Qeios

Peer Review

Review of: "Transcendence of Anthropocentrism in Education: Historical and Theoretical Analysis of a Nonhuman World and the Decolonization of Interspecies Education"

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Dear Dr. Hourdakis,

I appreciate reading your work and fully endorse your advocacy, a perspective needed more as each day concludes with further net devastation of our community of life (of which we are embedded) because of most of our collective and increasing (modernity/colonial) detachment from it. I only have a few minor suggestions for your consideration:

1. Textbook sample: I reckon similar patterns are likely to be encountered in more contemporary texts, so I'm curious why you haven't chosen more recent textbooks (which educators/researchers might also find more relevant). Further, by not at least briefly discussing contemporary textbooks, it might lead readers to (erroneously) conclude that more recent textbooks are notably more inclined to have "Interspecies" education perspectives than these older texts. Either way, it is worth mentioning why you've chosen 1938-1990 as your sample period.
2. Jargon: While academics are likely to understand phrases such as "... hermeneutics, this normalization functions as a form of ontological violence...", it would be inaccessible to most general public readers. I think any articles that are aimed at raising our collective consciousness of the perils of modernity and our detachment from our community of life need to be read/understood by as wide an audience as possible, and such inaccessible phrases limit the reach of your important advocacy. Personally, I'd be okay with a loss of some technical nuance (afforded by words such as

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"hermeneutics and ontological") in favor of more people being able to understand your writing (such as, and especially, elementary school teachers who might read your work).

3. I think you have great and relevant references, but you might want to include a few more Indigenous authors/writers in your main text (whose communities have long known of/advocated for such an Interspecies education).

Overall, your work is a concise and most welcome contribution to the fields of both social studies and environmental/ecological education (which should always be integrated!); I invite you to learn more about WALC, a team of high school educators in California that practices what you preach (you can find a study I co-wrote about them here: https://www.mdpi.com/2673-995X/5/2/46)

I look forward to reading your final paper.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.