

European Urban Boundaries

25 March 2014

Education and Social Research Institute – Manchester Metropolitan University

The economic crisis that hit Europe in the last five years is provoking significant changes in the European model. Consequences of this crisis are visible in the increasing gap between Northern and Southern European countries, the emergence of tendencies and governments that support nationalist ideals and restrictions to immigration, the closure of the free circulation of people, and the aggravation of the gap between rich and poor, and among ethnic identities. Such changes pose crucial problems to the European model for Education, particularly in what concerns the education of local and marginalised European communities. The European Urban Boundaries project (EUB) seeks to investigate these educational challenges across a set of heterogeneous European countries. It operates within a model of critical participatory research that brings together local communities, stakeholders, local and national organisations and universities.

In this seminar, a group of people involved in the design of the project will present and discuss their ideas and the work developed in three of the six countries that compound the project – Portugal, UK and Germany. In the morning, Mônica Mesquita, principal investigator of the original Urban Boundaries based in Portugal, will present the project and delineate the contours of the application that the project team is preparing to be submitted to the European Horizon—2020 programme. Afterwards, Rhetta Moran will present the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Participatory Action Research (RAPAR), the UK organisation involved in the EUB. In the afternoon there will be a round table with people from different backgrounds and expertises (arts, literature, education, contemporary theory), who are involved in the project as researchers and technicians.

We wish to invite all of you interested in this problematic to discuss ideas and future collaborations. The seminar is open to all, but limited to 30 participants. If you have interest in participating, please confirm your attendance by sending an email to a.pais@mmu.ac.uk.

TIMETABLE

10 – 10.15	Introduction to the seminar by Alexandre Pais, Education and Social Research Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University
10.15 – 11.15	Lecture by Mônica Mesquita, Institute of Education, University of Lisbon (followed by discussion)
11.15 – 12.00	Lecture by Rhetta Moran, RAPAR (followed by discussion)
12.00 – 12.30	Lunch
12.30 – 14.00	Round table with: Natalie Van Gaalen (Phd candidate, MMU), Sahera Parveen (Phd candidate and transcultural technician, RAPAR), Hauke Straehler-Pohl (Researcher, Freie University, Berlin), Sophie Gardner (RAPAR's artist-in-residence), Alexandre Pais (researcher, MMU), Mônica Mesquita (researcher, University of Lisbon)
14.00 – 14.30	Open discussion and closing

VENUE

MMU at Didsbury, 799 Wilmslow Road (more details will be given later)