
Conference: Diverse learners in policy, practice and teacher education. A Finnish-Israeli initiative

Tuesday 12.9.2017 at the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences

In many societies today educational policies, practices and teacher education are facing similar questions concerning public education, plurality, diverse learners and learning environments. For instance, digitalisation and social media have increased the blending of communication and learning in formal settings. It has also become increasingly evident that today that also in the lives of children, guardians and teachers the distinction in cultures, religions or identities between global and local or inside and outside does no longer function well.

The purpose of the conference: *Diverse learners in policy, practice and teacher education. A Finnish-Israeli initiative* is to bring together scholars working in teacher education and educational research to discuss issues concerning diverse learners such as multiculturalism, special education, and religions and dialogue. In the conference selected presentations from Finland and Israel will form the basis for developing shared knowledge to the issues presented in the conference theme. The conference will also be a start for networking of teacher education and research, and developing expertise and research-based practices in the institutions in Finland and Israel.

The conference is organised by the school of Educational science and Education from the University of Eastern Finland, Faculty of Educational Sciences from the University of Helsinki, David Yellin College of Education, Anna Lindth Foundation Finnish network, and SparkPro. The conference takes place at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki. The conference is convened jointly by Professor Martin Ubani, Professor Arto Kallioniemi, and Mrs Ruth Bar-Sinai. Contact address: martin.ubani@uef.fi. **Venue: Siltavuorenpenger 3 A Athena, Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki**
Organisers:



Program Tuesday 12.9.2017

10.00 Opening and plenaries, room: Athena sali 360, Street address: Siltavuorenpenger 3 A
Welcome

Professor Arto Kallioniemi, Professor Martin Ubani, Mrs. Ruth Bar-Sinai, Mrs. Suvi Laakso

10.15 Plenary 1: Teacher education with multicultural education in Finland. The case of University of Helsinki

Professor Arto Kallioniemi, UH, Finland

Discussion

11.00. Plenary 2: Issues in Finnish special education and teacher education

Associate Professor Eira Suhonen, UH, Finland

Discussion

11.30 Plenary 3: Successful preschool in light of inclusion and social justice

Dr Heini Paavola, UH, Finland

Discussion

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Parallel sessions

A) Multicultural education, pluralism and dialogue: Chair Dr. Saila Poulter, UH, Finland

1. Finnish model for education about religions and teacher education
Dr. Pia-Maria Niemi, UH, Finland
2. Multiculturalism and religions in Finnish educational practice.
Martin Ubani, UEF, Finland
3. New Families meet Old Cultures
Dr. Tamar Ascher, NYC, Israel
4. Toilets as a space of power relations in a multicultural context: Moslem and Jewish children and adults
Dr. Afnan Masarwah Srouf & Dr. Nicol Bin-Nun, NYC, Israel
5. Multicultural Dialogue of Jewish and Arab Education Students along and together with Education Students from other countries
Ruth Bar-Sinai, NYC, Israel

B) Issues in education: Chair Mr Jussi Ikkala, UH, Finland

1. Recent studies about children with autism
Henri Pesonen, UH, Finland
2. Resetting the educators compass- The Ayeka model for coping with challenging,
Dikla Oren, NYC, Israel
3. The challenge of teaching Adolescent Psychology to students from diverse cultural backgrounds
Dr. Lisa Kainan, NYC, Israel
4. How animals help children to regulate behaviour and emotions, during therapy:
Preliminary results of a mixed-method study
Tamar Axelrad Levy, NYC, Israel
5. Animal Assisted Education in intercultural Environment in David Yellin College of Education
Orna Shternlicht and Dr. Michal Motro, NYC, Israel

15.15. General discussion and future directions

15.45. Closing