

Philosophy of Education?

¿Filosofía de la educación?

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I am a philosopher by nature. I have been in love with ideas and the search for wisdom for as long as I can remember. I love to debate and discuss ideas, and analyze global as well as local events. I will be doing philosophy until I die. It still surprises me that someone is willing to pay for me to do something I would be doing anyway! I am grateful. I don't think philosophy is ever going to stop being needed, although I certainly can see there are times when it is more or less valued in societies. Currently we seem to live in times when it is less valued, as science holds the upper hand. But, the need for philosophy is not going to go away. As long as there are issues and concerns that philosophers can help us sort out, possible solutions philosophers can help us imagine, and theoretical arguments that need to be made to justify decisions we must make and actions we must take, philosophy is going to be there. Thus, I am not worried about philosophy's future.

Connecting philosophy to education did not happen for me until I became a parent. When I started to worry about my own children's education, that is when I realized there is a whole world of educational issues to which philosophy makes a contribution. Again, I am not worried about philosophy of education's future, as I know societies will always have the need to renew themselves and pass on their knowledge to their young. Our ability to educate our young is something that makes us unique, as humans. Philosophers of education help us think about what we should teach our children about beauty, goodness, fairness, justice, and truths, and how we should teach these. Teachers are faced with philosophical issues every day that they teach. It's unavoidable. I try to help them understand the issues and the resources that are there to aid them. I serve as a translator of

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deep philosophical ideas, so that those ideas are assessable to teachers, as fellow philosophers, who can then use the ideas to help them think through their daily dilemmas, and make decisions based on constructive thinking rather than just “past experiences”. Philosophy can help us articulate our vision of what we want to aim for, and help us figure out how to get there. Philosophers of education are poets, prophets, and soothsayers who encourage us to imagine the possibilities of a better world and give us the tools we need to critique what exists and help us get there. My doctoral students in philosophy of education may have to find ways to adapt and take jobs in educational policy, curriculum development, comparative or international education, or as community organizers, for we live in times where there are fewer philosophers being hired to teach in colleges of education. This is a tragedy for our current times that philosophy is so little valued, but philosophers of education will always be needed.