

Session 26: Uneven geographies of education and learning in a changing Europe

proposed by

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Geographies of education and learning have attracted a lot of attention in geographical research in the past years. This can be partially explained by the fundamental transformations in the governance of national education systems throughout Europe, e.g. for demographic reasons, and a distinct process of neoliberalisation, that slowly introduces market mechanisms of competition and entrepreneurship to schools and other educational institutions. These processes of restructuring might eventually lead to increasing social segregation and spatial polarisation between educational institutions on the one hand, and their surrounding communities on the other. In this perspective the session invites contributions relating to processes of spatial reorganisation within national education systems at different scales. We especially invite presentations concerning the following issues:

- Educational restructuring and school closures in rural and remote areas due to demographic change, including new forms of school organisation;
- Spatial effects of new market mechanisms within public school systems;
- Processes of decentralisation as part of the new educational governance and their outcomes;
- Redefinition of the relation of schools to their respective environments and communities (“educational landscapes”);
- Geographically uneven challenges of education systems within Europe;
- Viable alternatives to neoliberal education regimes on European, national, and local scales.