

Training Froebelian educators – the peripatetic Eleonore Heerwart’s contribution to training Froebelian educators in late 19th century Britain

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Presentation

This presentation draws on research carried out for a chapter in the forthcoming text by Bloomsbury, *The Handbook to Froebel*, and seeks to provide an historical reflection on the conference theme of ‘Developing knowledgeable, nurturing and reflective educators’. The focus is on the career of Eleonore Heerwart and aims to illuminate the transnational connections which developed between Froebelians following Froebel’s death in 1852 and how these contributed to the development of training programmes by those closely connected with him. Heerwart’s major contribution to training was at Stockwell College in London from 1861 -1833 but the presentation identifies her earlier initiatives in the UK and Ireland. It discusses the strategies taken by Heerwart to disseminate kindergarten pedagogy to a wider audience and explores how she responded to the needs of those working in the different settings which were offering Froebelian education at this time. Heerwart’s work at Stockwell was not without its difficulties and the presentation explores how she countered these, drawing on her dedication and force of character which brought her both allies and critics.

References:

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Keywords:

Teacher training

Eleonore Heerwart

Kindergarten pedagogy

Equipment required:

PC for PowerPoint