

Call for Papers

## **Zeitschrift für Weiterbildungsforschung ZfW**

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### **Adult and Continuing Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Perspectives**

Edited by  
Kerstin Hoenig & Gabriele Molzberger

The Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically affected all areas of life, including adult and continuing education in its various structures and across sectors. Educational programmes, formats, demand, conditions, and opportunities for learning and the edification of adults in their various socio-cultural and professional contexts have all changed.

Most apparent is the growth in digital formats and online learning, while forms of in-person instruction were postponed, cancelled, or reduced in terms of scope and participant numbers. The new parameters under which providers can develop and implement their programmes are changing the financial and organisational requirements right down to the level of interactions and the design of learning arrangements, instruction and acquisition processes. Demand in certain areas of education has weakened significantly due to fear of infection and economic losses. At the same time, the spectrum of relevant topics is shifting because of changes in working and living conditions. The nature and extent of the requirements and need for new knowledge and skills, directly or indirectly triggered by the pandemic, are only gradually becoming apparent, especially in the field of continuing vocational education. However, the direction in which this social change will take place will also be determined by contingent political decisions. Therefore, it is all the more important to estimate the conditions under which the future of adult and continuing education can be structured and evaluate them as soundly as possible.

The second year of the pandemic provides an opportunity both to look back at the impact the pandemic has had on adult and continuing education to date, and to venture initial forecasts of lasting changes, in the field of research as well as practice.

We invite contributions that explore the effects of the pandemic on adult and continuing education, broadly defined. Analyses and research results on the following topics are welcome:

- the function and role of adult education and adult education research in society, its theorisation and empirical observation in the context of the pandemic;
- changed circumstances of education institutions and shifts in the relation of subsectors in adult and continuing education;
- the impact of the pandemic on those working in the adult and continuing education sectors and their individual and collective professionalisation;
- forecasts and scenarios regarding adult and continuing education demand, including the sectors of education, health, arts and culture;
- the social situation of participants, opportunities for participation and involvement in adult and continuing education;
- expectations regarding educational trajectories and biographical accounts shaped by pandemic-related crises;
- increased use of (digital) technology in work and learning contexts as well as technical solutions regarding the development, dissemination and use of instruction material.

We invite you to submit your contribution via the publisher's editorial system [www.springer.com/journal/40955](http://www.springer.com/journal/40955)

If you have any questions, the editorial team will be happy to assist you.

**Submission Deadline for manuscripts: 1 July 2021**

**Publication Date: December 2021**

All contributions undergo a twofold anonymised peer review process.

The editorial team accepts manuscripts for first and sole publication only.

You will find more information about the journal and details on submission of manuscripts on the website [www.springer.com/journal/40955](http://www.springer.com/journal/40955)

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