

## Euro-JCS Today

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In the first online issue of the Journal of Curriculum Theorizing, in 2008, William F. Pinar wrote a feature article based on the following question: *What role can JCT play today?*

This was a provocative question, mainly when a paradigm shift was underway in U.S. curriculum studies. We still can consider internationalization to be a crucial issue, which demands of each distinctive national field of curriculum studies to emerge from its own territory and engage in dialogue and contribute to the construction of a complicated conversation.

Today, as back in 2008, it's a turbulent time for curriculum studies, which pressures toward technical theoretical frameworks and retylerized practices, as we live as Foucault (2008 [1978-79]) expressed neoliberal times when market is a despot ruling over people. Neoliberal views of education press towards curricular reforms aimed at individual competition and selection, to schools and universities viewed as closed decision making spaces where parents, students, and even teachers and other educational subjects are living under outcome based control, the process no longer matters, subjectivity is devalued, and curriculum is narrowed and restricted to certain areas of knowledge.

Often, the same market based values tend to infuse research agendas, defining which disciplines, research subjects, methodologies and perspectives are to be valued (and funded) while relegating others – particularly those not aligned with dominant policies – to a secondary level.

It is in this context, marked by economical ideas that we, as curriculum scholars, need to understand and critically analyze that we believe the birth of a European Journal of Curriculum Studies (Euro-JCS) makes sense. It is, therefore, necessary we ask once more, *what role can Euro-JCS play today?*

Euro-JCS is an electronic Journal associated with the European Association of Curriculum Studies (Euro-ACS), and the Portuguese Association of Curriculum Studies, which publishes original papers and book reviews

concerning curriculum theory, policy and practice, particularly in Europe. The Euro-ACS was officially founded at the European Conference on Curriculum Studies, held in Portugal, at the University of Minho, in October 2013. At this conference, it was possible to demonstrate that there is space in Europe for international dialogue about curriculum studies, which must be deepened based on an effective conversation which is in itself a theoretical resource to approach curricular issues which are increasingly similar across Europe due to economic, political and cultural globalization, while assuming different interpretations and practices in each regional and national context. The Euro-JCT was created to provide a space for such a European debate of curricular issues, although necessarily open to scholars from other continents, welcoming contributions underlining the study and questioning of different contexts of educational change.

Without setting a determined course for dialogue, as this intends to be an open intellectual space, we are convinced a dialogue based on the diversity of opinions and experiences, the affirmation of uncertainties and the exploration of curricular knowledge is possible.

This first issue, includes some of the texts originally presented at the 2013 European Conference on Curriculum Studies selected by the editors, developed by the authors, and reviewed by the International Editorial Board. Those articles were selected in order to represent scholars from different countries and diverse perspectives. Future issues of Euro-JCS will have open calls for papers, available to all those who are interested in contributing to this conversation.

We thus invite all scholars in the field of curriculum studies, particularly those whose work concerns the European context to publish in the Euro-JCS, and to participate in other activities of the European Association of Curriculum Studies, which represent new *fora* which may, with the participation of all, lead to intellectual debate and breakthrough.

## References

- Pinar, W. F. (2008). JCT Today. *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*, 24 (1), 4-10.  
Foucault, M. (2008). *The Birth of Biopolitics. Lectures at the Collège de France 1978-79*. New York: Palgrave.

