



Palais Wilson, which houses the Rousseau Institute and the International Bureau of Education from 1937 to 1975

International conference

Geneva, a platform of 20th century educational internationalism

Geneva, 14-15 September 2017

University of Geneva | Uni-Mail

International conference organized by the Archives Institut Rousseau and ÉRHISE (Research Team of Social History of Education), University of Geneva

A part of “Heloise” - an Association member of the French Federation of European Cultural Routes (FFICE)

Geneva had a distinctive intellectual experience during the 20th century, as a place of resurgence and re-appropriation of the modern ideal of education: to learn more about children in order to educate them to freedom.

Scholars and educators, founders of the Rousseau Institute, the International Bureau of Education (IBE), the International School (Ecolint) and other international institutions, supported by associations of practitioners, contributed for decades to develop scientific knowledge and promote educational reforms tending to equal access to education. Place of invention and exchange, Geneva was a center of educational culture whose creativity was guided by the desire to build a better world.



The city's heritage bears the memory and imprints of those actors (Marie Butts, Germaine Duparc, Édouard Claparède, Adolphe Ferrière, Jean Piaget, Pedro Rosselló, in particular). Supported by multiple networks, they all contributed to the diffusion of educational sciences and education in Europe and all over the world, where similar initiatives emerged and enriched each other, sparking exchanges and controversies across cultural, geographical, and disciplinary boundaries.

The characteristic of the Geneva educational spirit, its historical heritage and memory, is to transcend the territory of the city. Driven by a universalist and pacifist ambition, this spirit is expressed through institutions, connections and circulations, thus unfolding as a platform of educational internationalism: pacifists leagues, feminist associations, teacher federations, child saving movements, networks dedicated to international assistance and intellectual cooperation ...

This conference will aim to identify and question this specificity of Geneva, leading to a reflection on the conditions of its integration as part of an Itinerary of European educators (to be developed later in collaboration with local tourism boards and partners). The attraction of Geneva, especially during the interwar period, will be discussed, positioning the city in relation to other epicenters, which connect individual and collective actors, as parts and parcels of an educational internationalism. The trajectories and ideas of these educational actors will be studied, in order to identify the impacts of these interconnections on the evolution of an individual educator, a group, a thought, or a specific educational practice.

Call for Papers

Paper proposals will focus on people, sites or significant themes related to the general theme of Geneva, as a platform of education internationalism in the 20th century. The challenge is to identify any actor, place, movement, association, or cause that was part of educational reform with a distinct universalist dimension. Through various examples and archives, the papers will show how these elements of Geneva cultural heritage may be used in order to weigh the role of this city in the history of pedagogical invention and in the gradual construction of a “Europe des pédagogues”.



IBE emblem: children bearing the world's future

1 / Figures of the European pedagogy and networks with which they interact:

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Albertine Necker de Saussure and later during the 20th century, Helena Antipoff, Mina Audemars & Louise Lafendel, Charles Baudouin, Maria Boschetti-Alberti, Pierre Bovet, Marie Butts, Marguerite Champendal, Édouard Claparède, Emile Jaques-Dalcroze, Alice Descoedres Robert Dottrens Germaine Duparc, Adolphe Ferriere, Julien Fontègne Albert Malche, Jean Piaget, Clara Ragaz, Pedro Rosselló, Alina Szeminska Georges Thelin, Leon Walther. Including their respective networks and collaborators around the world.
- Actors of the New Education, Educational sciences, International Education (students, teachers, etc.).
- Educators who referred to the Geneva initiatives and have enriched them.

2 / Important locations in Geneva and worldwide:

- Institutions: Rousseau Institute / School of Educational Sciences; International Bureau of Education; Experimental School of the Mail; International School; Villa Piaget ...
- Archival Heritage: Archives Institut Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Jean Piaget Archives, Archives of the State of Geneva, League of Nations and United Nations archives, interdisciplinary research community on education and childhood ...
- Connecting educators and / or institutions with the spirit of Geneva: International School of New York; School Beauvallon; Company Pestalozzi & Foundation Helena Antipoff in Brazil; Instituto Piaget, Escola Superior de Educação (Portugal); Pedagogical Institute in Warsaw (Poland); A Családi Iskola (Hungary)...

3 / Themes establishing connections (through Geneva) to build a European itinerary of educators:

- Educational congress linked to the League of Nations, Société pédagogique romande, International Federation of Teachers' Associations (IFIA), World Federation of Education Association (WFEA).
- Traces of international educational heritage in Geneva: First Declaration of Children's Rights, Eglantyne Jebb's tombstone, League of Nations and related institutions: International Labour Office; Palais des Nations ; Palais Wilson; International School, etc.
- Magazines, associations and conferences related to Geneva, which contributed to the diffusion of the new Education and International Education in Europe.
- Relay in Europe of the “Spirit of Geneva” and educational internationalism: International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation at Paris; UNESCO sites; International Institute for Educational cinematography (IICE) of Rome; International organisations.

Those interested in presenting a paper as part of this international conference are invited to write an abstract in English or French, including a research issue and related questions (ca. 300 words), mentioning function, institutional affiliation, complete address.

To be sent before 15 November 2016 aijjr@unige.ch. Website: <http://www.unige.ch/archives/aijjr/>

For details of application: Rita.Hofstetter@unige.ch or Frederic.Mole@unige.ch