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Cosmopolitanism and the Age of School Reform Science, Education, and Making Society by Making the Child

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Reviews (II)

Popkewitz, T. (2008): *Cosmopolitanism and the Age of School Reform Science, Education, and Making Society by Making the Child*. New York: Routledge.

Thomas S. POPKEWITZ presents this work with the purpose of reflecting on the education and its possibilities of social inclusion and exclusion as well as the alternatives to the possibilities that schooling offers in the modern societies. The author starts from the concept of cosmopolitanism, understood like the ideal of the Illustration that considers that the education is the best way to form a rational person, free of determinism and, therefore, with a great number of possibilities. The author examines the different educative policies, concretely the educative reforms of centuries XX and XXI and their historical genesis. For it, he structures the book in two parts. The first part is dedicated to the study of the reason and the cosmopolitanism like historical practices of the function of the reason and the construction of the individuality.

In one second part, the author analyses the cosmopolitan principles and their underlying processes that the curriculum and the teachers education, the standard reforms and the educative researches promote. The author analyses the principles reunited at the beginning of the XX century and those of the present time from an historical interpretation of the changes happened around the scholastic knowledge about which the boy is and what he must be. He argues how these practices, that in themselves are of inclusion, at the same time they can exclude. That is to say, the same practices that lead to democratise and to give opening to the insertion of marginal groups in the society at the same time are reinforcing their differences and their exclusion.

It is a work necessary to understand the educative systems and what happens within the educative institutions as well as the key role that the education has in the inclusion and exclusion of the most marginalized groups of the society.