



Erasmus+ Incoming Mobility Sessions

Educational Sciences, Comparative Education.

10 – 11 May 2022

Dr. Sharon Stein,
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies,
Education Centre at Ponderosa Commons
University of British Columbia

Dr. Petra Mikulan,
Sessional Lecturer, Department of Educational Studies,
University of British Columbia

Hosted by the MA Programme in Educational Sciences,
Open University of Cyprus

Educational Sciences, Comparative Education.

Guest speakers' short bio

Dr. Sharon Stein is Assistant Professor of the Department of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia (Columbia). Her research brings critical and decolonial perspectives to the study and practice of internationalization, decolonization, and sustainability in higher education. Through her work, she seek to interrupt common colonial patterns of educational engagement, including: uneven, paternalistic, and extractive relationships between dominant and marginalized communities; simplistic solutions to complex problems; and ethnocentric imaginaries of justice, responsibility, and change. In her work on higher education and beyond, she emphasizes both the importance and the difficulty of addressing the interrelated ecological, cognitive, affective, relational, political and economic dimensions of local and global (in)justice.

More info: <https://edst.educ.ubc.ca/facultystaff/sharon-stein/>

Dr. Petra Mikulan currently teaches educational foundations, curriculum theory and educational ethics in the Department of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia, where she completed SSHRC and Killam funded postdoctoral fellowship. Her work addresses transdisciplinary intersections between ideas of vitalism and life as they pertain to ethics, feminist race theory, bioinformatics, and post-qualitative reading.

More info: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Petra-Mikulan>

Host University and Programme of Study

The [Open University of Cyprus](#) (OUC) is a European public University specialised in open and distance education. The OUC offers and delivers online undergraduate, masters, doctoral, and lifelong learning study programmes, as well as, short-duration executive and professional education courses. The OUC utilises the latest technological tools and applications and applies a variety of online and distant learning approaches. The University offers knowledge and training of high academic standards, building up skills and competencies of learners, and provides an inclusive, inspiring, and enjoyable learning experience.

The Invited Lectures of international calibre are organised by the Postgraduate Programme in [Educational Sciences](#) of the Open University of Cyprus, and are financed under the [Erasmus+ International Mobility Programme](#).

Lectures outline

1. Time and Education against oppression

- Speaker: **Dr. Petra Mikulan**
- Date / Time: **Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 18:00 EEST (Cyprus local time)**
- Hybrid Location: At the OUC Main Building, 33 Yiannou Kranidioti Avenue, 2220 Latsia, Nicosia, **and Virtually** on the OUC eLearning Platform at <https://bit.ly/37clHbA>

Abstract:

When you consider all the structures that are used to organise schooling – the years that make up the K-12 system; the number of hours of ‘contact time’; the bells of the school day; the minutes allocated for tests, exercises, group work – it may seem that education has everything to do with time. But what could the study of time itself possibly bring to our understanding of education? What is there to say about time? It passes. It goes too quickly, or not quickly enough. So what? Our assumptions about time say a lot about who we are and how we understand the educational enterprise. If you think that time is like an arrow, steadily advancing forward, you might see the educational enterprise as the continuous development of learners towards ever better human beings. But what if you think that time is cyclical, as is the case in many indigenous cultures? What would constitute development? What would ‘better’ even mean? And what if time does not even really exist, which is what theoretical physicists are now telling us? Does that mean we have organised schooling in a completely arbitrary way? Can we even speak of ‘better’ in the absence of a linear sense of *before* and *after*? I address decolonization of time in education as a viable political ethics that wagers in the name of future possibles not already governed by extractive politics of colonial progress and oppressive regimes of knowing and doing, and contribute to ongoing debates about the implications of our theoretical choices for enriching educational study and pedagogies.

2. Pedagogies for Confronting Social and Ecological Challenges

- Speaker: **Dr. Sharon Stein**
- Date / Time: **Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 18:00 EEST (Cyprus local time)**
- Hybrid Location: At the OUC Main Building, 33 Yiannou Kranidioti Avenue, 2220 Latsia, Nicosia, **and Virtually** on the OUC eLearning Platform at <https://bit.ly/37clHbA>

Abstract:

Pedagogies for Confronting Social and Ecological Challenges This seminar will provide an overview of Dr. Stein's research about higher education, in particular her collaborative work as part of the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures Research Collective. While universities often frame themselves as best positioned to prepare young people to address contemporary social and ecological challenges, most were founded and developed in a very different context than the

present, and as such, they are not necessarily equipped to prepare students to face today's challenges in socially relevant and accountable ways. Universities rarely create spaces for conversations that do not offer guaranteed hope, feel-good solutions, and the promise of a "better future." The work of the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures arts/research collective seeks to prepare people to address difficult questions at the intersections of (un)sustainability and systemic colonial violence. In our analyses, the root cause of both these systemic harms is not inefficient practices, irrational policies, or a lack of information, but rather a modern/colonial habit-of-being that is premised on infinite consumption on a finite planet. The intellectual frames of reference, affective landscapes, and relational sensibilities of universities in the global north have been developed within the context of this enduring global colonial system. These intellectual, affective, and relational patterns offer promises of comfort, certainty and control, but the cost of these patterns to systemically marginalized populations and the planet itself is generally invisibilized. In order to denaturalize these patterns and draw attention to the fact that they are sustained at others' expense, we offer a pedagogical approach rooted in critical systems literacy that invites people to develop the capacities and stamina to stay with what is difficult and unsettling, so that we might learn to live together differently on a finite planet. In this seminar, Dr. Stein will review the intellectual scaffolding of the work of the collective, as well as invite faculty and students to experience some of the collective's embodied educational experiments.

Language of instruction

English

Other

Attendance certificates will be available to all participants.

Registration form: <https://forms.office.com/r/jSQ7zunUQJ>

Contact details

- Professor Michalinos Zembylas, Academic Coordinator of the MA Programme in "Educational Sciences", m.zembylas@ouc.ac.cy
- OUC Mobility Office, erasmus@ouc.ac.cy



MOBILITY OFFICE

Rectorate

Tel.: 00357 22 411659 / 717

Fax: 00357 22 411670

Email: erasmus@ouc.ac.cy

