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World Education Leadership Symposium - Online Conference 2021 | Info-Email 10 (September 2021) | WELSmain, September 28-30, 2021 3pm CEST

## **First half day, September 28, 2021 (3 pm CEST): Post COVID-19, Education and School**

**Interesting keynotes with dear colleagues and friends: Alma Harris and Michelle Suzette Jones as well as Dennis Shirley and Andy Hargreaves**

Almost a year and a half of the Corona crisis lie behind us. During this highly demanding period, a variety of challenges have been revealed, but opportunities have also been seized to further develop the quality of education and schools. Where do we stand today? What is needed now

to roll back pressures, address educational disadvantages, and create a 'new normal' for schools and education?

The first half-day of WELSmain 2021 will address these questions and more. Three keynotes will be given:

- Prof. Dr. Dennis Shirley and Prof. Dr. Andy Hargreaves, Boston College, Massachusetts, USA: Five Paths of Student Engagement – Positive Ways Forward Beyond the Pandemic
- Prof. Dr. Alma Harris and Dr. Michelle Suzette Jones, Swansea University, England: The Future Leadership Challenge – Commitment with Compassion
- Prof. Dr. Stephan Huber, University of Teacher Education Zug, Switzerland: COVID-19, Education and Schooling - Lessons Learnt from the Sub-Studies of the School Barometer and Recommendations for a Multi-Level Strategy

After the keynotes, participants will be involved very actively and discuss current issues, trends, and challenges from their countries and from different perspectives of practice, administration, research, and support systems.

In the final plenary session, results of these roundtables will be presented.

The day will end with a virtual aperitif and the opportunity for a "meet and greet" like being on a real reception. Wander around and see whom you know and with whom you would like to network.

**Keynote of Prof. Dr. Dennis Shirley and Prof. Dr. Andy Hargreaves, Boston College, Massachusetts, USA: Five Paths of Student Engagement - Positive Ways Forward Beyond the Pandemic**



Engagement is the new frontier of student achievement. Across the world, between a third and a quarter of students say they are bored. In secondary schools, similar proportions say they have no meaning or purpose in life. But there's more to getting students engaged than just battling boredom by trying harder, or using our imaginations as educators.

This keynote identifies five forms of disengagement and looks at how to defeat them. The truth is that when it comes to disengagement, we - teachers, leaders, policymakers and university professors - too often are part of the problem. But the good news is that the COVID-19 pandemic has compelled all of us to look more closely at what have been doing and to create new paths of student engagement. In this dynamic keynote address you will learn just what those five paths are and how to make the most of them in practical ways that you can start using in your schools and systems immediately.

For further information as to the Five Paths of Student Engagement by Dennis Shirley and Andy Hargreaves, click [here](#).

**Keynote of Prof. Dr. Alma Harris and Dr. Michelle Suzette Jones, Swansea University, England: The Future Leadership Challenge – Commitment with Compassion**



This keynote focuses on future leadership and what we know about changing leadership practices globally, because of COVID. It draws upon recent international evidence to highlight how leadership is changing in schools and across education systems. The session underlines that there is the opportunity, going forward, for leaders to reset the dial on what matters most, while ensuring compassion for self and others.

**Keynote of Prof. Dr. Stephan Huber, University of Teacher Education Zug, Switzerland: COVID-19, Education and Schooling - Lessons Learnt from the Sub-Studies of the School Barometer and Recommendations for a Future of Education**



The COVID-19 crisis poses a great challenge for all actors in the education and school context. There is a high level of appreciation and recognition by parents regarding schools as an institution and the work of teachers. The field of digitalisation is experiencing an enormous upswing. Learning with and through technology, as well as about

technology, is in high demand. Requirements for distance learning and digitalisation as an opportunity for differentiation concepts. Blended learning concepts offer advantages for all actors in dealing with the pandemic in the longer term (and beyond). Overall, it can be assumed that children could drift further apart in their development. In other words, differences in quality will not only become more apparent, but they will increase over time, at all levels/among all actors: among students, the teachers or in the classroom and in schools as a whole. We argue that learning is more than simply acquiring information and learning lessons. It is also about motivational and, above all, emotional aspects. Looking ahead, we promote a specific strategy in advancing the school system, that is the ISO strategy: innovate, sustain, optimise.

From the findings of the various quantitative and qualitative studies of the national and international monitoring of the current situation in the context of Responsible Science by the School-Barometer Stephan Huber derives 10 recommendations for a Future of Education:

1. Education strategy with a focus on education quality and compensation of differences or scissor effects
2. Understanding education holistically
3. Using digitalization pedagogically: Learning WITH technology for individualization and interactivity and Learning ABOUT technology to understand and use technology in an enlightened way
4. Better support for groups under pressure
5. Intelligent compensation and target-oriented and demand-oriented investment
6. A good balance of standardization and flexibility in the decision-making practices of the different levels of the system
7. Acting now, but step by step
8. Aligning the strategy with education and social and pedagogical premises
9. Testing, but only as part of an overall strategy
10. Promoting educational landscapes

For further information to the School-Barometer, click [here](#).

We are looking forward to welcoming all participants of WELSmain 2021 and meet them virtually!

Yours  
Stephan Huber and the WELS Team

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For the last 15 years, WELS has been the largest international congress in Europe on education leadership. More than 800 experts working in different fields of practice and research from around 70 countries worldwide discuss challenges and solutions for education and schools for tomorrow in 250 speeches, paper presentations, and workshops with around 200 speakers. The conference languages of the Online Conference are English, French and German.

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