

## **ISCHE Pre-Conference Workshop, Istanbul 2015**

### **Title:**

The Concept of the “Transnational”: Approaches – Research Areas – Challenges

### **Convenors:**

Eugenia Roldán Vera and Eckhardt Fuchs

### **Rationale:**

Transnational history has arrived at the field of history of education. Within the past few years a rising number of publications, including articles in *Paedagogica Historica*, have been investigating the travel, reception and adaptation of educational ideas and practices. This reflects a paradigmatic shift that historical scholarship has been facing lately. The globalization process has opened new perspectives for research that go beyond the traditional historical narratives mainly based on the nation state. The ever increasing volume, channels and speed of transnational motion of ideas, goods, and people has driven scholars to find new ways to conceptualize historical actors’ movements and global networks. However, transnational approaches vary, there is no consensus yet about their theoretical contexts and appropriate methods and there has not been yet a thoroughly and systematic reflection on the challenges of transnational history to historical investigation in general (for the most recent attempt see the edition by Popkevitiz [2013]). In addition, transnational history is a controversially debated issue within the overall field of history of education – proponents and opponents have not had the chance yet to exchange their views at the same stage.

This workshop aims at addressing transnational history from a conceptual point of view taking the above mentioned issues into account. Conceptual history and historical semantics, diverse fields in themselves (e.g. Koselleck; Skinner), investigate the history of terms and of semantic fields paying particular attention to the contexts in which concepts and so-called “languages” are coined, their varied uses by different actors, their changes over time, and, more recently, the ways in which they have been “translated” into other contexts. With regard to the concepts “transnational/international” we would like to discuss them by looking at their history in different intellectual contexts, their theoretical foundations, and their usage by historians. This includes a reflection about the various methods applied to transnational research, and the challenges the “transnational” concept poses on the field of history of education. Altogether, the proposed pre-conference will try to problematize the concept “transnational”, contribute to a more systematic and theoretically well-founded reflection on this approach for the history of education, and at the same time, to its operationalization.

**ISCHE Context:**

The pre-conference follows up activities within ISCHE. Eckhardt Fuchs was one of the convenors of the Standing Working Group on Cross-Cultural Influences in the History of Education (2005-2009). In addition, roundtables on international and transnational history were organized at the ISCHE conferences in Amsterdam 2010 and Geneva 2012. In 2010 and 2013 two workshops on transnational relations with the focus on colonial education took place in Kolkata and Cape Town under the umbrella of ISCHE. In 2015 ISCHE will start a new book series “Global Educational Histories: Networks, Circulations and Actors”.

**Structure:**

The sessions will be introduced by 15 min presentations. The presentations will be sent to commentators in advance. Each commentary will be about 10 min long. The discussion is based on the introductory presentation, the comments and the reading material that will be distributed to all participants in advance. The deadline for submissions for giving a presentation on either “Case Studies” or “Challenges” or for a commentary is 31 January 2015. Please send your CV and list of publications to Eugenia Roldán Vera ([eroldan@cinvestav.mx](mailto:eroldan@cinvestav.mx)) or Eckhardt Fuchs ([fuchs@gei.de](mailto:fuchs@gei.de)). We would like to ask those who only want to participate to register with us since the number of participants is limited. A publication is planned.

**Agenda:**

14:00 Introduction	Eugenia Roldán Vera (CINVESTAV, Mexico) - Eckhardt Fuchs (Georg Eckert Institute, Germany)
Session 1: Concept(s) 14:10 – 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations: Eckhardt Fuchs/ Eugenia Roldán Vera</li> <li>2 Commentaries</li> </ul>
15:40 – 15:50	Break
Session 2: Case Studies 15:50 - 17:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Presentations</li> <li>1 Commentary</li> </ul>
17:20 – 17:30	Break
Session 3: Challenges 17:30 – 19:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Presentations</li> <li>1 Commentary</li> </ul>