







BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

ATEE Spring Conference 2024

Teacher education research in Europe: trends, challenges, practices and perspectives

Edited by Nicole Bianquin and Francesco Magni

May 29th - June 1st, 2024

S. Agostino, 2 - Città Alta, Bergamo, Italy







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NOTES ON THE ITALIAN DEBATE ABOUT THE TRAINING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE FIRST TWO DECADES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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In the first two decades of the twentieth century, the debate on the training of primary school teachers became very lively in some European countries: it started from a unanimous criticism of the initial training pathway, which was considered inadequate for many reasons.

In Italy, the animated discussion on this subject was set in a particular framework: on the one hand, the first teachers' associations were being formed that intended to play the role of interlocutor towards institutional actors; on the other hand, Italian pedagogical reflection was influenced by Herbartism: the main exponent of this pedagogical position was, among others, Luigi Credaro, first coordinator of Unione Nazionale Magistrale, and then Minister of Public Education.

Moreover, some interesting educational and didactic experiments saw the light in those years, partly also connected with stimuli from abroad: for example, Salvoni's school, the Rinnovata Pizzigoni, and Montessori's Children's Houses. These experimentations were characterized by innovative solutions concerning the design of spaces, materials and teaching methods, and required a radical renewal of the initial training of teachers: it was to focus on the intertwining of theory and practice, on didactic internships, on training in observation and the acquisition of a scientific habitus.

The debate on the initial training of primary teachers was, therefore, affected in Italy by this particular lively climate and followed lines of reflection also present in other European countries, such as England or France, albeit in some ways going in different directions: the questions concerned the cultural versus professional training of teachers, internships in schools, indispensable subjects, and the duration of the training course. This contribution proposes an in-depth examination of some of the voices and themes of this debate through an analysis of the pages of one of the most popular Italian pedagogical journals at the time, La Coltura Popolare.

Keywords: Teacher's training in the early 20th century; History of school in the 20th century; History of teachers in Italy.

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