

EERA Sociologies of
Education Network
SocEd Thursdays
webinar series
Spring 2024.



To warm up to the 2024 ECER conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, the EERA Sociologies of Education network is organizing a webinar series linked to the theme of the conference and the network's call, *Social Imaginaries of the Future: The making and unmaking of certainty in education*.

Webinar Programme

1. Professor Kristiina Brunila (University of Helsinki): A Critical Look in the Educational Aims and Imperatives in the Future-proof Era
Time: Thursday, March 14th 2024. 2PM-3:15PM CET
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/oGYZTrLSc5oGhY5D6>
2. Dr Elke Van dermijnsbrugge (NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences): Beyond Hope and Despair: The Radical Imagination as a Collective Practice for Uprising
Time: Thursday, April 11th 2024. 2PM-3:30 PM CET
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/5BSUe4cwaXxsmd2y6>
3. Professor Rachel Brooks (University of Surrey): Higher education timescapes: temporal understandings of students and learning
Time: Thursday, May 2nd 2024. 2PM-3:15 CET
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/yC89wbmSi9trpRQY8>
4. Professor Keri Facer (University of Bristol): Possibility and the Temporal Imagination
Time: Thursday, May 16th 2024. 2PM-3:15 CET
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/VqSoNUdrHWFnRQdL7>

Detailed programme

1. Professor Kristiina Brunila (University of Helsinki): A Critical Look in the Educational Aims and Imperatives in the Future-proof Era

Thursday, March 14th 2024. 2PM-3:15PM CET

This presentation draws on insights from a four-year inquiry within the global FuturEd research initiative. It explores the shift in education governance towards individualised and personalised learning strategies, aimed at both meeting future requirements and effectively managing the present. The focus of my presentation is to present key insights that stress the imperative of shaping specific types of future-oriented learning individuals. Influenced by economic trends, the expansion of global stakeholder networks, and advancement in the life and behavioral sciences, these shifts are reshaping the objectives, content, and methods of education in significant ways. Through an examination of current and emerging trends in education governance, my argument proposes a new conceptual tool: precision education governance. This tool enables us to make these significant changes visible and allows for critical engagement when necessary.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/oGYZTrLSc5oGhY5D6>

2. Dr. Elke Van dermijnsbrugge (NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences): Beyond Hope and Despair: The Radical Imagination as a Collective Practice for Uprising

Discussant: Prof. Dr. Felicitas Macgilchrist (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg)

Thursday, April 11th 2024. 2PM-3:30 PM CET

In this session, we actively engage in alternative world-making through the exploration of Education for Uprising. We investigate the concepts of hope, despair and the radical imagination, driven by the following questions:

Can we exist beyond the binaries of hope and despair, two key concepts that drive educational practices? And if so, what does this place look like?

What is the radical imagination and what are the conditions for it to be put to work in educational spaces?

First, education is explored as a hyperobject that is owned, imagined and practiced collectively. The semiotic square is introduced as a heuristic tool to illustrate the limitations of the binary opposition between hope and despair, and allows for an exploration of what is possible when these binaries are being set aside. The radical imagination then, is described as a collective practice that is radical in the sense that alternative social forms can always be imagined once we acknowledge that every social form is the result of the collective imagination. Finally, we explore conceptual as well as practical ideas and examples that underpin Education for Uprising which is understood as the emergence of micro-political, autonomous spaces of direct action where community, solidarity and self-organization are key principles.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/5BSUe4cwaXxsmd2y6>

3. Professor Rachel Brooks (University of Surrey): Higher education timescapes: temporal understandings of students and learning

Thursday, May 2nd 2024. 2PM-3:15 CET

This talk will draw on data from six European countries (Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, Poland and Spain) to explore the higher education timescapes inhabited by students. Despite arguments that degree-level study has become increasingly similar across Europe – because of global pressures and also specific initiatives such as the Bologna Process and the creation of a European Higher Education Area – I will show how such timescapes differed in important ways, largely by nation. These differences are then explained in terms of: the distinctive traditions of higher education still evident across the continent; the particular mechanisms through which degrees are funded; and the nature of recent national-level policy activity. The analysis thus speaks to debates about Europeanisation, as well as how we theorise the relationship between time and place.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/yC89wbmSi9trpRQY8>

4. Professor Keri Facer (University of Bristol): Possibility and the Temporal Imagination

Thursday, May 16th 2024. 2PM-3:15 CET

How do our temporal frames and orientations to rhythm shape our perception of possibility in the present? How can we build dialogue across temporal difference? In this talk, Keri will discuss how time, timing, rhythm and temporal framing play critical roles defining social problems, structuring solutions, producing injustice and intensifying conflict. Drawing on a series of examples related to climate change and ecological transitions, she will make the case that a ‘temporal imagination’ can offer new routes to understanding and framing complex situations and opening up pathways to mutual engagement and dialogue. She will also explore this issue from a pedagogical perspective – what might it take to foster a temporal imagination both in our research and in our communities.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/VqSoNUdrHWFnRQdL7>