

Call for Papers

Education in civil society

Community-oriented small and rural schools as avant-garde structures

27th – 29th October 2016

Free University of Bozen - Bolzano

Faculty of Education in Brixen – Bressanone

Organizer: Free University of Bozen-Bolzano/Faculty of Education

Addressees: Researchers, scientists, teachers, politicians of the educational sector, persons in charge of the scholastic sector on all organizational levels, small and rural schools, students

Languages of the Conference: German and English (simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

Public perception and media tell us that social development pulsates in metropolises. However, a closer examination reveals that decisive innovative impulses for social development often come from peripheral areas. Regional areas offer space for calm thinking and creative developing, for intelligent recombination of tradition and innovation, for impulses coming from citizens engaged in school realities, as the “Offenen Bürgerschulen” (“open citizen’s schools”, Weingardt 2013). Avant-garde schools are often found more in peripheral and rural areas than in urban schools.

Small schools and rural schools function, so it seems, more than ever as experimental platforms for relevant educational developments for individual communities and civil society. Embedded in concrete physical spaces, often structurally disadvantaged, these schools depend on the development of “obstinate” concepts to overcome didactical and organizational challenges. For example, in many parts of the world rural schools have pioneered the integration of virtual and actual learning spaces so that physically small institutions have become extended, collaborative learning environments, integral to the global educational community (Stevens 2016).

With reference to the role small and rural schools assume in their communities and in the general development of civil society, the following research topics have been focused:

- Small schools, peripheral and rural schools as living-, learning- and working spaces
- Small schools, peripheral and rural schools and their social and cultural community
- Small schools, peripheral and rural schools - historical focus
- Small schools, peripheral and rural schools as connection between formal, non-formal and informal learning spaces

Requirements for presenters:

There are three different ways to present the topic: paper presentation, poster presentation and symposium. Please refer your proposal to one of the four research topics previously mentioned.

Paper presentation: presents e.g. theoretical issues or results from single researches or development and research projects.

Paper and poster-proposals should include:

- Title of Paper/Poster
- Name and Institution, Contact-details
- Abstract (max 300 words and 5 keywords)

Poster presentation: provides the possibility of open discussion

Symposium: organized by one project leader, should include 3-4 separate papers. The project leader has to send the proposal including:

- Title of the symposium
- Name of the project leader and institution, contact-details
- Name of all authors and titles of all separate papers as well as an
- Abstract (max. 300 words) of the whole symposium

All proposals must be sent by email as an attachment (in PDF format) to sarah.zannini@unibz.it . Submissions will be open until **7 August 2016**. Final decisions on paper acceptance will be communicated via email by **15 August 2016**. The final program of the conference will be published by **20 August 2016** on the website:

<http://www.unibz.it/en/education/research/documentationcentre/Educationincivilsociety.html>