Summaries

Kornelia Hauser: Placeless Education

The article reflects on and updates a set of concepts, first introduced over 200 years ago, regarding the transformation of higher education. What were the goals and means of education we learned from the enlightenment? How do they disappear as part of the present restructuring of universities? What remains? From the perspective of a university lecturer the article argues that the Bologna Reforms in the universities do not make general education [Allgemeinbildung] possible. The goal is social education, education for the community; a generalizable education that is not immediately misused.

Karla Werkentin: Educational Policy – A Compilation of Buzzwords with Short Expiration Dates

German educational policy continues to adapt to changing terminology, keeping pace with the latest trends. However, no fundamental changes occur in the educational system. There is a lack of review and an absence of analysis. Necessary actions are not taken. We are dealing with »old wine in new bottles.«

Armin Bernhard: Human Ressources and Flexible Subjects. Notes on the Dominant Concept of Education and its Suppression in the »spirit of cleavage«

The article deals with the dominant neoliberal concept of education and analyzes the new qualities seeking to appropriate education as part of contemporary social relations. It goes on to ask how education policies can be conceptualized according to the gramscian »spirit of cleavage«, not only to critique dominant perceptions and policies in education; but also to render their contradictions and inconsistencies useful for emancipatory practices.

Thomas Höhne: Educational Screening through Competencies

The article deals with the discourse of competency in the education system related to the reproduction of social inequality. The central argument is that the dominance of a discourse regarding competency across various educational fields (school system, further education, vocational training) indicates a flexibilisation in the reproduction of social inequality. The new emphasis on individual competencies points to the growing significance of >cultural capital < (Bourdieu) provided by the family. In addition, new forms of marketization of the educational field lead to an increased importance of symbolic capital of educational certificates, linked, among others, to the reputation of educational institutions.

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Gerhard Zimmer: Learning and Teaching in an Internet-based Educational System: the Revolution of Pedagogical Relationship?

New forms of control and standardization are seen as enhancing the >outcomes< of education >services< and thereby the >employability< of >human resources< for capital. Commodification and standardization collide with high-tech capital's requirements for openness to prospective developments. With the internet, digital media can be used for teaching and learning, but those who learn can moot the results of their learn-work worldwide. The article argues that informal learning in virtual space contradicts formal learning as a face-to-face communication. This leads to a process of overthrowing given pedagogical relations and emancipation of the learners from the teachers.

Eva Borst: We are all Digital Illiterates. On the Contradiction between Education and Cybernetics

Given the progressive technologies of our time, society will change in an unexpected manner. The scale of these changes is comparable that of the >Enlightenment< in the 18th century. This is particularly true of how cybernetics permeates life through permanent control and through evaluation and selection. We must ask: What steps should we take against this phenomenon by using critical theory in education and culture? What possibilities exist for education to resist the negative power of manipulation and the prevalence of cybernetics? A first step is to enlighten and educate in a way that cybernetics' potential is understood.

Katrin Reimer: Between Assimilation and Critical Perspectives: Prospects for Civic Education on Racism and Right-wing Extremism in Germany

Since the early 1990s, civic education and social work in Germany have played a significant role in state-financed attempts to keep racism and right-wing-extremism in check. Common sense has it that acceptance-oriented social work deployed in the 1990s failed, while civic education focusing on ideologies developed from 2001 onwards were more successful. The author argues that both approaches complement each other in their strengths and limitations. Critical education is meant to enable a process of shedding light on one's own involvement in the reproduction of ideologies and ideological practices. The prospects for accomplishing this goal lie in revitalising concepts that allow mediating subjective experiences with (insights into) the dynamics of capitalist society in its present form.

Buchhandlungen, die das Argument-Verlagsprogramm führen

Augsburg Probuch, Gögginger Straße 34 (0821/579173)

Berlin Argument-Buchladen, Reichenberger Straße 150 (030/611 39 83)

Motzbuch, Motzstraße 32 (030/2115958)

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Frankfurt/M Unibuch, Jügelstraße 1 (069/775082)

Karl Marx Buchhandlung, Jordanstraße 11 (069/778807)

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Mainz Cardabela, Frauenlobstraße 40 (06131/614174) Marburg Roter Stern GmbH, Am Grün 28 (0542/24787)

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Niederlande De Rooie Rat, Oudegracht 65 (031-30-2317189) Utrecht

Frauenbuchläden, die das Argument-Frauenprogramm führen

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