

International seminar Tuesday 22 September 2026, 09h -17h30

Buisson building, École normale supérieure de Lyon (ENS de Lyon), Descartes campus, 15 parvis René Descartes, 69007 Lyon, France

Improving the Circulation of Ideas on Education Policy within Society and Public Debate

Overview

The circulation of ideas between research, the media and public debate in education represents a scientific and democratic issue. This international seminar brings together researchers and research mediation professionals to address a shared question: how do ideas circulate between researchers, the media, public opinion and education policymakers?

The event brings into dialogue two theoretical frameworks that have rarely been connected. Research on configurations de dicibilité (configurations of sayability; Pons, 2024) shows that the content and scope of education policy debates rely on specific combinations of politicization, mediatization and professionalization. The concept of the ideas-informed society (Brown & Luzmore, 2025) describes a society in which citizens engage actively and critically with available knowledge. French and English cases will be discussed and enriched by perspectives from other European contexts: Nordic countries, Switzerland and the German-speaking area.

The programme also includes a presentation devoted to Édudébat, a four-page controversy note produced by the Institut français de l'Éducation (IFÉ) to inform public debate on education.

Speakers

Chris Brown – University of Southampton, United Kingdom

Research on the mobilization of research knowledge in education, the *ideas-informed society* and *democratic intelligence*.

Jana Groß Ophoff – Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau, Switzerland

Research on data use and the culture of evidence in German-speaking education systems.

John Benedicto Krejsler – Aarhus University, Denmark

Research on Nordic education policies and the transnational transformations of education governance.

Marie Gaussel – IFÉ-ENS de Lyon, France

Research on scientific mediation in education; designer of *Édudébat* the new IFÉ controversy note, and author of the first issue.

Sonia Revaz – University of Geneva, Switzerland

Research on education policy and on the conditions under which research findings are mobilized in policy-making.

Xavier Pons – Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, ECP research unit; Director of the IFÉ

Research on comparative education policy, *configurations of sayability* and the resulting forms of collective ignorance.

Programme, Tuesday 22 September 2026

9.00 a.m.	Welcome coffee
9.30 a.m.	Opening by the ENS de Lyon presidency and Xavier Pons, Director of the IFÉ
10.00 a.m.	Chris Brown, University of Southampton Democratic Intelligence and the Architecture of Public Reasoning: From Educational Institutions to Societal Resilience
11.00 a.m.	Sonia Revaz, University of Geneva Crafting School Reform: The Translation of the Educational Debate Within Public Policy Spheres
12.00	Lunch (buffet, IFÉ lounge)
1.15 p.m.	Xavier Pons, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 Debating education policies, or how to adapt to the configurations of sayability: a sociological study
2.15 p.m.	Marie Gaussel, IFÉ-ENS de Lyon Informing public debate on educational controversies: the genesis and design of Édudébat, a new IFÉ interface format
3.15 p.m.	Break
3.30 p.m.	Jana Groß Ophoff, Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau From Evidence to Ideas: Professional Learning and Leadership for an Ideas-Informed Society
4.30 p.m.	John Benedicto Krejsler, Aarhus University Provincializing Europe to Make It Fit for a Multipolar World: On Eurocentrism in Education as a Threat to the Circulation of Ideas
5.30 p.m.	Closing of the seminar

Practical information

Registration: free of charge but required, subject to availability, at <https://ensform.ens-lyon.fr/view.php?id=1076698>

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Organization: Marie Gaussel (marie.gaussel@ens-lyon.fr), head of the Veille & Analyses team and co-coordinator for International Partnership Development, IFÉ-ENS de Lyon.

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