

PLENARY LECTURES

PL1. FAKE NEWS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION: EFFECTIVE RESEARCH AND TEACHING STRATEGIES TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS¹

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How to deal with the phenomenon of misinformation and fake news in science? Nowadays, what is the role of Universities in building a more active and aware citizenship? Evidently, only the diffusion of a sound scientific culture can provide people with the tools to distinguish science from pseudoscience, stimulating their critical thinking.

Starting from this scenario, the contribution presents a series of educational experiences, based on research approaches, carried out by an interdisciplinary group of the University of Bologna (Unibo), aimed at countering the increasingly widespread (among students, amplified by some digital media) phenomena of disinformation and misinformation.

After illustrating some recurrent false myths in the scientific field, this lecture presents an example of training intervention carried out also in the framework of the “ParliamoneOra” (<http://www.parliamoneora.it/>) Unibo initiative: professors and researchers from Unibo affirm academia knowledge primacy, which is the basis of democracy, one of the fundamental values of our society and an engine for development. Scientific research and didactics are among the few tools available to face the main current challenges, as part of public engagement activities to which academia has been dedicating more and more in recent years all over the world.

Moreover, teaching methodologies and digital technologies will be presented to scientifically address the issue of drug addiction by promoting an innovative teaching approach in which students have been able to actively participate in their teaching-learning path, which has overturned the canons of traditional training intervention.