

“ADULT LEARNING & COMMUNITIES IN A WORLD ON THE MOVE: BETWEEN NATIONAL TENSIONS AND TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES”

UNIVERSITY OF LOWER SILESIA, FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
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25TH – 27TH MAY, 2017

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Developing culture of trust as a crucial factor in organizing communities

The dramatic events concerning immigrants and refugees that take place around the world oblige us to rethink the idea of the solidarity and in consequence the role of community. In my paper, I would like to reflect upon the idea of creating school-based communities. I argue that it is crucial to notice that schools teach the students how to function in a society. Therefore, forming a community that would engage parents, teachers and children can foster the idea of unity.

My primary focus is to underline the culture of trust among participants that would enable them to build better dialogue and connectivity between people. Building on Koczanowicz's understanding of dialogue, it is essential to seek a better understanding of another person. Thus, I will try to highlight the importance of non-consensual dialogue that is crucial for building a community. Otherwise, no matter how we solidarize with refugees, the open approach towards them will not happen unless adults work together to implement it. I argue that building a school based community of practice has the great potential as it is a space where children, their families, teachers form their knowledge about the societal actions. I hold the opinion that only by encouraging and emphasising parents' and children' active participation in the community building we can facilitate the decrease of xenophobia.

The educational context seems to be vital here. Firstly, nowadays we have the increasing number of immigrants at schools. In addition, according to various rappsorts discrimination occurs as soon as in elementary schools. It takes the form of constant bullying that lasts for a long period of time. Schools do not admit such situations and hence rarely implement a program concerned with tolerance, acceptance towards otherness. It is worth mentioning that by the inclusion of parents in school- based community we help them to work out the solutions that they apply in everyday situations concerning immigrants. Thus, my paper places a lot of emphasis on students', parents' and teachers' collaboration.

In the times of Europe disintegration the issue of collaboration should be educational focal point. It is important for me to stress that when I observe that teachers cooperate successfully with parents and families, this helps building trust, openness and understanding for different backgrounds, values. Particularly in the context of contemporary divisions, faced by Europe, addressing problems of creating the active participation of the main actors of school life seems to be a burning issue.

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