

Eco-Democracy Symposium: Call for participants

The Research Group *Critical Perspectives in Educational Research* at Mid Sweden University is pleased to invite you to an international symposium on **Eco-democracy and Education**, taking place lunch to lunch June 16–18, 2025, in Östersund, Sweden.

We are at a crucial moment when the need to address eco-democracy within education has never been more apparent and urgent. Living in an uncertain time with environmental destruction and injustices, where democratic institutions and norms are threatened, asks us to rethink or even rewild democracy within education. This symposium offers an opportunity for scholars to come together and critically explore eco-democracy for educational research and practice. The symposium will broadly address:

In what ways is the concept of Eco-democracy relevant for Education, and how can such a concept be understood and enacted in research and practice?

The idea of the symposium is to create a gathering to delve into this area with the aim to:

- Deepen our understanding of the ontological and epistemological aspects of eco-democracy in education; philosophically, theoretically, and practically.
- Establish an interdisciplinary research eco-democracy network and apply for network funding for such.
- Organise and write a proposal for a special issue based on the symposium abstracts, workshops and discussions.

Understanding the relationships between democracy and education has a long history. However, it has changed over time, between places, and in educational policies and practices. In different fields of research, democracy issues are touched upon from multiple perspectives and concerns, explicit and implicit. The symposium aims to operate under the umbrella of 'eco-democracy' in educational research and practice to address

current environmental crises, social injustices, the challenges facing democracy, and their implications for education.

Fields of interest

We invite submissions that explore eco-democracy and education from various perspectives, including but not limited to the following areas of interest:

- Environmental and sustainability education research and practice in relation to democracy
- Young children, students and adolescents' participation, influence and voices in formal, non-formal and informal education
- Eco-democracy and different onto-epistemological approaches: e.g. relational and flat ontologies
- Eco-democracy and Indigenous and post-colonial perspectives
- Post-humanist and neo-materialist perspectives within eco-democracy
- Ethical and social justice perspectives within eco-democracy
- Education in the Anthropocene/Education and the Anthropocene/Eco-democracy and ecocentric worldviews
- Eco-democracy within a more-than-human perspective
- Eco-democratic education – tensions between the Global North and Global South
- Eco-democracy and the importance of place
- Eco-democracy and education for eco-social-cultural change
- Pragmatic perspectives and democratic education (e.g. traditions in the Nordic countries)
- Eco-democracy from a critical didactic and Bildung-perspective
- Teaching practices and didactics; Subject didactics and eco-democracy

Abstract

The symposium is open to a limited number of participants. We encourage those who are interested in participating to send an abstract of 200-300 words and bibliography. As a supplement to the application, include a short personal presentation, affiliation and description of your personal interest in the symposium. We also suggest that you formulate two questions or themes you want to address during the symposium. Send the application, including the abstract, to linda.wilhelmsson@miun.se before the 30th of April. Information about acceptance and the program will be sent out no later than 11th May.

Practical information:

The setting for the symposium will be Östersund in early summer when the days are long and filled with light. Participation is free, and the symposium will take place at the Campus of Mid Sweden University and in close outdoor surroundings. Lunches, dinners and coffee breaks will be included. We will book a stay at a hotel in Östersund from Monday until Wednesday for those travelling. The symposium format will include keynote speakers, seminars, and workshops built on engaged participation and collaboration. We are also pleased to invite you to some local places and events in the area of Östersund.

Please get in touch if you won't have institutional funds to cover your travelling fully. We have some bursaries available and will try to support you.

Welcome!

Linda Wilhelmsson on behalf of KUF, The Research Group of Critical Perspectives in Educational Research, Mid Sweden University