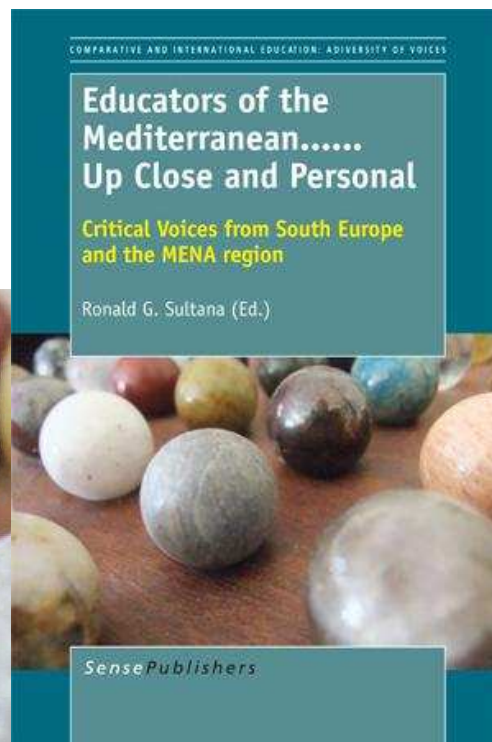


Comparative and International Education: A Diversity of Voices



Educators of the Mediterranean.... Up Close and Personal Critical Voices from South Europe and the MENA region

Ronald G Sultana (Ed.)

“A score of prominent educators from South Europe and the Middle East and North Africa region speak about their upbringing, their educational and professional journeys, their academic achievements, and their struggles in order to enhance democracy, justice and equity in their countries and across the Mediterranean. The interviews in this volume shed light on educational movements, challenges, and aspirations in a region that is attaining increasing importance geo-politically, and in comparative and international studies. These are powerful and critical voices, providing readers with fresh, often unexpected insights about contexts, cultures, and convictions that deserve global attention. The interviews with these men and women inform, intrigue, but above all inspire, calling, as they do, for an earnest commitment to a vision of education as a transformative, democratising force. In contrast to the global, totalising discourse that has increasingly defined education in narrowly economic terms, here are the beginnings of alternative agendas, inviting citizens to ‘read’ and

decode the world around them, and to confront power, wherever it lies. In doing so, the educators in this volume draw upon and put at our disposal a wide array of theoretical lenses, nimbly weaving these within a narrative that speaks about a lifetime lived in the hope of making a difference. These, then, are vivid, engaging, and reflexive accounts, emerging from contexts where democracy has only recently taken root, if at all, and from a region that has come to symbolize the return of the political, and the reclaiming of the public sphere as a site for transformation, contestation, revolt, and hope.”

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Editorial Introduction: Bio-academic narratives and educators of the Mediterranean / *Ronald G. Sultana*

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Endorsements

"This is a superb volume. At a time when Islamophobia has reached new heights in the US and beyond, these 'bio-academic narratives are both significant and valuable in outlining the main issues and challenges facing the education system in each country and how policies in each case have multiple links to power. This is a personal, political and passionate book, and it makes compelling reading." *Professor Michael A. Peters, Educational Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA.*

"This collection of interviews is an absolute gem, made all the more valuable by its potential to contribute timely and crucial insights on the possibilities of new futures for the region. The combination of personal experiences and insights that emerges from these intimate and engaged accounts is uniquely powerful and uniquely valuable." *Professor Roger Dale, Centre for Globalisation, Education and Society, University of Bristol, UK.*

"This book is timely and immensely needed: it is a must-read for those who want to comprehend the challenges confronting education and some of the most promising initiatives in the region." *Professor Sari Hanafi, University of Beirut, Lebanon.*

"*Educators of the Mediterranean* deserves to be read by educators around the world because it shows how hope can be made practical. It reminds us that the educational project's commitment to democracy and equality is sustained because it is constantly made and remade in ways that address contemporary structures and cultures, which constitute our globally connected space-times." *Professor Terri Seddon, Monash University, Australia*

"An inspiring book: it will be of interest to readers across Europe, and among the global community of education scholars." *Professor Martin Lawn, Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.*

"This innovative book highlights very instructively the significance not only of personal endeavours but also of wider cultures in a diverse region." *Mark Bray, Professor of Comparative Education, University of Hong Kong.*

"With political, historical and cultural attention increasingly turning these days to the long neglected Mediterranean, the voices in this volume propose highly informative prospects in critical pedagogical practices that are seeking historical, intellectual and social justice. The important arguments elaborated here, together with the nuanced problematics they expose, have a profound resonance for democratic prospects both within and outside the region." *Iain Chambers, author of Mediterranean Crossings—The Politics of an Interrupted Modernity.*