8th International Conference on the Anthropological Theory of the Didactic CITAD 8 – Barcelona, January 19-23, 2026

Research praxeologies in the Anthropological Theory of the Didactic

Presentation and scientific theme – Axis 3

The Anthropological Theory of the Didactic (ATD) currently plays a prominent role in international research in didactics. Since 2005, seven international conferences have been organised in different locations of Spain and France.

Like the preceding ones, this conference brings together researchers interested in the ATD and aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Establishing an updated overview of the results and progress in the ATD with regard to both basic research and the development of education systems, including teacher education
- Developing a research programme around the most relevant open problems, either related to difficulties affecting education systems, or the development of didactics as a scientific discipline
- Identifying and studying the specific problems raised by the extension of the ATD's conceptual and methodological tools to other fields

This 8th conference will also be an opportunity to further engage in the theoretical and methodological debate by discussing the research praxeologies developed within the framework of the ATD. Contributions are thus expected to highlight the research praxeologies mobilised, explaining the uses of ATD concepts and tools. In so doing, CITAD8 will provide an opportunity to collectively examine questions such as: What does doing research within the ATD involve? What are the praxeological characteristics of the research conducted within the ATD?

CITAD8 is organised around 3 main axes.

Axis 3: The professions

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The professionalisation of the teaching profession in the context of compulsory education is one of the main areas of research in the ATD. It consists in the study of either: the conditions and constraints of professionalisation, the mathematical knowledge to be taught to future teachers (Klein's second discontinuity problem), the pedagogical and didactic methods of this training within the paradigm of questioning the world, or the problems of the profession and the difficulties and questions that arise in the exercise of this profession (Chevallard & Cirade, 2009; Barquero et al, 2018; Florensa et al., 2021; Planchon & Hausberger, in press; Winsløw, 2020). With the development of vocational training in a variety of institutional contexts (including universities), research within ATD is expanding beyond compulsory education (Castela & Romo Vázquez, 2011; Manceau, 2018; Ladage et al., 2021; Paris, 2024).

The question of professionalisation is particularly relevant in view of the transformations that are constantly affecting and renewing human societies, like migrations, climate change and AI. How can the theoretical framework of ATD contribute to the understanding of societal developments in general? Without limiting itself to the teaching profession, Axis 3 is interested in ATD research on professional training, whatever the context in which it is practised, in relation to these societal issues. What didactic transpositions and what didactic situations and configurations should be considered in response? Contributions may focus on questions of professionalisation in the fields of technology, ecology, the social sphere, the inclusive society, etc. They will examine social situations on the periphery of the school system and specific professional environments, such as the evolution of engineering training in relation to ecological issues, simulation, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, craft environments, multilingual contexts, vocational training in prisons, etc.

Examples:

The transformation of professions (e.g. the profession of engineering) and the emergence of new professions (e.g. the profession of educational counsellor), requiring modifications or the identification of new professional frames of reference and requiring the modification and construction of training programmes. In particular, training in the context of digital and ecological transformations and transitions, sustainable development in general and social responsibility.

The emergence of continuous training in many professions (e.g. the professionalisation of training supervisors).

The emergence of professional training at a distance or in so-called non-privileged or very specific contexts (indigenous schools, rural schools, schools for migrant children, training in prisons).

The introduction of digital technologies in education and training as well as in the workplace (distance learning, simulation, virtual reality, mixed reality, artificial intelligence, etc.) and the training needed to support them.

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