

The Politics of Instrumentalism

Studies of Conflict, Culture, & the Political in Education

2018 Symposium



Maynooth University

Maynooth, Ireland

12-14 November

The Politics of Instrumentalism

2018 SCAPE Symposium

For this symposium, we focus on the question of what is education for, in order to interrogate the unquestioned status of instrumentalism in education policy, practice, and theory. The individual presentations look at the politics of instrumentalism from a diverse but coherent set of theoretical frameworks that emphasise the political roles of dissensus, conflict, refusal, and negation in education.

By dissenting from instrumentalised education more broadly and exploring what is not or other to instrumentalism when thinking about education, this symposium attends to those features of the political that are otherwise taken as a natural part of education.

Rather than echoing the chorus that 'of course education is for something', our presentations refuse the 'of-course-ness' of instrumentalist education. Education may be for anything at all, even nothing, and because of this, the politics of instrumentalism are continually at play in determining the practices, policies and theories of what education is for.

Monday, 12 November 2018

Iontas, Room 1.26 Boardroom

10 - 11am	Welcome and discussion on theme: Politics of Instrumentalism
11am - noon	<u>Session 1</u> Beyond the Humanist Navel and the Economic Instrument: Reframing Education in Terms of Relational Aesthetics <i>Sharon Todd</i> <i>Maynooth University</i>
Noon - 1pm	Lunch
1 - 3pm	<u>Session 2</u> A Pedagogy for the Depressed: Beyond the Politics of Instrumentalism or Teaching Without a Future <i>Carl Anders Säfström</i> <i>Maynooth University</i> Refusing Teachers and the Politics of Instrumentalism in Education Policy <i>F. Tony Carusi</i> <i>Massey University</i>
3 - 5pm	Discussion: What is SCAPE?
6 - 8pm	Dinner

Tuesday, 13 November
*John Hume Building 3rd floor,
Staff Development Seminar Room*

10am - noon

Session 3

Education, Instrumentality, and the
Lessons of Useless Art

*Claudia Ruitenberg
University of British Columbia*

Heidegger's Hammer and the Beauty of
Our Weapon. An Exercise in the
Ontology of Education

*Tomasz Szudlarek
University of Gdansk*

Noon - 1pm

Lunch

1 - 3 pm

Session 4

Education's good: On functionality,
dysfunctionality, and democracy in an
'age of quality'

*Gert Biesta
Brunel University*

On retroactive instrumentality

*Maria Mendel
University of Gdansk*

3 - 5 pm

Open seminar

The Politics of Instrumentalism

Wednesday, 14 November
*John Hume Building 3rd floor,
Staff Development Seminar Room*

10am - noon

SCAPE business meeting

Studies of Conflict, Culture, & the Political in Education

The international research group “Studies of Conflict, Culture and the Political in Education” (SCAPE) was inaugurated in Sweden in May 2008. The research group brings together educational scholars who share an interest in the constitutive role of difference and disagreement in a vibrant political sphere.

The members of SCAPE share an interest in conceptions of democratic politics as involving disagreements and struggles over the power relations in society and attendant ethico-political values. They are concerned that the more deliberative approaches see conflict only as counter-productive to democratic dialogue, and even as indicative of communicative breakdown. Instead, the participants believe that some kinds of conflict are not only inevitable but, in fact, valuable for and constitutive of democracy itself.

For more information on SCAPE please visit
<http://blogs.ubc.ca/scape/>.

