Symposium on Sustainability Teaching in Higher Education – Approaches, Methods and Perspectives MMA Thursday, 11 April 2024

Theme cluster one: Sustainability and the Curriculum: teaching on, about and for sustainable development

Title: Ecopedagogy: from origin to reinvention

Abstract:

The question of a pedagogy that promotes the development of sustainability responsible students is at the centre of education for sustainability. Ecopedagogy incorporates socio-environmental concerns and promotes reflection on the multiple and complex relationship society-nature, engendering a criticism of the current unsustainable socioeconomic model, modern thought and the various forms of exploitation of life. We suggest that Ecopedagogy may provide the theoretical and practical approaches to foster sustainability teaching and inspire educators and students in a higher education context. Our presentation is an introduction to Ecopedagogy and the ongoing process of reinvention and establishment of new theoretical and practical bases, with its new challenges in the current time we live. We offer a review of the 30 years of Ecopedagogy from its Latin American origins; paths travelled along these years; and the process of reinvention of Ecopedagogy based on the three pillars of criticism: patriarchy, modernity and capitalism. We conclude with a set of propositions for a collective journey in view of the principles of Ecopedagogy as a field of academic investigation and social praxis.

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