Postcolonial Perspectives on the *Education, Sustainability and Development* Paradigm

A peer discussion workshop with Prof. Leon Tikly, University of Bristol

Education is customarily viewed as a major instrument for economic and social development and this is particularly true in the current era of the Sustainable Development discourse. In contrast with this, postcolonial approaches employ a different view. To them, education as a site of struggle has constituted a key vehicle for the ‘colonisation of the mind’. In a double meaning, the ‘post’ in postcolonialism is both temporal, pointing to the processes of decolonisation, and analytical in the sense of investigating the aftermath of colonialism. At the same time, postcolonial approaches consider education as an important tool not only for the inculcation, but also for the unlearning of colonial ideologies.

How can postcolonial approaches be employed to the current Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) discourse, that places education at the heart of policy agendas with the goal of achieving socially and environmentally just development? Are the Sustainable Development Goals and ESD just another variant of an attempt to colonise peoples’ mind or is there potential for the decolonisation of curricula and the transformation of teaching and learning relationships? And if so, what transformations of policies and practices are required to benefit from this potential?

The workshop will raise these and other questions. Its goal is to foster discussion and exchange between scholars and practitioners working on education, development and postcolonial approaches. Prof. Leon Tikly, an internationally renowned scholar in education and development studies, will hold an introductory input drawing on his forthcoming book "Education for Sustainable Development in the Postcolonial World".

Registration: m.langthaler@oefse.at
Speakers

Dr. Miša Krenčeyová
Freelance lecturer, researcher, facilitator, and educator on issues related to oppression, social justice, intersectionality. She focuses on anti-discriminatory and power-sensitive educational/empowerment work with diverse groups in theory and practice. In summer 2019, she was a Visiting Professor at the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna. Based in Vienna/Austria.

Dr. Margarita Langthaler
Senior Researcher with the Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE). Her work focuses on education and development cooperation, education policy in developing countries and technical and vocational education and training in developmental contexts.

Prof. Leon Tikly
Prof Tikly is UNESCO Chair in Inclusive, Quality Education at the University of Bristol. He is currently Principal Investigator on a large UK government funded network plus on Transforming Education Systems for Sustainable Development (TES4SD), which has hubs in Africa and Asia. Previously, he has led research programmes on the quality of education in Africa and on the achievement of Black and Minority Ethnic Learners in the UK. His work is informed at a theoretical level by postcolonial theory and a commitment to social, environmental and epistemic justice.

Programme:

9.00
Welcome and Introduction
Margarita Langthaler, ÖFSE

9.10
Introductory Input: Postcolonial Perspectives on the Education, Sustainability and Development Paradigm
Leon Tikly, University of Bristol

9.30
Introductory Comment: Critical education between theory and practice: (How) Can we handle the tensions?
Miša Krenčeyová, University of Vienna, Department of Development Studies

9.45
Discussion in small groups (world café setting)

11.00
Final plenary

11.30
Closure of the workshop

Facilitator: Margarita Langthaler, ÖFSE

Coveners: Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE), Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna