

ANNEX

Invitation to participate in the “*Transformative Learning Future Orientations Study*”

Dear colleagues,

We are reaching out to you as the editors of the journal *Adult Education: Critical Issues* (AECI) to invite you to participate in the Transformative Learning Future Orientations Study. The next issue of AECI will be dedicated to this.

The community of transformative learning scholars has highlighted the theoretical exploration as a "theory in progress", consisting of a continuous development and elaboration of the perspectives it includes. Some of these perspectives converge and others diverge from each other. A discussion began in 2000s by Baumgartner, Caffarella, Cranton, Gunnlaugson, Merriam, Mezirow, Taylor and, recently, by Eschenbacher, Finnegan, Fleming, Higgins, Hoggan, Hoggan-Kloubert, Kasl, Kokkos, Nicolaidis, and others. However, until today, an initiative has not been undertaken to compile the views of all the key persons in the field.

Although there is a general agreement among the scholars of Transformative Learning (TL) that its defining characteristic is the aim of deep transformation, and that the related theoretical views constitute a living theory, there has not been a thorough collective discussion about how these concepts are understood. Therefore, it would be useful to explore the perspectives of scholars, to see how the orientations of the theoretical field of TL are shaped in contemporary social, cultural, political, and educational contexts.

Thus, we took the initiative to launch an open, exploratory dialogue, to exchange the views on the above key issues. After all, this is the main purpose of our journal³, which focuses on issues such as:

- redefining or critically assessing problematic theories, theoretical approaches or social phenomena;
- questioning beliefs or practices that are taken for granted;
- exploring a variety of different, alternative, controversial or opposing views;
- exploration of misunderstood or underestimated considerations that are nevertheless interesting and provocative.

Our initiative is addressed to the members of ITLA community who have an institutional role within it: ITLA's Mission Circle and Leadership Circle, the editors of the *Journal of Transformative Education*, the reviewers of *Jack Mezirow Living Theory*

³ Members of the Scientific Committee of the journal include thinkers from the international Transformative Learning and Adult Education communities, such as Loretta Fabri, Monica Fedeli, Ted Fleming, Fergal Finnegan, Chad Hoggan, Tetyana Hoggan-Kloubert, Timothy Ireland, Elisabeth Kasl, Randee Lawrence, Peter Mayo, Victoria Marsick, Aliko Nicolaidis, Katarina Popovic, Maura Striano, Kathleen Taylor, and Marguerite Welsh, as well as all key Greek thinkers in the field.

of *Transformative Learning Award* and *Patricia Cranton Distinguished Transformative Learning Dissertation Award*, the Conveners of the ESREA's *Transformative & Emancipatory Adult Education* network, and the representatives of the organizations affiliated with ITLA, the Italian Transformative Learning Network, and the Hellenic Adult Education Association.

This open, reflective dialogue will be hosted in the 5th issue of AECI journal in January 2024.

The questions around which we propose to revolve this dialogue and the considerations to be presented, are:

1. What are the elements that constitute the identity of the theoretical field of Transformative Learning?
2. What supports and what hinders the formation and development of this field?
3. How do you understand the concept of "living theory of TL"?
4. How do you perceive the "deep change" that Transformative Learning can bring about?
5. What would you propose to enhance the progress of living theory of TL?
6. What is the position of Mezirow's "Transformation Theory", as well as other theoretical perspectives, within this process?

We invite you to share your perspective on the above questions by sending a **1500-2000 word essay by 15 December 2024** following the guidelines in <https://ejournals.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/aeci/information/authors>.

Your essay should follow a **simplified structure**:

- *Title (of manuscript)*
- *Name + Affiliation of the writer*
- *Short Introduction*
- *Body of your views, making sure you clearly answer the 6 questions set above (please use the numbers of the questions as we send them)*
- *Concluding thoughts*
- *References are not mandatory*

Your contribution is highly valuable, due to your significant expertise in Transformative Learning. It will be an honor for our journal to host your viewpoint.

Best regards,

The Editorial Team of AECI

Alexis Kokkos (Hellenic Open University), Editor-in-Chief

Dimitris Vergidis (University of Patras), Consulting Editor

Thanasis Karalis (University of Patras) & Katerina Kedraka (Democritus University of Thrace), Editors

Natassa Raikou (University of Thessaly), Review Editor