



## Letter to the Reader

São Carlos, November, 2010.

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present this special issue that closes the year of 2010. It is special because it is, at the same time, a thematic issue composed of a dossier and also a compilation of articles and a book review by national and international researchers that are part of the wide field of education. The dossier was proposed and approved by members of the Post-Graduation Program in Education (*Programa de Pós-Graduação em Educação - PPGE*) of the Federal University of São Carlos (*Universidade Federal de São Carlos - UFSCar*), after this magazine invited researchers from the areas that compose the PPGE. *Public management and policies* is the thematic dossier that we present to the readers in our magazine.

The Online Magazine of Education (magazine of the Post-Graduation Program in Education) continues publishing foreign articles in all its issues, as well as articles, essays, reviews and interviews that are, according to the researchers and editors of the magazine, important to the advancement and innovation of the Education field.

The dossier is composed of five articles. The article that opens this thematic section is *Federal policies as an induction to municipal and local policies in primary education*, written by Flávio Caetano da Silva. It discusses the quality, the autonomy of municipal education in its relation to the federal government, and the induction of policies by federal funding. Aspects deriving from the “Programa Dinheiro Direto na Escola” are also the object of analysis in this article.

*Some reflections on the practice of democratic management on school culture and organization*, an article by Maria Cecília Luiz, analyzes the way democratic management is produced, from the strengthening of public school and the participation of all its segments, within the school culture.

The article *Public policy, teacher work and training. References for a research agenda*, by José Carlos Rothen and Celso Luiz Aparecido Conti discusses – based on Foucault’s conception of power as a productive power that is accomplished in relationships – general aspects of educational policies and the linking between them and the work of teacher training.

The article by Sandra Aparecida Riscal and Raquel Pereira Chainho Gandini, *Notes on the concept of political participation and its relationship with the concept of democratic management*, elaborates a kind of genealogy of the political participation concept. Based on the categories by Max Weber and Raymundo Faoro, the authors indicate in which way the conception of participation, understood as a political practice, preserves relationships related to the religious area.



The text that closes the thematic dossier, *School Council, participation and quality of education within the framework of democratic management* by Maria Cristina da Silveira Galan Fernandes and Gécica Priscila Ramos, is an essay that aimed to present some reflections on the implementation of School Councils in the country, highlighting the main difficulties still found during the consolidation of this space in the schools.

Two international articles are part of this Online Magazine of Education issue. One of them was written by the researcher Donatila Ferrada, from the group “Enlazador de Mundos” of Universidad Católica de la S. Concepción, in Chile: *“Learning Communities” and “Worlds Entwined”: the bases of a dialogic pedagogy which generates equality*. This article presents the project “Enlazando Mundos”, which proposal is based on the educational and social model known as Learning Communities. This model aims the transformation of public school by social interactions that favor the improvement of the cultural capital of students.

The second international article, *Curriculum policy in Brazil: between valuing cultural diversity, consideration of particular memories and building a shared history*, by Sabine Saraiva, from the French Université de Picardie Jules Verne, analyzes the content of the legal instructions related to diversity and difference that organize the Brazilian formal curriculum since 1988.

The following papers were directly sent to the Online Magazine of Education and reflect the rich production of researchers in this area:

*Democratic management in schools: impressions conveyed by participants of the program Pro Management (Progestão)*, by Iraíde Marques de Freitas Barreiro presents three questions that verify the comprehension of the democratic management concept and how the participants of the Distance Learning Program for Qualification of School Managers (Pro Management) implement it at school.

The article *Education and knowledge: the Tower of Babel, the kaleidoscope, the young people and the newness* by Renata Sieiro Fernandes and Margareth Brandini Park discusses the ways reality knowledge is build from the image-metaphors of the Tower of Babel and the kaleidoscope. The researchers understand reality as something that is fragmented, chaotic, in dis-order.

Fernando Donizete Alves and Aline Sommerhalder in *Ludic, childhood and schooling: (mis)matches* analyze, based on the psychoanalysis theory, the research carried out by three teachers that work in public municipal institutions of early childhood education in a city in São Paulo state. The purpose was to observe how the ludic was received in the pedagogical practice of these teachers.

The paper *Analysis of concepts and opinions of students about biology teaching* by Guilherme Malafaia, Viníciu Fagundes Bárbara and Aline Sueli de Lima Rodrigues presents and discusses the results of a study carried out with 99 high-school students of a private school in Ouro Preto-MG, aiming to identify



their conceptions about biology and their opinions about biology teaching in order to build an investigation scenario for future and new teachers.

Maria Luzia Rocha da Silva e Luis Paulo Leopoldo Mercado, in the article *The teacher-student-tutor interaction in online education* aim to identify how the online undergraduate course of Physics of the Brazilian Open University (Universidade Aberta do Brasil - UAB/UFAL) promotes interaction between all the involved in the process of distance education by online activities.

The last text of this issue, *Perspectives of distance education in Brazil: quality references, re-readings and trajectories* by Hélio Carlos Miranda de Oliveira analyzes the multiple faces of distance education, such as the laws that regulates it. The essays discusses the problems that affect the current expansion process of distance education, the quality references, its educational and formative potentialities, as well as the interpretations and readings done by the involved in distance education.

The review of this issue, written by Ronaldo Barros Ripardo, analyzes the book by Fernando Frochtengarten: *O papel da educação na vida de adultos migrantes*, published by Editora Summus in 2009.

Thus, we close this issue and the year of 2010, wishing that the strength and will that all texts, themes and discussions presented by the magazine evoke may cause an impact on the education area in its wide complexity in order to produce views and writings that allow the glimpses of new possibilities for acting, doing, building, widening the range of production.

The Online Magazine of Education intends to contribute as one of the open spaces for the elaboration, discussion and debates of theories, new ideas, connectivities and negotiations that may be established to compose, and mainly to modify, the overview of education in Brazil.

The Editors,

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