



The 39th World
Congress of the
International Institute
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www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Education at the crossroads. In the search for a new sociology of education theory

Name of Session Convener(s): Dr hab. Marta Zahorska

University/Organization incl. City: Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw

E-mail: martazahorska@wp.pl

Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): Systems of public education were being created in Europe in the 19th century. They were to facilitate the modernization of a traditional society within the nation state taking shape in that period. Those systems were fulfilling their role until the mid-20th century. In the 1950s and 60s the development of the education system became incredibly dynamic. This great education boom caused many unexpected and disadvantageous phenomena, which even started to be labelled as a „crisis”. In the 1970s, there was a flood of papers warning against unfavourable processes in education, especially in the connection between education and society.

In the 1990s, the problems from the 1970s, which in spite of numerous changes were not solved, were accompanied by new ones. Most of them have resulted from the speed of social changes on the one hand, and on the durability and rigidity of bureaucratic structures on the other. The essentials of the functioning of school systems have been questioned: preserving national culture in the age of globalization; providing a canon of knowledge, which in the current speed of science development makes the standard of an educated „human being” an extremely difficult task; providing knowledge about the world – this task is fulfilled in a faster and better way by the media.

Sociology of education seldom exceeds problems of inequalities of educational chances, it stays within the paradigms created in the second half of the 20th century. The debate on old and new problems in the context of the contemporary society is necessary.

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.