

ANGEL Conference 2026: Programme

- 10 & 11th September 2026, University of Bologna, Italy.
- Visit <https://angel-network.net/ANGELConference2026> for details and to register.

Day 1: 10 September	
08:45	Arrival & badge collection
09:15	Opening session Host: Massimiliano Tarozzi (University of Bologna) • Annette Scheunpflug (University of Bamberg) • Giovanni Molari (Rector, University of Bologna) • Daniele Ara (Assessor, Municipality of Bologna) • Liam Wegimont (Global Education Network Europe)
10:00	Keynote Felisa Tibbitts (Utrecht University) Reimagining Global Education for the Climate Crisis: Climate Justice and Decoloniality in Theory and Practice <i>As articulated in the Dublin Declaration, Global Education encompasses global norms, human rights, global challenges, North–South relations and decoloniality. These dimensions converge naturally in responding to the environmental crisis. Yet how can they be brought together in ways that ensure education for environmental sustainability is both justice-centered and genuinely decolonial? This keynote explores how Global Education can strengthen conceptual and practical responses to climate change through the intersection of climate justice, human rights and a "thick" understanding of decoloniality in education. It examines how feminist, Indigenous, and Global South perspectives can enrich this work while critically interrogating the enduring influence of neoliberalism and colonial legacies on environmental degradation. Drawing on selected case studies, the keynote considers both the current limitations and the transformative potential of Global Education to support education systems in addressing one of the defining challenges of our time.</i>
10:30	Keynote Masashi Urabe (Hiroshima City University) (Online) Global Learning in Japan: Peace Education for Sustainable Action <i>Drawing from the experiences of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this keynote address provides an overview of discourses on global learning and education for sustainable development in Japan. It presents the results of a discourse analysis of academic literature to shed light on the teaching and learning of peace education. In light of these catastrophes, peace education should focus less on the horrors of future scenarios associated with a lack of peace and sustainability. Rather, peace education should view learners as agents for a better world.</i>

11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Parallel Session A (90 minutes, 7 strands)
13:00	Lunch break
14:15	Parallel Session B (90 minutes, 7 strands)
15:45	Comfort break
16:10	Parallel Session C (90 minutes, 7 strands)
17:45	Book Launch Elgar Handbook on Global Citizenship Education (45 minutes) • Chairs: William Gaudelli (Georgia Tech College of Lifetime Learning) & Ricardo Römheld (University of Bonn) • Presenters: Barbara Santibanez, Elisavet Anastasiadou, Greg Misiaszek, Jason Dorio & Blanca Salas, Liz Azukas, Namrata Sharma, Riikka Suhonen, Yuemiao Ma • Discussant: Liam Wegimont (Global Education Network Europe)
19:30	Optional Social Dinner: Cantina Bentivoglio
Day 2: 11 September	
09:00	Parallel Session D (90 minutes, 7 strands)
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Parallel Session E (90 minutes, 7 strands)
12:30	Lunch break
13:45	Keynote Joe O'Hara (DCU Institute of Education) Defending the Public Purpose of Education: Learned Societies, Research Networks and the Democratic Future of European Education Policy <i>As digital technologies advance and democratic norms recede, one question keeps returning: what is education actually for? Civic engagement rather than individual competence building is where scholarly societies and learned communities such as ANGEL become indispensable. They act as bridges between research, policy, and practice, creating spaces where ideas are disseminated, challenged, and refined collectively - sustaining critical exchange when public debate is fragmented. They also nurture emerging scholars and protect the reflective, long-term dimensions of inquiry. In an uncertain political landscape, such infrastructures remain vital to democratic education and its public mission.</i>
14:05	Plenary Session What Palestine Teaches Global Citizenship Education: Palestinian Voices, Sumūd, and Action • Kefah Barham (An-Najah National University) • Areen Iyad Muna (An-Najah National University). ONLINE • Riikka Suhonen (University of Helsinki) • Maayke de Vries (UCL Institute of Education) <i>This session is prompted by the article "From Silence to Action: Taking a Collective Turn in Global Citizenship Education With and For Palestine and</i>

	<i>Palestinians” (Policy & Practice, 2026), which showed how Palestine has been largely neglected within the field of Global Citizenship Education (GCE). The article reviewed publications in GCE between 2024 and 2026 to investigate how the field responded to the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. In her work on GCE in Palestine, Dr. Kefah Barham has highlighted the difficulty Palestinian students face in applying the global ideals that lie at the heart of GCE when these ideals are often contradicted by their everyday experiences. In this session, Dr Kefah Barham and Dr Areen Iyad Muna will elaborate on teaching GCE in Palestine and shed light on how the lived experiences of Palestinians can inform our practices, such as the incorporation of sumūd as a pedagogical principle.</i>
15:00	Comfort break
15:15	Roundtable discussion Towards Peace and Justice through Global Education <i>To understand the increasing number of conflicts and inequalities around the world, peace and global social justice education have to be a major part of learning for all ages. This roundtable will review different ways in which education initiatives can and is addressing these challenges. Reference will be made to the importance of disarmament education, advancing social justice and positive peace education.</i> • Emma Pike (Lex International Fund) • Greg Misiaszek (Tohoku University) • Alexis Stones (UCL Institute of Education) • Ruba Salih (University of Bologna)
16:15	Multistakeholder panel <i>The closing panel provides a moment of reflection on key ideas that have emerged throughout the conference, as seen from diverse perspectives across research, policy, and practice. The panel will aim to examine how we move beyond rhetoric towards meaningful and transformative practice, outline opportunities for research going forward, and reflect on the importance of research for policy.</i> • Cecilia Barbieri UNESCO Global Citizenship Education Section • Rilli Lappalainen (CONCORD Europe, Bridge 47) • Naouel Abdellatif Mami (University of Sétif 2) • Luca Rizzo Nervo (Delegate for Migration Policies and International Cooperation, President's Cabinet of Emilia-Romagna Region) • Agnieszka Skuratowicz (Former Head DG INTPA, European Commission)
17:00	Closing words (15 mins) • Representatives of ANGEL and GENE
17:15	CLOSE