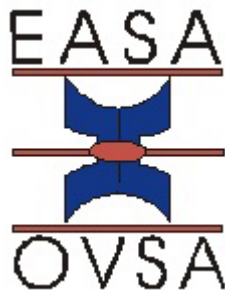


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The neo-liberal economic revolution and education

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For the past 30 years the creed of neo-liberal economics has spread around the globe, affecting virtually all human endeavour in every societal sphere. It has also become a dominant shaping force guiding education and education systems. The neo-liberal economic revolution poses profound questions to which the entire education system in all its various manifestations needs to respond in a reasoned and critical manner. Some of the aspects of education that are challenged are the perceived objective of education, ways of providing education, educational leadership and management strategies and practices, the entire management structure of education, accountability to stakeholders and role players, modes of financing education, educational legislation and policy, curricula, and regimes of assessment in education. The themes that the neo-liberal revolution has introduced into education are, inter alia, the profit motive, a culture of performance management and measurement, and regimes of quality control. At the level of education scholarship, the neo-liberal economic revolution has put in place a new research agenda privileging themes such as quality, quality control, and efficiency, while displacing other themes such as equality in education, or equal education opportunities, which, for decades prior to the neo-liberal economic revolution, were central concerns in education scholarship. This special issue offers a forum to scholars from all educational disciplines to investigate, analyse and assess the impact of neo-liberal economics on education.

Recommended Sources for Further Reading for Interested Contributors

- Ball SJ 2012. *Global education Inc.: New policy networks and the neo-liberal imaginary*. Oxon, England: Routledge.
- Press F, Woodrow C, Logan H & Mitchell L 2018. Can we belong in a neo-liberal world? Neo-liberalism in early childhood education and care policy in Australia and New Zealand. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 19(4):328–339. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1463949118781909>
- Van der Walt JL 2017. The current business and economics driven discourse and education: Perspectives from around the world. In N Popov, C Wolhuter, J Kalin, J Ogunleye, E Niemczyk & O Chigisheva (eds). *Current business and economics driven discourse and education: Perspectives from around the world* (Vol. 15). Sofia, Bulgaria: Bulgarian Comparative Education Society. Available at <https://bc-es-conference.org/onewebmedia/BCES.Conference.Book.2017.Vol.15.Full.Text.pdf>. Accessed 31 December 2018.

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