

Call for abstracts:

Populism and Education: An international collection of the implications for those working and carrying out research in education

The major political events of the last year, such as the Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump as President of the USA, in some Anglophone Northern societies have been described as an anti-establishment revolt by people who object to the consequences of Globalisation and liberal elites deciding for people the values that should be dominant. These revolts emanate from across the political spectrum, across classes and in other parts of the world apart from the North, such as South Africa. They are reacting variously to the ways in which global elites make all major decisions concerning trade, labour employment and accruing of wealth. Major elites and companies have been able, with the help of liberal governments, to ensure there is a supply of cheap labour to maintain their profits to the detriment of indigenous populations and at the same time ensure low taxes for their corporations by threatening to move their centres abroad to countries with cheaper labour forces and less checks on human rights and labour practices. They have, it is argued, been supported by governments and cross-national organisations, such as the European Union. At the same time, a cultural elite is accused of driving forward human rights policies with little engagement of working people and communities.

A consequence of these actions has been a tendency to revert to nationalist rhetoric and a desire to reinstitute nationalist government which is heavily supported by right wing groups across Europe and in some cases we can see 'Populist' leaders taking more and more autocratic powers with the support of 'the people'.

Educational research has a major role to play as these events unfold, for we engage with a wide range of populations affected by the consequences of these developments. It is also the case that Education has been charged with needing to convey the values for the next generation society, while contradictorily becoming increasingly instrumentalised towards those of the neoliberal economic establishment. Researchers have a large part to play by representing the values, experiences, tensions and dilemmas of people within education. Part of the response to the Populist upsurge has been a call to listen to those who feel disenfranchised, 'forgotten and left behind', and to represent them more fully in terms of

policies and moreover to re-engage their political perspectives and actions at the heart of political decision making.

The edited collection will be published for distribution at the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) 2017 in Copenhagen in mid-August.

This call is for a wide range of perspectives and individual perspectives will be welcomed as we wish this collection to stimulate more discussion and possible action focusing on this issue.

Abstracts of 300-500 words should be sent to bj@eande.org.uk by the end of March and articles must be submitted by the end of May. They should be at least 3000 words and a maximum of 7000.

The collection will be edited by Dr. Yalız Akbaba (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz) and Bob Jeffrey (Exeter University).