



Public Lecture

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Thursday, 6 June 2019

**Education in the Cosmopolis: Cosmopolitanism, Globalization
and Post-Critical Perspectives**

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**Prof. Michalis Kontopodis, School of Education,
University of Leeds**

Discussant: Laure Kloetzer, University of Neuchâtel

18:15 – 19:45 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Avenue du 1er-Mars 26, Room B32

Abstract

Since 1795 when philosopher Emmanuel Kant published his essay on Perpetual Peace (“Zum ewigen Frieden”) there has been much debate on “cosmopolitanism” i.e. the idea that all human beings belong to a single “global” community, based on a shared morality that would apply to all people independently of their races, colours and ethnicities, local histories, gender, age or any other specific characteristics. This proposition has been much criticised by many scholars emphasising Otherness – in its different facets: Otherness as a general principle (e.g. in phenomenology), Otherness as a concrete product of the history of colonialism, and Otherness in terms of intersecting age, gender, sexual orientation, class, race, colour, ethnicity and/or dis/ability.

How do these debates play out in a world that is interconnected through the flows of capital, technologies, populations, media images and ideas as well as divided through nationalist movements, inequalities, and in-/visible borders and walls?

In my lecture I will explore this question by revisiting case studies from my various research projects from the past ten years. I will invite you to participate in a virtual travel – all the way: from (ancient and modern) Crete, where I was born, to urban spaces such as Berlin and Long Beach, California to the Brazilian Amazon and to www.amazon.com; I will draw on research from these diverse contexts, as to explore what global childhood and youth studies could entail i.e. focus on in the contemporary frame, in three directions: (a) experiencing developmental crises in the context of global crisis (b) enacting local and global pasts and memories in formal and informal educational settings (c) hyper-connecting youth & imagining inclusive and sustainable global futures.

My lecture will conclude with exploring consequent implications for pedagogy and education and addressing the question how globalisation from above could be transformed into globalisation from below.

Curriculum Vitae

Professor Michalis Kontopodis is a Chair in Global Childhood and Youth Studies at the School of Education, University of Leeds. In collaboration with a wide network of academics, practitioners, NGOs, community organisations and policy makers, Prof. Kontopodis conducts research on inclusive and equitable quality education and children's well-being in a global perspective. His research explores (a) global debt and marginalisation; (b) innovative pedagogies with new media and digital technologies; and (c) the multiple links between child health, ecology and body pedagogies. His books, edited volumes and journal articles have been published in 6 languages.

For further details please visit <https://mkontopodis.wordpress.com>

Selected Publications

- Kontopodis, M. (2011). Transforming the Power of Education for Young Minority Women: Narrations, Meta-Reflection, and Societal Change. *Ethos*, 39 (1), 76-97. https://mkontopodis.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/kontopodis_ethosfeb2011.pdf (password 12345)
- Kontopodis, M., Varvantakis, C. & Wulf, C. (Eds) (2017). *Global Youth in Digital Trajectories*. London: Routledge. Intro: <https://mkontopodis.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/globyouthdigintro.pdf>
- Kontopodis, M. (hardcover: 2012, paperback: 2014). *Neoliberalism, Pedagogy and Human Development: Exploring Time, Mediation and Collectivity in Contemporary Schools*. London & New York: Routledge: <https://mkontopodis.wordpress.com/neoliberalism/>