



RSE

Rivista di Storia dell'Educazione



C.I.R.S.E.

Centro Italiano per la Ricerca Storico Educativa

RSE – “RIVISTA DI STORIA DELL’EDUCAZIONE”, n. 2/2019

Call for Papers
monographic section

School, university and racial laws.

A historical-educational reflection on the racial laws in Italy between history, stories, testimony, and autobiography.

Editors: board of CIRSE

On the occasion of the recent 80th anniversary of the promulgation of the Italian racial laws of the Fascist government (1938), the issue 2/2019 of the Journal of History of Education intends to dedicate the monographic section to the theme of the relationship between school and racial laws. The aim is to focus on the multiplicity and complexity of the historical-educational implications that, starting from this dramatic legislation, involved firstly the school system, an institution deemed of central importance in the totalitarian ideology of the Fascist regime: it was to be entrusted with the essential task of shaping individual consciousnesses within an ideology deeply imbued with racist components. In the years preceding 1938, the Fascist regime had carefully prepared these legislative regulations that would mark, as we know, the beginning of the persecutions of the Italian Jewish population and Fascism’s definitive destruction of an Italy that had been created by the Italian unification and founded on the equality of its citizens.

Already during the 1938/39 school year, Jewish students were not admitted to public school. Public institutions thus expelled 96 university professors and 193 assistants; 279 principals and middle school teachers; more than 100 elementary school teachers; 200 independent teachers; 114 authors of textbooks (which were also subject to censorship and elimination from public schools); 5,400 elementary and middle school students; 200 university students. Jewish Italian citizens, who would be welcomed by the Jewish schools arising quickly in the main Italian cities, could not - until the fall of the Fascist regime - enter public schools, libraries, or sit next to their “Arian” classmates on the occasion of the year-end exams which they would participate in as external students. Lia Levi recounts this latter fact in her autobiographical novel *Questa sera è già domani* (*This Evening is Already Tomorrow*, 2018). The exclusion that Italian citizens of Jewish origin suffered was ferocious, and it still presents many little-explored areas of historical-educational reflection which, in this our present historical moment, we consider urgent to deepen. Indeed, even though the notion of 'race' has been discredited by the biological and anthropological sciences that have demonstrated its groundlessness, even

today we are witnessing forms of intolerance and violence against groups that are considered 'other' and treated as if they were a different kind of humanity. In this historical moment, thus, it seems valuable to us that the historical-educational research should evoke and reiterate its dimension of civic engagement by reflecting on the great historical themes of exclusion, racism, and persecution.

Proposals for contributions may be submitted on the basis of the following thematic lines:

- School and racial laws
- University and racial laws
- School life and practices of racism
- Textbooks and racism
- Racist propaganda at school
- Teachers and racial laws
- Educational Experiences: Life stories, autobiographies, testimonies
- Practices of racism in educational non-scholastic contexts
- Racism and racist ideologies, racist theories

*Deadline abstracts submission: **3 march 2019*** (max 400 words + brief curriculum)

*Proposal acceptance: **24 marzo 2019***

*Deadline papers submission (RSE platform): **31 july 2019***

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