

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

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The Other - a true individual

The question how adult education and learning can help people to confront social change in the context of migration and flight is connected with competences required for effective teaching. These are made up of three elements: attitudes, knowledge and skills which intermingle with one another. The teacher as a human being depends on her/his practices, norms, language, relations with the outer world. Our identities as Leszek Koczanowicz says are constructed through negating the Other's identity and we work hard under pressure to move freely in a society. So when the Other appears it is psychologically natural to experience her/him as a threat. The Other is always stigmatized and her/his or caretakers' problem is how to live with stigma. To assimilate? To fight against the normals? Maybe there is no true solution as Dominik DaCapra suggests. Bauman mentions that whatever you do, you always lose. So maybe the best way is to colonize the society. A teacher's task is to help to understand who the Other and the Normals are. The Other analyzes and ponders over the stigma and thus doing imprints her/his own sign of individuality on own personality. Thus even if unwillingly such a person becomes somebody truly significant and not just one we can differentiate from the background.