

Call for Papers

Civic Education in Super-Diverse Societies

21st Annual Conference of the Society for Civic Education Didactics and Civic Youth and Adult Education (GPJE), June 10-12, 2021 at the University of Göttingen (Virtual Conference)

Since the 1960s, Western societies have been shaped by continuous, long-term processes of individualization and diversification. Aside from increasing cultural and ethnical diversity, these developments lead to a decrease of traditional milieus, a decline in memberships in organizations such as political parties, unions and churches, as well as a fragmented party system and public media. Likewise, discourses on emancipation and anti-discrimination, along with different types of identity politics, are affected. This is further amplified by growing disparities between urban and rural areas, economic status and political participation. The Covid-19 pandemic has been highlighting these developments. Social disparities have become more visible and have intensified during the crisis – also in education. For instance, the implementation of online and hybrid formats of civic education in schools and non-school education has proved difficult to realize especially with regard to socially disadvantaged youth.

In the light of this increasing complexity of societal diversity, for which the cultural anthropologist Steven Vertovec coined the term “super-diversity”, civic education is faced with a variety of multi-layered challenges. Questions on democratic societies’ ability to retain allegiances, on their potential for integration as well as on common democratic values and beliefs require modified contents, concepts and principles within civic education. However, civic educational concepts and discourses continue to address a more academic, seemingly homogenous audience. As a result, issues like the heterogeneity of the educational system and the “world classroom”, inclusion, and differentiated instruction have not been sufficiently taken into account. Hence, both school and non-school civic education are challenged to adapt their programs by addressing the needs and increasing the participation of those learners who are considered to be educationally disadvantaged or have been disregarded by existing initiatives in the past. With a special regard to the Covid-19 crisis, the chances and challenges of digitalization have to be considered. Lastly, more specific empirical didactical research is needed in order to examine civic education’s challenges in superdiverse societies, its paradigms, practices and players.

There are three options for actively participating in the conference:

1. by giving a presentation on the conference topic,
2. by giving a presentation or a workshop focusing on a current research project on civic education,
3. by presenting a scientific poster on a current research project about civic education.

To actively participate by giving a presentation or a workshop, please hand in an abstract of 1500-2000 characters (including blanks) plus 3-5 references by February 8, 2021 via <https://www.conftool.org/gpje2021>. In case of a successful application, the abstract will be published in the conference program.

In order to participate in the poster presentation, please hand in the title and an abstract of up to 1000 characters (including blanks) plus 2-3 references by March 31, 2021 via <https://www.conftool.org/gpje2021>.

The conference language is German. Presentations in English are also very welcome.

You can find more information on the GPJE at <http://gpje.de/en>.