have trans-national dimensions, comprehensive data on the development of institutions and policies for adult learning is still mainly available in national contexts and languages

Keynote speakers



Bengt-Åke Lundvall
Professor of Economics and
Innovation, Aalborg University



Terri Seddon
Professor of Education, Monash
University.

Submission of Proposals

Scholars from all countries are invited to submit proposals. Proposals may relate to any part of the world, and to any topic related to policy in adult education and lifelong learning. The following list is intended to inspire, rather than to set

boundaries. Contributors need not confine themselves to the topics below. Proposals which develop themes and issues from the first Policy Studies Network conference are particularly welcome.

Sustainable adult learning policy in the perspective of globalisation

- How does globalisation affect sustainable policies for adult education and learning?
- How sustainable are the policy processes of inter-state entities, such as the EU in relation to adult education and learning?
- What are the roles of communication and governance in adult education and learning?
- How are networking linkages, exchanges and interactions among stakeholders in adult education organised and how do they work?

Quality in adult education and learning

- What are the policy implications of the concept of sustainability for adult education and lifelong learning?
- How sustainable are processes for evaluating quality of teaching and research on adult learning?

Adult learning and sustainable lifestyles

- What does the incorporation of ecological perspectives into adult education imply?
- How are questions of ecological crisis addressed in adult education?
- What are the policy implications of migration for adult education and learning?
- How are needs and problems of an ageing population addressed in adult learning policy?

Research on adult learning policy and sustainability

- What insights have key theorists to contribute?
- What are the differences between opinion, advocacy and scientific research?
- What is and can be the relationship between researchers and policy actors?
- What methods are relevant and what are the criteria for validity and rigour?

Proposals should be sent as an attached file [in *.doc, *.docx, or *.pdf format]. They should be typed, single spaced, in A4. Author(s) name(s), institutional affiliation(s), phone number(s) and postal details should be stated only in the email accompanying the abstract. Include title and 5 keywords.

Paper proposals should not exceed 600 words including: title; 3-5 keywords; aims/objectives; main perspective or theoretical/conceptual framework; methods, research design, mode of inquiry; data sources or evidence; results and/or conclusions; significance to the field of policy studies in adult education.

Symposium proposals should not exceed 1200 words including: title; 3-5 keywords; aims/objectives, significance for the field of policy studies in adult

education, and short abstracts (approx. 200 words each) of all papers. They should also nominate a Chairperson and Discussant.

Deadlines: All abstracts must be submitted by 6th January 2014 to esrea.psae2@learning.aau.dk
All proposals will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee.

Acceptance will be confirmed by 20th February 2014. Final versions of papers (no more than 5000 words including references) must be submitted by 15th May 2014. Please use the APA (American Psychological Association) reference system.

Presentations: 30 minutes maximum; at least 15 minutes will be allowed for discussion.

Language: The conference language is English.

Miscellaneous

Venue

The conference will be held in the Aalborg University main campus, Aalborg, Denmark.

Conference mail and website

All correspondence regarding the conference and should be sent to: esrea.psae2@learning.aau.dk
Website: <http://www.esrea2014.learning.aau.dk/>

Programme

The conference will start at noon on Wednesday 18 June and end at noon on Friday on 20 June. A draft programme will be published on the conference website.

Registration

Registration for the ESREA Conference will only be taken with full payment. Details of payment procedure will be made available at the conference website. Final date for registration: 15th April 2014.

Conference Fees

The conference fees *include* lunch and refreshments. They *exclude* the conference dinner, any airport/hotel transfers and hotel accommodation.

Bursaries

A small number of bursaries are available to PhD students who are individual members of ESREA, or studying at institutions which have institutional membership of ESREA.

To be eligible, your paper must have been accepted for the conference.

Applications should be submitted on the bursary application form (to be found on the conference website) by the deadline for paper proposals.

Bursaries, normally €300, may be used to cover all or part of the cost of travel and accommodation.

Hotels and accommodation

You should book your own hotel accommodation. Information on travel, local transport, hotels and rates will be made available at the conference website.

	Early registration - payment received 28 February 2014	Payments received after 1 March but before 15 April 2014
Full fee	175 Euro	190 Euro
Fee - ESREA members	125 Euro	140 Euro
Fee - Doctoral students	60 Euro	70 Euro
Conference dinner	60 Euro	60 Euro

Organizing Committee

Professor John Holford, University of Nottingham,
UK.

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of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark.

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South Africa

The ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education

The Conference is organised by the
ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education,
a network of ESREA (the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults):

http://www.esrea.org/policy_studies