

Topics for research proposal

Research area 01 - Permanent Education – Processes and Projects of Education and Development with a Focus on South Tyrol

Topic: The Concept of Open Pedagogy in Kindergarten from the Children's Perspective

Abstract: The study examines open pedagogical practice in kindergarten from the children's perspectives. It focuses on how children perceive, use, and interpret open educational settings, which aspects they experience as positive or challenging, and how they move within open spatial structures. The qualitative study is based on participant observation as well as child-appropriate conversations and interviews, which are analysed using the Documentary Method. The aim is to generate insights for the further development of open and inclusive practices in early childhood education that are oriented towards children's perspectives.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Iris Nentwig-Gesemann

Topic: Education for Economic Citizenship: lines of research

Abstract: The doctoral project aims to explore the relationship between citizenship education and financial education, understood as an essential dimension for the conscious exercise of active and responsible citizenship. The case study focuses on analysing the economic awareness of the population, with particular attention to groups characterized by educational and social vulnerability, in order to develop training proposals as a means of protecting and improving individual and social well-being, with the aim of reducing the gender and social gap and combating inequalities for all those at risk of social exclusion.

Research areas: Well-being, skills frameworks, gender gap, lifelong learning

Supervisor: Prof. Monica Parricchi

Research area 02 - IN-IN Education: INnovative and INclusive Education

Topic: Research on Inclusive Educational Practices and Teaching and Learning Processes, School Development and Professionalisation

Abstract: Educational research on teaching and learning environments and processes, kindergarten and school development, and professionalization, including aspects of nonformal education and of educational (in)equity/inclusion.

Research area 03 - Psychology and wellbeing promotion in educational contexts

Topic: Impact of digital technologies on psychological well-being

Abstract: Analysis of the impact of digital technologies on learning processes, psychological well-being, and how this can influence social relationships.

Supervisor: Prof. Demis Basso

Topic: Graphomotor difficulties, learning, and academic well-being

Abstract: Study of the relationships between graphomotor impairments, executive functions, and emotional adjustment in various neurodevelopmental disorders, evaluating the possible effects on self-esteem, participation, and academic motivation.

Supervisor: Prof. Livia Taverna

Research area 04 - Languages and multilingualism in South Tyrol

Topic: Pedagogical Approaches to English as an Additional Language in Multilingual Education

Abstract: This supervisory area invites doctoral projects on pedagogies for English as an Additional Language in multilingual classrooms. Research may address teachers' perspectives, practices, and professional development, with particular attention to multilingual resources, ideological tensions, and classroom approaches that promote inclusive and plurilingual-oriented English language education.

Supervisor: Prof. Maria Cristina Gatti

Topic: Literary reception studies

Abstract: Empirical-qualitative research on the reception of children's and young adult literature (multimodal, multilingual or intermedial) and literature education in intercultural educational contexts of family, kindergarten and primary school.

Supervisor: Prof.in Dr.in Jeanette Hoffmann

Research area 05 - Aesthetic experiences and communication

Topic: Pedagogy and didactics of visual and/or performing arts

Abstract: The research concerns characteristics, issues and potential of arts education, particularly visual and/or performing arts, in formal and non-formal educational contexts. It may also include reference to technology and AI.

Topic: Promoting school wellbeing in South Tyrol

Abstract: Applied research focusing on wellbeing promotion in primary and secondary students and school communities in South Tyrol. The purpose is to develop intervention aimed at promoting physical and psychological wellbeing and to test their effectiveness.

Supervisor: Prof. Attilio Carraro

Research area 06 - Educational Contexts, Disciplines and their Teaching in the Nursery and Primary School

Topic: Plant Blindness: Can science education prevent it in primary school pupils?

Abstract: Plant Blindness is the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment. Is it possible to avoid this through science education in primary school? If yes, what is the most efficient way?

Supervisor: Prof. Robert P. Wagensommer

Topic: Systems Thinking in education

Abstract: The complexity of processes requires a systemic, holistic, non-linear and non-reductionist approach. Systems Thinking offers a perspective, a language and useful tools in teacher training and in school.

Supervisor: Prof. Federico Corni

Research area 07 - Socio cultural worlds: institutions, welfare, social professions, environment and population

Topic: Home-based educational interventions as a support framework for adolescents and young adults

Abstract: Home-based educational support is a key intervention for promoting social inclusion of vulnerable children and families. This project explores how young adults who experienced this support in the past understand its impact on their present lives, particularly in relation to the professionals involved, their family relationships, and the development of their biographies.

Supervisor: Prof. Ulrike Loch

Topic: Loneliness in Later Life: Social Inequalities, Health Consequences, and Contextual Determinants

Abstract: This research explores the social and structural determinants of loneliness among older adults and its impact on physical and mental health. By combining individual and contextual data, it analyses how socioeconomic inequalities and community characteristics shape vulnerability to social isolation. The findings aim to inform targeted interventions and policy responses.

Supervisor: Prof. Giulia Cavrini

Research area 08 - EduSpaces teaching and learning environment

Topic: Embodiment and imagination in education

Abstract: For some years now, the MultiLab has been dedicating its resources to the study and application of embodiment and imagination in education, both for teacher training and for the education of pupils.

Supervisor: Prof. Federico Corni

Topic: An imaginative and narrative vertical primary curriculum in physics

Abstract: An imaginative, narrative approach to primary physical science education has been developed in the last years. An important challenge is the translation of these principles into an effective and practice vertical curriculum

Supervisor: Prof. Federico Corni

5. The project proposal ([template](#) to use and download) must state the preference for a maximum of 1 research projects. The preference expressed will be indicative of the interests of the applicant and not binding for the selection committee.