

ESREA

European Society for Research on the Education of Adults



4th International Seminar of the ESREA Network ‘Between Local and Global: Adult Learning and Development’ (Seville, May 20-22, 2010)

Transforming/Researching Communities

This 4th Seminar is organised by the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) and the University of Seville (Spain). In previous Seminars the topics have been focused on *Human Development and Adult Learning* in Faro (2006) and on *Local and Global*, discussing identities as a social creation related with learning processes, in Wroclaw in 2008. In Magdeburg (2009), the Seminar focused on landscapes and the biographical aspects not only with the regard to people, but emphasising those that carved territories.

This 4th Seminar will try to carry on the discussions that emerged from the previous three: about margins and mainstreams, places and spaces, participation, mediation, diverse methodological approaches, etc.

The Seminar will focus on **Transforming /Researching Communities**. In a traditional view the first step to carry out Local Development processes is to research on the community and people’s desires and needs and then acting over the community, not necessarily using participative methodologies.

But, we can think and act in a different direction. First of all, people’s needs, wishes and desires are not *blowing in the wind*. They are social constructions that stem from the history of the community as well as from collective learning processes, etc. If needs are social constructions we can (re)define them implementing a participatory method opposite to the model of social diagnosis.

On the other hand, we cannot separate transformation and research into two different moments from each other. Using a simile from quantum physics, we can consider these two faces – transformation and research – as a particle and/or wave. Sometimes it can be a particle, sometimes it can be a wave. Sometimes we are researching communities and, at the same time, we are transforming them. Research helps us to act together with people living in a particular community and practices of transforming communities could be a generator of learning processes that help local people to acquire a better knowledge of the community.

We would like to encourage participants to reflect in this direction. The terms of the debate are very ample and include methodologies, the role of development agents, tensions between local and global, processes of social learning, etc. This is the challenge that we suggest to you and that we think is a new step in the rich process of creating and recreating this network.

Abstracts and papers that follow this main theme will be welcomed. The following sub-themes can be debated:

1. Policy and politics to transform communities.
2. Researching/transforming exclusion for inclusion.
3. Research methodologies in local development.
4. Social Movements and their contribution to researching/transforming communities.

Language Policy.

Papers in Spanish are welcomed in the following terms and conditions:

- a) Abstracts should be written in English in order to guarantee confidentiality in the process of evaluation;
- b) Full papers could be delivered in Spanish. Depending on the number of papers organization will try to do a separate volume of the Conference Proceedings only with the Spanish texts;
- c) Power-point presentations should appear in english;
- d) Organization will try to provide people to translate oral presentations, but cannot assure it;
- e) Authors presenting in Spanish should understand that translation increases the time of the presentation. They should prepare a more short presentation.

Abstracts and Papers.

Abstract should be sent before December 22 in a word document not longer than 600 words. It should be sent by email to esrea2010@us.es as attachment. Please send two different files: in one file abstract with title but without author(s) name(s). In a separate file send:

- Title of the paper
- Author(s) name(s)
- Institutional affiliation(s)
- Postal address(es)
- Email address(es)

Guideline for full papers will be delivered at the same time that letter of acceptance.

Important dates:

Deadline for abstracts:	December 22, 2009
Notification of acceptance:	January 20, 2010
Deadline for delivering full papers (if you wish to be included in Conference Proceedings)	April 1, 2010

Registration fees.

Registration fees include: Conference Proceedings, coffees, lunches May 20 and 21, and welcome reception. Not include Conference dinner, housing, etc.

Participants (ESREA Members): 170 Euros

Participants (Non-members): 220 Euros

Ph.D. Students: 60 Euros (a limited number of bursaries for PhD students will be available)

How to become Esrea Member.

Membership of ESREA is open to all individuals and institutions engaged and interested in research on the education of adults and adult learning. Members of ESREA benefit from reduced registration fees for ESREA networks and conferences and they also receive the ESREA newsletter several times each year. PhD students are encouraged to participate in all the activities of ESREA. A limited number of bursaries are available to support PhD students' participation in ESREA activities. As a member you also have the right to vote at the annual meeting of the general assembly which takes place each year through a postal ballot. Every three years, the members of ESREA elect a Steering Committee of 12 members which is intended to be representative of the different European regions. The Steering Committee is supported by the ESREA Secretariat which is located at one of the member institutions for a period of four years. If you wish to become Esrea member, please send to ESREA Secretariat the required information below and send by email to . There is also a downloadable application form at the ESREA website: www.esrea.org

I/we wish to apply for

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP [] €50 per year
- PhD STUDENT MEMBERSHIP [] €25 per year
- INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP [] € 150 per year
- SURNAME:
- FIRST NAME(S):
- TITLE(S):
- ORGANIZATION:
- POSTAL ADDRESS:
- E-MAIL:

More information about Conference will be available in Conference website as soon as possible.

With regards of the convenors: Emilio Lucio-Villegas; António Fragoso; Ewa Kurantowicz;