

Call for Papers

Popular Education in the German-speaking world

A Conference

January 26th and 27th 2009
Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Background and leading questions

Popular education (and literal translations in German) is a term which has not been widely used in German-speaking contexts.

Question One

Nevertheless, the idea of popular education, i.e. an education that is rooted in the interests, aspirations and struggles of ordinary people, is implicit in various forms of education that have rich histories in German-speaking contexts?

Question Two

Do forms of popular education in the German-speaking world include:

- informal education and social pedagogy in youth and community work?
- working class education initiatives, especially in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
- political education in the face of authoritarianism and for democratic renewal?
- adult education for social action and active citizenship?
- education for international development and solidarity?
- arts and cultural action?

Question Three

How much research and writing is there in German language about each of these forms and traditions?

Conference aim

The purpose of this conference is to create an opportunity for German scholars to present their research to an audience of international popular educators. And conversely, the conference will enable English-language scholars who have researched aspects of popular education in the German-speaking world to present their work to a German audience.

There is an international network of popular educators but, to date, there are few links with kindred spirits in the German-speaking world. We hope this conference will enable more links to be built. While English will be the main language at the conference and in planned publications, you can correspond in German with Rick Flowers who is the conference convenor. Rick is a popular educator

at the University of Technology, Sydney and will be a Visiting Professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen in winter semester 2008/09.

Expression of interest by August 30th, 2008 to:

Rick.Flowers@uni-due.de

These can be in German or English. The first stage of the conference planning will be to find out how much interest there is and what thematic areas will likely be represented. See below for a more extensive description and discussion of popular education as that may help you decide whether or how your theory and practice connects with popular educators in other parts of the world. Please write to Rick indicating whether you are interested to:

- attend only as a participant
- lead and facilitate a workshop
- prepare and present a paper
- prepare a paper for a post-conference publication.

Please briefly describe which particular forms and traditions of popular education you are interested in.

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND PAPERS

by October 30th, 2008

more details in future conference notices

MORE ABOUT POPULAR EDUCATION

See the attached paper