

Between 2010 and 2014, the HEP Vaud hosted a research funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) on the general issue of neoliberalism.

Initially, this research was philosophical called: [La governamentalità biopolitica e la crisi globale del politico. Il contributo della filosofia interculturale alla creazione di modelli di razionalità alternativi](#). As this research was hosted in a pedagogical school, we decide to expand this research to education and training. This book is written one third in English and 2 thirds in French.

An important part of this work was devoted to the relationship between, on one hand, what may be called neoliberal thought and, secondly, education and training. The annual and final reports are available on the SNSF website. Each year was marked by a symposium where researchers (Jean-Louis Chancerel, Severino Elias Ngoenha Giovanni Leghissa and Sacha Varin) presented their findings to Swiss and foreign experts from different countries (England, Italy, France, Belgium, Romania, Portugal, Mozambique, etc.). The contents of the discussions will be published progressively. The first book here is about the final conference.

The book is composed by texts of interventions made at a meeting held in January 2014 in the HEP. Examining the results fed the analyzes on the nature of neoliberalism. Is it only economic ? Is it applicable as thought to social and cultural issues ? Can we reduce it to a management approach as the New Public Management ? Are education and training affected or contaminated by this neoliberalism thought ? If so, how ? What form neoliberalism appears in education and training ? Is it positive ? In the book, these issues are discussed from various disciplines such as pedagogy, sociology, economics and philosophy. In my opinion, it is one of the assets (atout) of this book, namely the fact of having treated the notion of neoliberalism through multiple different disciplines.

Each participant could speak from his university position and / or expert to international organizations.

The central issues discussed in the text are firstly the issue of change in decision-making spaces in educational policy and, secondly, the fact that educational policies are summarized increasingly to governance and management. In this area, the State is not omnipotent. The texts opened a debate on the interest, but also on the limitations of neoliberal thinking in education and training. Is it, as the proponents of this approach proclaim an "end of history of education" by market regulation or is a step that must be exceeded ?

On this point, opinions differ and it is the huge merit of this book : Giving a voice to people who could develop their arguments in a freedom way. These discussions continue in other places; the book appears as a basis for new work and new key debates in the current phase of globalization. A next book in 2 volumes (is under press right now) will very soon be published, (October-November 2016).