

Call for papers

Conference on

The Biological and Neuro-affective Turn in Education: Towards a New Paradigm in the Genomic Era?

8-9 May 2025

University of Milan (Milan, Italy)

Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Paola Mattei (University of Milan)

Prof. Dr. Christian Ydesen (University of Zürich)

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We are currently witnessing a growing influence of biological and neuro-affective perspectives on educational policies and practices worldwide. This shift emphasizes concepts such as brain health, genetics, personalized learning, and social-emotional development. The interplay between biology, neuroscience, and education holds significant social and political implications that are not yet fully understood. We invite submissions to a conference and edited book project that will explore this phenomenon and address questions such as:

- Why is there an increasing integration of biological and neuro-affective perspectives on educational policies and practices worldwide?
- When, why, and how is biological and neuro-affective data utilized in educational processes?
- What are the implications of this new paradigm for addressing and understanding key aspects of education such as education policy, education governance, inclusive education, educational inequality, assessment and learning?

We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions from a range of disciplines, including education, history, sociology, political science, and neuroscience. Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- **Histories:** How has the biological and neuro-affective turn in education evolved historically? Contributions may explore how the human body has become central in education through measurement and data, placing this new paradigm within broader scientific, political, and educational transformations.
- **Scope:** What are the various manifestations of this paradigm, and where can it be located empirically? We encourage case studies, whether single-case or comparative (across countries and policy areas), that identify and analyze relevant examples.
- **Causes and drivers:** What factors contribute to the rise of this approach? Topics may include shifts in global education governance, institutional changes, and influential policy narratives, such as the drive for "evidence-based policymaking."
- **Outcomes and impacts:** What are the potential consequences of incorporating biological and neuroscientific claims into educational policymaking? Contributions may examine effects ranging from policy design to specific program implementations, budgetary decisions, impacts on teaching, inclusion and learning, and shifts in perceptions of students' abilities and development.

Submission Details:

- To apply, please submit a **300–400-word abstract** to:
paola.mattei@unimi.it OR anna.kyriazi@unimi.it
- Submission deadline: **December 10th, 2024**
- **Travel and accommodation:** All selected participants will have travel and accommodation costs covered by the organizers.
- **Publication opportunity:** Selected contributions will be included in an edited book project linked to the conference.