

Habilitation thesis

From curriculum to educational policies: training, professional development and institutional impact

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A B S T R A C T

In order to illustrate in the thesis the required elements, as described by current regulations, I have opted for a presentation of the academic contributions distributed on domains, showing for each domain the relevance of the research contributions (publications, projects, coordination of academic teams), the research-development contributions (project, policies, research and development products) and academic activity (study programs, courses, disciplines), as well as, if the case, contributions to institutional development.

In this paper we have made a selection of the contributions considered the most relevant and consistent, articulated mainly after obtaining the PhD / doctorate in educational sciences in year 2006.

The selection of the contributions was based on the following criteria:

- The innovative character of each contribution in the academic field, at national / international level;
- The influence and impact of the respective contribution at the level of academic community or at the level of communities of practitioners or policy makers;
- The consistence of these contributions from the perspective of career development, as for articulating focused areas or domains of scientific expertise.

The main fields in each we will try to illustrate the academic activity, according to the above mentioned criteria, are the following:

1. Curriculum design and development: policy, development, innovation;
2. Cultural diversity as a resource for learning and education for groups / people at risk;
3. Teacher training and human resource development in education;
4. Educational policy: from public policy process to behavioral change;
5. Re-defining learning: impact of new technologies, authentic learning and challenging the status-quo.

Each of the five domains will be briefly explained, contextualized in the research and development trends at national and international levels and then illustrated with the most significant personal contributions, accompanied with evidences.

As a specialist in educational sciences I have always considered that our research and development efforts have always a double meaning and a double aim:

- The epistemological development of our own domain / discipline and progress of knowledge and understanding of educational reality through research;

- Improvement of educational policies and practices through constant attempt to create a bridge between research and academic analysis on the one side, and the world of decision-making and professional practices in education, on the other side.

In this paper is integrated a rich professional activity of almost ten years (after the PhD), but with solid anchors in the past, and hopefully in the future. The publications, the projects, the academic and professional activities I developed over this time unveil an intense commitment to the field and consistent plans for future contributions.