

# CHILDREN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: WHICH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH?

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## LAKE COMO SPRING SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF MILANO-BICOCCA  
"RICCARDO MASSA" DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SCIENCES FOR  
EDUCATION

**12-15 APRIL 2021**

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## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### Director of the Lake Como Spring School:

- Elisabetta Biffi, *University of Milano-Bicocca*, Coordinator of *Education for Social Justice* project

### Joint Directors:

- Sergio Tramma, *University of Milano-Bicocca*, Former Coordinator of the Ph.D. Program *Education in the Contemporary Society*
- Francesca Antonacci, *University of Milano-Bicocca*, Coordinator of the Ph.D. Program *Education in the Contemporary Society*

# SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL

**The Children and Social Justice Lake Como Spring School** will offer an international and interdisciplinary training programme for Ph.D. students with the aim to support and enhance knowledge exchange opportunities and methodological discussion on the contribution of educational research to the debate on children and social justice.

Far from having been realized, in our risky and unstable world what can be called a just society should allow everyone – children and young people included – to actually do and be what they potentially could do and be. Certainly, the cultural, scientific, and social investment in childhood that characterized the last century (to the point of making it known as ‘the century of the child’) prepared the path to the important goal of the UNCRC. However, the increasing social inequality and the persisting phenomena of violence or marginalization, of which too many children are still victims, show how the effective protection of childhood has evolved in uneven way, leading to a substantial failure and unfair treatments.

The gap between what is said within the international debate on the institutional level and the current conditions children and young people live remains too wide: the formal recognition of rights is not enough to guarantee their real enjoyment. The objectives of the **Agenda 2030 for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, instead, underlie the real possibilities of life of citizens, along with their formal rights.

Based on the above-mentioned phenomena, educational research is facing several dilemmas, both with regard to connected fields of study (i.e. theories on social justice and the role of education, educational systems and teachers training approaches, children participation, children protection systems...), and with regard to the methodological aspects (i.e. ethical dimensions, strategies for public engagement, children rights-based approach of research, children participation in educational research...).

The Lake Como Spring School will have a strong **interdisciplinary background**, opening to several disciplinary contributions on the topic (i.e. pedagogy, psychology, anthropology, philosophy....). The proposal aims at acting in opening a discussion on the tasks of education for social justice.

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To enhance **knowledge and research competences** on the main topic of the Lake Como Spring School.
- To develop **networking opportunities** for both Ph.D. students, researchers, and faculty staff of the universities involved.
- To encourage **partnership** in joint research projects as well as **co-authorship and joint publications**.

## METHODS

The experience of the Lake Como Spring School will see participants divided into groups with the goal to write a research proposal responding to a call provided at the beginning of the Lake Como Spring School. The Lake Como Spring School is organized in activities and lectures that aim to support the participants in the performance of the task through:

- introduction of Lake Como Spring School themes;
- learning about the main methodologies used to investigate the themes;
- drafting the proposal;
- submission of the proposal (which will receive final feedback by the Scientific Committee of the Lake Como Spring School).

The groups are a fundamental part of the Lake Como Spring School's structure. They will be formed by the organizing committee (in order to be heterogeneous for disciplines, skills, and languages), and will be provided with reference material and a virtual meeting space accessible before the beginning of the Lake Como Spring School.

During their work the school will be supported by tutors and discussants.

## THEMES

- 1) The **role of children** within **Social Justice theories**: what role does childhood play in the main theories of Social Justice and what reflections are needed to rethink it?
- 2) **Children education and Social Justice**: which possible connections are there between the Education of children and Social Justice? How does education promote the development of a more just society? Which kind of education to Social Justice?
- 3) **Focus on the educational contexts for children**: which educational research?
- 4) **Sustainability, Education and Social Justice**: what spaces for children?

# PARTNERSHIP

The Lake Como Spring School is organized by the Ph.D. Program *Education in the Contemporary Society*, "Riccardo Massa" Department of Human Sciences for Education, University of Milano-Bicocca, within the framework of the *Education for Social Justice E4SJ* Project, which is a research project carried out by an interdisciplinary group of scholars and researchers from the "Riccardo Massa" Department of Human Sciences for Education, funded by the University of Milano-Bicocca.

**The Scientific Committee** of the **Lake Como Spring School** is composed by:

- **Chiara Bove**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Alison Clark**, *University of South-eastern Norway* (Norway)
- **Silvia Edling**, *University of Gävle* (Sweden)
- **Stefano Malatesta**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Ioanna Palaiologou**, *University College London UCL* (United Kingdom)
- **Cristina Palmieri**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Giulia Pastori**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Maria Grazia Riva**, Director of the "Riccardo Massa" Department of Human Sciences for Education, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Eduardo Sierra**, *University of Malaga* (Spain)
- **Guido Veronese**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Luisa Zecca**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Francesca Zaninelli**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)

**Local board from the "Riccardo Massa" Department of Human Sciences for Education, University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy):**

- **Andrea Ignazio Daddi**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Andrea Galimberti**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Franco Passalacqua**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Alessandro Pepe**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)
- **Stefano Pippa**, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Italy)

# PROGRAMME

MON  
APRIL 12

## MORNING: OPENING SESSION

**10:00 Introduction**

**11:00 Keynote** *The contribution of interdisciplinary research* (Chiara Argenti, World Food Program)

**12:00 Group work** with discussants

**13:00** Lunch break

## AFTERNOON: CHILDREN, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

### 14:30-16:30 Panel Discussion

- *The role of children within social justice theories* -Lecture by Cristina Cammarano, Salisbury University
- *Children, education and social justice: what possible connections?* -Lecturer to be confirmed
- *Focus on the educational contexts for children: which educational research?* -Lecture by Rachel Shanks, University of Aberdeen
- *Sustainability, education and social justice: what spaces for children?* -Lecture by Maria Prats Ferret, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

**16:30** Coffee break

**18:00-19:00 Local experiences**

# PROGRAMME

TUE  
APRIL 13

## MORNING: DOING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

**09:00 Lecture** *From the research question to the research design*, Elisabetta Biffi, University of Milano-Bicocca

**9:45-12:15 Group work** with discussants

**11:00** Coffee available

**12:15 Lecture** *Research methods*, Chiara Bove, University of Milano-Bicocca.

**13:00** Lunch break

## AFTERNOON: PLAYING WITH METHODS

### 14:30-16:30 Workshops

- *Action research*—conducted by: Luisa Zecca e Barbara Balconi, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Arts-based methods*—conducted by: Franca Zuccoli, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Engaged research*—conducted by: Francesca Antonacci, Monica Guerra, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Ethnography*—conducted by: Manuela Tassan, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Mixed Methods*—conducted by: Alessandro Pepe, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Narrative methods*—conducted by: Benedetta Gambacorti Passerini, Cristina Palmieri, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Research in emergency settings*—conducted by: Guido Veronese, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- *Research with children*—conducted by: Giulia Pastori, Valentina Pagani, Francesca Zaninelli, University of Milano-Bicocca.

**16:30** Coffee break

**17:00-18:30 Group work**

# PROGRAMME

WEN  
APRIL 14

## MORNING: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

**09:00 Lecture** *How to communicate one's own research: attention points and strategies*, Stefano Malatesta, University of Milano-Bicocca

**9:45 Group work**

**11:00** Coffee availability

**11:30 Presentations** of group work to discussants

**13:00** Lunch break

## AFTERNOON: DISSEMINATION AND EVALUATION RESEARCH

**14:30 Lecture** *Dissemination and evaluation of research* -Lecturer by Paolo Landri, IRPPS, CNR, Italy

**16:30** Coffee break

**17:00-18:30 Group work**

THU  
APRIL 15

## MORNING: RESEARCH IMPACT

**09:00 Lecture** *Research impact* (to be confirmed)

**09:45 Presentation** of group work in plenary

**11:15** Coffee break

**11:30 Presentation** of group work in plenary

**13:00** Lunch break

## AFTERNOON: CLOSING SESSION

**14:30 Keynote** *Which research for building a just society* (lecturer to be confirmed )

**16:00** Coffee break

**16:15 Reflexive evaluation** on the spring school

**17:00 Conclusions**



# PARTICIPANTS

The school will run in parallel with **two classes**, one in **presence** (16 participants) and one **remotely** (16 participants). Both classes will be divided into 2/4 groups.

The lectures will be delivered in streaming and methodological workshops will run in parallel (one for those in presence and one for those online).

**In case of the impossibility to deliver the event in presence, the event will be held completely in remote.**

## FEES

- **In presence attendance:** € 350, 22% VAT included (including lunches and coffee breaks).  
**For the accommodation**, the participants can stay at the local guesthouse (near the venue of the Spring School, Villa del Grumello (<https://www.villadelgrumello.it/it/>), for € 33 + 10% VAT per night with single, double or four bed rooms, breakfast not included) or find a hotel independently.
- **Online attendance:** €250, 22% VAT included

## INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

### Website

<https://chsj.lakecomoschool.org/>

**Application open until February 20**

**Notification of acceptance March 10**

**Registration until March 17**

## CONTACTS

### For organizational issues:

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### For academic inquiries:

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