
Lecture - Is it the taking part that counts? Discussing blind spots of adult basic education under the leitmotif of inclusion

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3rd May 2023, 5 p.m. Portuguese/UK Time; 6 p.m. CET

Abstract

An extensive body of research, large-scale assessments of adult competencies like the PIAAC study, and global policy agendas, such as the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (Target 4.6), give credit to the relevance of adult basic education (literacy and numeracy). However, issues such as adult basic education under the premise of disability are still far from playing a vital role in these considerations. Therefore, the lecture tackles the field of adult basic education and shifts the focus to adults who are seen of being exposed to high risks of being neglected in the system of lifelong learning. This leads to the general and most relevant question of how to support the shift to an inclusive system of adult education, in which, however, it is not only the taking part that counts. This will be exemplified by data from qualitative research, using principles of participatory research methodology and theoretical strands of social practice theory, in the field of adult basic education.

Biographical note

Silke Schreiber-Barsch, PhD, is Professor in Adult Education in the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Unit of Vocational and Further Education, at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. Her research interests include international and comparative adult education, lifelong learning, issues of participation and social inclusion/exclusion, global citizenship education, and adult education and disability. Silke has led a number of research projects that employ in particular qualitative methods and principles of participatory research methodology, currently focusing on the topic of numeracy as part of adult basic education with a special emphasis on numeracy practices of adults with learning difficulties (also known as intellectual disabilities). As part of a number of external roles and services, Silke has an enduring commitment to strengthening transnational collaboration and networking in the field of adult education.