

Preface

This book is primarily addressed to scholars and researchers of educational science and philosophy, who wish to familiarise themselves with Rudolf Steiner's educational thought; that is, the underlying basis for Steiner Waldorf education (here, for simplicity's sake, called only Waldorf education). I have tried to pick out and present those of Steiner's ideas that may be of interest to a present time academic educational thinker or researcher that knows little or nothing about Waldorf education. My picking and choosing is partly guided by similarities to views and ideas present in contemporary educational thought and practice—even if such similarities are only 'partial overlappings', or strictly limited 'intersections', since the basic perspective, or paradigm, that informs Steiner's ideas, is not shared by any of the educational philosophers and researchers referred to.

To give a comprehensive view of Steiner's educational thought is not easy, considering that Steiner never summed up his ideas on education in a systematic way (hence, the many introductions to Waldorf education that have been written after Steiner's death). One reason why Steiner did not write such a book is probably lack of time. However, the main reason may have been that, as Steiner himself says, Waldorf education is *not* intended to be a neat system of educational ideas and principles, but an *impulse of awakening*. To capture such an impulse and express it anew about a hundred years later requires more than intellectual orderliness. There is a certain conflict here between the norms of academic discourse, and the essence of the subject presented.

I am very grateful for the help and support I have received from friends and colleagues in trying to accomplish this task, so this is the place to express my gratitude to first of all Marek Majorek and Arve Mathisen, who reviewed a first draft of this book and gave valuable suggestions for improvement. Thanks go also to Lennart Nilo and Maria Eloranta for providing some important facts and information, and to all those who have expressed their good wishes for the work.

Stockholm, Sweden
March 2017

Bo Dahlin



<http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-58906-0>

Rudolf Steiner

The Relevance of Waldorf Education

Dahlin, B.

2017, XI, 143 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-58906-0