

Politics, Participation & Power Relations

CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE FUTURE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Volume 4

This series represents a forum for important issues that do and will affect how learning and teaching are thought about and practised. All educational venues and situations are undergoing change because of information and communications technology, globalization and paradigmatic shifts in determining what knowledge is valued. Our scope includes matters in primary, secondary and tertiary education as well as community-based informal circumstances. Important and significant differences between information and knowledge represent a departure from traditional educational offerings heightening the need for further and deeper understanding of the implications such opportunities have for influencing what happens in schools, colleges and universities around the globe. An inclusive approach helps attend to important current and future issues related to learners, teachers and the variety of cultures and venues in which educational efforts occur. We invite forward-looking contributions that reflect an international comparative perspective illustrating similarities and differences in situations, problems, solutions and outcomes.

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Michael Kompf is Professor of Education at Brock University, Canada. Interests include developmental issues for adult learners and teachers; personal construct psychology; global policies and practices in higher education; and philosophies of inquiry. Recent writing and presentations have included exploring the nature of university corporatism, higher education success rates, individual and the social implications of distance learning, and Aboriginal education. A member of the International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching (isatt.org) since 1985, Michael has served four terms as Chair in addition to four terms as editor of the ISATT Newsletter. Michael is a member of several professional associations and serves as associate editor and reviewer on several journals. He is co-editor of six volumes of work in adult education and the various areas of teacher thinking. He has consulted, presented papers and given lectures throughout North America, the EU and Australasia.

Pam Denicolo is the Director of the Graduate School at the University of Reading and an active member of the University Committee for Postgraduate Research Studies. Her passion for supporting and developing graduate students is also demonstrated through her contributions to the UK Council for Graduate Education Executive Committee, the Society for Research into Higher Education Postgraduate Network, and other national and international committees and working groups which, for example, review and evaluate research generic skills training and the concordance of UK universities with the European Code and Charter, produce a framework of skills for researchers over their full career and consider the changing nature of the doctorate. As a psychologist working particularly in the fields of Professional and Postgraduate Education, she has supervised more than 50 doctoral students to successful completion, examined many more, and developed and led Research Methods Programmes for social scientists in her current and previous universities. She was honoured to be appointed an Honorary Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for her contributions to the education of pharmacists. Her lifelong interest in student learning, and hence teachers' teaching, led her to become an active member of the International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching (ISATT) and serving member of the Executive Committee for many years. Her research has been oriented by a commitment to understanding the way participants in learning processes construe their roles, situations and activities, through the use and development of Personal Construct Theory approaches and methods.

**POLITICS, PARTICIPATION & POWER
RELATIONS**

*Transdisciplinary Approaches to Critical Citizenship in the
Classroom and Community*

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Cover Photo credit: This photo was taken by photographer Mario Garcia-Baeza and shows a group of American bankers assembled on a Chicago rooftop during their annual conference in October, 2011 while peering down on “Occupy Chicago” protesters. The photo originally appeared in the article “Community Groups, Labor and ‘Occupy Chicago’ Protest Mortgage Bankers Association, Seven Thousand Strong” by: Yana Kunichoff, an Assistant Editor with Truthout - an independent, web-based news organization - on 12 October, 2011.

The editors chose this photo as it represents a key dimension of the highly conflicted nature of contemporary capitalist relations and much of their corrupt underpinning being directly confronted by citizens in a free and democratic movement. These citizens are exercising their rights to assembly, to peaceful protest and to freedom of the press - acts of critical citizenship being debated in this text that many have died for in the recent “Arab Spring” uprisings.

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