Panel of keynote speakers

Rodger W. Bybee  
BSCS, Colorado Springs, USA

Justin Dillon  
King’s College London, GB

Peter Fensham  
Monash University, Victoria, Australia

Paul Hart  
University of Regina, Canada

Alla Keselman  
National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, USA

Regula Kyburz-Graber  
University of Zurich, Switzerland

Constance L. Russell  
Lakehead University, Canada

Peter Schulz  
Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Albert Zeyer  
University of Zurich, Switzerland

Conference location  
University of Zurich  
Rämistrasse 71, CH-8006 Zurich

Organizers  
Prof. Dr. Regula Kyburz-Graber/Dr. Albert Zeyer  
University of Zurich, Institute of  
Upper Secondary and Vocational Education  
Beckenhofstrasse 35, CH-8006 Zurich  
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Rationale

Environment and health have always been important learning areas in science education and are gradually becoming more important. Not only are they socially highly relevant regarding sustainable development discourses, but also and particularly they are close to students' interests and needs and can help to open up science to individually relevant questions, especially also for girls.

Nevertheless, these issues have often been neglected in science education research. This may also be a question of methodological difficulties. Traditional pretest and post-test experimental design approaches do presumably not adequately meet the needs of learners and teachers. When it comes to these issues, it is not so much the question of measuring immediate effects of elaborated teaching procedures, but much more the interest to understand how learners interact with complex issues, what concept images of the environment and health they have, how they deal with controversial perspectives in these fields, and what images they have of sciences in this context, and how and why those images have emerged. Researching those ontological and epistemological questions asks for approaches actively involving learners and teachers, for example by participatory research designs. Participants in such research are encouraged to develop learning settings into reflective science classrooms, where students' questions and perceptions are starting points for thoughtful activities and growing awareness of multiple perspectives on complex issues.

The conference will offer keynote lectures by researchers who are prominent in the field, as well as a broad variety of workshops, where both advanced and young researchers present their research studies for in-depth discussions.

Costs
Conference fee: 140 Euro; Social Event (optional): 50 Euro

Hotels
Hotel Leoneck ***: 125 Euro
Hotel Rütli ***: 145 Euro
Hotel Scheuble ***: 115 Euro
Hotel Lemmamhof ***: 95 Euro.

Hotel booking for conference days on: http://www.zuerich.com/de/page.cfm/landingpage_kongress_science_education_2010
Hotel rooms are also available at: Zurich Tourismus, hotel@zuerich.com, 0041 44 215 40 40