

CRITICALLY EXAMINING OUR WORK IN EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES 20 YEARS ON

THE ISSUE

In the past 15-20 years, professional and research specialisation in the area of education in emergencies has seen significant growth with increasing mobilisation of resources, expertise, and knowledge. The drivers for this are multifaceted, including—concerns over national, regional, and international securitisation/security, increasing recognition of the impacts of conflict and insecurity on economic growth, concerns about how conflict impacts on children’s right to a quality education, and acknowledgement that education can be a key grievance and source of ongoing instability for nation-states, as much as it can restore normalcy, hope and transformation—to name a few. While each of these drivers have a distinct and unique justification for increased focus on education in times of emergency and conflict, the end result is that the attention of the global community is squarely focussed on this topic at present. Nonetheless, there are invariably tensions which emerge from these competing logics of intervention.

Specifically, the same period has also been one where there is increasing consolidation and standardisation of action in the area, and potentially unquestioned acceptance of terminology that is deeply ideological and political in nature. It is these tensions and unquestioned consolidation with which we seek to further interrogate and highlight in this day-long seminar which brings together scholars and practitioners working in this area, including some who have been part of the evolving discussion about education in emergencies from the very beginning.

FOCUS FOR THE DAY

Some of the key issues we seek to have discussions on over the course of the day, and which we hope you and/or your colleagues will be interested in joining in on including the following:

- (1) The evolution and growth of a discourse of resilience within the education in emergencies community and the opportunities and challenges it holds for transformative action;
- (2) Increased focus and attention to the idea of education for peacebuilding (as distinct and different from peace education), but with important questions which remain regarding *peacebuilding for whom and for what ends*;
- (3) The professionalisation and standardisation of responses and practices within education in emergency communities and regimes of governmentality and/or improved programmatic responses that capacity development efforts, standards, and guidance notes have ushered in;
- (4) The attention and focus given to education in emergencies and actions which work in the humanitarian-development nexus through new funding mechanisms and resource mobilisation efforts by the international community, and the spaces this either opens up or restricts for action; and

Many of these discussions pick up on the work of those who have been part of activities of the [Network for Research in Education, Conflict, Emergencies](#), or through separate individual or collective efforts to critically assess the area of Education in Emergencies.

The aim is to bring together, and add to the efforts that have been to date, to understand how and where our collective efforts might be mobilised more effectively in the coming few years. In particular, we seek to explore how as education in emergencies continues to expand and concurrently consolidate, we ensure that some of the important questions about equity, justice, transformation and doing no harm, which marked some of the earlier work in the area, is not lost in the name of progress. Please join us in Bristol at the [Centre for Comparative and International Research in Education](#) for this important discussion, and come prepared to openly discuss, debate, and commit to further action.

KEY DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENT

WHEN: Friday, November 30th

WHERE: University of Bristol, Graduate School of Education

TIME: 9am-5pm (with dinner and drinks to follow for those who can stay)

A more detailed schedule and agenda will follow closer to the time

INDICATE YOUR INTEREST IN ATTENDING

For now, it is important to tell us how you might want to be part of the day, through a short provocation, presentation, or facilitation of a discussion on a “burning question” you have been grappling with. Please let us know your thoughts, as well as RSVP to Nidia Aviles Nunez, CIRE’s Research Assistant, at n.avilesnunez@bristol.ac.uk

Additionally, if you are working with colleagues or students who you know would be interested in attending, feel free to pass this invitation onto them.

Unfortunately, while we will be able to host you during your time in Bristol by providing lunch and morning/afternoon tea, we are unable to support your travels to and from Bristol. We hope, that nonetheless, you will see value in attending and will make efforts to join us that day.

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COLLABORATION

This event is part of, and product of a joint World Universities Network consortium on [Resilient Peace](#) which brings together the Universities of Bristol, Sheffield, Cape Town, Ghana, Leeds, Pretoria, Sydney, Auckland, Otago and Western Australia as well as swisspeace as a collaborating partner.