

History of education and children's literature in the Italian universities (1988-2013). Anatomy of a university discipline between teaching, scientific research and cultural presence¹

Anna Ascenzi
Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, University of Macerata (Italy)
anna.ascenzi@unimc.it

Dorena Caroli
Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, University of Macerata (Italy)
dorena.caroli@unimc.it

Luigiaurelio Pomante
Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, University of Macerata (Italy)
luigiaurelio.pomante@unimc.it

Roberto Sani
Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, University of Macerata (Italy)
roberto.sani@unimc.it

ABSTRACT: The contribution presents the main purposes and the scientific lines of a research aiming at deepening the characteristics and the perspectives acquired by the

¹ Paper presented at the ISCHE Pre-Workshop *Project Cartography* – University of London (UK), July 22nd 2014.

discipline of the *History of education/Storia dell'educazione* and, more generally, by the whole spectrum of the disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia) in the Italian university system. The research, which represents the Italian chapter of a more exhaustive investigation developed within the framework of the ISCHE (*International Standing Conference on the History of Education*) and under the European coordination of Alexandre Fontaine (Université de Genève), Rita Hofstetter (Université de Genève), Emmanuelle Picard (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon) and Solenn Huitric (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon), intends to focus on the time-span from 1988 to 2013 and to examine in depth the following topics: chairs and teaching courses, as well as doctoral courses of history of education (Storia dell'Educazione) and, more in general, the disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia) established and started in the Italian universities; research projects carried out at Italian and international level financed – in the above mentioned time span – respectively by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research and by the European Union; scientific and cultural initiatives (conferences, seminars and workshops at national and international level) organized by the different Italian universities on topics related to the disciplines belonging to the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia); scientific reviews and specialized editorial collections which are part of the same scientific and disciplinary field; Documentation and research centers specialized in the field of the history of education and of children's literature (departmental or between departments; inside one university or between some universities) and school and Didactics Museums established inside the Italian universities. Finally, the research intends to deepen the achievements and the initiatives carried out, in the period 1988-2013, by the Italian Center of the History of Education research/Centro Italiano per la Ricerca Storico-Educativa (CIRSE), a scientific society raised in the 1980 under the impulse of the historians of education and children's literature in Italy.

EET/TEE KEYWORDS: History of Education; History of Children's Literature; Mapping the discipline; Italy; 1988-2013.

The research group constituted inside the ISCHE (*International Standing Conference on the History of Education*) intends to realize a real map of the *History of Education* in Europe in the last 25 years (1988-2013), through the reconstruction, from a chronological point of view, of the characteristics and the perspectives acquired by this discipline in the university and research centers of the whole Europe in the above mentioned time span².

It is a scientific and cultural initiative of undeniable value and importance, especially because it will allow the scholars of different countries to lay the foundations for the starting of a better knowledge of the national research institutions and traditions and, at the same time, to build a real European network of the historical-educational research, capable, more than it happens nowadays, to include, enhance and integrate the communities of scholars and researchers of the field belonging to different European universities.

² See A. Fontaine, R. Hofstetter, S. Huitric, E. Picard, «*History of education*»: *Mapping the discipline / Cartographie de la discipline «Histoire de l'Éducation*», «*History of Education & Children's Literature*», vol. IX, n. 1, 2014, pp. 853-856.

Within the framework of this international group of work, a research unit was established at the University of Macerata with the aim of deepening the characteristics and the perspectives acquired by the History of education/ *Storia dell'Educazione*, and more in general, by the whole spectrum of the disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (*Storia della Pedagogia*)³ in the Italian universities (1988-2013), providing a picture as organic and exhaustive as possible of this university discipline in Italy, with the purpose to highlight the didactic problems connected with the high education teaching as well as those connected with the scientific research and the cultural presence of this discipline in the Italian and international context.

In this perspective, the Research unit of Macerata has started a few months ago, thanks to the friendly and fertile collaboration of the colleagues of 46 Italian Universities directly engaged in the project⁴, a specific research aiming at arising and deepening the different scenarios that characterize the discipline in the Italian university system:

³ Between the University disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (*Storia della Pedagogia*) there are: History of Pedagogy, History of the school and of the educational institutions, History of Education, History of education and of the schools, Compared history of the educational institutions, Comparative education, Theory and History of Children's Literature, Children's Literature, History of Youth Literature, See the list of the Scientific and disciplinary fields (*Elenco dei settori scientifico-disciplinari*) and the *Declaratorie dei settori* attached to the Decreto Ministeriale 4 ottobre 2000 – *Settori scientifico-disciplinari*, «Gazzetta Ufficiale», 24 ottobre 2000, n. 249 – supplemento ordinario n. 175.

⁴ Between the colleagues who have contributed to the present research, providing news and information concerning the different Universities, we should mention, with a particular appreciation: Maurizio Piseri (University of Valle d'Aosta), Maria Cristina Morandini (University of Torino), Giuseppe Zago (University of Padua), Paolo Marangon (University of Trento), Annemarie Augschöll (Free University of Bolzano), Angelo Gaudio (University of Udine), Monica Ferrari (University of Pavia), Pino Boero (University of Genova), Giuseppe Bertagna and Evelina Scaglia (University of Bergamo), Simonetta Polenghi (Catholic University of Milan), Gabriella Seveso (State University of Milan and University of Milan «Bicocca»), Mario Gecchele (University of Verona), Cristiano Casalini (University of Parma), Fulvio De Giorgi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), Luciana Bellatalla (University of Ferrara), Emy Beseghi and Tiziana Pironi (University of Bologna), Carmen Betti and Stefano Oliviero (University of Firenze), Giuseppe Serafini (University of Siena – Campus Arezzo), Mario Tosti (University of Perugia), Angela Giallongo (University of Urbino), Furio Pesci (University «Sapienza» of Rome), Ignazio Volpicelli (University of Rome «Tor Vergata»), Carmela Covato (University of Roma Tre), Francesco Casella (Salesian Pontifical University in Rome), Rachele Lanfranchi (Pontifical Faculty of Education «Auxilium» of Rome), Marco Antonio D'Arcangeli and Luca Puglielli (University of L'Aquila), Ilaria Filograsso (University of Chieti-Pescara), Enrico Corbi and Fabrizio Manuel Sirignano (University of Napoli «Suor Orsola Benincasa»), Leonardo Acone (University of Salerno), Alberto Barausse (University of Molise), Michela D'Alessio (University of Basilicata), Giuseppe Trebisacce (University of Calabria), Antonella Cagnolati (University of Foggia), Luca Gallo (University of Bari), Hervè A. Cavallera (University of Salento), Salvatore Agrestra and Caterina Sindoni (University of Messina), Antonio Bellingreri (University of Palermo), Antonia Criscenti (University of Catania), Stefano Salmeri (University «Kore» of Enna), Marco Salis and Susanna Barsotti (University of Cagliari), Fabio Pruneri (University of Sassari).

1) Arrangement of an organic *map of the chairs and of the teaching courses* related to the multiplicity of the disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia) introduced in the Italian universities in the period related to the years 1988-2013. In this perspective, in order to build a specific *map*, the research unit intends to focus its attention, first of all, on the legislative and institutional reforms and reorganization of this scientific field, as well as on the ministerial politics about high education, University orders and the teachers recruitment for the different orders and levels of schools, which have characterized the last decades, and in particular the period starting from the end of the '80s until today. After having clarified the legislation and institutional framework to which we will refer, a particular attention will be given to verify the positioning of the chairs and of the courses of the different disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia) in relation to the existing degree courses and University Faculties. At the same time, we will try to outline the typology and the possible characteristics of the holders of the chairs and of the above mentioned courses for the period taken into consideration (1988-2013): Tenure/Staff professor/external professor with a contract; Full Professor/associated/researcher; professor specialized in the scientific disciplinary field/teacher specialized in similar or different scientific and disciplinary fields.

2) Census and description, with reference to the period included between 1988 and 2013, of the PhD. programs (*dottorato di ricerca*)⁵ specifically dedicated to the whole spectrum of the disciplines belonging to the scientific disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia), or of those related to the pedagogical and educational sciences, and to the social and human sciences with specific *curricula* or *courses* (*curricula* or *indirizzi*) oriented to the history of pedagogy and education, or in a simpler way, those in which Doctoral dissertations devoted to historic-pedagogical or educational topics have been discussed. In the context of the in-depth analysis of this topic, we will try not only to highlight the specific ministerial legislation regulating the doctoral studies in Italy and the evolutions occurred with the passing of the time, but also to provide a precise map of these doctoral studies (administrative headquarters, eventually associated seats, directors, teaching staff involved, procedures of recruitment of doctoral students, programs of studies and other educational

⁵ See the most important legislation acts concerning recruitment procedures: Legge 3 luglio 1998, n. 210 – *Norme per il reclutamento dei ricercatori e dei professori universitari di ruolo*, «Gazzetta Ufficiale», 6 luglio 1998, n. 155; D.M. 30 aprile 1999, n. 224 – *Regolamento recante norme in materia di dottorato di ricerca*, «Gazzetta Ufficiale», 13 luglio 1999, n. 162; Legge 30 dicembre 2010, n. 240 – *Norme in materia di organizzazione delle università, di personale accademico e reclutamento, nonché delega al Governo per incentivare la qualità e l'efficienza del sistema universitario*, «Gazzetta Ufficiale», 14 gennaio 2011, n. 11; D.M. 8 febbraio 2013, n. 45 – *Regolamento recante modalità di accreditamento delle sedi e dei corsi di dottorato e criteri per la istituzione dei corsi di dottorato da parte degli enti accreditati*, «Gazzetta Ufficiale», 6 maggio 2013, n. 104.

and research activities provided by the program); lastly, an inventory of the doctoral thesis about topic strictly related to historic-pedagogical topics and presented in Italy from 1988 to 2013 will be realized.

3) Census and presentation of projects of national and international interest (*progetti di ricerca di respiro nazionale e internazionale*) devoted to topics with historic-pedagogical or educational character – in particular the Projects of National Interest (Progetti di Ricerca d'Interesse Nazionale, PRIN) the European Project – which, during the period 1988-2013, have been financed respectively by the Italian Ministry of University research (MIUR) and by the European Union. In this perspective, the present investigation intends not only to verify the role and the importance of the funds granted to the *research projects* in the historical-pedagogical and educational field, compared to those granted to other human and social sciences (philosophy, history, sociology, anthropology), but also to highlight the characteristics of the research groups at the origin of each project, the typology of the latter (aims, methodological approach, international references) and the effect which each of them had in the historiographical context and in the organization of the research field.

4) Census and presentation, with reference to the period included between 1988 and 2013, of the main and more relevant scientific and cultural initiatives – *conferences and seminars* of research with a national and international character – organized in the different Italian Universities about the topics related to the disciplines included in the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia). In this context, a particular attention will be devoted to the research meetings and to the initiatives which have promoted the pedagogical and historiographical renewal and the internationalization in the field of the historic-pedagogical and educational research.

5) Configuration of an atlas of the Italian specialized scientific reviews and editorial collections (*atlante delle riviste scientifiche e delle collane editoriali*) referring to the scientific and disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia), with a particular reference to the period from 1988 to 2013. With particular reference to the scientific reviews, our purpose is to give a specific attention not only to those strictly historic-pedagogical – as in the case, for example, of the «Bollettino del Centro Italiano per la Ricerca Storico-Educativa (CIRSE)» (Parma, then Florence), of the «Studi di Storia dell'Educazione» (Rome) by Fabrizio Ravaglioli, of the «Annali di Storia dell'Educazione e delle Istituzioni Scolastiche» (Brescia) by Luciano Pazzaglia and of «History of Education & Children's Literature» (Macerata) by Roberto Sani –, but also of those dedicated more in general to the different branches of the research of the pedagogical and educational sciences, which have devoted a significant space to contributions of historical character, such as the «Rassegna di Pedagogia» (Padua), «Riforma della Scuola» (Rome), «Scuola e Città» (Florence), «Ricerche Pedagogiche» (Parma), «Pedagogia e Vita» (Brescia), «Orientamenti Pedagogici» (Rome), «I problemi della Pedagogia» (Rome), «Studi sulla Formazione» (Florence) e

«*Studium Educationis*» (Padua)⁶. Similarly, for what concerns the specialized editorial collections, we'll refer not only to those exclusively devoted to the historical essays, such as in the case, just to make some examples, of «*Social History of Education*» (*Storia sociale dell'Educazione*) by the publisher Unicopli of Milan, of «*Paedagogica. Historical texts and studies*» (*Paedagogica. Testi e studi storici*) by the Publisher La Scuola in Brescia, of «*History of Education. School and educational institutions*» (*Storia dell'Educazione. Scuola e istituzioni formative*) and of «*Paideia*» by the Publisher Pensa MultiMedia in Lecce, of the so-called «*Library of History of Education & Children's literature*» (*Biblioteca di History of Education & Children's literature*) by the Publisher of the University of Macerata (eum), of «*Nerbiniana. History of the periodical press for children and youth*» (*Nerbiniana. Storia della stampa periodica per l'infanzia e la gioventù*) by the Publisher Nerbini in Florence; but also to those in the more general field of the educational sciences, which have devoted an adequate and significant space to the historical research. Some examples for this case: «*Old and modern educators*» (*Educatori Antichi e Moderni*) by La Nuova Italia in Florence, «*Educational Sciences*» (*Scienze dell'Educazione*) by the Publishers ETS in Pisa, «*Gender, difference, education*» (*Genere Differenza Educazione*) by Guerini e Associati in Milan, «*Heuresis. Educational sciences*» (*Heuresis. Scienze dell'educazione*) by CLUEB in Bologna and «*Theory and History of Education*» (*Teoria e Storia dell'Educazione*) by the Società editrice Internazionale (SEI) in Turin. To these, naturally, we should necessarily add the different specialized collections promoted, since several years, by the Publisher Franco Angeli in Milan.

6) Census and presentation, with a reference to the activities and the initiatives promoted in the period included between e 1988 and 2013, by the main Documentation research centers (*Centri di documentazione e ricerca*) specialized in the field of the history of education and of children's literature (departmental and interdepartmental, of one university or between universities)⁷; and of the school Museums (of the education and Didactics) (*Musei della*

⁶ For a more systematic and updated picture of the scientific reviews of the field, we can refer to the (forthcoming) proceedings of a recent National Seminar of the Italian Society for Pedagogy/ Seminario nazionale della Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED) about the theme *Pedagogical Reviews and the quality of research / Riviste pedagogiche e qualità della ricerca*, held in Rome in March 27-28 2014.

⁷ Just as an example, we can mention: the «*Center of Documentation and research on the history of school textbooks and children's literature*» (*Centro di documentazione e ricerca sulla storia del libro scolastico e della letteratura per l'infanzia*), created in 2004 at the University of Macerata; The «*Center of Documentation and research on the history of educational institution, of the school textbook and of Children's literature*» (*Centro di documentazione e ricerca sulla storia delle istituzioni scolastiche, del libro scolastico e della letteratura per l'infanzia*), instituted in 2006 at the University of Molise; and recently, the «*Center of Research in Children's Literature in Italy*» (*Centro di Ricerca in Letteratura per l'infanzia in Italia*), instituted in 2013 at the University of Bologna.

scuola o dell'Educazione o della Didattica ecc.)⁸ founded inside the Italian universities. A particular attention, from this point of view, will be devoted to the role played by those university centers high specialized in the organization and in the enhancing of research, as well as on the internationalization of the studies of the field. Similarly, referring to the Museums, a particular attention will be devoted to the role played by them both from the point of view of the cultural entertainment and of the popularization of the historic-educational and school knowledge, and from the point of view of the professional training and education of the teachers of the schools of all levels and orders (through stages, workshops and seminars ecc.).

7) The last, but not less important, chapter of the research aimed at underlining and deepening the multiple dimensions and the different scenarios that, in the Italian university context, characterized the whole disciplines concerning the scientific disciplinary field M-PED/02 (Storia della Pedagogia), is that devoted to highlight the activity played since its origins (1980) and more in particular in the period from 1988 to 2013, by the Scientific society of our field that is the Italian Center of the Historic-pedagogical research (*Centro Italiano per la Ricerca Storico-Educativa*, CIRSE)⁹, of which we intend to reconstruct the genesis, the projects and the initiatives developed for the enhancing of the historic-educational research in our country, the productive and intense activity of workshops and Conferences, the recent initiatives aimed at the internationalization of our investigation field.

The research, that has just been started, should be concluded within three years with the publication of a monograph, written by four authors, in Italian and in English, aimed at the spreading of its results between the scholars.

⁸ About the School Museum of Education and didactics instituted in the Italian universities and on their activity during the last decade, we can refer to: J. Meda, *Musei della scuola e dell'educazione. Ipotesi progettuale per una sistematizzazione delle iniziative di raccolta, conservazione e valorizzazione dei beni culturali delle scuole*, «History of Education & Children's Literature», vol. V, n. 2, 2010, pp. 489-501.

⁹ We can notice the lack of an organic and documented reconstruction of the origins and of the activity carried out by the CIRSE in the last thirties years. See some brief information presented by G. Trebisacce, *La ricerca storico-educativa oggi tra acquisizioni consolidate e prospettive di sviluppo*, in H.A. Cavallera (ed.), *La ricerca storico-educativa oggi. Un confronto di metodi, modelli e programmi di ricerca*, 2 vols., Lecce-Brescia, Pensa MultiMedia, 2013, Vol. I, pp. 1-11.