

Adult Education and Learning Policy in a World Risk Society

16-18 May 2019

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

First Call for papers

The world of adult education and learning is deeply entwined with *modern risks*, a central concern in social theory and social science research. For Ulrich Beck, the late 20th and early 21st centuries are characterised by the rise of old and new forms of risk, and by crises at diverse levels. These include social, economic, political, cultural, environmental and other types of risk that affect the existence of, and interactions among, individuals, communities, organisations, states and transnational actors.

Although authors like Beck have not systematically elaborated the topic of risk for the field of adult education and learning, modern risks are a fundamental concern for policy research in this area for at least two basic reasons. First, adult education and learning have been a political issue for decades, within both “lifelong education” and “lifelong learning” discourses. Second, as political issues adult education and learning are closely interrelated with such institutions and phenomena as politics, democracy, work, culture, economics, communication, life style, and family- the central “arenas” in which risks emerge and develop.

Of relevance to the field of adult education and learning policy is the development of risks in the areas of knowledge, science, or policy. This affects not only to policy narrowly-defined – formulated and implemented by professional politicians and nation-states – but also policy in the broader sense that becomes itself the subject of political debate. Only in this way can the paradoxical perception that we are living in a different world from that we actually inhabit be overcome. This can be the source of maladaptive responses, such as globalism, which applies economic approaches to all kinds of issue, and anti-modernity, an effort to avert the globalization process by returning to different forms of nationalism.

Adult education and learning policy may ignore contemporary risks, or it may respond to them in adequate or inadequate ways – causing to them, exacerbating them, addressing or even preventing them. This area is the central concern of the 2019 conference of the ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education.

The notion of risk is conveys – simultaneously – elements of both pessimism and optimism; there are potential pathways from a (world) risk society to the reinvention of politics and a new cosmopolitan order. Specific forms of this new order continue to be contested in numerous locations and at numerous levels. Future development also raises how far we can develop reflexivity, a capacity to question social reality along with our own ways of grasping reality.

Keynote speakers

Palle Rasmussen
Professor
Aalborg University
Denmark

Sotiria Grek
Senior Lecturer
University of Edinburgh
The United Kingdom

Submission of proposals

Contributions on the following topics would be appreciated:

1. Risks related to polity changes

- What kinds of risk are associated with new reshaped relationships of power and policy making (e.g. the end of the monopoly of traditional politics in adult education and learning policy making)?
- What is the real influence of international organizations on country-level education policies, and what are the implications of under- or overestimating that influence?
- Who is responsible for the impacts of implementing adult education and learning policy in specific national/regional contexts?

2. Role of expertise in policymaking and the transnationalization of adult education and learning policy research

- What is the influence of expertise on adult education and learning policy-making, and what are the causes and effects of failures in different forms of expertise?
- What are the new forms of transnationalized academic research in adult education and learning policy (theoretical concepts and research methods applied, values emphasized)?
- What do we know about new transnational forms of adult education and learning policy expertise produced outside the academia (theoretical concepts and research methods applied, values emphasized)?

3. Education policy and new social risks

- How can adult education and learning policy contribute to community integration today?
- What is the role of new social risks in contemporary adult education and learning policy (e.g., issues of risk distribution and legitimization)?
- What are the opportunities and threats of treating adult education and learning as a social right or obligation?

4. Reflecting risks and the need to learn as a source of inspiration for adult education and learning policy-making

- To what extent is there a correspondence between, on the one hand, the ways adult individuals reflect risks and respond to them in their learning, and, on the other, adult education and learning policy?
- To what extent can the debates and social practices that exist in civil society and the political public sphere inspire the making of adult education and learning policy?
- To what extent, and in what ways, can particular forms of adult education and learning policy support the development of civil society?

Contributors need not confine themselves to the above topics. Proposals that develop themes and issues from the prior conferences of the ESREA Network Policy Studies on Adult Education are particularly welcome. Scholars from all countries are invited to submit proposals, and papers may relate to any part of the world.

Guidelines for Submission of Proposals: 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 **18th December 2018** to esrea.psae2019@ff.cuni.cz

All proposals will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee.

Acceptance will be confirmed by **15th February 2019**.

Final versions of papers (no more than 5000 words including references) must be submitted by **25th April 2019**. 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.

Conference Arrangements

The conference will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, on the premises of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Conference Fees

	Early registration - payment received by 22th February 2019	Non-early registration - payment received after 22th February but before 31th March 2019
Full fee	180 EUR	200 EUR
Fee for ESREA members	130 EUR	150 EUR
Fee for Ph.D. students	60 EUR	70 EUR

The conference fees include lunch and refreshments; they *exclude* the conference dinner (see below), any airport/hotel transfers and hotel accommodation.

Bursaries

A limited number of bursaries is 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 by the deadline for paper proposals. Bursaries can be used to cover all or part of the cost of travel and accommodation.

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: **31th March 2019**.

Conference Dinner

More information will be made available via the conference website.

Hotels and Accommodation

You must book your own hotel accommodation. Information about hotels and rates will be made available via the conference website.

Organizing Committee

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Professor Michael Schemmann, University of Cologne, Germany

Contract Professor Vida A. Mohorčič-Špolar, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Professor Susan Webb, Monash University, Australia

Conference e-mail and website

All correspondence regarding the conference should be sent to: esrea.psae2019@ff.cuni.cz

Website: <https://sites2.ff.cuni.cz/esrea2019>

Organizers

The Conference is organised by the ESREA Network Policy Studies in Adult Education in collaboration with the Department of Adult Education and Personnel Management, Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

ESREA Network Policy Studies in Adult Education: <http://www.esrea.org/networks/policy-studies-in-adult-education/>