

Call for Papers

“Mediating Social Challenges: Art, Storytelling & Teaching Practices”

May 5-6, 2023, University of Graz, Austria

In the face of social inequalities, digital divides, hegemonic power relations, capitalist conflicts of interests, asymmetric gender relations and international border and migration regimes, educational and social actions are becoming more and more challenging. Mediating these social challenges demands new methods and approaches to address the complexities of the issues while at the same time valuing the individual dimensions of it. Art, storytelling and critical pedagogical practices may provide the necessary tools to follow what bell hooks' already in the 1990s demanded: *teaching to transgress*. Cultural representations and storytelling may offer the possibilities to juxtapose the individual diverse livelihoods with the collective social understandings of our societal challenges and may thus be ideal terrains for educational considerations both in first and second language teaching contexts. In this scenario, digital-based methodologies can play a significant role in engaging today students in developing the necessary skills to understand our complex times.

Thus, this conference aims at reflecting on art, literature, storytelling, and digital methods as means to mediate social challenges in teaching practices and to challenge normative perceptions of identity, while also promoting students' multiliteracy skills. **Abstracts** of 200-350 words for a 20-minute presentation should be submitted to nicole.haring@uni-graz.at by **December 18, 2022**. Please, include a biography of 100 words or less. Proposals for presenting poetry, art, film, and other creative work will also be considered. Topics to be addressed at the conference include but are not limited to:

- Digital storytelling
- Digital teaching practices
- Critical/ Engaged pedagogy
- Critical language pedagogy
- Multiliteracies
- Diversity pedagogy
- Critical feminist pedagogy
- Contemporary Young Adult Literature
- Art based methods/ research/ teaching practices

The conference will feature presentations by keynote speakers and scholars from a wide range of fields. It will include sessions on special topics, a conference dinner, and a guided tour of the Graz Museum. A selection of presentations from the conference will be published in an edited volume following the conference.