



## **Seminar Series 2022-23**

### **“CONFINTEA VII: Staying Alive, Alert, Awake and Enthusiastic as Civil Society”**

**Professor Jose Roberto ‘Robbie’ Guevara**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022,  
10:30 – 12:00 GMT  
Face to Face and Online via Zoom**

**F2F ARC: 5125 MEETING RM**

Please find below joining details for the Confintea VIII Seminar online.

<https://uofglasgow.zoom.us/j/83507553158>

#### **Abstract**

CONFINTEA VII, the 7th International Conference on Adult Education was hosted in June 2022 in Marrakesh, Morocco. CONFINTEA is a significant international adult learning and education (ALE) conference, because aside from it only happening every 12 years, it is an opportunity to review the commitments made in CONFINTEA VI in Belem in 2009, it is the first CONFINTEA since the adoption of the SDGs with the commitment to lifelong learning opportunities for all, plus, it comes at a time when ALE is becoming an essential tool for the pandemic recovery, and for addressing global issues like the climate crisis and the on-going conflict situations around the world.

At the conclusion of CONFINTEA VII, I wrote an article for the website of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) entitled Your ICAE is Alive, Alert, Awake, Enthudiastic. The title comes from a popular action song that continues to be used in community and adult education workshops.

In the article, I described how we in the ICAE, were throughout the preparations, during the Civil Society Forum and during the actual CONFINTEA VII, were ALIVE to the realities of the times, ALERT to the opportunities to advocate for ALE as part of the right to education, AWAKE to the debates on education that were happening during this time, and ENTHUSIATIC to advance the commitments made in the Marrakesh Framework for Action (MFA).

Since the end of CONFINTEA VII, the UN Secretary General António Guterres has convened the Transforming Education Summit and released his Vision Statement on Transforming Education where he argued for "a new social contract for education, grounded

in two principles: ensuring the right to quality education throughout life; and strengthening education as a public endeavour and a common good."

By the time I conduct this webinar in December, I would have just come back from the World Assembly of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), with the theme, The Future of Education Re-imagined. A key element of the proposed GCE Strategic Plan (2023-2026) is the recognition of lifelong learning, that explicitly identifies adult education as a foundational ask for future education campaigns.

Indeed, the world seems to be Alive to the challenges we face if we are to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future. I will argue that we are now more Alert to the role that education has to play to address these challenges. In fact, I think policy makers are Awake, to the reality that we cannot have "business-as-usual" education. We need education to be transformed, if it is to be transformative.

Finally, I look forward to a very Enthusiastic webinar audience. We will not just reflect on CONFINTEA VII but engage with what the MFA is meant to do, which is to ... "guide us in harnessing the transformational power of ALE within a lifelong learning perspective for a socially cohesive, fulfilling, inclusive and sustainable future for all."

Bio:





Professor Jose Roberto 'Robbie' Guevara is an educator with extensive experience in adult, community and popular education with a focus on education for sustainable development and global citizenship education. He is a sought-after facilitator for his expertise in participatory, creative, and experiential learning methodologies developed from his years of working as a grassroots environmental educator and theatre practitioner in the Philippines. He has been at RMIT University since 2003, where he continues to weave his teaching, research, and engagement roles. He has successfully completed two Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grants on "Youth-led Learning: Local Connections and Global Citizenship" and "School-Community Learning Partnerships for Sustainability". He is currently involved with the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT on the Jean Monnet Sustainable Development Goals Network investigating the contribution of the EU to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia Pacific. His research and teaching draws on his leadership roles in global civil society organizations that advocate for SDG 4: Quality Education, as President of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE) and a Board Member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) representing the Asia Pacific region.

Robbie was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in October 2012 for his contribution to adult learning in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2016 he was awarded a CONFINTEA Research Scholarship by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning to conduct research on education and resilience.