

Reflections on Multiculturalism and Education – Dr. Richard Race

Keynote for the Institute for Educational and Social Equity

Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh, Thursday May 2nd, 2024.

This keynote reflects upon issues in relation to Multiculturalism and Education and is divided into four parts. The first part relates to the concept and phenomenon of multiculturalism and why it is still applicable in the 2020s after political attacks and the ‘death’ of multiculturalism in the 2010s (Joppke, 2017; Abu-Laben et al, 2023). I then explain my advocacy of the challenges and possibilities of multicultural education (Banks, 2020; Baptiste and Haynes Writer, 2021). The second part relates to how multiculturalism and multicultural education can be applied to other education areas, focusing on my research and publications and in particular the 100 Voices X 1,000 words methodology I am currently using and applying for an edited collection on decolonising curriculum (Race, 2022a; 2022b). The third part of this keynote will reflect on the third edition of *Multiculturalism and Education*, its methodology and why examining Fundamental British Values, Prevent and Transformative Pedagogy allow the concept of multiculturalism and its many applications to education and professional practice to breath and evolve. I underline that multicultural issues around cultural diversity are very much alive and visible in all social spaces (Race, 2023). The final part of this keynote focuses on the comparative method beyond England, not only thinking of a Scottish audience but an international one within and beyond the United Kingdom. In this sense, I will focus on the differences between English and Welsh education policies on national curriculum and the need within a multicultural framework to move beyond the ‘national’ to the ‘international’ in relation to what is taught to our children in schools, colleges and universities (Watkins and Noble, 2021). These issues draw on the ongoing research and forthcoming publications I’m co-authoring with Dr. Susan Davies at Cardiff Metropolitan University in Wales. In conclusion, I reflect upon what next for Multiculturalism. The concept still matters and is still important when reflecting on integration and assimilation in relation to policy-making and professional practice (Favell, 2022). Professional practice and the science of education must continue to focus on cultural diversity and anti-racist pedagogy. For teachers and lecturers, this must come through awareness and diversity training through continuing professional development (Race, 2024).

Biography

Dr. Richard Race is currently Visiting Professor in Education at Sapienza University in Rome, Italy. For more information on his current research and publications (see below), email – richard.race2022@gmail.com

Selected References from the Author.

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