

Topic	<b>Network 21 – Education and psychoanalysis</b> <b>ECER 2025 Belgrade</b> <b>NW 21 Meeting Minutes</b>
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## Network 21 Workshop and Sessions - 8 to 12.09.2025

2025 was the fourth year of NW21 as an independent network, after being nested in Network 13 (Philosophy of Education) for 4 years.

### 1. Workshops

#### **Workshop 1 – Tuesday 9, 15:15 to 16:45**

*A Network between Past and Future: a Reflective Workshop for Dreaming and Thinking Network 21*

14 people attended this workshop.

This workshop has been dedicated to presenting and discussing the evolution of Network 21 since 2019, in order to help members and their associates to elaborate new directions of research for the coming years. The aim of this workshop was to set up a group work process to promote exchanges and commitment among participants.

With reference to the psychoanalytic orientation shared by the members of the network – in the diversity of national and historical situations – phenomena of free associations and ‘capacity of dreaming’ (Bion, 1962) have been promoted, in order to support creative processes in research.

The workshop has been organized in three steps.

First step: Experiences and expectations. Participants have been asked to write a few sentences relating to their experience of NW 21, in terms of how it has influenced their research and their personal position as a researcher.

Second step: Report on Network 21 activities since 2019. From a paper describing what has been produced within the Network in terms of research, the European dimension of the network has been highlighted.

Third Step: Future of the Network. Working in small groups, participants have been invited to discuss future topics of Network 21 and research topics group members can have in common. Then, the discussions in small groups have been shared in the large group.

#### **Workshop 2 – Wednesday 10, 15:30 to 17:00**

*MIRROR: A Methodological Contribution to Inclusive Practices*

15 people attended this workshop.

Participants made the experience of the ‘mirror letter’ (or MIRROR), a reflexive and reflective practice that encourages the writer to address different actors (e.g. teacher, child, parent, desk, assessment, etc.) about an experience that has made a significant impact on their professional practice. The writing process brings to the

fore ways in which the writer has been impacted by those actors he/she encountered, encouraging him/her to face his/hers own challenges and vulnerabilities. This writing experience supports the development of a higher level of awareness about the impact of everyday practices and builds reflective and empathetic capacity that attunes the writer to the importance of inclusive approaches.

More generally the 'mirror letter' is designed to support leaders in their development of an awareness of inclusive pedagogical approaches. MIRROR draws on several methodological and philosophical principles and approaches: phenomenology (Van Manen, 2014, Middendorp, 2015), the Socratic conversation (Kessels, Boers & Mostert, 2002), ethnographic fiction (Ellis, 2004), systems thinking (Savenije, Lawick & Reijmers, 2009) and Actor Network Theory (Latour, 2005).

## 2. Sessions

This year 14 proposals were accepted for ECER 2025, with a total of 20 presenters: 1 long paper; 3 workshops; and 10 papers (1 other accepted workshop was cancelled before the conference because the presenters cancelled their participation in the conference).

Eight sessions were scheduled. One of these sessions was withdrawn because a workshop was cancelled. Two papers were not presented during the conference due to other cancellations.

During the seven sessions, 11 papers were actually presented and 2 Research workshops have been set up.

As in previous years, the number of participants was stable and consistent during the sessions (see table below). We note that Network 21 consists of loyal participants who regularly attend the conference and take part in the network's activities. Around this core group, the network is still open to 'visiting researchers' who only take part in one or two sessions. The bonds between network members have grown stronger, leading to more consistent exchanges, thanks in particular to the members getting to know each other better. Network 21 has gradually become a forum for exchange among its members, who seem to feel confident enough to share both their research findings and their epistemological questions, while respecting the diversity of approaches.

Session 21 SES 01 A - Tue. 9 Sept. 2025. 13:15 - 14:45	Paper Session 1	12
Session 21 SES 02 A - Tue. 9 Sept. 2025. 15:15 - 16:45	Workshop 1	14
Session 21 SES 03 A - Tue. 9 Sept. 2025. 17:15 - 18:45	Paper session 2	13
Session 21 SES 06 A - Wed. 10 sept. 2025. 13:30 - 15:00	Workshop 2	15
Session 21 SES 06 A - Wed. 10 sept. 2025. 15:30 - 17:00	Paper session 3	15
Session 21 SES 10.5 A - Thu. 11 sept. 2025. 12:15 - 13:15	Network Meeting	11
Session 21 SES 11 A - Thu. 11 sept. 2025. 13:30 - 15:00	Paper session 4	14
Session 21 SES 12 A - Thu. 11 sept. 2025. 15:30 - 17:00	Paper session 5	14

Workshops and paper sessions alternate, fostering a positive group dynamic that promotes exchanges between participants

### 3. Network Meeting

Thursday 11, 12:15 to 13:15.

14 researchers from 6 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands) attended the NW21 meeting. Most of them are members of academic teams working on a psychoanalytical approach in education and are based in Berlin, Bordeaux, Leeuwarden, Milano, Paris, Sofia and Vienna.

The following topics have been discussed.

#### —**Publication projects**

A contract has been signed with Bloomsbury Academic Eds in order to publish a 'Handbook Education and psychoanalysis' and many participants to Nw 21 will be authors for that collective work which will include 35 chapters written by 50 researchers.

Some other publication projects are still in progress, such as a special issue in English of French *Cliopsy Journal*.

#### —**Presentation formats**

The research workshops were a highly positive experience this year, like it had been in 2024. That very interesting presentation format has led to a rich exchange of ideas and gave the possibility to meet researchers we had never been in contact with before. The two research workshops lasted 1:30 each, which is a good amount of time. In some sessions, only two papers were presented, leaving more time for discussion.

We are considering a symposium format slightly different from the 'traditional' format, which would be an opportunity to discuss a recent publication: the idea is to create a space where a researcher could present a paper in the presence of its author, and then open a discussion on the published paper. This is currently just an idea that needs to be clarified.

#### —**Special Call**

We are planning a Special Call for ECER 2026 which will be written by NW 21 Link convenors after suggestions from co-convenors and some involved participants. But for 2026 we also plan to include some common proposals in the Special Call, written in collaboration with Nw 19 Link convenors, in order to organize a Joint session (probably a workshop) for next ECER.

## Network 21 development

What we plan to do or are already working on:

- Each ECER is an excellent opportunity to meet new colleagues from different countries, so we have to continue to develop contacts to enlarge the network, particularly in the UK and the USA. We are also working on the extent of contacts with the Spanish – and Portuguese – speaking world. The contacts made for the book-in-progress for Bloomsbury also help us expand the network. Contacts with international psychoanalytic associations (more specifically in Czech Republic) could also help to raise the visibility of the Network.
- The ‘Cliopsy Congress’, a conference in France in June 2026 will give an opportunity for further discussions. Researchers from Network 21 will be invited to contribute to this conference (a symposium is being prepared with keynote speakers).
- Teaching, research exchanges and mobility are being developed between network members.
- Invitation to a ‘young researcher’ to become co-convenor for Nw 21.
- Improving our use of the mailing list to share information
- Updating NW 21 web pages