



**Call for Applications for the ESREA Doctoral School
May, 13–17, 2024, Universität Klagenfurt (Austria)**

The Klagenfurt Research Retreat (KRR)
Research on Adult Education and Transformation
Mapping Possibilities and Embracing Complexity



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Place and date:

[Universität Klagenfurt](#) (Austria), Department of Educational Science, Research Unit for ALE & VET

The doctoral school starts on **Monday, 13th of May 2024 at 2pm** with the registration and the opening ceremony, and the closing is on **Friday, 17th of May 2024 at 1pm**.

Faculty:

Michel Alhadeff-Jones, Institut Sunkhronos, Geneva (Switzerland) & Columbia University, NY (USA)

Eva Cendon, FernUniversität Hagen (Germany)

Irene Cennamo, Universität Klagenfurt (Austria)

Fergal Finnegan, Maynooth University (Ireland)

Laura Formenti, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (Italy)

Chad Hoggan, North Carolina State University (USA)

Monika Kastner, Universität Klagenfurt (Austria)

Peter Schlögl, Universität Klagenfurt (Austria)

The doctoral school is organised in cooperation with [ESREA, the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults](#).



The Klagenfurt Research Retreat (KRR) 2024 *Research on Adult Education and Transformation* *Mapping Possibilities and Embracing Complexity*

An invitation to a research retreat

The doctoral school on *Adult Education and Transformation* is conceptualised as a research retreat, offering a convivial space of intensive scholarly exchange based on discussion and reflection with doctoral students and an experienced, inspiring and enthusiastic faculty. The green campus of Universität Klagenfurt is close to lake *Wörthersee* with parks and promenades and is a perfect setting for **networking, scholarly conversation, contemplation and leisure activities.**

Adult Learning and Education and Transformation

We live and work in a period of profound change. It is worth bearing in mind that Adult Education was constituted by and as a response to complex and often highly disruptive social modernisation processes. Changes in the life course, shifts in employment and career paths, new patterns in migration, alterations in family structures, intimate relationships and ways of understanding gender, demographic transitions, the democratisation of everyday life, the corrosion of traditional patterns of community interaction, changes in social and educational policy and political struggles for equality have been crucial to the formation of a complex and varied field of Adult Education as we know it. As a result, transformation on varying levels and scales has long been a defining theme for both researchers and practitioners with a strong emphasis on the role of Adult Education in supporting empowerment and emancipation.

We understand Adult Education as a broad and diverse field which includes the life-wide and life-long learning processes of adults, including popular and citizenship education as well as vocational education and training, work-based learning, professional development, and university continuing education. Thus, Adult Learning and Education (ALE) is both organised in institutions and takes place as informal learning, as planned educational work and *free* learning related to life-world, workplace and social contexts. ALE is understood as a field that is subject to transformation processes and aims to initiate or support individual and collective processes of change and transformation.

The Klagenfurt Research Retreat (KRR) creates space to explore how ALE can actively and collectively shape the future towards a more sustainable and just society. We intend the retreat to be open for researchers interested in the ALE research field to discuss issues which have been a mainstay of ESREA's various network conferences and Triennial events in the past and which are significant and pressing in the here and now.

[ESREA Seasonal Schools](#) aim to support doctoral researchers by enhancing collaboration and networking among the more experienced ones and beginners.



A convivial and immersive environment and a dialogical ethos

The KRR aims to create a convivial space for deep dialogue, reflection and discussion on the transformative character (in *statu nascendi*, in progress and/or as result) of being, living, working and learning of adults in interaction with society, environment and politics over the lifespan, and it enables the participation in and the contribution to the international debate.

The KRR intends to create an immersive space away from routine and day to day demands with the main aim of fostering holistic learning processes. It enables researchers—doctoral students and faculty—to meet in a pleasant and stimulating location, where academic work is combined with social activities. Emphasising the idea of a research retreat, following andragogical principles, and fostering a high level of involvement of doctoral students, the KRR takes place over five days and will include, among others, dialogical forums, workshops, and writing labs, accompanied by leisure activities and social events to support the retreat idea.

The doctoral research projects at the centre

The KRR revolves around the doctoral projects of the participants and their needs and interests, both as individual researchers and as a group of doctoral students. We work in small groups and plenary workshops. We draw on debate and reflection and focus on theoretical perspectives and methodological issues putting *transformation* as related to ALE centre stage. The faculty provides support in terms of doctoral supervision regarding the enhancement of the research projects and high-quality doctoral education.

We welcome doctoral students who explore transformation and ALE in relation to social justice, work, demography, history, policy and economic change, digitisation, politics, human rights/democracy, gender, migration, sustainability, or the relationship between humans and the whole environment.

As a starting point for the KRR we offer some broad questions that we intend to explore together:

- What professional values or practical challenges or problems fuel our research in the various fields of ALE concerned with issues of societal change and individual and collective transformation?
- How do we understand and conceptualise social and educational change and transformation? What ideas, concepts or theories are needed to understand or question the current conjuncture?
- What methodologies and methods are applied to research ALE in times of change and transformation?
- How does (the) research relate to educational practice and society? How can results be disseminated in both academically and socially adequate ways and in new, future-oriented ways?



Application procedure:

The number of participants is limited to 20. The participation fee is 250 Euros.

Applicants are asked to submit the following information in one PDF no later than **14th of January 2024**:

- **Brief biographical information** including your name and (if applicable) your institutional affiliation, e-mail address and postal address, phone number as well as the study/doctoral programme and the university (faculty, department); and the (working) title of your doctoral research project.
- A **brief outline (300 words)** on your motivation to participate and the questions you wish to explore at the KRR: what are important issues and challenges you are currently facing; and what would be your expectations of the faculty? Explain how the topics outlined in this call are of interest to you and how they relate, however broadly, to your research question.
- Please clearly indicate if you would **require a bursary**. This is only applicable for those with no institutional affiliation or no other funding possibilities. Please clearly state if you hold an ESREA membership if you apply for a bursary.

Please submit your application through the [INDICO conference tool](#).

Notification of acceptance will be sent out by 31st of January 2024. Accepted participants will be asked to pay the participation fee no later than 1st of March 2024.

Contact information:

Please get in touch with the local organising committee if questions occur: KRR@aau.at