

NEWSLETTER



UNESCO Chair in Applied
Research for Education in Prison



www.cmv-educare.com
educare@collegemv.qc.ca

7000, Marie-Victorin, Montreal (Quebec), Canada, H1G 2J6
TEL: 1- 514 328 3832 FAX: 1-514 328 3829
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CURRENT OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION IN PRISONS AROUND THE WORLD



NEW REFERENCES

Below is a summary of the most recent documents added to our web site, in the "Reference Center" section.

Vernor Muñoz. 2009. *The Right to Education of Persons in Detention*. Human Rights Council, 26 p.

"Learning in prison through educational programs is generally considered to have an impact on recidivism, reintegration and, more specifically, employment outcomes upon release. Education is, however, much more than a tool for change; it is an imperative in its own right. However, prisoners face significant educational challenges owing to a range of environmental, social, organizational and individual factors. The Special Rapporteur aims to inform and assist Governments and interested parties in their efforts to address these factors and develop best practices so as to ensure the currently unfulfilled right to education for persons in detention."

Tony Fabelo. 2002. *The Impact of Prison Education on Community Reintegration of Inmates: The Texas Case*. Journal of Correctional Education, Vol. 53, No. 3, p. 106-110.

"This article summarizes the results of a series of studies conducted by Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council to evaluate the ability of the Texas prison educational system to improve the educational level of inmates, enhance their employment prospects and lower their recidivism. [...] The studies found that inmates with the highest education were more likely upon release to obtain employment, have higher wages and lower recidivism. Educational achievement in prison was associated with an 11% decrease in the two-year recidivism rate of inmates released. However, certain inmates benefited more from prison education than others. Nonreader property offenders who became readers experienced a larger decline in their recidivism rate and a better improvement in their employment prospects than inmates who earned a GED."

Susanne Mason. 2008. *Writ Writer: One Man's Journey for Justice*. Passage Productions: U.S.A., 54 min.

"[This documentary movie is about] a young man from San Antonio, Texas, in 1960, [who] was arrested for robbery, convicted and sent to a state prison farm to pick cotton. He denied committing the robberies, but couldn't afford a lawyer to appeal his cases. With only an 8th grade education, he read every law book he could find access to and filed his appeal pro se. WRIT WRITER tells the story of jailhouse lawyer Fred Cruz and the legal battle he waged to secure what he believed to be the constitutional rights of Texas prisoners."



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AN ARTICLE ON PRISON EDUCATION IN ARGENTINA

In this newsletter, we are including a text, “Barriers in Implementing the Right to Education in Prisons: an Approach on Argentine Reality”, written by Mr. Francisco José Scarfo, a member of the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison, in collaboration with Mrs. Natalia Zapata. This article discusses the status of prison education in Argentina. An abridged version is available in [English](#) and [French](#), but it is also possible to have access to the long version (in [Spanish](#) only). All of these versions can be found on our web site. Here is a summary:

While education is considered a fundamental human right, in Argentina, there are many obstacles in the way. Indeed, more than half of Argentinean prisoners do not receive any educational training. This can be explained by the fact that education is not recognized as a universal and inalienable right in everyday life. Accordingly, under these circumstances, education is mainly perceived as a “fringe benefit” offered to “deserving” prisoners, and this, at their own expense. The article exposes how the application of the 4 As concept, developed by Tomasevski (2003), would improve the control and monitoring of education rights for prisoners in Argentina.

RETROSPECTIVE

PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING OF UNESCO CHAIRS ON HIGHER EDUCATION, ICT IN EDUCATION AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS

The Meeting of UNESCO Chairs on Higher Education, ICT in Education and Teacher Development took place on January 23 and 24, 2014 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison was invited by UNESCO to participate in this important meeting. The UNESCO Chair also took advantage of the opportunity to organize various meetings with leading European partners.

On January 23, following the opening address by Mr. Qian Tang, Assistant Director General of Education, and the introductory remarks by Mr. David Atchoarena, a brief presentation was given by representatives of a few of the UNESCO Chairs. Following this, the different UNESCO section chiefs and specialists presented UNESCO's programmatic priorities for teachers, ICT in education and higher education.

Later that day and almost all of the next day, January 24, were devoted to three parallel sessions on each key topic of the meeting: higher education, ICT in education and teachers. The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison from Cégep Marie-Victorin participated in the session on higher education. During these

sessions, each participant was able to present a brief overview of their respective UNESCO Chair. Mr. Jean-Pierre Simoneau, Director of Operations for the Chair, took the opportunity to discuss not only the objectives, activities and issues surrounding education in prison, but also to underscore the fact that Quebec's network of 48 public CEGEPs and 46 College Centres for the Transfer of Technologies (CCTT) are run by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

UNESCO also announced its intention to create centres of excellence in different fields, including education. The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison expressed an interest in taking part.

Following the parallel sessions, the meeting concluded with a discussion of the next joint steps to be taken by the UNESCO Chairs, among other things. With respect to the centres of excellence, Mr. Simoneau proposed to organize videoconferences in order to reduce follow-up costs for the participants as well as UNESCO.



From left to right: Mr. Francesc PEDRO, Chief of Section for Teacher and Educational Policy Development; Mr. David ATCHOARENA, Director of the Division for Teacher Development and Higher Education; Dr. Elvira MARTIN SABINA, UNESCO Chair on University Management, University of Havana; Mr. Qian TANG, Assistant Director General of Education; Dr. Ibrahima WADE, UNESCO Chair on Science and Technology Education and Teacher Training, École Normale Supérieure d'Enseignement Technique et Professionnel, Dakar; Prof. Tim UNWIN, UNESCO Chair on ICT for Sustainable Development, Royal Holloway, University of London; Ms. Paulina GONZALEZ-POSE, Chief of Section for Higher Education; Mr. Fengchun MIAO, Program Specialist, Section for Teacher and Educational Policy Development.

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On January 28, Mr. Simoneau met with Quebec's and Canada's representatives to UNESCO, Mrs. Michèle Stanton-Jean and H.E. Jean-Pierre Blackburn, at the offices of the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO to discuss development and partnership opportunities for the UNESCO Chair. In addition, Mrs. Stanton-Jean was invited to serve on one of the committees of the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison.

Later, Mr. Simoneau had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Véronique Gaymard, a journalist at Radio France International, to discuss the possibility of an interview with one of her Quebec counterparts.

The mission to Paris also proved to be a valuable opportunity for networking, as events organized by UNESCO provide a forum for meeting all sorts of dynamic, enthusiastic individuals involved in a wide range of fields. For example, Mr. Simoneau had the chance to make the acquaintance of a woman who is finishing a PhD in prison education. Naturally, once completed, her work will be disseminated by the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison.



Mr. Simoneau, Director of Operations for the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison, and Mrs. Stanton-Jean, Quebec's representative to UNESCO.

Upon his return to Quebec, Mr. Simoneau followed up on these various meetings by holding a videoconference with several European partners, including stakeholders from Finland, as well as Mr. Philippe Scholasch and Mr. Daniel Beauvais, both participants in the France-Quebec Cooperation Project to make teaching materials available for education in prisons. In addition, both men were invited to contribute to a future newsletter and to participate in international events organized by the Chair. All of the videoconference participants were invited to attend the UNESCO Chair's international activities.

The mission to Paris allowed the Chair to present its goals and challenges to a foreign audience, as well as to broaden its circle of international partners and knowledge of other

UNESCO Chairs, and of UNESCO in general. Many thanks to UNESCO, the participants, Mrs. Stanton-Jean, H.E. Blackburn, Mrs. Gaymard, Mr. Scholasch, Mr. Beauvais and all the stakeholders and partners for a most interesting and rewarding week.



Created in 1945, the institution is dedicated to promoting peace among its member nations – more than 160 – through close cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture.

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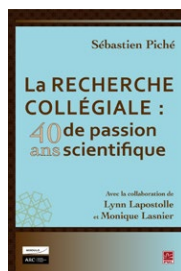
UNESCO CHAIR'S PARTICIPATION IN LES BELLES RENCONTRES HOSTED BY THE ARC [COLLEGE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION]



On January 10, 2014, the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison was invited to participate in Les Belles Rencontres organized by the ARC and to give a brief presentation on its goals and activities.

This event gave an opportunity to all of the participants to gain valuable insight into the important contribution of college research in Quebec through the exchanges with various stakeholders attending.

Some of the content of these exchanges is available on the ARC's web site. The site also contains all of the grant programs available for college research, as well as selection criteria for the programs and an exhaustive list of the respective deadlines.



We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison is able to operate and carry out its activities thanks to the major financial support it receives from the Quebec Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, which was also represented at the event.

Kudos to all the ARC team members for organizing this very informative day and for their efforts to promote college research. Go ARC go!

[Click here ►](#) to visit the ARC web site

To consult the ARC documents on research funding agencies, [click here ►](#)

PAUL BÉLANGER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO WORKSHOP AS PART OF THE NATIONAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM FROM NOVEMBER 17 TO 19, 2013

The annual National Restorative Justice Symposium, organized by several YOUCAN partners and the Canadian Safe School Network, was held for the first time in Toronto on November 17 to 19, during Restorative Justice Week in Canada. Ontario Minister of Justice, Mrs. Madeleine Meilleur, set the tone in her welcome address: Whole communities must be engaged in finding solutions to the problems within the correctional system. Whether it is through mediation, early warning mechanisms in schools or healing circles, all approaches contribute to prevention and are less costly than incarceration. Every effort should be made to reduce the chances of recidivism. Some prisons have recidivism rates as high as 91%. Programs specifically tailored to the cultural background of inmates are implemented in certain situations. For example, in Windsor, one prison model will provide support services for Aboriginal inmates. Canada's Justice Ministers, who meet regularly, have put prevention and

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restorative justice back on the agenda, and research is underway in each province to extract lessons from existing programs. In addition, there is concern over the large percentage of inmates who suffer from mental illnesses.



As such, the workshop entitled Lifelong Learning as a Second Chance organized by the Canadian Commission was in consonance with the theme of the symposium. Following an introduction by Mrs. Elisabeth Barot reiterating the role of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO with respect to the debate on equitable, quality education and lifelong learning for all (which became a potential goal on the United Nations' post-2015 education agenda), the two representatives, both members of the Commission Network, were invited to speak before taking part in an exchange with the participants. Mr. Paul Bélanger, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Chair in

Applied Research for Education in Prison, underscored the proven importance of lifelong education – from early childhood to late adulthood – as a key determinant of individual health and social and economic development. Studies show higher incarceration rates for school dropouts. With this in mind, the UNESCO Chair, with the support of the Quebec Government, has undertaken a study on the impacts of education in prison, life in prison and the chances for success upon release from custody. Studies conducted elsewhere show a decrease in recidivism rates and prison violence when inmates are able to envision a different future for themselves.

Mrs. Isobel Findlay, from the University of Saskatchewan and member of the Sectoral Commission on Culture, presented the cooperative learning approach as an acceptable means of personal development for some cultures and its impact on financial independence after prison. In the case of Aboriginal women who received training in prison, increased self-confidence and hope for a better future for themselves and their families, as well as an improved ability to make decisions and support themselves appeared to be promising signs of their transformation. The other case scenario

presented transformed the traps rooted in ancestral traditions into cooperative initiatives adapted to current society.

Outcomes: In addition to representing the Canadian Commission for UNESCO in a different environment and the numerous contacts made with participants, the exchanges brought to the fore the parallel efforts of researchers in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec, and the relationships established should continue beyond this event. In the shorter term, their presentations will be included in a discussion paper by the Commission, in the pipeline for the end of January, which will launch a documentary series on the significance of equitable, quality education and lifelong learning for all.

Source: Canadian Commission for UNESCO, 2013



PRINCIPAL CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES



An agreement signed with the Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity

In the last newsletter, we mentioned that an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sport regarding an applied research project on the impact of education in prison. Since then, the Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity has also decided to participate in the project and support the research conducted by the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison. We wish to thank all of our government partners who are helping us carry out this important undertaking.

***Exploratory Study on the Impact of Education in Prison* research project aimed at Quebec detention centres well underway**

The research project currently being carried out by the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison at Cégep Marie-Victorin, commissioned by the Quebec Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sport and the Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity, is proceeding well. The project aims to develop a provisional portrait of the status of education in detention centres under Quebec jurisdiction. The impact of education in prison on social and occupational reintegration as well as its effect on the climate of security in these institutions will be explored as well. In April, we will begin conducting interviews in four institutions. In addition, a partnership was established with researchers at CIRADD [Sustainable Development Research Centre], which will oversee the interviews conducted in two regional detention centres. CIRADD administers the College Centre for the Transfer of Technologies in innovative social practices (CCTT-PSN) of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles. Therefore, we will conduct interviews in six different institutions in total.

The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison to participate in the 54th AGM of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO in June 2014

From June 5 to 7, 2014, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Royal BC Museum and University of Victoria, will hold its 54th annual general meeting in Victoria, British Columbia. The theme will be *Achieving UNESCO's Mandate in Canada by Incorporating Canadian Experiences into the Work of UNESCO for the Greater Good*. The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison is pleased to announce its attendance.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to all
your contacts

Also, to help us to expand our network, send
as the names and contact details of relevant
persons and organizations.


web : www.cmv-educare.com
email : educare@collegemv.qc.ca



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Recherche, Science
et Technologie**

Québec 

7000, Marie-Victorin, Montreal (Quebec), Canada, H1G 2J6
TEL: 1- 514 328 3832 FAX: 1-514 328 3829

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