

## **INTERCAMBIO MAGAZINE No. 12**

### **Call for Submissions:**

### **Working Conditions and Teachers' Health**

During the past few years, the IDEA Network has undertaken multiple solidarity actions *vis a vis* efforts to strip the rights of teachers at all levels - from elementary school to post-secondary. We have witnessed a steady deterioration of teaching/learning conditions and educators' standards of living, something documented and analyzed in numerous studies. However, the impact of these changes on teacher health has not yet received much attention. In this issue of *Intercambio* we are interested in examining the health impact of important labour transformations generated by neoliberal policies governments impose on education. It is important to demonstrate the connection between privatization processes, the precarization of labour and the deterioration of the health of education workers.

At the core of privatization lies the standardized "evaluation" of teachers, students and institutions. International standards aim to judge the results of the processes of education and competitiveness; as well as their quality, efficiency and efficacy; and are aimed at commodifying education products and services.

But such external and punitive assessment increases labour harassment and seeks to undermine social support for teachers. Its goal is to promote an environment of competition and individualism that tears the social fabric of educators' collective strength. Thus, there is a loss of control over the work process and a restriction of teacher autonomy. It sparks the development of a new *Ethos*, a work-related estrangement and alienation, by increasing mechanical work and discarding creativity; which in turn, increases depersonalization and indifference.

The impact of the deterioration of teaching/learning conditions on health is manifest in an increase of distress among educators. It shows up as anxiety, depression, irritability, insomnia, chronic fatigue, back pain, neuro-visual

alterations, psychosomatic symptoms, digestive problems, cardiac and circulatory problems, headaches, migraines, burnout and an increase in mental disorders, among others.

The intention of this issue is to bring to light the different manifestations of these trends in our countries and at the regional level. We encourage researchers and educators from throughout the Americas to submit articles that explore this phenomenon.

Contributions can focus on one or more of the following topics:

- The role of privatization processes in changes in teaching/learning conditions and in the *Ethos* (guiding beliefs) of teachers, and their repercussions on health issues.
- The role of precarization, the loss of rights and the proletarianization of working conditions, and the relationship with distress and physical and mental disorders.
- The relationship between systems of teacher evaluation and the loss of labour rights; collective work, professional autonomy and the control over one's own labour processes; and their health consequences.
- The impact of the loss of creativity, and alienation from work-related processes on mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, phobias and psychosomatic illnesses.
- Resistance and alternatives to labour precarization and new threats to the health of education workers.

**If you are interested in contributing to this issue of *Intercambio* please send by the following dates:**

-  **September 9<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for a brief submission proposal (description of article or other contribution in 3-4 sentences that include theme and an estimate of length).
-  **September 30:** Deadline for submission of articles.
-  **October 15:** Revision of articles concludes.

- ✚ October 31: Deadline for editing and design process.
- ✚ November 6th, Publishing date, *Intercambio* Number 12
  
- ✚ Articles should be between 800-1500 words (6-9 thousand characters). If these are testimonies of struggle - 700 words maximum (5 thousand characters).
- ✚ The articles should comply with the following format: Text in Word, 1.5 Line spacing, Times New Roman Font, 12 point font size, Titles in bold, subtitles in Italic. Please use the APA referencing system, including author(s) details as a footnote (institutional adscription and email). Also include: summary, keywords and bibliographic references.
- ✚ We ask you to accompany your material with photos, cartoons, posters, or other images related to the topic where possible (please include the source of the photo and full name of the photographer or artist). Images should be in JPEG or PNG high resolution.

✚ **Please send your articles to the coordinating editors of this issue: Sara Unda: [saraunda@unam.mx](mailto:saraunda@unam.mx); María de la Luz Arriaga: [mariluzarriaga@gmail.com](mailto:mariluzarriaga@gmail.com) with copies to María Ramos, Managing Editor: [inforedsepa@resist.ca](mailto:inforedsepa@resist.ca) and Steve Stewart, Director: [idea@resist.ca](mailto:idea@resist.ca)**

Sincerely;

Intercambio Editorial Committee

María Trejos (Costa Rica), María de la Luz Arriaga (México), Edgar Isch (Ecuador), Larry Kuehn (Canadá), Guillermo Chen (Guatemala), Steve Stewart (Canadá), Miguel Duhalde (Argentina)