

## Call for papers

# Bourdieu applied: Translating Bourdieu into educational practice in the context of social and ecological transformation

*Panel organized as part of the “BSA Bourdieu Study Group Mid-Term Conference 2025”*

3-5 Sept 2025 in Vienna, Austria

Website: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/bourdieu25>

### Topic

Entering the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, several global challenges have become increasingly pressing, including climate change, the demand for alternative energy sources, increasing global migration flows, limitations of the infinite economic growth paradigm etc. These challenges have profound implications for peoples' living conditions, their opportunities in a changing labour market and the shifting educational requirements to successfully navigate these transformations and cope with their consequences. Since these challenges are deeply intertwined with a social dimension of inequality, the possession (or lack) of various forms of capitals can exacerbate the individual risk for exposure to negative consequences as well as the societal risk for increasing social gaps (Bruckmeier 2016; Brand/Wissen 2017; Bigs et al. 2021).

Bourdieu's work, renowned for its analysis of social reproduction of status hierarchies, has also significantly contributed to our understanding of transformation and social change (Gorski 2012; Fowler 2020). This panel seeks to apply these Bourdieusian perspectives to the pressing “socio ecological transformation challenges” of today. It aims to explore how Bourdieu's theoretical framework can help understand, address, and overcome these challenges within the educational sector. Therefore, it explicitly invites applied research that bridges Bourdieusian theory with empirical analyses of educational practice across formal and non-formal educational institutions (Moyer/Sinclair 2020; Tikly et al. 2020; Mc Grath 2023).

The panel particularly invites studies that tackle the following questions from a Bourdieusian perspective:

- How can educational institutions facilitate the acquisition of competences that enable to cope with the consequences of contemporary social ecological transformations?
- Which pedagogical techniques are currently applied to raise students' awareness to acquire new forms of competences, learn about evolving professions and tackle the social challenges?
- Which forms of participatory educational concepts are applied to empower the most disadvantaged segments of learners (e.g. economically deprived, lower educational background, immigrant origin), to become agents of change rather than victims to it?
- What challenges and opportunities arise in the fight against the reproduction of class relations in the face of social and ecological transformation?
- Which innovative examples of adult and vocational education already address the growing need to professional retraining, alternative vocational education paths but also systemic, habitual and lifestyle changes necessary considering social and ecological transformation?
- Which (governmental) policy frameworks are required to implement innovative educational responses to contemporary social ecological transformation challenges?

### Submission

Individual paper submissions for this panel should include an abstract of 300 words clearly indicating the object of inquiry, the Bourdieusian perspective, references, the methodology of the study, the expected outcomes, and its relevance for the topic of the panel. The title, the name, the affiliation of the authors, as well as five keywords, must also be provided. Abstracts need to be submitted directly to the panel organizers by **January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. Upon review, the final decision on inclusion in the joint panel submission will be communicated to the authors no later than **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

The panel is particularly inviting researchers working on Austria, Germany and Switzerland in their empirical analysis. For early career researchers without institutional financing, a funding opportunity to compensate for conference fees can be provided. For further questions, please directly contact the panel organizers:

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