Project Description – PhD in Education and Social Sciences

Research area PA - Public Administration/ PNRR - scholarship under Ministerial Decree no. 629/2024

Title: Digital communities between STEM teachers.
Project Description: Designing and testing remote interaction modes between STEM teachers.

Research area 01 - Permanent Education – Processes and Projects of Education and Development with a Focus on South Tyrol

Title: Children's Rights and Education for Sustainable Development - Kindergarten and Primary School as Spaces for experience-based Learning for Democracy and Natural Ethics.
Project Description: The study, which uses reconstructive methods of empirical social research, focuses on the question of how institutions of education (in South Tyrol) meet and can meet the challenge of enabling children to think and act in a sustainable way that is oriented towards a democratic, peaceful, responsible and interspecies coexistence in a planetary context.

Title: Education for Economic Citizenship: lines of research
Project Description: The case study focuses on analysing the economic awareness of the population, in particular of certain vulnerable groups such as the elderly and women, in order to develop training proposals as a means of protecting and improving individual and social well-being, with the aim of reducing the gender gap and combating inequalities for all those at risk of social exclusion.

Research area 02 - IN-IN Education: INnovative and INclusive Education

Title: Applied research in didactics.
Project Description: Applied research concerning didactics in schools and/or in the broader educational contexts. The research project may include the use of technologies and AI.

Title: Applied research in special needs education.
Project Description: Research on didactics applied to disabilities and/or integration, and/or how to deal with differences pedagogically. This may include the use of technologies and AI.

Research area 03 - Psychology and wellbeing promotion in educational contexts

Title: Life-skills promotion in educational settings.
Project Description: Since 1994, the WHO has promoted the development of educational programmes to increase life-skills in school. The project is aimed at creating and testing ad-hoc activities to develop life-skills from primary through high school.
Title: Executive functions and social-emotional skills in the transition between pre-school and primary school.
Project Description: The general aim of the study is to investigate early risk and protective factors beyond potentially socially maladjusted developmental trajectories in the transition from preschool to primary school. The study will focus Executive Functions and socioemotional-skills.

Research area 04 - Languages and multilingualism in South Tyrol

Title: Linguistic-literary-aesthetic learning with picturebooks in multilingual and inter-cultural contexts.
Project Description: What significance do picturebooks have for linguistic-literary-aesthetic learning in multilingual and intercultural contexts? This question can be investigated qualitatively and empirically in literary socialisation or interaction studies in the family, kindergarten and primary school.

Research area 05 - Aesthetic experiences and communication

Title: Music popularization and music education
Project Description: The research aims at a definition of the role of music popularization as a form of music education that is supplementary to the offer, limited in terms of hours, in schools.

Title: Health literacy and physical literacy: A lifelong learning journey.
Project Description: The project regards the study of the links between the two key-concepts of health literacy and physical literacy, considering variables such as adherence, motivation, affective response in school (primary and secondary) and university students.

Research area 06 - Educational Contexts, Disciplines and their Teaching in the Nursery and Primary School

Title: Plant Blindness: Can science education prevent it in primary school pupils?
Project Description: Plant Blindness is the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment. Is it possible to avoid this through science education in primary school? If yes, what is the most efficient way?

Title: Embodiment in Physics/Science Education
Project Description: Embodied Learning is based on the theory of embodied mind and focusses on learning experiences in which scientific processes can be directly experienced and comprehended by the learner through the involvement of the body.

Research area 07 - Socio cultural worlds: institutions, welfare, social professions, environment and population

Title: Quality of Life and Health Determinants of Informal Caregivers.
Project Description: The quality of life, health status, and determinants of informal caregivers remain poorly understood, despite their crucial role in caring for others. The main aim of this project is to compare the quality of life and health determinants of informal caregivers, particularly family members, with those of adults without caregiving responsibilities. This will be accomplished using official data sources such as ISTAT for national data and SHARE for European data, alongside in-depth qualitative interviews.

Title: The role of social professions in the changing cooperation within the Socio-Healthcare System in Italy
Project Description: This project will examine the role of social professions in ongoing transformations to create a better collaboration of the social and healthcare systems in Italy, which have until the present largely operated separately.

Research area 08 - EduSpaces teaching and learning environment

Title: The EduSpaces university laboratories of educational research: what theoretical foundations, methods, and activities for integration.
Project Description: The EduSpaces of the Faculty of Education are university laboratories for research, teaching and learning that have developed over time to meet the needs of primary education with different research topics, from basic theoretical and empirical research on teaching and learning to pedagogical and disciplinary research in collaboration with schools and other stakeholders.