

## **Keynote**

### **Dialogue and Democracy: Can Education Deepen the Connection?**

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In recent years, democracy has been in decline across the globe, with the quality of democratic governance eroding even in many European countries. How should education respond to this trend? More importantly, could education itself – perhaps unintentionally – be contributing to this decline? While teaching about democracy is important, I argue that teaching in a democratic manner, even in subjects where democracy is not the focus, may be even more crucial. Since the essence of democracy is dialogical, educating democratically means fostering dialogue in a broad sense, as understood by linguistic anthropology and related communication sciences. This keynote will explore often overlooked methods by which dialogue, in this expansive sense, can strengthen a democratic culture of interaction. On both theoretical and practical levels, I will examine the role of metapragmatic awareness and propose a more holistic approach that incorporates both cognitive and non-cognitive elements of education.