

Name: Dr Felipe Revollo

Department: Department of Health Promotion, NUI Galway

Position: DERN Post-doctoral Research Fellow, NUI Galway



BIOGRAPHY:

Dr Felipe Revollo is a postdoctoral researcher in the Development Education & Research Network (DERN). A graduate in the Sciences of Social Communication from the Universidad Católica Boliviana (U.C.B.) and in Demographic Studies from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés in South America. Felipe has completed a M.Sc. in Vocational Education for Developing Countries and a Ph.D. in Education and Politics at both the Technical University of Dresden, Germany and the International Salesian Institute of Educational Research (ISRE) of Venice, Italy.

What aspects of Development Education (DE) are included in your work?

Development Education itself is the focus of Felipe's current work. As his academic background is one that focused on education in spheres other than development his perspective may differ from other specialists in the field. Felipe describes his work as being focused on the definitional aspects of DE. Using the Gestalt theory's opposition to fracturing of areas of study for examination at particulate level his examination attempts to inspect all the existing definitions of what exactly development education is. He is collecting all of the interpretations that he can encounter, from the empirical or practical definitions of the NGO's to the various academic analyses of the concept. His work aims to bring these varying definitions together and allow the tensions between each interpretation contribute to a more holistic view of the content and context of the theme 'development education'.

The premise behind this area of study for Felipe is that the Gestalt Theory and its analyses of the whole as both more than the sum of its parts and indivisible into its component parts are particularly relevant to issues of development.

Building on the work of Korten, Ortega, Senillosa and Mesa, Felipe focuses on five stages or paradigms of development which may be roughly located in particular periods of time:

- A. Assistance based approach –post WW2 period
- B. Development Approach – 1960's
- C. Critical and Solidarity based DE-1970's
- D. Human /Sustainable approach 1995-1999
- E. Global Citizenship approach- current

He suggests that in fact, the evolution of these eras of development and development education is the result of both historical circumstance and conceptual advances or changes i.e. both the practical and the theoretical contribute to the formation of and progress from each era.

Links or articles that might be of interest to other DERN members?

Two resources which might be of interest to anyone wishing to understand Felipe's area of study are linked here;

The first is an introduction to Gestalt Theory by Max Wertheimer:

[Link: http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/10/098.html](http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/10/098.html)

The second is a paper entitled 'Development Education and the Rediscovery of our Humanity' which was presented by Dr. Revollo in the summer school 'Social, Cultural and Economic Aspects of Education in Conflict' in the University of Heidelberg and in the 2008 Annual Meeting "The UN and the Global Development Architecture" of The Academic Council on The United Nations System (ACUNS) which took place last June in the city of Bonn.

<http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/DevelopmentEducation>

Do you have interests or involvement in particular countries or regions?

Felipe is from Bolivia and has a strong interest in the Latin American region. Due to his studies in various European countries he has developed an interest in the European dimensions of DE with a particular focus on Ireland, Italy and Germany

What other activities are you involved in that concern DE?

Recently Felipe has participated in the following events:

- The 21st Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on The United Nations System (ACUNS: "The UN and the Global Development Architecture"). United Nations. Bonn, Germany (June 2008).
- Summer School 2008: "Social, Cultural and Economic Aspects of Education in Conflict", Department of Education of the Ruprecht-Karls University of Heidelberg, organized by the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Heidelberg, Germany (May 25 - June 8, 2008).
- The 3rd Annual and National Development Education Conference "Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry Methodology: Engaging with different Perspectives on Development Using Critical Literacy", Centre For Global Education, St. Mary's University College, Belfast, N. Ireland (April 2008).