

Spaces for Education. Spaces of Education - German Educational Research Association (GERA) Congress 2016

The GERA Congress 2016 will take place from 13 - 16 March 2016 at the University of Kassel in Kassel, Germany. Further information is available at www.dgfe2016.de.

Call for Papers

Education needs space. Day care facilities, primary and secondary schools, vocational schools and universities, nurseries and youth centres, evening schools, cultural facilities and neighbourhood centres, family and social networks – all of these are places of education. To be able to fulfil its functions of imparting knowledge and skills, of aiding in the bringing up of children, of helping and supporting, education must have a prominent place in the society. *Spaces for education* makes the demand for this place in society with all its attendant social, political, economic and cultural aspects. In complex modern societies that are increasingly globalised and at the same time ecologically challenged, social inequalities and the accompanying injustices limit opportunities to have access to the material, social and cultural resources of the society. The possibilities available to individuals to find and use spaces for education either open up or, in the absence of such possibilities, limit opportunities for taking part in the life of the society.

Education uses spaces. The specific spatial arrangement of education facilities in their physical and social dimensions either incorporates or excludes options of perception and of action. Such arrangements contribute to stable structures and to mobility, to participation and inclusion or, conversely, to exclusion, thereby enabling affiliations and relationships, social positions and roles as well as diverse social practices. *Spaces of education* are increasingly virtual and translocal, but also impart social, physical and sensory experience. Identities based on gender, social and cultural factors, self-images and self-efficacy, generational and milieu-based systems are all both reflected in and created through spaces of education. In this connection, such elements can certainly be shaped and influenced, but at the same time they can also solidify social inequalities.

The subject of the Congress – **Spaces for Education. Spaces of Education** – deals with the societal space which is granted to or withheld from education, as well as the physical and social spaces in which education takes place. The Congress should facilitate the discussion of questions regarding an optimal modulation of educational and formative cultures as well as the significance of the structures and conditions that define social space for the organisation of institutionalised, public education and preschool instruction. Different questions of educational science can be addressed making use of theoretical and empirical knowledge and various quantitative and qualitative-reconstructive research methods. A call is made for papers considering questions regarding the analysis of currently existing pedagogical spaces as well as the creation of future spaces. The theory as well as the empirical investigation of *spaces for education* requires an analysis of the efficacy of existing attempts to reduce disadvantages and raises the question which spaces for education could make a substantial contribution to creating more social justice and how such spaces should be created and shaped. *Spaces of education* raises the issue of the state and condition of social and physical educational spaces, of how these spaces are perceived and which effects they have.

Under the title "Spaces for Education. Spaces of Education", the 25th Congress of the German Society for Educational Science shall consider developments in the various research and theoretical fields of educational science in connection with four aspects in particular:

- The theoretical significance and dimensioning of the category of space for educational science.
- Empirical studies of the relevance of space for the subject, for the organisation of education in different places as well as for the dimensioning of the "space of the teacher".
- Historical and current measurements of the societal spaces of education, the potential of such spaces as well as the material, symbolic and social possibilities and/or limits they have to shape education.
- Demarcation of the boundaries of the places of education and the removal of these boundaries, the standardisation and de-standardisation of such places as well as analyses of the overlaps and junctions between various educational spaces.

Instructions for the submission of papers

Proposals should be submitted electronically for the various Congress events (see below). The submission concept should be briefly and clearly described and information should be given concerning the speaker(s), working title of the submissions and individual abstracts for the submissions. As the number of events is limited, the Programme Commission will make selections from the submitted proposals on the basis of an external, peer-administered evaluation. So as to give as many persons as possible an opportunity to present their findings, multiple appearances by one individual in symposia, working groups and discussion panels will not be possible. However, in addition to the presentation of a paper as lead author, it is also possible to participate in the organisation and planning of other events and in the moderation of discussions.

An entry form for submissions for the different Congress events will be available at the Congress website www.dgfe2016.de starting 1 January 2015. The submission deadline is 28 February 2015. Please take note of the following general conditions in your planning:

1. **Symposia** will take place on all three days of the Congress for three hours each day. The symposia must be related to the subject of the Congress and should include a maximum of four lectures. One of these lectures should be presented by a young researcher (this includes all colleagues who have not completed a habilitation thesis and are not full professors). International and interdisciplinary representation is desired in the selection of speakers. English language symposia may also be proposed.
Please submit the following material for your proposals: A common abstract (max. 4,000 characters) and a summary (max. 1,000 characters) for the Congress Programme as well as abstracts for the individual papers (max. 1,500 characters each).
2. **Working Groups** will meet on 15 and 16 March for two and a half hours each day. The working groups may select topics freely; however, some connection to the general Congress subject is desired. There are no rules regarding the number of talks or the selection of speakers. An effort should be made, however, not to overload the program and to involve younger scholars. English language working groups may also be proposed.
Please submit the following material for your proposals: A common abstract (max. 4,000 characters) and a summary (max. 1,000 characters) for the Congress Programme as well as abstracts for the individual papers (max. 1,500 characters each).
3. **Topic-based Forums** will take place at the same time as the Research Forums on 14 March. Single papers can be proposed here that have a clear relation to the general Congress subject. An abstract (max. 1,500 characters) and a brief summary (max. 300 characters) should be submitted.
4. **Research Forums** will take place for two hours at the same time as the Topic-based Forums on 14 March and as the Working Groups on 16 March. There are no restrictions on the organisation of the content for the Research Forums. They should provide a possibility for exchange among national as well as international research projects and groups as well as among groups of young researchers and doctoral candidates. The number of accepted submissions will depend on the available rooms at the Congress. Please submit your proposals in a common abstract (max. 4,000 characters) and summary for the Congress Programme (max. 1,000 characters).

For these submissions, the number of characters indicated always includes spaces between words. Notification regarding acceptance or rejection of submissions for the Congress will be given in August 2015.

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