

Education and New Developments
2022

Volume 1

Edited by
Mafalda Carmo

Edited by Mafalda Carmo, World Institute for Advanced Research and Science (WIARS), Portugal

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BRIEF CONTENTS

Foreword	v
Organizing and Scientific Committee	vii
Sponsor	xi
Keynote Lecture	xiii
Invited Talk	xxi
Index of Contents	xxiii

FOREWORD

This book contains the full text of papers and posters presented at the International Conference on Education and New Developments (END 2022), organized by the World Institute for Advanced Research and Science (WIARS).

Education, in our contemporary world, is a right since we are born. Every experience has a formative effect on the constitution of the human being, in the way one thinks, feels and acts. One of the most important contributions resides in what and how we learn through the improvement of educational processes, both in formal and informal settings. The International Conference seeks to provide some answers and explore the processes, actions, challenges and outcomes of learning, teaching and human development. The goal is to offer a worldwide connection between teachers, students, researchers and lecturers, from a wide range of academic fields, interested in exploring and giving their contribution in educational issues. We take pride in having been able to connect and bring together academics, scholars, practitioners and others interested in a field that is fertile in new perspectives, ideas and knowledge.

We counted on an extensive variety of contributors and presenters, which can supplement our view of the human essence and behavior, showing the impact of their different personal, academic and cultural experiences. This is, certainly, one of the reasons we have many nationalities and cultures represented, inspiring multi-disciplinary collaborative links, fomenting intellectual encounter and development.

END 2022 received 790 submissions, from more than 45 different countries, reviewed by a double-blind process. Submissions were prepared to take form of Oral Presentations, Posters, Virtual Presentations and Workshops. The conference accepted for presentation 263 submissions (33% acceptance rate), from which, 233 submissions are published in full text in these volumes.

The conference also included:

- One Keynote presentation by Prof. Dr. Alan Singer (Ph.D., Department of Teaching, Learning and Technology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, USA).
 - One Invited Talk by Prof. Dr. Elisa Bertolotti (Ph.D., Art & Design Department, University of Madeira; ID+ Research Unit; ITI/Larsys, Portugal) and Prof. Dr. Valentina Vezzani (Ph.D., Art & Design Department, University of Madeira; ID+ Research Unit; Paco Design Collaborative, Portugal).
- We would like to express our gratitude to our invitees.

This year we also counted on the support of "Madeira Promotion Bureau", contributing to the success of the event and providing a pleasant experience to all END 2022 participants. We would like to thank the "Madeira Promotion Bureau" for welcoming END 2022 to its beautiful island.

This conference addressed different categories inside the Education area and papers are expected to fit broadly into one of the named themes and sub-themes. To develop the conference program, we have chosen four main broad-ranging categories, which also covers different interest areas:

- In **TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**: Teachers and Staff training and education; Educational quality and standards; *Curriculum* and Pedagogy; Vocational education and Counselling; Ubiquitous and lifelong learning; Training programs and professional guidance; Teaching and learning relationship; Student affairs (learning, experiences and diversity; Extra-curricular activities; Assessment and measurements in Education.
- In **PROJECTS AND TRENDS**: Pedagogic innovations; Challenges and transformations in Education; Technology in teaching and learning; Distance Education and eLearning; Global and sustainable developments for Education; New learning and teaching models; Multicultural and (inter)cultural communications; Inclusive and Special Education; Rural and indigenous Education; Educational projects.
- In **TEACHING AND LEARNING**: Critical, Thinking; Educational foundations; Research and development methodologies; Early childhood and Primary Education; Secondary Education; Higher Education; Science and technology Education; Literacy, languages and Linguistics (TESL/TEFL); Health Education; Religious Education; Sports Education.

• In **ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**: Educational policy and leadership; Human Resources development; Educational environment; Business, Administration, and Management in Education; Economics in Education; Institutional accreditations and rankings; International Education and Exchange programs; Equity, social justice and social change; Ethics and values; Organizational learning and change, Corporate Education.

This is the Volume 1 of the book *Education and New Developments 2022* and it contains the results of the research and developments conducted by authors who focused on what they are passionate about: to promote growth in research methods intimately related to teaching, learning and applications in Education nowadays. It includes an extensive variety of contributors and presenters, who will extend our view in exploring and giving their contribution in educational issues, by sharing with us their different personal, academic and cultural experiences.

This first volume focus in the main areas of TEACHERS AND STUDENTS and TEACHING AND LEARNING.

We would like to express thanks to all the authors and participants, the members of the academic scientific committee, and of course, to our organizing and administration team for making and putting this conference together.

Hoping to continue the collaboration in the future.

Respectfully,

Mafalda Carmo
World Institute for Advanced Research and Science (WIARS), Portugal
Conference and Program Chair

Madeira, Portugal, 18 - 20 June, 2022

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KEYNOTE LECTURE

“WELCOME TO THE ANTHROPOCENE: TEACHING CLIMATE HISTORY – THERE IS NO PLANET B”

Dr. Alan Singer

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Abstract

As climate transformation continues unabated because of human action and inaction, 2021 was a year of climate extremes. Levels of methane in the atmosphere increased by the largest amount since measurements began. The Arctic and Antarctic ices sheets and northern permafrost continued to melt and there were record wildfires across the globe. Meanwhile the burden of climate change falls hardest on the least developed economies that have the smallest carbon footprint and while scientific evidence of human caused climate change and the prospects for a catastrophic near future is overwhelming, climate denial supported by powerful financial fuel corporations stalls international action. Welcome to the Anthropocene. Climate cycles, both long and short-term are natural consequences of geological history, but there is no question that recent changes since the start of the Industrial revolution are caused by human action. A study of past climate changes provides scientific evidence to explain current transformations. It is questionable whether a globalized capitalist system or technological innovations can effectively address climate change. The debate in classrooms and the political realm should not be whether climate change is happening or how much it places human civilization at risk but over how societies and individuals must respond to stabilize climate and reverse the most damaging impacts.

Keywords: *Climate change, environment, teaching, activism.*

Humanity has a collective choice to make and it will not be an easy decision-making process because some individuals, nations, and corporations are much more powerful than others and they benefit from the current situation, or at least they think that they do. They horde short-term profit and either ignore or minimize long-term consequences. We are living in a climate emergency that threatens the decline and perhaps the collapse of civilization as we know it and humanity must decide if we will abandon fossil fuels to avoid a climate catastrophe. One reason I am delivering this paper today is to recruit you as intellectuals, educators, and activists in your home countries who can influence people and policy. This is an international struggle for the future of mankind.

Welcome to the Anthropocene, a newly named geological epoch defined by human caused climate change. According to Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in 2019, humanity was less than 12 years away from tipping points that could produce a climate catastrophe threatening large parts of the Earth and human civilization. It is now three years later. If Ms. Thunberg and the IPCC were correct in 2019, and the most recent IPCC climate report suggests that they were, human civilization in the midst of a climate emergency and an irreversible climate catastrophe is today less than nine years away (Thunberg 2019; IPCC 2022).

Like Greta Thunberg, I am scared, and you all should be also. I am seventy-two years old and I will most likely not live to witness the worst impacts of climate change, but my partner and I have four grandchildren and we worry about their futures and the futures of all young people. I don't want the legacy of my generation to be the destruction of human civilization.

Portugal is exceedingly vulnerable to climate change because of exposure to extreme meteorological events sweeping across the Atlantic Ocean, rising sea levels, and its proximity to the Mediterranean basin that will be susceptible to prolonged droughts and an enormous reduction in humidity. According to some climate projections, metropolitan Lisbon, currently home to 3 million people and the Portuguese capital, may be a desert by the year 2100 (TPN/Lusa 2021; Rathi 2016).

The face-to-face component of this conference is taking place in the beautiful city of Funchal, located on the Portuguese Madeira Archipelago in the Atlantic off of the coast of West Africa. According to a 2004 study, annual precipitation in Madeira, with a population of about 250,000 people, will decrease

by up to 35% by the end of the 21st century, especially on the southern coast where Funchal is located, making it hotter and drier and causing serious water stress (Santos *et al* 2004).

In addition, a Senior Scientist at IPCC Working Group III warns that people on Madeira should anticipate that rising sea levels will “promote erosion of the entire coastal region and eventually landslides” and that “increasingly longer, drier summers” may also “increase the occurrence and risk associated with forest fires” (Pereira, 2020).

Madeira is not the only Portuguese site threatened by climate change. In Portugal the peak wildfire season usually starts in early July and continues until October. Prior to the 1980s, individual fires on the Portuguese mainland never destroyed more than 10,000 hectares or 100 square kilometers, about 40 square miles. In the first two decades of the 21st century, two wildfires burned over 20,000 hectares, 200 square kilometers, about 80 square miles. In 2017, a record year for wildfires in Portugal, half a million hectares of Portuguese eucalyptus and pine forests burned, 5,000 square kilometers, about 200 square miles, killing 121 people. During the 2020 wildfire season there were almost 10,000 individual wildfires destroying about 700 square kilometers or 270 square miles of forest (Faget 2020).

Uncontrolled wildfires are occurring across the globe caused by rising temperatures and shifts in rain patterns resulting from 250 years of burning fossil fuels during the Industrial Era. In 2017 and 2018 wildfires devastated areas in Portugal, Greece, California and British Columbia. In 2020, fires raged for months in Australia, Siberia, and in the Brazilian Pantanal, the world’s largest tropical wetland, and California had its worst fire season in recorded history with an area larger than the state of Connecticut enveloped in flames. Six of the twenty largest wildfires in modern California history occurred in 2020. On one day in September 2020, multiple mega-fires were burning more than three million acres of forest and millions of Californians were exposed to smoke and toxic air. The U.S. Pacific Northwest burned in 2020 and again in 2021. These fires were so intense they generated tornado strength winds and caused or contributed to rolling electrical blackouts during triple-digit heat waves, dangerous chemicals entering ground water and aquifers, and insurance companies canceling homeownership policies (Leonard 2022).

As climate transformation continued unabated because of human action and inaction, 2021 was a year of climate extremes. The IPCC’s sixth assessment report, released in March 2022, was written by over 250 scientists from almost seventy countries and spelled out how bad the approaching climate catastrophe will be. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres called it “an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership.” According to the report, climate change is happening more rapidly than expected with increasingly devastating results (Guterres 2022).

The average global temperature has increased by 2° F since the start of the 19th century Industrial Revolution with the mass burning of fossil fuels. International cooperation is required to address the climate emergency, but the world remains divided into independent, sovereign, competing nation-states that emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries and cooperation, regulation, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions remain voluntary even after international climate conferences and agreements signed at Rio in 1992, Kyoto in 1997, and Paris in 2015. While some United States Presidents have agreed to abide by the guidelines, the U.S. has never formerly endorsed them, which would require a highly unlikely two-thirds vote of the U.S. Senate (IPCC 2022).

Key findings of the IPCC report include that in 2019 alone, storms, floods and extreme weather produced 13 million climate refugees in Asia and Africa; Millions of people are at risk of hunger and malnutrition as heat and drought kill crops and trees; Mosquitoes carrying diseases like malaria and dengue are spreading into new areas including in the United States; Half the world’s population faces severe water scarcity at some point during the year (Plumer and Zhong 2022).

Climate change affects different regions of the Earth differently. Warming in regions above the Arctic Circle in Siberia, Alaska, and Canada has increased twice as fast as in other areas of the planet. The temperature in the Eastern Siberia town of Verkhoyansk reached 38° C (100° F) in June 2020. It was the hottest Arctic Circle temperature ever recorded. Permafrost, permanently frozen ground in the Northern Hemisphere, contains vast amounts of carbon accumulated from dead plants and animals over the course of hundreds of thousands of years. Estimates suggest that permafrost could hold twice as much carbon as there currently is in the Earth’s atmosphere. Rotten organic material is exposed as permafrost thaws. A broad thaw caused by global warming would release the stored carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), another greenhouse gas. The release would trigger even greater planetary warming and more thawing. To understand the process, leave frozen chicken on the kitchen counter. You will soon have a puddle of water and eventually the chicken will start to smell as it decomposes. Warming leads to more warming until there is a tipping point with rapid and irreversible change. Ice sheets melt, ocean currents shift, coastal regions flood, the oceans release dissolved greenhouse gases, and civilization as we know it ends (Schädel 2020; BBC 2020).

Another region where climate change will have dire consequences is the Amazon Rainforest in equatorial South America. The Amazon River is almost 4,000 miles long and runs roughly along the equator eastward from the Andes Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. Its immense tropical rainforest, containing about

half of the Earth's remaining rainforests, is 2.6 million square miles in size with 1.4 billion acres of dense forest and covers approximately 40% of the land area of South America. The rainforest extends into seven countries, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and one European colony, French Guiana, although most of its acreage is in Brazil. Brazil is the fifth-largest country in the world, it's the seventh most populous, and it has the eighth-largest economy. Sixty-two percent of the country is forested and less than 10% is considered arable. Brazil's carbon footprint ranks the country thirteenth in the world for contributing CO₂ to the atmosphere, China, the United States, and India rank 1, 2, and 3. Economic expansion by Brazil continually puts it at loggerheads with global environmental concerns because it would come at the expense of the rainforest, which has been described as the "lungs of the planet" (Rice 2019; WWF; CIA; De Bolle 2019).

Because of its size and location, the Amazon Rainforest is home to about 25% of the Earth's biodiversity and plays important roles in several of the planet's natural cycles that influence climate. Its plants and trees annually absorb 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide, approximately 5% of CO₂ emissions. Nearly 100 billion tons of carbon is stored in the Amazon's trees, which equates to almost 400 billion tons of carbon dioxide that is kept out of the atmosphere.

The Amazon is gradually losing its ability to recover from droughts and land-use changes and scientists worry it is approaching a tipping point where it will be replaced by grassland. It has already shifted from a CO₂ sponge to a CO₂ emitter. Eventually an additional 90 billion tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide would be emitted into the atmosphere. As water evaporates from the tropical rainforest, the Amazon Rainforest also acts as a giant cooling system moderating temperatures and providing rainfall in South America and sub-Saharan Africa (Rice, 2019). As the Amazon Rainforest is defoliated, much of the Earth's Southern Hemisphere will be dramatically impacted (Fountain 2022, A5; NOAA 2021).

In Southwest Asia, a major global conflict region, temperature is increasing at nearly twice the rate of the world overall and temperatures are rising at a faster rate. By 2100, average temperatures there are expected to increase by up to 4° C degrees, exacerbating water shortages, creating enormous health risks for the area's people, and further undermining regional stability (Haas and Drukman 2021).

Meanwhile nations and corporations act as if there was an unlimited amount of time to adjust. None the world's leading economies, I repeat none, including the entire G20, is meeting carbon reduction commitments they made in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

This is after climate pledges by Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia were deemed "critically insufficient," pledges by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and India "highly insufficient," and pledges by the United States, the European Union, Germany and Japan were ranked "insufficient." The only country to meet its target for carbon reduction was the African nation of Gambia, which already had an infinitesimally small carbon footprint. At the same time, according to the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2021 levels of methane gas in the atmosphere increased by the largest amount since measurements began. While there is less methane in the atmosphere than there is carbon dioxide, as a green house gas methane has a greater impact on global warming (Milman 2021; Zhong 2022).

Major companies continue to be guilty of practices that will decimate the human environment. Microsoft claims to be committed to a "carbon negative" future, but between June 2020 and June 2021, its carbon emissions rose by over 20% because of the construction and operation of new data centers and the manufacture and use of its electronic devices. The semiconductor industry is also highly energy intensive, a typical factory has a carbon footprint equivalent to a small city. While all-electric cars emit far fewer greenhouse gases than either gas-fueled or hybrid cars, they still leave a carbon footprint. Because they draw from the local power grid, if electricity is generated by coal-fueled plants, they could even have a greater carbon footprint than a hybrid car. Bitcoin is the cryptocurrency that hopes to pioneer a cashless and possibly greener financial future. The problem is that the greenhouse gas emitted while generating the electricity needed to power Bitcoin computers is greater than the amount produced by New Zealand or Argentina. A Bitcoin transaction has a carbon footprint equivalent to over 700,000 credit card purchases (Ewing and Boudette, 2021, A1; Zafar, 2019; China Water Risk, 2013; Tabuchi and Plumer, 2021, B5; Sorkin, 2021: B1; Eavis 2022, B3; SCOTUS Blog 2022).

Friday, April 22, 2022 was Earth Day. As the impending climate catastrophe draws closer, Earth Day in the United States has gone mainstream, becoming a feel-good holiday stripped of serious messages, much like Mother's day. The White House issued a Presidential proclamation declaring "For the future of our planet, for our health, and for our children and grandchildren, we must act now. Let us stand united in this effort to save our planet and, in the process, strengthen our economy and grow more connected to each other and the world we share." The U.S. Commerce Department Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs posted Happy Earth Day greetings on its website and its newsletter included photographs from its 2022 Earth Day Photo Challenge (White House 2022; U.S. Department of Commerce 2022).

In recent years, corporate America jumped on the Earth Day bandwagon in embarrassingly small ways. Schick introduced a new sustainable razor for people experiencing "Greentimidation." SodaStream

started a campaign to save a million baby sea turtles. Uber riders in Miami, Los Angeles and Washington can win free, nature-inspired rides. The Wrangler Westward 626 Earth Day jeans are made from organic cotton and feature eco-friendly finishes. BMW North America ran an ad featuring an all-electric car. Samsonite recycled used luggage as coasters (Napolitano 2022; Houston 2022).

Disney has an annual Earth Day celebration at its Animal Kingdom theme park outside Orlando, Florida to “honor the magic of nature through family-friendly experiences and specialty offerings.” The Earth Day specialty items Disney was selling included “water bottles, tumblers, reusable bags, and a limited-edition trading pin featuring Te Fiti from *Moana* and a cuddly plush inspired by the species that call Disney’s Animal Kingdom theme park home” (Disney 2022).

From the banal to outrageous, in 2019 the petro-company Koch Industries posted a video for Earth Day on its Facebook page celebrating the fossil fuel company’s “pollution prevention practices” with the line “You love the Earth. So do we.” In 2021, ExxonMobil, one of the all-time leading polluters and a spreader of climate denial misinformation for decades, released a video celebrating its eco-friendliness with claims that its employees are “work[ing] tirelessly to reduce emissions and move towards a low-carbon future” (Taft 2022).

Climate denial plays on a general public misconception of what is meant by a scientific fact. In colloquial language, a “fact” must be 100% true and unchanging, something that basically never happens. For scientists, a fact is something that is overwhelmingly supported by the evidence that we have available, but scientists are always willing to change what they consider to be facts if new evidence appears. For scientists, human induced climate change is a fact. For climate deniers, unless there is 100% certainty, they dismiss the fact of human induced climate change and the impending climate catastrophe as mere opinion and as an excuse not to take immediate action (Singer 2022).

Even if the world’s nations and corporations finally make deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, the risk of extreme wildfires will continue to increase. Scientists project a 14% increase in extreme wildfires by 2030, 30% by 2050, and 50% by 2100. These fires, once rare, are burning longer, hotter, and more intensely, making firefighting and fire control virtually impossible. By 2100, we will witness extreme wildfires in Arctic tundra as plant material now trapped in permafrost melts and dries. Previously wet regions like tropical rainforests in Indonesia and the Amazon will be at greater risk (UNEP 2022).

One of the reasons that the world’s dominant economic powers have treated climate change so cavalierly is that the burden of climate change falls hardest on the least developed economies and people living in countries with the smallest carbon footprint. They are not responsible for global warming, but suffer its worst consequences. The average American produces about 17.6 tons of carbon dioxide a year, almost ten times the carbon footprint of the average person living in India, although India ranks right behind the United States as the world’s third largest CO₂ emitter. Globally, the average CO₂ emission per person is 4.79 tons. In Vietnam the per capita CO₂ footprint is 2.2, the Philippines 1.22, Yemen .94, Sri Lanka .88, Pakistan .87, Bangladesh .47, Nigeria .44, Kenya and Sudan .33, Mozambique .21, Tanzania .18, Madagascar .12, Chad .11, and Mali .09. Vietnam, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Madagascar, and Mozambique each face severe coastal flooding. Yemen, Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Chad, and Mali record temperatures and desertification (Dennis, Mooney, and Kaplan, 2020; Worldometer).

Lagos, one of the fastest growing cities in the world where the population is expected to reach 25 million by 2050, is at “extreme” risk. The city is located on the Gulf of Guinea and as sea levels rise there will be coastal erosion and potable drinking water will be contaminated by seawater. Haiti will also be impacted by rising sea levels and the salinification of water needed for agriculture. Haiti is also especially vulnerable to hurricanes that will grow in intensity as the oceans warm (Princewill 2021; Climatelinks).

Manila in the Philippines is another densely populated coastal city that is already susceptible to flooding and has ineffective drainage and sanitation systems. Virtually the entire Philippines archipelago is at risk of flooding and salinification. Small island nations like Kiribati, Vanuatu and Tuvalu located in the Pacific Ocean and the Maldives and the Solomon Islands in the Indian Ocean are in danger of completely disappearing as sea levels rise (Amnesty International UK; Thomas 2020).

As temperatures heat and water dries up, wars have ripped apart countries in the Sahel region of Africa and in Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula as desertification has increased competition for already limited water supplies. These include the Darfur conflict where water scarcity pitted herders against farmers after rainfall was between 30-75% below expected levels. Fighting in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Somalia where droughts displace millions of people is often attributed religious differences, but the clashes are often rooted in underlying climate changes that pit people against each other in competition for diminishing resources. Of 20 countries located in the Sahel region, at least 12 have been plagued by ongoing warfare (Law 2019; Mulhern 2020).

Extreme heat also affects the poorest and most vulnerable populations in the United States, especially older Americans. A study published in March 2020 estimated that between 2010 and 2020 as many as 12,000 people died each year from heat-related ailments, 80% of who were older than age 60. In

Houston, Texas, where the average temperature rose by more than 3.5^o F between 1970 and 2020, sweat “pools” in the boots of Mexican-American day-laborers working outdoors in the hot and humid summer heat and many suffer from heat exhaustion. Because of what is known as the “urban heat island” phenomenon, Brownsville, Brooklyn, one of the poorest neighborhoods in New York City, has average daytime temperatures about 2^o F higher than the city average because there are few parks and trees and asphalt pavement absorbs and hold onto the heat (Shindell *et al* 2020; Mohajerani, Bakaric, and Jeffrey-Bailey 2017; Senguata 2020).

The world is already seeing climate vast migration within and between countries. Almost 8 million people from Southeast Asia have already trekked to the Middle East, Europe, and North America. Millions of Africans have abandoned Sahel farmland and migrated to coastal areas. Semiarid regions of Guatemala in Central America will grow more desert like as annual rainfall there declines by as much as 60% and the push north into the United States, El Norte, will grow larger and larger. It is estimated that by 2070, about 20% of the currently inhabitable regions of the Earth will no longer being habitable, impacting billions of people. Parts of China and India will become so hot that people will die just by going outside. As climate migration increases more affluent countries, facing their own climate issues, will erect higher barriers to keep out the desperate, denying entry because climate migrants are not considered refugees under current international law (Lustgarten 2020).

Climate cycles, both long and short-term are natural consequences of geological history, but there is no question that changes since the start of the Capitalist Industrial Revolution in the 18th century are caused by human action and unregulated economic activity. Capitalists argue that when market conditions are right, new technologies will emerge to slow or ever turn back climate change, allowing human civilization time to adjust. However, it is questionable whether a globalized capitalist system with competing nation-states and corporations or technological innovations can effectively address climate change (Singer 2022).

I am most familiar with politics in the United States where a bill proposed by President Joseph Biden to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to half of 2005 levels by 2030 was blocked in the U.S. Senate by Republicans who were joined by Democrat Joe Manchin (W.Va.) whose family business invests in power plants that use “dirty” coal, coal that is highly polluting because it contains large amounts of impurities. Meanwhile, the rise in gas prices because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine led to calls for greater fossil fuel production, further jeopardizing the environment, and in April 2022, the U.S. Interior Department announced it would sell the rights for additional oil and gas drilling on public land (Silverman 2022; Davenport 2022).

Something I find even more threatening to the future of the environment and the Earth, the United States Supreme Court, which has a rightwing anti-regulatory anti-science majority, is considering a case, *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*, that will decide whether the national or federal Environmental Protection Agency even has the legal authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and limit the climate impact of coal companies (Joselow 2022).

But increased fossil fuel production and a shift to highly polluted fuel sources did not just happen in the United States. As China’s economy slumped from the double-whammy of COVID-19 restrictions and oil and natural gas delivery interruptions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it increased the use of coal in its electrical power plants and importing of coal, including from Russia, despite international calls for a boycott. Prior to these decisions, China already was responsible for the largest increase in carbon dioxide emissions in 2021 (Sengupta 2022).

The debate in classrooms and the political realm should not be whether climate change is happening or how much it places human civilization at risk but over how societies and individuals must respond to stabilize climate and reverse the most damaging impacts and it cannot be limited to just academic discussion. In the United States, teachers are expected to promote responsible civic action as part of preparation for life in a democratic society. I suspect there are similar curriculum expectations in most if the economically developed liberal world and I would like to hear from you about what is permitted in your countries (NCSS 2013).

The alternative to climate action in the classrooms and in the streets is the iconic scene in the last frame of the 1968 movie *Planet of the Apes* where the character played by Charlton Heston breaks down after realizing that the planet they have landed on, a planet where human civilization has perished, is the Earth.

In 1967, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. posed the question “where do we go from here?” to American civil rights activists. We need to ask and answer they question about today’s climate emergency (King 1967). Our first job as teachers and academics is to LEARN and where possible to conduct research. Our second job is to TEACH about the climate emergency to help spur activism. We have a responsibility to PROPOSE climate solutions and to LOBBY for new laws. But we already know there are powerful forces aligned against us so we must be willing to join PROTESTS our selves and through our actions

REFUSE to be complicit with those who are destroying human civilization, always remembering there is NO planet B.

If you would like to read more about the Anthropocene, the climate emergency, and the science behind the impending climate catastrophe, consider my recent book, *Teaching Climate History: There is NO Planet B* by Routledge Press. I am not going to focus on the Greenhouse Gas effect and the science of climate change during this presentation, but I will if you ask follow-up questions (Singer 2022).

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Biography

Dr. Alan Singer, Ph.D., is a social studies educator and historian in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Technology at Hofstra University, Long Island, New York. He is a former New York City high school teacher and regularly blogs on *Daily Kos* and other sites on educational and political issues. Dr. Singer is a graduate of the City College of New York and earned a Ph.D. in American history from Rutgers University. His most recent book is *Teaching Climate History: There is NO Planet B* (Routledge, 2022). In the book he traces the Earth's climate history looking at natural cycles and transitions to explain the science behind impact of human caused climate change during the Industrial Era and the threat of an impending climate catastrophe. Dr. Singer is also the author of is the author of *Education Flashpoints* (Routledge, 2014), *Teaching to Learn, Learning to Teach: A Handbook for Secondary School Teachers, 2nd edition* (Routledge, 2013), *Social Studies for Secondary Schools, 4th Edition* (Routledge, 2014), *Teaching Global History, 2nd Edition* (Routledge, 2020), *New York and Slavery, Time to Teach the Truth* (SUNY, 2008), and *New York's Grand Emancipation Jubilee* (SUNY, 2018). He is the co-author of *Supporting Civics Education with Student Activism* (Routledge, 2021).

INVITED TALK

LEARNING BY WALKING. EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE OUTDOORS TO DEVELOP A (DESIGN FOR) SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET

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Abstract

The island of Madeira is attracting an increasing number of tourists from all over the world who are drawn to it by the lush diversity of its natural subtropical landscapes and ecosystems. With the local economy focusing most of its investments on the tourism sector, the island's biodiversity is already being endangered due to the increasing pressure on the balance between the cohabitation of humans and other living species (Bertolotti & Vezzani, 2021). Islands like Madeira are vulnerable territories and, as such, require the application of new methods and tools to help them transition towards regenerative and distributive systems that would make local economic growth more sustainable and ethically just towards nature, communities and ecosystems.

This talk will share some of the learning experiences we have been developing since 2018 through several international design research actions on the island, and in our teaching at the BA in Design at the University of Madeira. These include a series of exercises structured to train the designer's ability to change perspective with a post-anthropocentric sensitivity (Braidotti, 2016; Puig Della Bellacasa, 2017; Escobar, 2018; Fuad-Luke, 2022). Living and working on a peripheral and island territory allows us to observe and reflect on the challenge of sustainability and sustainable development from a unique angle. From an island perspective it is easier to think about boundaries, and therefore to visualise the aspects of circularity, interrelation and interdependence (Borgnino, 2022). In the context of design education for sustainability we consider it to be fundamental to reflect on the complexity of interrelations that exist among different natural elements and ecosystems. For this reason, our methods are based on the idea of learning outdoors in contact with nature, and bringing together people from different disciplinary backgrounds to develop, through the action of walking, a shared consciousness about challenges to a specific landscape and its communities (human, plant and animal). Finally, the talk is an opportunity to reflect with the audience on some of the challenges we encounter as (design) educators trying to switch towards a more bio-inclusive approach that would allow future generations to contemplate and build a more sustainable and just world.

Biography

Elisa Bertolotti works with storytelling, the moving image, and communication design. With a PhD and postdoc from Politecnico di Milano, she is currently teaching at the University of Madeira, Portugal. She considers that listening, poetry, having fun and collaborative making, play a central role in her work. At this time, Elisa is experimenting with ways of changing points of view in design in a post anthropocentric perspective, through forms of collaboration with different disciplinary fields, and using walking and movement outdoors as ways of learning.

Valentina Vezzani has got a PhD in Design, and a MSc in Service Design. She is Assistant Professor in Design at University of Madeira and co-founder of Paco Design Collaborative. Her research and teaching interests are in the field of strategic design, service design, sustainable development, social innovation. She believes in collaboration and participation as fundamental tools to solve today's problems, and design as a creative approach to build communication bridges.

INDEX OF CONTENTS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Teachers and Students

New perspectives on the acquisition of language skills	3
<i>Gina Aurora Necula</i>	
Teachers' mathematical content knowledge and students' progression in learning of fraction and proportion	7
<i>Natalia Karlsson, & Wiggo Kilborn</i>	
Comparison of burnout levels of educators/teachers in the pre-pandemic and pandemic periods of COVID-19	12
<i>Mónika Veronika Szigeti, & Barbara Di Blasio</i>	
Exploring selected Setswana drama texts as the principle of Ubuntu/Botho in educational context	17
<i>Bridget Mangwegape</i>	
Extracurricular activities in teaching Romanian language as a foreign language	21
<i>Georgiana Ciobotaru, & Nicoară Aurica</i>	
Empowering principals to lead and manage public schools effectively in the 21st century	26
<i>Raj Mestry, & Pierre du Plessis</i>	
The power of peer learning: Group reflection as a model for Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	31
<i>Nicola Duffly, Shaun Ferns, Irene McGinn, Nigel Vahey, & Helen Williams</i>	
Subjectivity and social recognition: Theoretical and empirical perspectives on the value of non-formal education from the perspective of young people	36
<i>Sandra Biewers Grimm, Daniel Weis, & Anita Latz</i>	
Reconfiguring teacher education in South African universities to address learner behavioural conducts in schools: Changed reality	40
<i>Newlin Marongwe, & Grasia Chisango</i>	
Teaching and learning the multiplication table by using multiplicative structures: Variation and crucial patterns	45
<i>Natalia Karlsson, & Wiggo Kilborn</i>	
Student teachers' perceptions of the assessment of video-recorded lessons during teaching practice	50
<i>Mokete Letuka, & Paseka Patric Mollo</i>	
A human rights centred historical approach to teaching science for social change	54
<i>Lilian L. Pozzer</i>	
Reflection on the use of e-portfolios during teaching practicum at a University of Technology in South Africa	59
<i>Paseka Patric Mollo, Ratokelo Willie Thabane, & Brigitte Lenong</i>	

Dealing with multiculturalism and social justice in divers social science classrooms: Perceptions and experiences of intermediate phase student teachers <i>Titus Williams</i>	63
Understanding the transition to knowledge generation environments: Examining the role of epistemic orientation and tool use <i>Brian Hand, Jee Suh, & Gavin Fulmer</i>	68
Career indecision among high school students in Casablanca: Level and form of indecision <i>Najia Amini, Youssef Sefri, & Mohamed Radid</i>	73
Community building activities in higher education during early times of COVID-19 – a case study from Hungary <i>Gabriella Velics</i>	76
The teaching identity of university professors: Its importance in pedagogical practice <i>Xochiquetzal Xanat Rodríguez Rivera, & Patricia Covarrubias-Papahiu</i>	81
Digital media and inclusive education in home-schooling <i>Ida Cortoni</i>	86
The relevance of feedback messages in communicating quality in educational classroom settings <i>Verónica Yáñez-Monje, Mariana Aillon-Neumann, & Cecilia Maldonado-Elevancini</i>	91
Training systemic family therapists related to psychosocial intervention <i>Ofelia Desatnik-Miechimsky</i>	96
Competence assessment using rubrics and social networks and bringing your own device (BYOD) <i>Beatriz Urbano, Ana María Bartolomé, Deiyalí Carpio, & Fernando González-Andrés</i>	100
Changing the teaching methodology: How much does it cost? <i>Alessandra Imperio</i>	105
Why do a master’s? Understanding the motivations of master’s students in Ireland, North and South <i>Martin Hagan, & Rose Dolan</i>	110
Use of LinkedIn endorsements in recommender systems <i>María Cora Urdaneta Ponte, Amaia Méndez-Zorrilla, & Ibon Oleagordia Ruiz</i>	115
The contribution of learning sequences design for teacher professional development in high school vocational education <i>José Pablo Zatti, & Maria da Graça Nicoletti Mizukami</i>	120
The dual role of school mentors: How to establish teaching and supervision goals? <i>Krista Uibu, & Age Salo</i>	125
 <u>Teaching and Learning</u>	
“I feel like another I has grown”: Biographical legacy of the community-engaged learning in higher education <i>Bojana Ćulum Ilić, & Brigita Miloš</i>	130
The lost art of listening <i>Shoshan Shmuelof, & Michal Hefer</i>	135

Professional identity and profession values transposed into nursing education	140
<i>Crin Marcean, & Mihaela Alexandru</i>	
Teacher-gender: Experiences of male teachers in the foundation phase in South African schools	145
<i>Jaysveree Louw, & Molaodi Tshelane</i>	
Here and now: The lasting effects of mindfulness on study-abroad participants	150
<i>Ana Fonseca Conboy, & Kevin Clancy</i>	
I'm not a robot - report on the implementation of AI in early childhood education	155
<i>Ulrike Stadler-Altmann, & Susanne Schumacher</i>	
Challenges in teaching programming	160
<i>Marcin Fojcik, Martyna Katarzyna Fojcik, Sven-Olai Høyland, & Jon Øivind Hoem</i>	
Pronunciation evaluation criteria for EFL learners	164
<i>Hana Vančová</i>	
Evaluation of pre-pandemic and pandemic education from the perspective of a university institute students	169
<i>Karel Němejc</i>	
The impact of COVID-19 on communication practices in the engineering workplace: A student-driven survey and an exploration of potential curricular ramifications	174
<i>Jeroen Lievens</i>	
How to become political? Basic concepts for exploring early childhood understanding of politics	179
<i>Gudrun Marci-Boehncke, Matthias O. Rath, Thomas Goll, & Michael Steinbrecher</i>	
Delivering innovative, online TEFL courses to foster professional development and positively impact English learners	184
<i>James Badger, & Juman Al Bukhari</i>	
Mentoring student teachers for self-directed professional learning through the use of e-portfolios during teaching practice	188
<i>Ratokelo Willie Thabane</i>	
How Rory's story cubes can improve the ability of storytelling in writing and speaking	193
<i>Barbara Zsiray, & Ildikó Koós</i>	
Develop critical thinking from freehand drawing to digital processes	198
<i>Francesca M. Ugliotti, Sara Giaveno, Davide L. D. Aschieri, & Anna Osello</i>	
Survival models for predicting student dropout at university across time	203
<i>Chiara Masci, Mirko Giovio, & Paola Mussida</i>	

POSTERS

Teachers and Students

- Teachers' opinions regarding the learning skills of Brazilian dyslexic schoolchildren** 211
Bianca Rodrigues dos Santos, Giseli Donadon Germano, & Simone Aparecida Capellini
- Teachers' understanding of critical thinking definition** 214
Ján Kaliský
- Developing an anti-oppressive professional voice as a pre-service teacher** 217
Jacquelyn Baker Sennett
- Ethical outcomes of ecological values implementation into moral education analyzed by animal respect questionnaire (ANIRE-QUE)** 220
Ján Kaliský
- Successfully navigating digital storms in Croatian education system** 223
Antonela Czwik
- Teaching and learning centers: A STEM perspective on the impact for an institution of higher education** 226
Maryam Foroozesh

Teaching and Learning

- Application in the educational context of informative and instructional intervention programs for the reading comprehension of schoolchildren from the 3rd to the 5th of elementary school** 229
Vera Lúcia Orlandi Cunha, & Simone Aparecida Capellini
- Readiness of future primary-school teachers to solve non-standard mathematical problems** 232
Martina Uhlířová, Jitka Laitochová, & Eliška Kočařová
- And then I ask the community - nursing professional identity development in virtual communities of practice** 235
Linda Hommel
- Possibilities of development of pupils' mathematical literacy** 238
Jitka Laitochová, Martina Uhlířová, & Eliška Kočařová
- A call for diversity training for children in Japan** 241
Michelle Henault Morrone, & Yumi Matsuyama
- Developing mathematical pre-literacy and robotic toys from the perspective of school practice** 244
Martina Uhlířová, Jitka Laitochová, & Dana Adedokun
- Creative writing in context of universities** 247
Angelika Weirauch
- School mathematics and digital literacy** 250
Jitka Laitochová, Martina Uhlířová, & Jiří Vaško
- Slovak university students' health in the context of trait emotional intelligence** 253
Lada Kaliská

Psychological and social risks of digitalization in adolescents <i>Blandína Šramová, & Anežka Hamranová</i>	256
Nomophobia and primary school children's emotional and personal factors <i>Lada Kaliská</i>	259
Differences in preferred value structure between adolescent boys and girls <i>Anežka Hamranová, & Blandína Šramová</i>	262

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Teachers and Students

Program notes: Educating musicians and audiences in professional music training - the TUT experience	267
<i>Hua-Hui Tseng</i>	
An innovative approach in the evaluation of service quality in a pedagogical training program	272
<i>Anastasios Athanasiadis, & Katerina Kasimatis</i>	
Development of a lesson observation schedule to document pedagogical content knowledge for nature of science	277
<i>Tarisai Chanetsa, & Umesh Ramnarain</i>	
The role of motivation and job satisfaction in the use of modern teaching models	282
<i>Anna Alajbeg, Sonja Kovačević, & Joško Barbir</i>	
The future and sustainability of meaningful education lies in the ability of seasoned teachers to cultivate novice teachers through strength-based-mentoring	287
<i>Shaun Peens</i>	
Development of a course for e-learning to the teaching of the subject analysis of variance	292
<i>Miguel Pineda, Omar García, Armando Aguilar, & Frida León</i>	
Lifelong learning and the safe use of complementary and alternative medicine	297
<i>Rute F. Meneses, Anna Rita Giovagnoli, & Maria Cristina Miyazaki</i>	
Teaching basic quality control tools by analyzing the electricity sector	302
<i>Nicolas Dominguez-Vergara</i>	
A study on the interdependent experience of college students participating in role play-centered cooperative learning	307
<i>Kim YoungSoon, & Kin Eun Hui</i>	
Narrative inquiry on the subjectivity change process of lifelong learners in psychology	311
<i>Joseph Kwon</i>	
Alternative educational activities to enhance youth's participation in social innovation in higher education: The case study of "active citizens" program by British council in a Vietnamese university	315
<i>Tran Thi Nga</i>	
English second language learners' challenges in comprehending physical sciences concepts	320
<i>Maletsatsi Shubani, & Lydia Mavuru</i>	
Use of assessment forms to embed social justice principles through digital platforms in higher education in South Africa	325
<i>Pulane Molomo</i>	
Descriptive judgment in Italian primary school evaluation	330
<i>Rosanna Tammaro, Isabella Stasio, Roberta Scarano, & Deborah Gragnaniello</i>	
Secondary school students' study ambitions and prerequisites for the study	335
<i>Josef Malach, Dana Vicherková, Martin Kolář, & Kateřina Malachová</i>	

Using a learner-based activity approach in developing science teachers' readiness in inquiry-based learning	340
<i>Nomzamo Xaba, & Aviwe Sondlo</i>	
Influence of parents' education and profession on self-assessment of secondary school students' prerequisites for studying	344
<i>Dana Vicherková, Josef Malach, & Martin Kolář</i>	
A study on student agency of college students who participated in non-face-to-face classes	349
<i>Choi SooAn, & Kim YoungSoon</i>	
Natural sciences teachers' perceived cognitive academic language proficiency (CALP) needs	354
<i>Oniccah Koketso Pila, & Lydia Mavuru</i>	
Promoting self-regulated learning in natural sciences teaching through technology integration	359
<i>Sam Ramaila</i>	
The effects of teacher education on technical vocational education and training college lecturers	364
<i>Molefi Motsoeneng</i>	
The use of improvised resources in science classrooms in South African township schools	367
<i>Sam Ramaila</i>	
Reflections by pre-service economic and management sciences teachers on their experiences of remote learning in curriculum practice	371
<i>Mochina Mphuthi, & Molaodi Tshelane</i>	
Harnessing pedagogical affordances of improvised resources in geography teaching and learning in township schools	376
<i>Sam Ramaila</i>	
Assessment of the problems that arose in the distance education during the pandemic for the students at the Greek public vocational training institutes	379
<i>Anagnostou Panagiotis, & Nikolina Nikolova</i>	
Renewing the curriculum to promote epistemic cognition in the knowledge society: Some procedural principles	383
<i>Monica Tombolato</i>	
Transference of teachers' emotional intelligence to students during adolescence	388
<i>Padmashree G S, & Mamatha H K</i>	
Exploring the role of technological process in civil engineering and construction studies at Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	393
<i>Khojane Geoffrey Mokhothu, Charles S Masoabi, & Alfred H Makura</i>	
The challenge of the initial training of mathematics teachers: Knowledge, practice, and identity	397
<i>M^a Isabel Pascual, & Juan Pedro Martín</i>	
The impact of "role play" as a teaching approach in civil technology: A case study	402
<i>Khojane Geoffrey Mokhothu</i>	

Preparing African language student teachers for the workplace in schools: A study in South Africa	405
<i>Seabata A. Mohatle</i>	
The pre-service teachers understanding of fraction and how future instructions can be improved to optimize learning	409
<i>Azwidowi Emmanuel Libusha</i>	
Enhancing <i>Batho-Pele</i> principles in the context of school administration clerks: The quest for public service excellence	414
<i>Seabata A. Mohatle, & John R. Phori</i>	
Cultivation of innovative ability of talents in job training courses from the perspective of education ecosystem	418
<i>Xiaojun Guo, Wei Jiang, Huajie Hong, Yifeng Niu</i>	
Relationship between autonomy support and students' school well-being: The mediating role of need for competence	422
<i>Sara Germani, & Tommaso Palombi</i>	
Cognitive load and question asking – the case of prospective mathematics teachers coping with historical texts	427
<i>Ilana Lavy, & Atara Shriki</i>	
An overview of Spanish students' psychological adjustment during COVID pandemic	432
<i>Renata Sarmiento-Henrique, Laura Quintanilla, Marta Fernández Sánchez, & Marta Giménez-Dasí</i>	
Qualifying mathematics teachers to design interdisciplinary learning activities of mathematics and music	437
<i>Atara Shriki, & Ilana Lavy</i>	
Research on the formation of translators' competence in universities from the perspective of knowledge management	442
<i>Shiyang Liu</i>	
Professional development needs of foundation phase teachers in identifying learners with learning barriers at primary schools	447
<i>Leetwane Anna Ntlhare, & Kananga Robert Mukuna</i>	
 <u>Teaching and Learning</u>	
The effects of asynchronous online peer-teacher feedback in a Thai EFL public speaking class	452
<i>Thanakorn Weerathai</i>	
Family involvement in ECE through the FIQ (family involvement questionnaire) in Spain	457
<i>Andrea Otero-Mayer, Consuelo Vélaz-de-Medrano, & Eva Expósito-Casas</i>	
Literacy, language and linguistics: Structuring English teaching programs in rural communities	461
<i>Diane Boothe</i>	
Critical thinking within the informatics textbook of the second class of the Greek lyceum	465
<i>Ioannis Oikonomidis, & Chryssa Sofianopoulou</i>	

What about “the” scientific method? A survey applied to middle and secondary geoscience teachers	470
<i>Clara Vasconcelos, & Tiago Ribeiro</i>	
Sustainable development goals & violence prevention in hospitals: Contributions from psychology students	475
<i>Rute F. Meneses, Ana Sani, & Carla Barros</i>	
The needs of women-mothers with chronic mental illness in the field of shared childcare – a health literacy research study	480
<i>Petra Hájková, Lea Květoňová, & Vanda Hájková</i>	
Higher education students’ knowledge and opinion about geoethics and sustainable development	484
<i>Alexandra Cardoso, & Clara Vasconcelos</i>	
Fostering young agronomists’ competencies through experiential learning: A pilot research in the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece	489
<i>Ioanna G. Skaltsa, Katerina Kasimatis, & Alex Koutsouris</i>	
Teaching English with a chilly format: The graphic novel!	494
<i>Rosanna Tammaro, Anna D’Alessio, Anna Iannuzzo, & Alessia Notti</i>	
Bridging language gaps of L2 (second language) teachers by optimizing their self-awareness	499
<i>Marie J. Myers</i>	
Peculiar nutritional habits in Roald Dahl works: A storytelling intervention on promoting preschoolers’ dietary self-regulation	504
<i>Christina Kalaitzi</i>	
Sport and performance psychology in secondary education	509
<i>Austin Rickels, & Matthew Montebello</i>	
Correlation between passive rest and the appearance of fatigue in a group of pupils from Botosani county	514
<i>Adriana Albu, Alexandra Ioana Crăcană, & Florin Dima</i>	
Effects of involvement load in extensive reading on lexical relations among already known L2 words	519
<i>Noriko Aotani, & Shin’ya Takahashi</i>	
Genius loci: The right concept for elementary education?	524
<i>Jan Musil</i>	
Emotional awareness of elementary students. Analysis of needs and intervention proposals	528
<i>Gemma Filella, Felicidad Barreiro, Jon Berastegui, Maria José Méndez, María Priego-Ojeda, & Agnès Ros-Morente</i>	
The impact of scientific language on the teaching and learning of grade 7 natural sciences	533
<i>Mzwakhe Msipha, & Lydia Mavuru</i>	
Secondary teachers perspectives on free online programs to promote student engagement	538
<i>Samantha F. Junkin</i>	
Assessing e-portfolio acceptability in an online course	543
<i>Nihal Ouherrou, Margarita Auli-Giraldo, & Stéphanie Mailles Viard Metz</i>	

Pedagogical evaluation phases – lesson study survey <i>Rita Sapine Benyei, & Maria Csernoch</i>	548
The influence of online formative assessment in Euclidean geometry on the attitudes of grade 11 learners <i>Janine Alexandra Bouwer, & Nokuthula Nkosi</i>	553
Pre-service teachers’ conceptions of the integration of socioscientific issues in life sciences teaching <i>Lydia Mavuru</i>	558
Speaking in a language versus speaking a language in communicative competence attainment <i>Motsamai Edward Qhobosheane, & Pule Phindane</i>	563
Philosophical games in primary education: An interdisciplinary approach <i>Maria Anagnostou, Anna Lazou, Enea Mele, & Aphrodite Ktena</i>	567
Investigating challenges faced by intermediate phase educators in the teaching of reading in English FAL. A case study of selected primary schools in Nylstroom circuit <i>Zodwa Kodi, & Pule Phindane</i>	572

WORKSHOPS

Teachers and Students

How to develop digital citizenship education? – a workshop for foreign language educators 579

Ana Raquel Simões, Christiane Lütge, Lavinia Bracci, Fiora Biaggi, Isabelle Thaler, & Mariana Coronha

AUTHOR INDEX 583

